

Falling incomes are giving more people concern these days than falling arches. Flat feet are uncomfortable but flat pocketbooks are unbearable.

At last the Legislature has done something: On Wednesday Representative Musmanno, of Allegheny county, offered to slap the Hon. Holmes on the mouth and our worthy replied that three Musmannos couldn't do that to him. Great work, gentlemen.

If you see a gentleman on the street bowing and raising his hat to somebody nowhere in your sight don't imagine he has gone "hay-wire." He is a candidate and sees a lady half a block away, on the other side of the street, who might be looking at him. These are times when candidates are fighting that silly excuse: "I passed him on the street the other day and he never noticed me."

The navy flier who drifted four days off the coast of Colombia, after having had to make a forced landing at sea, must have had a very thrilling experience in his little rubber life boat. Thrilling enough, we should think, without his having to add that whooper about the sharks snapping at him while he was paddling about in the rubber boat. It seems strange that with all the snapping the sharks didn't happen to puncture and deflate the boat.

The Governor's idea of having all earnings of public utility companies in excess of seven per cent escheat to the State is a typical Pinchot proposal. Always he plays to the mob; exciting its cupidity and inflaming it with insinuations that it is being robbed. You would find no Pinchot money invested in an enterprise that had to pay its excess earnings to the State in good years and then have no surplus with which to pay dividends in the lean ones.

There is a great deal of talk about a new book that is out: "The Road to Culture." It might be all that the reviewers say it is, but so far as its effect on the manners of the Nation is concerned we have an idea that it has skinned a mile in getting results. Why not create offices enough so that at least every voter would have to run for one once in five years. In one decade we'd have the bowtiest, scrappiest, palaveriest, let-me-do-it-for-you peoples on the face of the globe.

We are against repeal of the Blue Laws. They are obsolete and we don't believe in them, but they're the only bulwark we have against legalized Sunday sports. There would be no demand for legalized sports for Sunday were the motive not mercenary. Let those who want to play golf play it. Let those who want to play baseball play it. Let those who want to race their horses, race them. It is not for us to say that such diversion is sin on the part of another. Our idea of that is that every individual keeps his own slate with his God. As to legalizing Sunday sports, legalizing isn't the word. Commercializing is what the proponents of such legislation are after. Christ once scourged the money changers out of the Temple and we're with those who want to keep them out of the Sabbath.

We witnessed our first amateur boxing exhibition a few nights ago. We saw two "sure things" and one "push-over" do their stuff. There was no competition among the gentlemen, because none of their arms were lifted in victory. State's post-ace reminded us a lot of our youthful days when we had to have our neck and ears washed. We knew it had to be done, but our clever foot work prevented it's being well done. Then that terrible Terry McGovern from Syracuse just wasted a whole evening trying to give an agile little Middy from Annapolis the evil eye. Always the terrible Terry was swinging what was to have been his fifteenth consecutive haymaker toward Switzerland or somewhere else where the U. S. Navy couldn't get, even on roller skates. As for the "push over," he was the only hero, because he was on the ropes before his handlers were smart enough to find a towel to wave.

Possibly you will recall a "paragaffe" we wrote last week that had to do with a carton of cough drops that had been sent to us by a friend. The incident acquired importance because up to that time the winter was the first one we recall having come through without a cold or a cough. Believe it or not, the morning after we wrote that "paragaffe" we arose with the worst cold we have had in years and we're not over it yet. Some might say it was retribution for having attempted witticism over the gift of a friend. Possibly so! If it was we're being retributed out of all proportion to the offense. On Friday night we were motoring with a friend and just happened to be telling him of the cough drops when we ought to have been seeing a "Stop, Thru-Traffic" sign. A busy little patrolman saw us, however, and now this "Squire Tressell informs us that eight ninety is the law's cut out of the fun we've had since we received the cough drops.

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Two Statements of Unemployment.

On the 7th of March a year ago, President Hoover issued an official statement on the subject of unemployment, in which, upon the authority of the Department of Commerce and Labor, it was alleged that distressful unemployment was limited to twelve States; that the "low point" of business and unemployment was in December, 1929, and January, 1930, and that "all the evidences indicate that the worst effects of the crash upon unemployment will have been passed during the next sixty days." The census, taken within a few weeks from the issue of his statement, gave the volume of unemployment at approximately 2,500,000. There is a strong suspicion that the figures were "doctored" for political effect.

Secretary Lamont, of the Department of Commerce, issued a statement on the subject of unemployment on the 20th of March, 1931, in which he places the unemployed at 6,050,000, plus about 300,000 who are "laid off without pay." This is probably an underestimate but must be accepted because it comes from official sources. But it reveals an increase of unemployment within a year of 149 per cent, if the census figures are accepted as accurate. It shows, moreover, that President Hoover has no conception of the economic conditions of the country or else that he deliberately misrepresents facts in order to promote the interests of the Republican party directly and his own ambitions incidentally.

This country has had some pretty weak Presidents in its comparatively short life but our present Chief Magistrate is the first who might be justly accused of wilfully and habitually misrepresenting official statistics for partisan purposes. Herebefore a statement of fact coming from the White House could be relied upon as truthful. But every now and then a question as to Mr. Hoover's veracity is raised and singularly enough is never answered because every attempt at verification is blocked by emissaries from the White House. The question as to who altered the Wickersham report on dry law enforcement is as much a mystery as that concerning the disappearance of Charlie Ross.

Mr. Vare is home and in command but he may not be able to assemble his army in sufficient force to save the organization.

Governor Pinchot's Plans in Peril.

Current gossip, according to press dispatches from Harrisburg, indicate a sad disruption of the Pinchot plans and promises. There is not only talk of a re-enactment of the four cent gas tax law but one of the most experienced correspondents writes: "Sheer necessity may force the Governor to abandon his promise to reduce the motor license fees." Such a cut would deprive the State of approximately \$15,000,000 of revenue, and the treasury is not in shape to justify the sacrifice. The Governor probably knew this when he made the promise, but it seemed like an appealing proposition and there are a good many credulous automobile owners in Pennsylvania.

The 20,000 mile road programme is also likely to make trouble for the Governor. A good deal of time has been spent in the preparation of this measure and an effort will be made to put it across. But the more conservative element of the legislators express grave doubts of the value of the legislation at this time. It is estimated that the project will cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000, and nobody seems to know where that amount of money can be obtained without increasing taxes. The Governor's pledge is that it will diminish taxes to the extent of \$10,000,000, but the ordinary rules of mathematics fail to support the pledge.

The only certain effect of the enterprise is that it will take from the people of the communities all control of their local highways and vest it in the Highway Department at Harrisburg. The maintenance of these local roads is said to cost about \$2,000,000 annually, which would be shifted from township treasuries to the State treasury, which is the only saving that is possible, and as State funds are acquired by taxation the beneficiaries of the better highways would be obliged to pay their share of a considerable increased cost of maintenance. Some of the Senators and Representatives express doubts of the wisdom of such legislation but the Governor is determined to "make them like it."

With a per capita wealth of \$2977 it is rather surprising that so many people in this country are suffering for want of food.

Pinchot's Proposed Fair Rate Board.

The Pinchot bill to abolish the Public Service Commission and substitute a precisely similar organization under another name was introduced in the General Assembly on Monday evening. The new measure would divide the State into seven districts and elect by popular vote one member for each district for a term of seven years. The 4th district would be composed of Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, Union, Somerset, Cambria, Blair, Center, Clinton, Lycoming, Sullivan, Westmoreland, Indiana, Clearfield, Armstrong, Clarion and Jefferson counties, and be quite as safe for the Pinchot machine in prospective, as the 1st District, Philadelphia, would be for the Vare organization, a discrimination in favor of Pinchot of about half a million.

But the fact that the measure is wilfully discriminatory is not the principal cause of complaint against it, though that is a valid objection. The legislation is unnecessary and predicated upon a false pretense. The present Public Service Commission in this State is execrable in the extreme, made so by the exigencies of the Republican party which created it and has controlled it from the beginning. But that is no reason the policy expressed in its creation should be condemned. Public Service Commissions are functioning effectively in other States and in the United States. The law creating the Pennsylvania board is defective but was made so purposely by the Republican machine, and the remedy is not in abolishing, but in correcting its faults.

There is no virtue in the changing of a name. "A rose by any other name will smell as sweet," and have the same number of thorns. And that is the only difference between the Public Service Commission as it is today and the Fair Rate Board as proposed by the Pinchot legislation. What has been learned from the experience of the last few years and the evidence revealed by the double-barreled investigation is that the law creating the Public Service Commission is woefully defective, and that the Commission, itself, has been prostituted to the base service of the Republican machine. If the General Assembly will strengthen the law as proposed by the Senate investigating committee the Commission will serve the purpose for which it was created.

Safety director Schofield, of Philadelphia, has the confidence of the church element and the courage of his convictions. It remains to be seen whether these elements are stronger than Charlie Hall.

Will the Screen Rob the Forum.

Are "the movies" in a conspiracy to wreck this great land of liberty? Complaints have been made against them for various reasons with or without foundation in fact, for many years. It has been repeatedly charged that they are destroying the eyes of the people, and with less frequency but equal positiveness, that they are slowly but surely shattering the nerves of the nation. It has been said that they are instilling in the minds of children ambitions that are far from laudable and enticing older habits of the screen to spend money that ought to be used in paying rent and providing wholesome nourishment.

Whether or not these indictments are well or ill founded we are not able or willing to say. To our mind the movie theatres have seemed a harmless form of diversion and an innocent source of amusement. In fact we have some times imagined that they have served a good purpose in alluring boys and girls from indulgences in more harmful forms of mischief. In fact, candor compels the admission that at times the movies have seemed to possess an educational value worthy of consideration. It is not, therefore, on account of any of the current objections that we are alarmed about the influence of the movies upon the public mind.

Our fears are founded on an entirely different development. We have come to an apprehension that the emoluments or the magic of the screen will entice all our great statesmen into its service and leave the government of the country in the hands of a bunch of morons. The taking of Will Hays, a few years ago, didn't matter much for his proved affiliation with Harry Sinclair and the oil scandal had practically headed him for the scrap heap. But now, according to current gossip, Hollywood is reaching out to grab Puddler Jim Davis, our newly elected Senator. He probably knows less about science of government than any man who has ever worn the toga, but as a screen star he might be worse.

Pinchot's Hypocrisy Exposed.

The House of Representatives has repudiated Pinchot's hypocrisy. It has refused to even seriously consider his industrial police bill for the reason that it's obvious purpose was not to protect employees of industrial enterprises but aggrandize Pinchot. The bill proposed to organize, equip, train, maintain and pay a police force to be hired or loaned to corporations throughout the State, such corporations to pay the State for their services while employed. It invested these policemen with all the privileges and powers of city policemen and constables. The only difference between this force and the coal and iron police is that the Governor exercised the appointing power and control.

It was simply a stupid scheme to increase public patronage for trading purposes in the Governor's plan to create a political machine to promote his ambition to control the Pennsylvania delegation in the Republican National convention, next year, and this purpose was so apparent that the servile members of the House of Representatives were unable to swallow it. It had no resemblance to the protective measure which had been promised to wage-earners during the campaign. But it is characteristic of its author, whose single purpose is self-aggrandizement. In presenting such a measure of legislation he insulted the intelligence of both Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly.

Representative Musmanno, of Pittsburgh, had introduced a bill which has the merit of effectiveness. Under his bill the contemplated industrial police force would be restrained in its activities within the limits of the property it was assigned to protect. It would be enlisted under the auspices of the State and paid by the corporation or concern by which it were employed, and exercise no police power other than protecting property. Being familiar with the subject Mr. Musmanno pleaded with the Governor to approve and adopt his measure as a fulfillment of his party obligations to give labor real service. But his efforts in that direction were futile. His bill wouldn't serve Pinchot's purpose.

Senator Vare is back from Florida. Mayor Mackey and Director Schofield have had a grand time while he was away. Both will be watching their step more closely from now on, for when all is said and done William S. is still in the saddle in Philadelphia. We are not interested in what becomes of either Mackey or Schofield, but as a Centre countrian we are interested in I Gordon Foster's chances of becoming U. S. Judge for that city. He is supported by Senator Vare and that is a position on the part of the Senator that we can heartily endorse. Mr. Foster is of Centre county stock, meaning that no surer guaranty of sterling character could be had and his elevation to the Federal bench would add materially to public respect for the integrity of those who administer the laws.

In addition to a full county ticket to be elected this year residents of Bellefonte will be especially interested in local offices to be filled, which will include three councilmen, two overseers of the poor and two auditors. The most important of these will naturally be councilmen. The three whose terms will expire are John S. Walker, in the North ward; Harry Badger in the South, and M. M. Cobb in the West. Whether any or all of them will be candidates for re-election has not yet developed.

There is a talk of a break between Governor Pinchot and Mayor Kline of Pittsburgh over the bill for additional judges for Allegheny county. It was the Mayor and Senator Coyne who gave Pinchot the unexpected majority in Allegheny county that elected him. In the Governor's peculiar way of appraising service that's water that's over the dam and so far as the desires of Pittsburgh's Mayor are concerned he's just another of "the poor fish" that were in the water.

Director Schofield felicitates himself on the extinction of the saloons in Philadelphia, but admits the traffic flourishes in homes.

The Wilkins expedition to the North Pole under the sea had an unfortunate beginning, but let us hope for a happier ending.

As long as one can carry a 200 horsepower motor in his vest pocket there ought to be no great trouble in getting about.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of April 1, 1881.

Three children of George Koon, of Pleasant Gap, have died from that dreadful disease, scarlet fever. All within a period of ten days.

Mrs. Anna McBride attained her 79th birthday anniversary on Sunday. All the living members of the family were home for the celebration: Mrs. Bolton, of Oil City; Mrs. Bartruff, of this place, and Miss Mary who lives with her mother in the old homestead at the corner of Allegheny and Bishop streets.

The curbstone market will open for the season on April 2nd.

Geo. H. Wolf has become sole owner of Wolf Tinware establishment today, his father having retired from business.

Mr. Peters, late manager of the Bush house, has taken the Mountain house in Snow Shoe and intends making it a summer resort place. He made \$2500.00 in the ten months he was running the Bush house so feels well fortified for his new venture.

D. P. Ray Esq., one of Tyrone's most prominent citizens, died in that place last Thursday. He had been severely ill for a long time.

The St. Cloud hotel at Houtzdale, under the management of Col. Geo. Woodin, is being repainted, papered and newly furnished, in fact the Colonel says the traveling public won't know the popular hostelry when he gets through refurbishing it.

A raft 490 ft long was piloted into the dam at Lock Haven, last Thursday, by N. C. McCloskey, of Hyner. It was brought out of Clearfield creek in pieces and put together at the mouth of the creek. It was the largest raft ever to be brought down the river.

Ida, the five year old daughter of A. W. and Clarissa Reese, died of scarlet fever, at the family home at Port Matilda, on the 26th.

John M. Kline's residence, in Howard township, was totally destroyed by fire on Monday afternoon.

Four of John Harrison's family, two of Mr. From's and one of Robert Barnes', all of Pleasant Gap, are in a dangerous condition with scarlet fever.

Gen. Beaver and Edward L. Gray, of the Morning News, made a trip to State College on Wednesday, notwithstanding the snow storm, which was one of the heaviest falls of the winter.

Today the flittings will be on and from what we hear there will be more than the usual number of first of April movings.

Phillipsburg business men are behind a movement to build more tenant houses in that place. Business is booming over there and there is not enough housing to meet the demand.

Dr. J. C. McEntyre, dentist of Spring Mills, has left that place and will be located in Lock Haven after today.

Only eighteen days more, yet we're not in the least excited. What's the use of getting all worked up about something that isn't going to be unless there are copious rains between now and the fifteenth of April. The water is so low and clear that a blind trout would see a fisherman who could cast a fly a thousand yards.

The future of General Martin, chairman of the Republican State committee, has become a matter of deep concern to his friends. He will be out of a job at the expiration of his present term.

The Farm Board has withdrawn from the wheat pit and doesn't know what to do with its 200,000,000 bushels of wheat inherited from Mr. Legge.

Though air service failed to supply food to the Viking victims the traditional courage and unselfishness of bird-men has been maintained.

Wise is the man who understands that when his best friend says something mean to him it is only because he is his best friend.

As long as jealousies continue in Europe there is not much hope of Mr. Brand's scheme to unionize those countries in the near future.

With the prospect that the session will run well into mid-summer it's small wonder the Legislators are growing impatient.

The Watchman is without a peer in the newspaper field.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Three boys rowing on the Susquehanna river her, on Sunday, found the remains of an unidentified boy, believed by police between 12 and 14 years old, in three feet of water. The state of the body indicated it had been in the water several months.

Two bandits boarded a bus of the Pittsburgh Motor Coach company late Tuesday night, forced the driver, Charles Martsof, to take a rear seat, drove the car to suburban Mt. Carmel, and there robbed Martsof and bound him. He was found by a passing motorist.

Otis Erdman, 53, formerly of Shamokin, was found hanging on Monday afternoon from a rafter in his barn on his farm near Klingersburg. Financial reverses suffered when his crops failed last fall because of the drought are blamed by the family for the suicide.

Three scholarships, each good for four years of university training, will be awarded this year to sons of Pennsylvania Railroad employees, according to an announcement by R. V. Massey, vice president in charge of personnel. Examinations for the scholarships will be taken next June.

After he pleaded guilty to embezzling \$3075 from the government, Cleman C. Clemens, former postmaster at New Columbia, Pa., was sentenced to three months in the Northumberland county jail by Federal Judge Albert L. Watson on Monday. The court was informed that Clemens had made complete restitution.

Charged with having misappropriated and embezzled money belonging to the township, Pearl Zimmerman, tax collector of Union township, Luzerne county, was arrested on Monday. Her arrest was caused by Joseph Walton, a township supervisor, who alleges she failed to make good on a \$500 check returned unpaid.

Somerset county's production of maple syrup to date has far surpassed that of other years, it was announced last week. Favorable weather conditions for the two weeks was held accountable for the large production. The John Peck sugar tree grove in Elklick township is producing twelve barrels of maple sugar per hour, the largest single output in the county.

Abram Swisher, 27, a farmer, died in a Waynesboro hospital last Thursday evening from a broken neck which he suffered in a wrestling bout with Benjamin Needy, in the barn of Howard Pents. Swisher was attending a farm sale when he and Needy decided to stage a gymnastic exhibition in the hayrack and after several minutes of tense action, the former became unconscious after a fall.

Mrs. Albert W. Vawn, aged 19 years, a bride of four months, was found dead in her kitchen, at Lewistown, by her husband when he returned from work, asphyxiated from gas fumes which had escaped from an open jet of a gas range. It is believed that her death was entirely accidental and that the lighted gas jet may have been blown out without her knowledge as she worked in the kitchen.

Richard Wilson, high school student, Sunbury, had a small fortune in his hand until he turned a page. Wilson answered an advertisement of a prize contest and shortly thereafter was notified that the prize he had submitted had won a "\$1750 prize"—so the handsome engraved certificate he received stated. But on the other side of the pseudo-check he was informed that the prize would be his in return for a large number of magazine subscriptions.

Plans are progressing steadily for the 103rd anniversary of the formation of the Odd Fellows to be observed at Benton, April 23. More than 5,000 three link men from 26 counties in the district are expected to attend. A meeting of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held on the evening of the celebration. A business session of the anniversary association will be held in the morning. The parade will feature the past grands' degree will be conferred.

A new centrifugal electric pump installed in Brookside mine of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company was operated for the first time on Sunday and officials pronounced the experiment a success when more than 600 gallons of water a minute were pumped out of the mine. This pump has about twice the capacity of the present electric ones and officials said it would not only supply sufficient water for steam purposes at the colliery, but enough to permit washing coal in the breaker if other supplies should fail.

State police are searching for Dorothy Stemm, 20, of Heckler, near Tanawaka, believed to have been kidnapped by a rejected suitor. The girl left her home to walk two miles to the Atlas Powder company, where she is employed. She never reported for work. At the same time police were informed a young man whose name they withheld was missing from home with the family car. He had been calling on the girl regularly for three years and a week ago when she told him she could no longer see him he threatened to kidnap her.

Rupert A. Winters, aged 15, of Lewistown, is being held for a hearing after confession to State Police of a series of petty thefts, having been caught by officers on the porch roof of a hotel waiting to snatch the pocketbooks of women who laid them down on a window ledge in a room where he could raise the window and pick them up. One of the pocketbooks he confessed to securing in this manner was that of a German girl who had her passport in it. He threw all personal articles such as the passport and the pocketbooks into the river. He also admitted a number of robberies from parked cars during basketball games at the Lewistown High school.

John R. Collins, chairman of the Democratic State committee, on Monday recommended to Governor Pinchot the appointment of Judge Henry C. Niles, of York county, to succeed the late Justice Sylvester B. Sadler on the Supreme court bench. Judge Niles was defeated at the last election but was a candidate for Governor Pinchot. Collins said that the constitution of the State had provided as far as it could for minority representation on the Supreme court. The appointment of Niles, Collins wrote, would "respect the spirit of the constitution" and give the electorate of Pennsylvania "fair play" and a "square deal."