

Wheat is down to fifty cents a bushel. Surely the Democrats must be in power at Washington.

According to the statistical report of the State Department of Agriculture there were four hundred and twenty less farms in Centre county in 1930 than there were in 1920. Since figures are supposed not to lie some will be a bit curious to know how practically twenty per cent of the farm land of the county could disappear in the short period of ten years.

TROUT, JELLYFISH OR

WHAT HAVE YOU?

It is reported that president Walker couldn't understand the indifference of council to his proposal, Monday night, that that body start something that might restore the trout in Spring creek to their natural habitat. He didn't know that he was inviting five of them to skate on dangerously thin ice.

While council has been leaving the people of Bellefonte under the impression that it had nothing to do with putting a chicken coop in the town's beauty spot, in other words, passing the buck to the State Fish Commission, it is reported on good authority that at least five of its members gave assent to the outrage before any attempt was made to perpetrate it.

After they had done so Mr. T. H. Harter was approached. He is a member of the Fish Commission and gave the proprietor of the "Big Trout Inn" a letter to Harrisburg endorsing the scheme. When it was carried out and public indignation began to express itself all parties to it dissembled by stating that "Harrisburg did it." That is the reason Mr. Walker got no sign of co-operation when he suggested that something be done about it. Not a councilman present would even make a motion to that end. One or two gave limping excuses for not doing so.

There is scarcely a paper in Pennsylvania that has not commented unfavorably on the people of Bellefonte for having permitted such an unusual natural charm to be converted into an advertisement for a roadside refreshment stand.

The people did not permit it, but it is evident that some of the men whom they elected to conduct their town did. And Bellefonte has a right to know who they are.

We have nine councilmen. Three of them, Messrs. Walker, Ardery and Kline, had nothing whatever to do with it, so if there is any truth in the story we are printing five of the other six certainly daddied something they haven't had the courage to own. Who they are will not be hard to find out because the Watchman is now offering to apologize, in this column, next week to any one or more of the six gentlemen who will assure it that this charge is not true as to them. The assumption being that those who do not so assure us were actually parties to the outrage and did try to duck responsibility for their action when protest came from all sides. If they don't do that, at the next meeting of the body we shall ask Mr. Ardery, who was away from home at the last meeting of council, to make a motion for president Walker and we shall ask Mr. Kline, who was also absent, to second it, and then the dissembling solons will be compelled to go on record.

It's not a trifling matter. The Watchman has often commented on the fact that a town put on the map by its big men is being kept there now by its big trout.

Only Tuesday a very noted educator, connected with one of the larger institutions of learning in the east, dropped in to say that we "have killed much of the charm that has so often lured me to Bellefonte. Why have you made so unsightly and commercialized such a wonderful gift of nature?"

The Watchman is interested because in this office the idea of preserving the trout in their native state originated.

From this office went out the petition to close the stream to fishing and this office defended the calumny that followed.

We were actually charged by the very gentleman most involved now by then trying to "keep food out of the poor man's mouth."

Happily, the Watchman is not, never was and never will be guided by the thought that if it pussyfoots on some project that might cost Bellefonte, as a town, anything it might get a job of printing or a new subscriber.

It is dedicated to what its head implies: "Watchman," and it is going to continue to be that, even though it has to side with the best interests of the town, as a corporation, when in conflict with those of its best business patrons or most intimate personal friendship.

The time has come for Bellefonte to protest. When great metropolitan papers actually devote editorial space to comment on something our council sells for a pound of groceries it's time to find out whether some of our councilmen are for Bellefonte or for themselves.

Let us take the trout out of their coop in Spring creek and put the jelly-fish in council into it.

Democratic Watchman

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Why Hoover Objected to Payment in Kind.

Evidence that President Hoover was influenced to the moratorium proposition by purely selfish considerations multiplies. Because of frequent blunders the fictitious prestige which he had acquired was rapidly approaching the vanishing point. Consultations with Senator Glass, of Virginia, and Owen D. Young suggested to his calculating mind the idea that German relief might challenge popular favor and enlist the political support of the German voters. He has no genuine sympathy for human suffering. This was shown in his attitude toward the drought and flood sufferers throughout this country a year ago. But he has a full appreciation of the value of group partisanship.

The moratorium met with such wide-spread popular approval that Mr. Hoover imagined it would guarantee his re-election if adverse cross-currents could be avoided. The German vote held out the promise of a valuable asset if it could be acquired without alienating the hard-boiled element in his party to which he had attached himself. But the tariff-mongers had to be reconciled or the gain of the German vote would be of no value, and when the French government set up a demand that future payments of reparations and war debts might be paid "in kind" instead of in gold, a danger of offending the tariff-mongers arose in his mind and drove out the hope which the moratorium inspired.

Payment "in kind" is simply payment in goods. As a Washington correspondent states it, "a French business man orders a manufactured product from Germany. Instead of paying the German manufacturer the French buyer pays his own government and the German government settles with the producer." England, Italy and all the other countries concerned adopted the same system and the result is that the United States are eliminated from the world markets entirely or will be compelled to cut tariff rates to a level that will give them a "look-in." This is why President Hoover was so insistent that the French proposition to "pay in kind" be cut out of the agreement. Smoot and Walton wouldn't stand for it.

Office Seekers Very Busy Circulating Their Petitions.

The political race in Centre county got off to another start, bright and early last Thursday morning, when the candidates began to circulate their nominating petitions for signatures. As there are fifty-two candidates in the field for the various offices, with from five to six men vying for the same office, there was a rush to be the first to get around, and most of the candidates were off to an early start.

While the contest for county offices will attract the most interested residents of Bellefonte are also confronted with the problem of selecting some of the most important borough officers. Chief among these will be four councilmen. Those whose terms will expire with this year are John S. Walker, in the North ward; Harry Badger and Robert Kline, in the South ward, and M. M. Cobb, in the West ward. Mr. Walker is completing his twentieth consecutive year as a member of council, during most of which time he has served as president. Mr. Badger is completing his second term, or eight years, while Messrs. Kline and Cobb are completing their four year's term. Just at present there are a number of vital municipal questions before council for final disposition. Among them are the Lamb street bridge, the sewer line down Spring creek, repairs to the reservoir, the determination of the boundary lines of both the Phoenix and Gamble Mill tracts, the boundary lines of south Potter street and Railroad street along the Kofman property. These are questions which the present council has had under consideration but not yet brought to a successful issue.

There will also be two school directors to elect, the terms of Mrs. M. E. Brouse and Mrs. Caroline Gilmore expiring with this year. Both women were first elected in 1911, hence are completing their twentieth consecutive year on the board.

The terms of both overseers of the poor will expire with this year, and also two auditors. Whether the present overseers will again be candidates is not known at this writing. As to borough auditor, Charles L. Gates will be a candidate for another term. Judges of election, inspectors and constables in each ward will also have to be elected, but these are among the minor offices.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

Pinchot and the Philadelphia Gang.

The differences between Governor Pinchot and the Philadelphia Republican machine have developed into "an irrepressible conflict." In his message vetoing the Salus councilmanic apportionment bill the Governor declared that "it is a clever and cleverly concealed attempt to perpetuate gang rule in Philadelphia." This was an ironic form of flattery. The measure was not clever and its purpose was "as plain as a pike staff." In approving the Congressional re-apportionment bill he wrote: "I refuse to be a party to the practical disfranchisement of the honest voters of Pennsylvania through a political trick." In vetoing other bills he is equally vituperative against the Philadelphia machine.

The friends of the Governor cannot set up the claim that he was influenced by moral considerations to discriminating against Philadelphia. While he vetoed the bill providing for funds to maintain Philadelphia streets he approved one providing for similar service on the streets of Pittsburgh. The difference is that the Pittsburgh machine supported his candidacy last year and the Philadelphia machine opposed him. Both machines are corrupt but the frauds in Pittsburgh helped and those in Philadelphia harmed him. He had the legal right to reward one and punish the other and he exercised the right in full measure. But it is absurd to claim that he acted in the cause of righteousness.

As conditions now exist, however, it may be said that the Governor has the best of the situation. He is a capable politician and mutts like Vane and Cunningham are helpless in an intellectual struggle with him. He probably inveigled them into the recent conference at Harrisburg for the purpose of making the blows he contemplated more humiliating and damaging. It is said that vengeance is insatiable but Mr. Pinchot must have a cruel mind if he is not satisfied. There will be repercussions and there are plenty of reasons to justify a renewal of hostilities and a hope of reversal. Pinchot is crafty but not invulnerable and his present success has created powerful enemies.

—The indictment of Mayor Kline, of Pittsburgh, was a step in the direction of improvement, but an arraignment and trial are needed as an evidence of good faith.

Pittsburgh's Mayor Indicted.

Charles H. Kline, mayor of Pittsburgh, has been indicted by Allegheny county grand jury for malfeasance in office. There are forty-eight counts in the indictment already presented and the investigation is only half completed. The misdemeanors of which he is accused consist of frauds in the awarding of contracts for the benefit of political favorites. Some other municipal officials are involved in the scandals and it is predicted that it "will have a big bearing on the political situation in Pennsylvania."

Mr. Kline is serving his second term in the office of mayor and has had an unusually successful career in politics. He served in the General Assembly in both branches and part of a term on the common pleas bench. While on the bench he was nominated and elected mayor of Pittsburgh and became a political boss.

From the beginning of his executive service he has openly and arrogantly defied all legal restraints. In one of the important campaigns he publicly proclaimed that any official of the city who voted against the candidates favored by him would be summarily dismissed.

In the primary campaign for Governor, last Spring, he espoused the cause of Gifford Pinchot and carried his city and county for that candidate by a large majority. Since the general election, friends of the mayor have publicly boasted that 40,000 fraudulent votes were cast for Pinchot in the city of Pittsburgh under the manipulation of the Kline machine. There are ample reasons for believing that statement is true, and it is therefore not surprising that justice has overtaken the perpetrator of such frauds.

—Congressman Beck, of Philadelphia, is the hot-weather optimist of the country. He has made a personal appeal to President Hoover in favor of beer and wine.

—A few more splotches on the reputation of Elder Will Hays may get him into disrepute, even in church circles.

—The Governor is moving slowly but he is getting those officials who disagree with him on any subject.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN BELLEFONTE'S BIG TROUT.

At council meeting, Monday night, president Walker asked the Water committee if anything had been done in regard to the removal of the recently constructed fish pond in Spring Creek. Mr. Cobb, chairman of the committee, was not present but Mr. Beaver, who with burgess Hard P. Harris, had been in Harrisburg that day, stated that they had visited the offices of the Fish Commission but Commissioner Deibler was not there nor anybody else in authority who could tell them anything about it. He stated, however, that quite a number of people in the city spoke to him about it.

President Walker called attention to an editorial which appeared in the Altoona Tribune, that morning, and asked secretary Kelly to read it, which he did.

Mr. Jodon stated that he would like to know how the story got abroad throughout the State. He also asked who it was that was making a fuss about the fish pond, expressing the belief that it was all the agitation of a clique of four or five people. He also called attention to the muddy condition of Spring creek over the Fourth, when the only trout that could be seen were those in the trout pen.

Mr. Emerick stated that if the people who built the pond had installed a wire screen from the front of the island down to the dam, instead of putting in that unsightly wooden paling that now encloses the pond, it would not look so bad. He further stated that he is opposed to any more attempts to take trout out of the stream inside the borough limits to put into the pond.

Mr. Beaver stated that he felt that the ordering of the removal of the pond was a matter for the Fish Commission. President Walker referred the matter to the Water committee and urged that action of some kind be taken soon.

Following is the editorial which appeared in the Altoona Tribune and which Mr. Walker had secretary Kelly read for the benefit of the councilmen.

THE TROUT AT BELLEFONTE

The famous big trout of Bellefonte have been betrayed. For 20 years they have sported in the waters of Spring creek, the pets of the townspeople and the admiration of visitors. And now their sanctity has been invaded and violated.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, in an editorial yesterday, tells the story like this: "The story goes that it was decided to transfer the fish to a pond as an attraction for a restaurant. Application was made to the state board of fish commissioners for permission to make the change. The first impulse would be to suppose that such a request would throw the commission into a state of consternation and rage. It would scarcely have caused surprise if the commission had at once borne down upon the iconoclastic tradesmen of Bellefonte with several battalions of the National Guard. To the utter amazement of the public, however, it is claimed that the commission gave its consent for the transfer."

"Men armed with seines waded in among the beloved pets to take them as if they were carp instead of the gamiest fish known. Forthwith there was a stampede down stream. Then outrage was to follow upon outrage. It is estimated that 67 of the great fellows were hooked by anglers and doubtless found their way to frying pans."

The story, as the Post-Gazette tells it, makes good reading. But it is hardly a subject to be treated humorously. A tragic tone would be more apt, for such violation of the tradition which has protected the finny beauties for decades is nothing less than outrageous. We cannot imagine what possessed the people of Bellefonte that they would tolerate such treatment of the fish that have advertised their town nationally for many years.

But it is even harder to understand why the fish commission consented to the proposal.

—Contrary to expectations earlier in the year the huckleberry crop in the mountains is not as large as anticipated, but the fruit is of excellent quality. Gathering the berries, however, is not a picnic by any means, as pickers aver that snakes are more plentiful this year than they have been for some seasons, especially the vicious copperhead. More of this species have been killed than it's first cousin, the rattler.

—Wiley Post and Harold Gatty, who flew around the upper portion of the earth in less than nine days, passed over Bellefonte on the home stretch at 6.10 o'clock on Wednesday evening of last week, flying slightly in advance of a mail plane. They flew high and fast and were seen by only a comparatively few people.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY

Items taken from the Watchman issue of July 15, 1881.

—D. G. Bush who has been interested in the development of a 35,000 acre tract of timber land near Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as far back as 1873 was convinced that Norfolk, Va., must eventually become an important city in the South. In accordance with his prediction he organized a company to build a railroad known as the Elizabeth City & Norfolk to connect the two places and expedite traffic that hitherto had to depend on a long and tedious water haul. Mr. Bush was made president of the road. It was opened to traffic June 1 of this year.

—On Saturday morning, July 2nd, Charles J. Giteau made a murderous assault on the President of the United States, in the Baltimore and Potomac R. R. office in Washington. President Garfield was shot twice, one bullet struck him in the arm, the other penetrated the kidneys and is embedded in his intestines. His condition is serious.

—Tomorrow, Saturday night, there will be a moonlight hop on the Undine's platform in Valentine's grove.

—A thief, who carried a ladder with him, entered the home of Dr. Hayes, on Linn street, on Wednesday night, and got away with \$20.00 in cash, the Doctor's gold watch and chain and a lot of Mrs. Hayes' jewelry.

—Prospecting for ore in Nittany valley, is now going on. The Hastings and Swaverly farms are said to have very rich deposits.

—Our Port Matilda correspondent reports that the hay crop in that vicinity is very good. He says that W. H. Williams showed him some clover stalks that measured 4 ft. 3 in. in length.

—Henry Cronister, an aged and respected citizen of Huston township, was found dead in his bed on the morning of July 6th.

—Mr. Ferdinand Beezer, of Benner township, is erecting a new residence near the site of his present dwelling.

—The thermometer registered 104 degrees in the shade last Sunday. Monday and Tuesday were a little cooler.

—The Pine Hall Cornet Band visited Bellefonte on the Fourth and regaled our residents with some excellent music.

—Misses Mollie and Nellie Larimer, now being educated at Chicago, are at present at home with relatives in Pleasant Gap.

—The first fire fighting company Bellefonte had was formed at a public meeting in the court house on Wednesday evening, February 16, 1831. Thomas Burnside was chairman and Franklin B. Smith was secretary of the meeting. The officials chosen were two engineers, sixteen arm-men, six ladder men, six axe men, eight hook men, five directors, five property men, two property guards, five alarm men, seven line men and two bell ringers. There were ninety men in the original company of whom Edward C. Humes is the only one living today. Their engine was the primitive "mud box" pattern and when in action it had to be kept filled with water by a bucket brigade.

—Mr. Francis Speer will open his private school at Pleasant Gap on August 1st.

—The contract for the erection of the new water works at Phillipsburg has been awarded to Cyrus Strickland and William Galbraith of this place.

—R. S. Larimer, of Pleasant Gap, is now proprietor of the mail route from Bellefonte to Milroy. He has sub-let the part from Centre Hall to Milroy.

—A toy balloon sent up at Renovo at noon last Tuesday landed on the J. W. Hosterman farm in Halnes Twp., this county, four hours and forty-five minutes later.

—New school teachers for Bellefonte schools have been chosen as follows: D. M. Leib, J. C. Meyer, Charles Hewes, Rebecca McGinley, Lizzie Swartz, Lizzie Campbell, Bella Rankin, Annie McAffer, Mary Schrom and Emma Graham.

—On Friday evening, July 1st, Eliza D. Harris wife of William P. Harris died suddenly while calling at the home of Adam Hoy Esq., on High street. She was a daughter of the late James D. Harris and a sister of Mrs. Orblson, Mrs. Sommerville and Mrs. Hoy.

—Every man and woman who holds a position under any of the departments of the State government will be glad to know that Governor Pinchot, on Monday, declared a decapitation moratorium for one month while he goes "a fishin'" and his man Friday, secretary Stahlnecker, rusticates in Europe. But the hungry job seekers who have been waiting at the trough for the past six months, will view the moratorium in a different light. If the Governor wants some presidential delegates next year he ought to extend his moratorium until after the 1932 primaries.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—Anthony Companaro, aged 21, of Altoona, was accidentally shot in the abdomen by his friend, Louis Tartaglio, aged 18, late Saturday night in Altoona. Companaro died shortly afterward in the Altoona hospital.

—Governor Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, was elected chairman of the Delaware River Joint Commission, the new body which succeeds the Delaware River Bridge Joint Commission, at a meeting in Camden, on Tuesday.

—Between 300 and 400 employees of the York plant of the American Chain company, who were laid off last February, will be back on the payroll before the end of the month. W. L. Brown, general manager, said improvement in business had affected the department devoted to automobile tire chains.

—Illegal signs posted along State highways are scheduled for prompt and speedy removal by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways, according to Sam Lewis, Secretary of Highways. Lewis has directed his maintenance forces to scan every foot of the roadside bordering the highway system and tear down all outlaw signs by July 15th.

—An old fashioned spanking for petulant, fault-finding wives is advocated by Judge Harry S. McDevitt, of the court of common pleas, of Philadelphia, who characterized the "paddle" as a good remedy for the divorce evil. "A good spanking is a sure cure for nagging childish wives," he said, "it proves a man is boss in his own home."

—While drilling for water for the Greene county Children's Home, at Waynesburg, workmen found a fuel supply. At a depth of only 350 feet a gas strike was made which is estimated to have a million cubic feet of daily flow. Officials at the home plan to pipe the gas to the home to be used for heating, and they will look for their water supply elsewhere.

—Blacksmokes, which negotiate the high waters protecting young ringneck pheasants on the Jordan State game farm, in Lawrence county, and devour the birds are proving the most destructive enemy of the pheasants this year, according to H. J. Sines, keeper. Shipment of ringnecks to all parts of the State started last week. There are 12,000 young birds at the farm and most of them will be shipped out.

—Producing natural gas wells in the Tioga field today number fourteen with the bringing in of another shaft on the M. P. Close farm, on acreage of the Lycoming Natural Gas company. The new gusher came in with "uch" force it blew tools from the well shaft and its initial flow was estimated at between 50,000,000 and 75,000,000 cubic feet daily. The well was brought in about a hundred feet from the famed Meeker discovery well, largest east of the Mississippi.

—There's a happy husband in the Jervis household in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Two monkeys, fifteen turtles, six parrots, fifteen cats and dogs, and 100 white mice are to be given to a zoo by Mrs. Irene Jervis. She promised a judge to do so rather than go to jail. Mr. Jervis laughed when he heard the court's dictum and explained he had nothing to say about the house; the monkeys ran it. Health officers started things when a neighbor was beaten with a banjo by a Jervis monkey that turned burglar.

—Mrs. Laura C. Patterson, aged 55, better known as Cad McCarty, of DuBois, committed suicide, recently, by hanging herself by the neck to a water-pipe in the basement of her home, according to investigations of the Clearfield county authorities. The woman had been dead several days when neighbors found her body. She is said to have been clad only in undergarments. Her body bore several bruises and there were evidences of disorder in the room. Hunger, worry, illness and despondency are alleged to have been her motives for suicide. No reason for foul play could be discovered by the police.

—G. Cleve Zimmerman, State game protector and fish warden, filed with H. G. Stackhouse, deputy State Fish Commissioner, at Harrisburg, a report which substantiates complaints made to him of the killing of several thousand of fish in the west branch of the Codorus creek, in York county. Warden Zimmerman learned from persons who live along the creek that in recent weeks dead fish have been seen several times floating in the stream. The fish included carp, catfish, sunfish and bass. These killings usually followed heavy rain. It is believed that the water in the west branch of the Codorus is being polluted during these heavy rains and that the source cannot be detected.

—If the remainder of the matrimonial voyage of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hughes, of Pittsburgh, is met with the same persistence as the setting out, all the well known rocks and storms of this turbulent sea will be mastered. On Monday Hughes and Miss Zora Dick, 19, of Wilkensburg, set out for Weilsburg, W. Va., to be married. Their car overturned in the ditch and was destroyed by fire. The wedding ring was lost. The girl was bruised and had an artery severed. They got patched up and caught a ride to Weilsburg where the clerk refused them a license because of Miss Dick's age. Undaunted, they went on to Wheeling where a clerk with more romance in his soul issued the license. Bruised and bleeding, but still in the ring, they returned to Pittsburgh by train, happily married.

—The last of the three coffer dams which have been built to "unwater" the Susqueanna river for the construction of the power house and dam of the Safe Harbor Water Power corporation, which will extend a mile from Safe Harbor, to the York county bank of the river, has been completed. Officials of the Arundel Corporation, builders of the project, announced last week. The water of the York county channel is now flowing through the intakes of the future turbines in the power house and through temporary openings in the spillway section of the dam. The hydro-electric development being constructed at a cost of \$30,000,000, is one of the largest in America and will have an initial installation of 255,000 horsepower. The ultimate capacity will be 510,000 horsepower. At present 2900 men are at work on the dam, construction is five months ahead of schedule and delivery of power from the first units is expected early next winter.