

All the members of the cabinet are fulsome in praising the moratorium but Secretary Hyde takes the cake.

Probably President Hoover took advantage of Secretary Mellon's absence to express an opinion of his own on the debt question.

Farmers are already making hay and before you see another edition of the Watchman most of the wheat in Centre county will be in shock.

It is comforting to learn that the treasury deficit will be less than a billion dollars at the end of the fiscal year, though it won't be much less.

A tablet in honor of William the Conqueror has been unveiled at the place of his birth in France. The Harding monument wasn't quite as tardy.

The Philadelphia magistrates are now under public criticism of the newspapers. This bunch of racketeers have defied justice and law for a long time.

The President is naturally gratified at the popular reaction to his moratorium proposition. Of late he has not had much reason for gratification on any score.

Think of it, the year is half over and it seems only yesterday morning that we were aroused from slumber by the bells and whistles that were welcoming 1931.

Glen Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin, told his graduating class that the greatest need of the country is capable leaders and intelligent followers.

After the Hamburg steak monopoly gets all the trout in Spring creek corralled in its unsightly cage councilman Emerick will have to put telescopes in the rooms of his Penn-Belle hotel or paint out "See the Big Trout from our Windows" that is the intriguing phrase on its roadside signs.

The President can go as far as he likes in declaring holidays in debt paying between nations. That's his business. There is nothing original about it, however.

We know individuals who have been buying automobiles, radios, real rugs and everything else they want because they have been declaring debt paying holidays all their lives.

Amelia Earhart has been disciplined for improper conduct in the air. We think that official gesture was unnecessary, for everybody knows and loves Amelia for the daring and lady-like person she is.

Had the censors of gyro-aero antics had their eyes, instead of their feet, on the ground when Amelia was cutting her capers they might have seen something worth-while making a fuss over.

We are told that Harry Keeler has the edge on all the other aspirants for the Republican nomination for Sheriff. There is a good field against Harry, but he claims to have eight reasons why he should out-foot it.

It reports that come to us are well founded the eight reasons, plus his own personality, are making headway in the interesting contest.

Injecting fecundity into political battles is no new to us that we realize now that we have started a paragraph that we can't finish without challenging Mayes, Lamoreaux, Leitzell and Bathgate to show that they have as good reasons as Harry claims to have to be Sheriff of Centre county.

Next week will be our semi-annual cessation from labor. There will be no column to write, no paper to get out and we shall go to camp, ostensibly for rest.

Have you ever been in camp? If you have you know how much rest the person who runs it really gets.

With nearly thirty-five years of experience as captain general of a summer fishing camp, where everybody who has come within halting distance has been invited to partake of its hospitality, we feel that we are qualified to say that only drones get any rest in a real camp.

And having entertained thousands in ours we do none of our guests injustice when we say that from them it would be hard to pick fifty real campers.

The burdens of camping always fall on a few of the party, because the rest are smart enough to volunteer to do something only when there is nothing to be done and dull enough not to see that wood had to be chopped to start the fire on the hearth that they eagerly gather about or that water had to be carried for the drink they want.

In the time the captain general of a camp is sure that all of the other fellows are stowed comfortably away for the night until it is time for the morning fishing "The Flying Finn" could scarcely do a hundred yards. There are ten times as much work in any one's camp as he or she does at home.

But it is a different kind and that is what makes it so juring. That is why we are eagerly looking forward to next week when, since John is gone, we will have to prepare the food, cook the meals, wash the dishes, make the beds and catch the fish for those who we hope know that the lath string of our camp always has and always will hang out.

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The Moratorium Proposition

President Hoover has never revealed the engineering quality of his mind so clearly as is expressed in his recent movements leading up to the campaign for re-election. Every word that he has spoken and every step taken since the adjournment of Congress shows the most careful planning and deliberate purpose.

His latest and most dramatic gesture in that direction is conceded in his proposition for a moratorium on all war claims for a year as a medium of relief from economic distress in all countries which participated in the World War. It is an appealing suggestion and it is small wonder that he is "highly gratified" with the favorable popular reaction as indicated in press comments.

If this step had been taken a year ago a vast amount of human suffering would have been averted. Something of the kind was proposed then but Mr. Hoover and Mr. Mellon protested that the question of payments had been settled by negotiations and no deviation from the terms could be considered.

The President was particularly adamant in the matter and the leaders of his party in Congress and throughout the country were enthusiastic in approval of his policy.

But conditions were different a year ago as focused by the Republican leaders. The Hoover administration was floating on a high tide of prosperity and the spirit of "every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost" was the guide.

It was a selfish and sordid conception of human obligations but it was the rule. The elections of last year, however, disturbed the pleasant pipe dream and admonished the dreamers of danger.

Then the engineering mind evolved a blue print to entice the German vote for 1932 and the proposed moratorium is the result. It is a beneficent proposition and deserves all the praise that has been bestowed upon it, but would have done more good a year earlier.

It seems that Secretary Stimson's coming mission to Europe is to talk about peace. Better results would be obtained by joining the League of Nations.

Move To Stabilize Industry. James W. Gerard, of New York, formerly United States Ambassador in Germany and since chairman of the Commission on Industrial Inquiry of the National Civic Federation has given approval to the suggestion of Matthew Woll, vice-president of Labor, American Federation of Labor, urging American industry to map out a ten-year plan to "eliminate recurrence of economic depression and instability."

Mr. Gerard has mailed letters to upward of 500 manufacturers, financiers and labor organizations proposing that "a Congress of American industry be held soon to determine how best to act upon Mr. Woll's suggestion."

In a letter to Mr. Gerard, Mr. Woll declares that "economic adjustment is as necessary as the air we breathe if our nation is to perform the first essentials of nationhood. There is maladjustment or else we should have idle factories, hungry men and women, bulging banks and shattered stock values."

That Famous "Deadly Parallel."

Referring to the President's return from his speech making tour in the central west, Richard V. Oulahan, Washington correspondent of the New York Times, in its issue of June 19, writes as will be found in the first parallel column below.

On the second page of the same issue of the New York Times the interesting and significant incident quoted in the second column below can be found.

"According to some of those who accompanied the President he is in a very pleasant state of mind over the economic outlook as he was able to visualize it during his rapid tour of five States.

He was told of reports from business leaders in the section he visited that unemployment was lessening and the crop prospects were very good.

One of the things said to him by a number of those with whom he consulted was that while prices may go still lower this would not interfere with economic recovery, partly for the reason that so many persons now unemployed would be required to move the crops.

Another thing that pleased the President was a report covering the whole country, which indicated that not a single bread line was now being maintained."

Chicago, June 18. "Shortly after a check-up of the City schools revealed to-day that 11,000 hungry children were being fed by teachers. Superintendent William J. Bogan dispatched a plea to Frank J. Loomis, Secretary of Governor Emmert's Relief Committee, pleading 'for God's sake help us feed these children during the Summer.'"

Mr. Bogan originally appealed to the Governor's committee for \$100,000 to feed the hungry school children. To-day his letter asked for "at least \$10,000." The Governor's committee sent a group of social investigators to study the situation.

In the meantime teachers are seriously handicapped by the failure of the Board of Education to pay them. Collections taken up among the more fortunate children have also aided in feeding those not so fortunate."

If the President hopes to succeed in deceiving the public through the remaining period of time until the election in November, 1932, he will have to get his sub-prevaricators under better control.

In the conflicting statements above quoted there is shown a lamentable absence of team work which is an essential element in party management. The great engineer has fooled a good many people for a considerable time, but a few breaks like this will work a sad disillusionment.

Promoting Pinchot's Ambition. Since the meeting of the young Republicans, assembled by Bob Lucas, executive director of the Republican National committee, for the ostensible purpose of "putting pep" in the organization, an impression has developed that the real purpose was to put skids under the Pinchot ambition to get the Presidential nomination for himself.

If that be true the Lucas enterprise was a waste of energy. Mr. Pinchot knows the nomination will go to Hoover and that the best he can hope for is the nomination for Vice President, and the fulsome praise of Hoover by the young and old Republicans, during the session, will improve rather than impair the chances of Mr. Pinchot's success.

It is true that of the thirty or forty delegates representing Pennsylvania in the Lucas conference there was not a single supporter or even friend of Mr. Pinchot. This fact justifies the suspicion that in so far as the Pennsylvania Republican organization is concerned the purpose was to rebuke the Governor.

The delegates were chosen by General Martin, chairman of the State committee, against whom Governor Pinchot has recently made some grave charges. The eulogies of Hoover were enthusiastically applauded, especially by the Pennsylvania delegates, and the name of Pinchot was not mentioned, directly or indirectly. The plan seemed to be to utterly ignore our anti-utility crusader.

But if Mr. Pinchot himself had written the agenda of the conference it could not have been made to better serve his purposes. The nomination of Hoover will make it absolutely necessary to name as his running mate a candidate whose views on the utility problems are diametrically opposite to his. Hoover is openly and unalterably in favor of corporate monopoly and unless there is a counter influence provided every State west of the Ohio and east of the Missouri rivers will vote against his election. The only man, if there is one, who could avert this danger is Gifford Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, and unless the party managers are blind to facts and deaf to reason they will realize that.

First Call to the Colors.

The Vore dinner in honor of the Philadelphia organization, last week, is generally interpreted as "a call to the colors" for the inevitable fight between the Republican organization of the State and the Pinchot forces.

The issue is control of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Republican National convention and, incidentally, the State organization. It is a matter of "life or death" to both sides and will be both bitter and expensive.

In the absence of definite facts it is difficult to predict the result but perfectly safe to say it will be conclusive. It will either eliminate Gifford Pinchot as a political force or confirm his aspirations to be absolute master of the party in Pennsylvania.

The Vore dinner, last week, was an imposing event. According to the published reports it was attended by "United States Senators, Congressmen and members of the Supreme court."

The chairman of the State committee was a conspicuous guest and Justice of the Supreme court, James J. Drew, recently appointed to that high office by Governor Pinchot, was among the enthusiastic eulogists of Mr. Vore and the Philadelphia organization for services "to the State and nation."

This is significant, to say the least. It might be construed as an indication that the Pinchot force is disintegrating. It certainly served the purpose of encouraging the Governor's foes at a critical moment. It was an inspiration to effort.

But unless the signs are misleading the enemies of the Governor will need something more substantial than encouragement and inspiration in the impending fight.

On the same evening that Mr. Vore's friends were enjoying his hospitality the Harrisburg papers announced that the Governor had a list of 200 names of Dauphin county office holders to be put on the guillotine as soon as he has finished with the legislation remaining on his desk.

Patronage is a powerful force in politics and Mr. Pinchot, better than most men, knows how to employ it effectively and ruthlessly. When he gets his decapitation machinery into action all the encouragement and inspiration will be running in his direction.

The Republican National committee hasn't said a word about the Philadelphia "charity racket," though it stinks to high heaven.

Lucas' Idea of Politics. Mr. Robert H. Lucas, who is employed at a very high rate of wages as "pinch-hitter" for Senator Fess, chairman of the Republican National committee, has a peculiar notion of the proprieties in party management.

Last week he assembled in Washington a group of what he called "Young Republicans" with the purpose of putting "pep" into the organization for the campaign of next year.

When it was suggested that President Hoover be invited to address this group of willing and vigorous workers, Mr. Lucas protested that it would be improper for the reason that "it would involve the President in politics."

Some time ago Mr. Lucas remonstrated against the activity of college graduates in politics. They are liable, he said, to be imbued with ideals which would impair their efficiency in party service.

He had in mind the protest signed by more than a thousand college professors and distinguished economic scholars against the Grundy tariff law. That sort of interference with the party plans was offensive to Mr. Lucas, as well as dangerous to party prosperity.

High ideals and intellectual development are not conducive to success of the type of politics in which Mr. Lucas is proficient. Of course the purpose of the meeting of young Republicans assembled by Mr. Lucas was to put the President in politics, but not the kind of politics which he had in mind or that a candidate for President could openly approve.

If America Aids Europe

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger President Hoover's announcement "that he has been conferring with congressional leaders on measures to assist economic recovery both here and abroad, with special reference to strengthening the situation in Germany," would not be disturbing except for the implication that he is considering suspension of foreign war-debt payments to this country and, what is still more disquieting, is prepared definitely to link up reparations with the debt question.

There are precedents for temporary emergency aid by our Government to foreign countries through the extension of credit. The New York Federal Reserve Bank assisted in preventing the collapse of the Austrian Creditanstalt by participating in a considerable loan to which foreign financial institutions were parties.

It is said that Mr. Hoover has such action in mind with regard to Germany, but only as supplementary to his plan of suspending foreign debt payments to us, which possesses such grave implications.

Not the least serious of these would be the aid and comfort afforded to the movement for cancellation of the debts. The White House announcement has already encouraged the advocates of such a procedure on both sides of the Atlantic. A move by our major debtors, on their own initiative, to invoke the clause of the agreement permitting postponement of payments on account of principal only for two years—three in the case of France—would not be alarming.

These principal payments will amount only to about \$62,000,000 for the next fiscal year. The interest payments, which can be remitted only by authorization of Congress, are much larger, about \$184,000,000.

Former Ambassador Houghton has recently pointed out the exceedingly small relation which the European nations' debt payments to us bears to their total budgets—something like 2 per cent. The debts, he said, were "only a drop in the bucket."

During the twelve months ending March 31 of next year Germany's reparation payments will amount to about \$386,000,000. Of this sum \$167,000,000 must be paid unconditional, while \$219,000,000 is subject to postponement. This is a matter between Germany and her creditors.

The agreements provide that any relief extended to the debtor nations shall be passed on to Germany with respect to her reparation payments. So lenience on the part of the United States toward its debtors might enable Germany to avoid a moratorium, with its injurious effects on German credit.

But in the broader sense the reduction or cancellation of the debts for which the propagandists are so busily contending would be bound eventually to injure the debtors' own credit. It is impossible to dissociate their campaign from this new discussion of a temporary suspension of debt payments.

Certainly the need for such extreme measures as President Hoover is reported to have in mind must be clearly demonstrated before they can receive general approval. And if such temporary aid is extended it must be justified by the consideration that in helping to bolster the European financial situation this country is helping itself.

Furthermore, it would have to be given with the distinct stipulation that this does not mean the slightest recession from this Government's policy with regard to the ultimate disposition of all the war debts. For cancellation of the debts would be the worst thing that could happen both to the nations of Europe and to the United States.

Mrs. David R. Foreman has disproved the theory that a night-blooming cereus will come to flower only every twenty years. She has a six year old plant which had three blooms on it last year, the first on September 17th, and the others on successive nights.

The night-blooming cereus is a cactus, native to the hot desert wilds and plenty of sunshine. Knowing this she gave her plant as near to nature treatment as she knew how and was rewarded by having it come into bloom again on Tuesday night.

The plant had three buds this year but two wilted and fell off while the other burst into a magnificent flower almost as large as a dinner plate. A number of neighbors were invited in to see it open.

At a hearing before federal Judge A. W. Johnson, at Lewisburg, on Monday, former receivers of the Centre County Banking company, through their attorneys, Ellis L. Orvis and Arthur C. Dale Esqs., presented arguments in behalf of an appeal from the action of referee Lee F. Lybarger in reducing the fees asked for their services while they were in charge of the bank's affairs.

Testimony will be presented later. Secretary of the Commonwealth Beamish has become alarmed about the Russian menace. His intimate association with Pinchot seems to have dulled the edge of his courage.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

The ruffed grouse will henceforth be Pennsylvania's official bird and the hemlock the state's tree, by virtue of laws signed on Monday by Governor Pinchot. The grouse bill was sponsored by Representative Wheeler, of Forest county, and the hemlock measure by Senator Richard S. Quigley, of Clinton.

Dr. Nino Calibro, who said he was an attache of the Italian Legation in Pittsburgh, will appeal a fine of \$10 assessed for a state motor law violation. Dr. Calibro claimed diplomatic immunity but authorities ordered him to pay the fine or go to jail. He paid the fine and announced his intention to appeal.

Before Ralph Sharrocks, an electrician of West Elizabeth, got his high school degree at the age of 32, he passed through a strenuous four years of working nights in a steel mill and attending classes in the day time. He is married and hopes to continue the same schedule in putting himself through college.

There will be but seventy per cent of the county fairs of Pennsylvania in operation this year. This means that the fairs that refuse to give up to Old Man Depression will have a better fair than before, as they will have better choice of the attractions that are presented at various fairs throughout the season.

A yeggman blew open the safe of the Quality Provision company at Bloomsburg, early Monday morning, but got only \$10 and several unendorsed checks. The company's office is within 100 yards of the county jail. Boyd Cameron heard the blast and called help. He had no gun and watched the lone yeggman at work with a flashlight.

State Senator James J. Coyne, of Pittsburgh, has settled the federal government's claim against him for income taxes and penalties amounting to \$373,394 for \$90,000, it became known last week. Taxes and penalties claimed covered five years, 1919 to 1923. United States bureau of internal revenue officials in Washington explained that the settlement is not a compromise.

A 5000-mile trip into the Arctic regions in search of a bird's egg was started from Pittsburgh recently by Dr. George Miksch Sutton, State ornithologist. The egg is that of the Harris sparrow, an egg never yet seen by man but which Dr. Sutton hopes to bring back for the Carnegie museum. His party will go to the Arctic coast of Canada by way of Winnipeg and Hudson Bay.

Delaware county's new \$5,000,000 courthouse will be finished for the September term of court, when the \$2,000,000 additions now under construction will be completed. The new structure will be ultra modern in every respect, with elaborate quarters for the judges, witnesses and jurors. Especially equipped rooms have been planned for the jurors, with individual bedrooms and baths for each juror.

Dr. Clyde L. King, Secretary of Revenue, is being besieged with applications for employment on the new State revenue cutter to be used in patrolling the Delaware and Skuylkill rivers to prevent influx of bootleg gasoline into the State. To all of these applicants has gone the reply that the cutter will be manned by a crew recruited from the ranks of the State highway patrol and from no other source.

L. F. Ruth, Conneville banker, was convicted, last week, of misappropriating \$60,000 of the funds of the Title and Trust company of Western Pennsylvania at Conneville. The jury was out 23 hours. Ruth, an elderly man, was arrested in the spring at Washington, D. C., some days after the bank had closed. He had maintained a home at the capital as well as at Uniontown, and had been president of the Title and Trust company for many years.

David Bechtel and Ray Ledich, members of the Legislature from Pottsville, were given a hearing before Alderman Foley at Mahanoy City, Tuesday afternoon, and ordered to pay \$200 each to the Skuylkill county Republican organization as their contribution to the last campaign, in which they were elected. Chairman Paul W. Houck and Charles T. Straughn, secretary-treasurer, appeared against the Legislators and said they had failed to pay their assessments.

Touring over the Seven mountains during a severe hailstorm recently, a party of motorists from Lewistown stopped to examine a large block of ice, frozen into a single mass made up of a number of hailstones. A dark object was visible in the transparent ice. Members of the party were curious. They waited until the icy block melted, whereupon a black snake wriggled out, made his way over the remaining slush, and disappeared in the nearby forest.

Special coal and iron police employed by coal companies in Northumberland county will be retained after July 1, when Gov. Gifford Pinchot will terminate all outstanding commissions of coal and iron policemen, according to an announcement of company officials. Included in the firms who announced they will not discharge their special police are the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, Lehigh Valley Coal company, Susquehanna Collieries company and several smaller firms.

Plans of John K. Hartman, 55, to establish a co-operative colony in southern Lancaster county were revealed to District Attorney Hosterman, on Tuesday, by Mrs. Annabel C. Wright, 60-year-old widow, of Lano, La., who said she had been lured there and tricked out of part of her life's savings. Hartman, it is said, planned to establish a co-operative firm where "comrades" would raise fruit and berries to be used in a co-operative pie baking industry in Lancaster. He is said to have believed that other units would develop from his colony.

The largest defendant, physically, who ever appeared in the U. S. district court in Philadelphia, charged with liquor law violation, received one of the smallest fines ever given by Judge Oliver B. Dickinson. Jack Fasnig, a farmer of Lancaster county, who is six feet nine inches tall and weighs 325 pounds, stepped before the judge, admitting making liquor for his own use and told how he had been trapped into selling a pint to prohibition agents through a tramp whom he had befriended. The judge ordered a fine of \$5 and called the next case.