

—Tomorrow will be circus day and since the streams are too muddy for fishing there won't be a single fly in our ointment.

—A rather interesting and somewhat curious fact has just popped into mind. We have been writing for the Watchman for forty-four years and we don't recall ever having bought a lead pencil.

—After many trials the advocates of Sunday base ball have gotten a bill through the House legalizing the sport in communities that decide by popular vote to permit playing ball on that day. Of course it will have to pass the Senate and be approved by the Governor—which is not probable—before it becomes a law.

—The blow that killed father fell on Wednesday when the winners in that cigarette contest were announced. We had already spent about half of the twenty-five thousand dollars when we learned that a Massachusetts milk man wrote a better story than a fellow who has been specializing in that art for forty years.

—Senator Chapman, of Warren county, has introduced a bill in the Legislature that would make it necessary to procure a license for common house cats. We are paying for six licenses now, so a seventh would be only another one of those petty governmental irritations that are constantly being enacted to annoy people. If we have to kill or pay license for our cats we're for making Senator Chapman kill or pay license for the rats.

—One need possess no special erudition to get the lesson that the sage of the First National Bank, Bellefonte, teaches in the advertisement of that institution which appears on page seven of this issue. The pre-eminence of the politician who will visit Bellefonte tomorrow would probably call it "bunk," but those who think in terms of other advantages than personal ambition will call it common sense.

—Col. Amos Woodcock, national Director of Prohibition, has chosen a committee of ten eminent college professors who are to find the flaws in prohibition. Theoretically they will doubtless get somewhere, but practically, exactly nowhere, unless some of their underclassmen come to their rescue. The boys who slip the half pints, pints, quarts and cases into the Dorms are the ones who could tell Col. Amos the flaws in prohibition.

—When Representative A. Lester Sheffer, of Mifflin county, attempted to hook an amendment to reduce the automobile license fee onto the administrators' new Motor Code, in the House of Representatives, Monday night, he smoked Pinchot out, good and plenty. The amendment was voted down by 150 to 42. Pinchot controls the House, root, stump and branch. It says thumbs up or thumbs down, just as he tells it to and it said no to the proposal to reduce motor licenses and drivers fees so that it's boss can have a goat on which to pack his broken promises.

—Ninety per cent of the people who attend the Pinchot meeting tomorrow night will be those who believe he is right—right or wrong. Consequently, when he asks his audience to hold up its hands as evidence of approval of his proposals and rebuke to Senator Scott for opposing some of them he will have a packed jury. Of course nearly every hand will go up. Then the Governor will gloat and say that Centre county is with him, whereas such a test as to whether it is or is not will mean nothing more than that he has put over another fast one on his dupes.

—Governor Pinchot will blame his failure to keep his campaign pledges on the Legislature, of course. He will say that it wouldn't do what he wanted it to do. Such an excuse will satisfy some, but not those who heard him make the extravagant promises he made in his campaign last fall. He didn't say: I will do so and so IF the General Assembly backs me up. There were no ifs in any of his promises. They were all I's and mighty big I's at that. He talked like a crazy man last fall and it is our candid opinion that there has been little sign of improvement since.

—Bellefonte's seeming indifference as to where the new post-office building is to be located expresses the difference between the methods of doing business yesterday and those of today. A quarter of a century ago the location of the post-office was a perennial fight between merchants in one section of town and those in another. Then it was thought that being located near the post-office was advantageous. That illusion has been dispelled, just like a lot of others. We remember the time when Bellefonte actually encouraged the telephone companies and electric lighting company to string as many wires as possible on the main streets so that our town would look busier and more metropolitan than Tyrone, Philipsburg, Lock Haven and other nearby places which we thought we would be outstripping. Those were the days when we didn't know any better.

# Democratic Watchman

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## An Ambitious Political Adventure.

An almost incredible story comes from Harrisburg by way of the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It is to the effect that Governor Pinchot "will veto any Congressional re-apportionment bill that may be passed by the Legislature." There are two bills on the calendar, one of which was introduced by the Governor's friends and presumably had his sanction. The other was prepared by the Republican State organization but according to current gossip, in Harrisburg, would be altered to meet any objections from the executive, rather than incur the necessity of electing the entire delegation "at large." Such an emergency would not only cause much confusion in both parties but heart-breaking disappointment in various sections of the State.

The Federal constitution knows nothing about the Congressional districts and the apportionment act of Congress is equally oblivious of such dividing lines. Under the provisions of these instruments Pennsylvania is entitled to thirty-four representatives in the next Congress and it is up to the General Assembly to determine how they shall be chosen. Residence in the State and constitutional age are the only qualifications and if all of them resided in one county that fact would be no bar to their admission. According to the Philadelphia newspaper story the scheme is to cut the ratio for that city from seven to three or four correspondingly increase the representation in sections of the State which are in sympathy with the policies and ambitions of the Governor.

In this enterprise, according to the authority quoted, "the hand is the hand of Pinchot but the voice is the voice of Grundy," and the purpose is to not only punish but to humiliate the Philadelphia Republican organization. It is believed that all, or nearly all, the present Philadelphia Congressmen voted against Mr. Pinchot last year and retiring them to private life would afford supreme satisfaction to both Grundy and Pinchot. That the scheme would afford opportunity to stifle the voice of Philadelphia in the National convention of the party next year presents an additional incentive to those concerned in it, but it is so sharp and radical an innovation that it is practically impossible to believe that it will be undertaken.

—An esteemed contemporary professes to be in doubt as to Senator Borah's attitude in the next Presidential campaign. That's an easy one. He'll vote the Republican ticket no matter who is the candidate.

## Pertinent Point Raised.

Senator McClure raised a pertinent point, the other day, when he said that "neither the Legislature nor the public should pay any attention to the testimony of these seven experts employed by the Governor to testify in proof of his own platform." He had reference to witnesses who had been employed by the Governor, and liberally paid by the State, to testify in behalf of the Governor's contention in the investigation of the Public Service Commission before the committee of the House of Representatives. The inference was that those witnesses were prejudiced in consideration of recompense received or promised.

Probably the most vicious feature of our criminal jurisprudence is that which permits technical experts to confuse the minds of jurors with testimony which is inexplicable to the lay mind. It is almost traditional that any proposition can be proved by a cunning and versatile expert, and many a criminal has escaped just punishment by hiring experts to testify in their behalf. In many cases equally eminent physicians have given diametrically opposite evidence from the same premise, and it has been widely believed or at least stated, that the litigant who has the most money gets the preponderance of expert evidence.

The expert witnesses employed by the Governor were certainly not influenced by civic obligations to testify in the case in point. They had neither direct nor remote interest in the questions involved. The fees paid for their evidence were their only cause of concern in the matter and if the opposite side in the litigation had had the necessary funds and willingness to pay the price, they could probably have had plenty of expert evidence to support their contention. As a matter of fact paid expert evidence is a doubtful expedient upon which to base a verdict, and Senator McClure may not be so wide of the mark.

—The International Chamber of Commerce tried to be polite to President Hoover but found it impossible.

## The Governor Takes the Stump.

Governor Pinchot is on his last lap of a "whirlwind speaking tour throughout the State" which will close with his meeting in Bellefonte tomorrow night. The ostensible purpose of this enterprise was "to present his version of the utility fight in plain words." His real purpose, however, is to intimidate the Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly, and he imagines that by arousing the prejudices of the voters he may accomplish that result. It is the method of a demagogue and as dangerous as it is reprehensible. An appeal to passion is a dangerous form of agitation.

The functions of the Executive and the Legislative departments of the State government are entirely separate and distinct and each is forbidden to encroach upon the prerogatives of the other. From the beginning of his present term Governor Pinchot has been trying to exercise the functions of the Legislature. He practically appointed the Speaker of the House and demanded the right to select the president pro tempore of the Senate. Because the Senate asserted its constitutional right to choose its own officers he has deliberately and repeatedly eviled it since.

There is little or no difference of opinion in the public mind concerning the Public Service Commission and its relations with the utility corporations. The Senate committee and the House committee, which have been investigating the matter, agree that the Public Service Commission has been delinquent, but neither charges venality. Both recommend that all the Commissioners be dismissed. But one suggests their successors be named by the Superior court and the other by the Governor and that the name be changed. It's the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee and the Governor has been trying to explain it in his own plain words.

—In old Madrid they are not dancing the Spanish fandango these days. Even bull fighting has become too mild to satisfy the Dons, so they have taken up the pastimes of Russia and the Central American Republics.

## Election Reform Legislation.

The administration election code as resurrected by the House Elections' committee, on Monday night of last week, is less objectionable than in its original form, though it still needs considerable pruning. The provision vesting in the Secretary of the Commonwealth absolute control of election machinery in first, second, third and fourth class counties has been improved by exempting the fourth class. But all this provision ought to have been stricken out. That power has been instrumental in doubling election frauds in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh within the period it has been in force in those cities.

As we have previously stated there are a good many meritorious features in the bill. As a law, if enforced, it would eliminate some of the forms of fraud and make others more difficult and dangerous. But the evil effect of centralizing control of election machinery in Harrisburg would be more harmful to the people of the State than the good features would be helpful. The aim of the Republican leaders seems to be to destroy every element of home government, and upon this purpose the Pinchot faction is quite as zealous as the other. The provision of the election code would work the consummation of that purpose.

The election laws of Pennsylvania are infamous. Some of them appear to have been framed for the purpose of promoting rather than prohibiting election frauds. But the faults can be corrected by other means than the adoption of a code which centralizes control in Harrisburg and degrades the voters to the level of slaves to the party bosses. Such legislation might be enacted during the present session and would be if the purpose of those in control of legislation was to promote honest elections. But that is far from the minds of the Republican leaders. Personal advantage is their aim.

—Birth control is gaining rapidly, beyond question, but the report of the commission on marriage, divorce and remarriage will find a high hurdle at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in May.

—Leaders of the American Federation of Labor predict the legal sale of beer and wines next year. Blow off the froth.

—President Hoover still thinks the depression is sociological and can be laughed off.

## CURIOSITY KILLED A CAT AND FOUND A RADIO SINGER

All because someone up in White Plains, N. Y., saw an item in a New York paper a Watchman news reporter got busy and discovered a story to the effect that Bellefonte is the home of a husband of a woman who has charmed millions with her voice over the radio.

The article in question was merely a reference to Olive Palmer's intention of spending a week-end in Bellefonte. Miss Palmer, as a radio listener well know, is star of the Palm-Olive weekly program broadcast by the N. B. C. Company.

So far as our investigation was concerned we were unable to discover that Miss Palmer actually had been here, as intimated by the New York paper. It was discovered, however, that Mrs. Ethel Harrington Mills, of Piqua, Ohio, wife of John Mills now carrying on for his father in the Mills barber shop on High Street, this place, is given credit by some for being the regular substitute for Miss Palmer and sings many of the Palm Olive programs under her name.

Mrs. Mills is a daughter of the Rev. Harrington who was pastor of the A. M. E. church in this place about 1906. In 1907 she and John Mills, son of William Mills, of this place, went to London, Ohio, and were married. Then they located in Columbus, later going to Piqua, which is their present home. Both, having good natural voices, went in for concert singing and traveled considerably with various Jubilee organizations.

About a year ago Mrs. Mills is said to have secured the Palm Olive engagement and has been singing on it ever since.

Another surprising revelation was the discovery that John, Herbert, Harvey and Donald, the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Mills, are said to be the children's quartette that is proving so popular on the Tasty Yeast and Ohio Oil programs broadcast by W. L. W., Cincinnati, every Saturday and Tuesday nights.

The Watchman telegraphed station W. E. A. F. in New York, on Wednesday, for definite information and received the following telegraphic reply:

New York City, May 14, 1931. Radio Editor Watchman, Bellefonte, Pa.

Nobody ever substitutes for Olive Palmer that we know of. Mary Hopple, contralto, was recently taken off program but no one was substituted for her.

WALTER C. STONE  
When asked about the matter Mrs. Mills was very reticent. He did say, however, that the story to the effect that Olive Palmer is his wife is untrue, but that Mrs. Mills has been her substitute for a long period.

## TYRONE COMPANY FIGHTS ITS ALCOHOL PERMIT.

An interesting hearing was held before Judges Victor B. Woolley, J. Warren Davis and William H. Kirkpatrick in the U. S. circuit court of appeals, in Philadelphia last Thursday, it being a petition from the Prohibition Department for the reversal of a recent decision of Judge Gibson, of the federal court in Pittsburgh, directing the department to restore a permit to the Barr Manufacturing company, of Tyrone, makers of flavoring extracts and toilet waters.

It developed during the hearing that the company uses on an average of 50,000 gallons of alcohol a year for manufacturing purposes. It also developed that the president of the Barr company is S. K. Hostetter, purchasing agent at the Pennsylvania State College, while the board of directors include Rev. E. M. Morgan, pastor of a Lutheran church, in Tyrone; Dr. R. L. Piper, a prominent physician, and Benjamin C. Jones, lawyer and owner and publisher of the Tyrone Herald. L. S. Barr is the secretary and treasurer of the company.

The alcohol permit of the company had been revoked some time ago after an investigation by undercover agents of the prohibition department had disclosed what they alleged was bad faith on the part of officials of the company, and an alleged later attempt on the part of one or more of the officials to devise ways and means to circumvent the government. The case was heard before Judge Gibson, in Pittsburgh, who regarded the evidence as insufficient to revoke the permit, and he ordered the same restored. It was from his ruling that the Prohibition Department carried the case to the court of appeals.

—The House appropriation committee has recommended an appropriation of \$4,844,781 for the Pennsylvania State College.

## FEW POSTOFFICE SITES OFFERED IN BELLEFONTE.

A. E. Crawford, of the Postoffice Department, and C. P. Cornwell, of the Treasury Department, were in Bellefonte last Thursday and Friday investigating the various sites offered for Bellefonte's new federal postoffice building.

For many years business men of Bellefonte have been clamoring for a federal building and recently, through the efforts of Congressman J. Mitchell Chase, the Treasury Department allocated \$125,000 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a building in Bellefonte to house the postoffice and also furnish offices for the internal revenue bureau. Proposals for sites were invited and rumors were current that some eight or ten offerings had been sent in.

But when the representatives of the Treasury Department came here, last week, they had only four offers. One was the old site of the Bellefonte steam heat and gas works, offered by Charles F. Cook for the Bellefonte school board, for \$8,000. The Chrysler garage property, corner of Allegheny and Howard streets, offered for \$25,000. The Meek property, on west High street, offered for \$30,000, and a location on the corner of Allegheny and Bishop streets, to take in the Brant house, the Caldwell and D. Paul Fortney properties, offered for approximately \$41,000. Several other locations had been offered but as none of them came anyways near being large enough they were not even considered or investigated.

As the department has tentatively fixed \$25,000 as the maximum figure to pay for a site the Brant house corner was eliminated because of the price. The Chrysler garage location is not large enough in itself, and to get a site there it would be necessary to take in both the Hibler and Montgomery properties. To do this would require condemnation proceedings, which the Treasury Department is adverse to resorting to, and in addition there are legal technicalities which might interfere with securing a clear title, so that that site is eliminated.

That leaves only the school house property and the Meek property as the available offerings open. The report of the investigation made by Messrs. Crawford and Cornwell will be submitted to the Treasury Department in Washington and just what the next step will be remains to be seen.

## STATE ENTERS BIG LIEN AGAINST STATE COLLEGE.

A judgment lien for \$2,250,000 was entered of record in the prothonotary's office, Bellefonte, on Saturday, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania against the Pennsylvania State College, but there is at present no danger of an execution being issued or legal steps taken to collect on the lien.

The lien was filed to cover the appropriation of \$2,250,000 given the College in 1929 for new buildings in accordance with an act of the Legislature, passed in 1911, which provides that institutions supported wholly or in part by the State which are granted and accept appropriations for new buildings and improvements, are subject to a lien for the amount of appropriations. This is to protect the State in the event that at any time in the future such institution should close its doors as a going concern the State could then step in and take the property, or as much of it as necessary, under foreclosure proceedings, to cover the amount of its lien.

—The fight against the building of a county poor home in Clinton county is still hanging in the balance. Last week the county commissioners opened the bids for the erection of the home on a tract of ground they recently purchased near Hyner. The bids ranged from \$78,870 to \$117,500. The same day the bids were opened former Judge Ellis L. Orvis, representing over one thousand tax-payers, argued the question of a permanent injunction restraining the commissioners from building the home. The commissioners in Clinton county now have charge of the keep of all the poor in Clinton county and the cost of the same last year was \$70,041.25. These figures are worth considering in view of the fact that an effort is being made to establish a county home in Centre county.

—A hard electrical storm, accompanied by a downpour of rain and considerable hail, passed over Centre county about four o'clock Sunday morning. The hail did no damage in Bellefonte, but down Nittany valley did considerable damage to gardens and fruit trees in blossom.

## SPAWNS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Marshall Lodge, 30, an insane man of McConnellsbury, shot and killed Sergeant Timothy G. McCarthy, 35, of the Pennsylvania state police and wounded Russell K. Knels, 24, of the State police, as they tried to capture him.

—Mrs. Bessie Bingenloe, 45, sentenced from Meadville several months ago to the Muncy Industrial Home for Women, has been transferred to the Allegheny county workhouse at request of Muncy authorities who said she escaped twice from that institution.

—Thurston K. Decker, cost accountant, of Montgomery, Lycoming county, on Monday filed voluntary bankruptcy proceedings in federal court at Williamsport. He lists liabilities of \$56,253.58 and assets of only \$51.33. Among the debts he named were notes amounting to \$31,584.

—Governor Pinchot has signed the bill of Representative Manuel Felsler, Philadelphia, increasing the registration fee for master plumbers from \$5 to \$25, requiring a \$250 bond as a voucher for their compliance with existing laws and requirements and increasing the pay of plumbers acting on the board of examiners from \$5 to \$10 a day.

—An unsuccessful attempt was made, early one morning last week, to burn the Elk Tanning company's plant at Curwensville. The attempt was frustrated by timely discovery and prompt action of the night watchman, who extinguished the flames. The plant was about ready to resume operations after a shut down of several weeks.

—Currency amounting to more than \$1,000 was consumed in flames which Sunday night destroyed the farm home of Charles Mitchell, of Hamarsville, Allegheny county. The loss of the building itself was set at \$2,000. Both Mitchell and a housekeeper were away at the time. The currency was in a trunk in the house. The fire gained rapid headway in the building, built of logs 90 year ago.

—One of the largest rock-crushers ever built has been completed at an Allentown plant and shipped to Russia for use by the Soviet government. Weighing more than 500,000 pounds, the machine has a feed opening of five by seven feet. It required five railway cars to transfer it to the shipping port. Stones can be broken in the crusher at the rate of 100,000 pounds every three minutes. A three hundred horsepower motor drives the machine.

—For twenty years Mrs. Alice Collins, 61, of Olyphant, could not talk above a whisper. Today she can talk out loud, sing and even shout thanks to a little.

—Mrs. Collins, a medical patient at a Scranton hospital, was taking a sun bath on Wednesday afternoon when a bee alighted on her nose. The woman uttered a shriek of pain and discovered she had recovered her normal voice. Physicians said her voice had been hindered by paralysis of the throat.

—Sound motion pictures will be installed at the Danville State hospital for mental diseases as a part of the treatment for its 1800 patients, it was announced by the board of trustees. Moving pictures have long been a part of the activities at the State hospital and have proved effective in treatment of mental diseases. Doctors believe that the installation of the talking pictures will prove more effective in the treatment of the cases than the silent type has proved.

—Fire which followed an explosion, believed caused by a broken gas pipe, destroyed the Martin Realty company building, at Portage, on Monday morning, with damage estimated at \$60,000. The Martin building, a three-story structure, housed the David Bloom general store, the Portage telephone exchange, the American Legion and a fraternal hall, all of which were destroyed. Damage to the Bloom store was estimated at \$25,000. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

—When an X-ray was taken at the Lock Haven hospital, last week, it was found that Theodore Reeder, aged 27 years, of Mill Hall, had been working at the Kistler Leather company plant for nearly two months with a broken back. He was injured early in March when he slipped on the wet floor and twisted his back. He paid little attention to it and returned to work after laying off for two days. He kept getting worse and finally was examined and it was found that one of his vertebrae had been fractured.

—For the first time in the history of the Commonwealth a receiver has been appointed for a hospital. The hospital is the West Philadelphia General Homeopathic, which closed its doors on April 1 because of lack of money. Despite no liquid assets the institution is said to hold property worth twice the total indebtedness. For several weeks no action was taken by creditors but recently a milk company entered a friendly suit to protect its interests and the receiver was appointed by Federal Judge Oliver B. Dickinson.

—A Shamokin shopper purchased a pair of shoes, lost them in another store, and had them returned to him in the first store, all within half an hour recently. After purchasing the shoes, the shopper went to another establishment to make other purchases and laid the shoes down on the counter. While doing so the shoes disappeared from the counter. He then returned to the shoe store to explain his loss. To his astonishment, the manager handed him the shoes in the original package. A young man had tried to have the shoes exchanged for a smaller size and they were recognized as the pair sold to the shopper.

—With the reopening of the Bellefonte Lime company at Salona, of which J. Linn Harris, of Lock Haven, is manager, and the engaging of sixty-five men for the summer season, and with negotiations completed for an expansion of the Fredrick's Armature Corporation to be housed in the building at Mill Hall built by the Continental Condensed Milk company, but which has not been used for some time, residents of that locality are beginning to feel that the business slump may be ended for a while. The Armature Corporation has leased the building now owned by the Sheffield Farms company, of New York city, for three years and has begun installing machinery. While the company will begin on a conservative basis, officials expect to be employing from seventy-five to 125 persons in the new plant within the next year and a half, and will manufacture coils and other magnetic equipment for electrical appliances.