

The paper that P. Gray Meek edited and published for fifty-seven years and now published by his estate at the Watchman Printing House, Bellefonte, Pa.

Editors.
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BELLEFONTE, PA., - - - - - OCTOBER 9, 1931.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET

Judge of the Supreme Court
CHARLES F. UHL
of Somerset

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET

Sheriff
JOHN M. BOOB
of Millheim

County Treasurer
ROBERT F. HUNTER
of Bellefonte

Prothonotary
S. CLAUDE HERR
of Bellefonte

Recorder of Deeds
D. A. McDOWELL
of Spring Township

Register of Wills
JOHN L. WETZLER
of Milesburg

County Commissioner
JOHN S. SPEARLY
of Spring Township

J. VICTOR BRUNGART
of Rebersburg

County Auditor
IRVIN A. MEYER
of Coburn

CLARENCE A. YEARICK
of State College

Coroner
DR. WALTER J. KURTZ
of Howard

County Surveyor
J. THOMPSON HENRY
of Huston Township

SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

The shallowness of the argument that beer and light wines should be legalized because their production would stimulate business is a fair measure of the depth of thought that the average citizen of our country gives to the principles for which our forefathers fought.

Mass psychology is a very potential power and in the present period of depression it might be mobilized into such a threatening bogey that the next Congress will legalize three per cent beer and wines of twelve or fourteen per cent alcoholic content. It can do that under the Volstead act. With eyes on November 8, 1932, even the Great Engineer might sign such a bill, should Congress pass it.

Such a denouement would be a terrible commentary on the country's understanding of the principles upon which its government is founded.

The American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, the American Legion have all gone on a record as favoring the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment. They have done it, however, as a matter of principle and not of expediency.

If restoration of light wines and beer is to be made only on the hope that it will furnish jobs for someone then it must be admitted that the States had no forethought when they ratified the Eighteenth amendment.

Those who have given thought to what motivated the Thirteen Colonies, when they broke away from the rule of George III, of England, know that "taxation without representation" was only a smoke screen to conceal the spirit of personal liberty that was our inheritance from Plymouth Rock.

Great principles of government are involved in the Eighteenth amendment to our Constitution. Whether it is right or wrong is the only issue upon which it should be repealed or limited in its effectiveness. The move to do so on the ground that it would restore an industry is a puerile attempt. Something that our country might be ashamed of.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE FOR MR. LEWIS.

At the convention of County Commissioners of Pennsylvania, at Reading, last week, Highway Commissioner Samuel S. Lewis walked into a veritable mare's-nest. He was on the program for an address, but the temper of the gathering was such that it showed its hostility the moment he took the platform.

From all quarters of the assembly room Mr. Lewis was heckled. All manner of charges were hurled at him. In substance most of them were to the effect that his Department is being run more for the aggrandizement of King Pinchot than for the good of the people of Pennsylvania.

By way of defense the Highway Commissioner plead ignorance of any such practices in his Department and challenged his hecklers to produce evidence in writing.

Mr. Lewis is a politician, such a slick one that he manages to keep himself in office regardless of what faction of his party is in power. Those familiar with his outspoken denunciation of Governor Pinchot's claims of the savings during his former administration wondered why, when the Governor gave him the fat berth he now holds. Everyone must draw his own conclusion as to the real reason for that. Whatever it may have been Mr. Lewis is now Highway Commissioner of Pennsylvania and he is under fire from all parts of the State.

If he were not so much of a politician his plea of ignorance as to what is going on in his Department might be accepted, but from one who runs with the hare and hunts with the hound in Pennsylvania politics it sounds rather specious.

Before us, under date of August 7, 1931, is a letter bearing identification of the Highway Department of Pennsylvania, in which the discharge of a man in Clearfield county is a mandatory order. In it there is no mention of the man's incompetence or of his failure to give a dollar's worth of work for the dollar he received for it. It does say, however, that he was discharged because "if Mr. Lewis does not feel that he can give this administration his support and co-operation there is nothing left for us to do but drop Mr. Lewis from our payroll."

Because Mr. Lewis happens to be a Democrat it is evident from the letter that he was discharged not for failure to give the State full value for the remuneration he was receiving, but because of the fact that he wouldn't sell his manhood for a job under "this administration."

If Mr. Lewis wants written evidence to substantiate the charges that were hurled at him at Reading last week we can give him the letter of one of his district superintendents that has convinced us that either he is not in control of his own Department or that he is not as slick a politician as he imagines himself to be.

—The World's Series now stands St. Louis 3, Athletics 2. The teams are in St. Louis where the fight will be finished. The As will have to win two straight to repeat as world champions and, according to Connie Mack, they can't be called champions unless they do repeat.

Good Advice to Utility Corporations.

The managers of public utilities in Pennsylvania received some wholesome advice, at the session of the association held at Bedford Springs, last week. Mr. D. C. Green, of New York, chairman of the Public Relations committee of the National Electric Light association, suggested that instead of "high-hatting" their customers, managers of utility corporations should devote attention to the establishment of cordial relations with the public they serve. This result may be achieved, Mr. Green pointed out, by conveying information of the advantages of the service they offer through the medium of the advertising columns of the local newspapers.

"American business has nothing to fear from a public which is fully informed," Mr. Green declared. In other words, according to his notion, the misunderstanding which has grown up between the producers and consumers of public utilities is largely the result of no information or misinformation on the part of the consumers concerning the processes of production. No progressive community would consent to the abandonment of utilities and if the producers are as altruistic as some of them claim to be, and will lay the facts before the consumers, in the form suggested or any other effective way, the prejudice which now exists may be removed, or at least mitigated.

But the utility corporations have themselves to blame for much of the animosity which has developed against them. Some of them have taken advantage of opportunity to overcharge for service and others have assumed an indifference to complaint which is offensive. These things have made it possible for demagogues to magnify trifles into grave offenses. It is an easy matter to fan sparks of prejudice into flames of passion, which even "the sense of a good job well done" will not extinguish. If the utility corporations are fair and frank with their customers the trumped-up charges of selfish politicians will soon lose force. But the corporations must do their part.

—President Hoover promises that his federal building plan will furnish employment for one hundred thousand men by January 1. What hundred thousand of the seven million that William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, says are idle now?

—Mayor "Bossy" Gillis, of Newburyport, Mass., spent a recent Sunday night in the station house of that city. He was arrested for fighting. "Bossy" is maintaining his reputation for being a "bad boy," but since that is all the claim he ever appeared to have for headlines in the metropolitan press who can blame him for not allowing his greatest asset to become frozen.

—The death of Sir Thomas Lip-ton was not a shock. He was a very old man and at the age of eighty-one, from dawn to sunset and from sunset to dawn are the spans that those who have reached that age may reasonably expect to bridge. It would be fine to die like he did, with the admiration of the world following one to his tomb.

—Mr. "Pepper" Martin, the centerfielder for the Cardinals, probably owns all of St. Louis now. Pitty poor Samuel Breadon, owner of the club, when "Pepper" names his salary demand for next season.

Is History Repeating Itself?

From the New York Times.

It is a gloomy moment in history. Not for many years—not in the lifetime of most men who read this paper—has there been so much grave and deep apprehension. In our own country there is universal commercial prostration and panic and thousands of our poorest fellow-citizens are turned out against the approaching winter without employment.

In France the political caldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty. Russia hangs as usual like a cloud dark and silent upon the horizon of Europe; while all the energies, resources and influences of the British Empire are sorely tried, and are yet to be tried more sorely, in coping with the vast and deadly Indian insurrection, and with disturbed relations in China.

Of our own troubles no man can see the end. If we are only to lose money and by painful poverty to be taught wisdom, no man need seriously despair. Yet the very haste to be rich, which is the occasion of this widespread calamity, has also tended to destroy the moral forces with which we are to resist and subdue the calamity.

The above, we hasten to add, is reprinted from Harper's Weekly of Oct. 10, 1857. It is always, we know, cold comfort to be reminded of earlier times worse than the present, or of the sufferings of a former generation far more intense, relatively, than our own. But, after all, there is a certain element of good cheer, even if of a somewhat grim kind, in reading of the misfortunes of others at other times. The closer they parallel our own—and in the instance cited the parallel is almost uncannily close—the stronger may be our faith that we, too, shall be able to pull ourselves out of the Slough of Despond.

Talks With The Editor

This column is to be an open forum. Everybody is invited to make use of it to express whatever opinion they may have on any subject. Nothing libelous will be published, though we will give the public the widest latitude in invective when the subject is this paper or its editor. Contributions will be signed or initialed, as the contributor may desire.—ED.

From Men Who Know, This is Praise, Indeed

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 2, 1931.
Mr. George R. Meek
Bellefonte, Penna.

Dear Sir:
Each issue of the Democratic Watchman that reaches me convinces me more of its outstanding place among the weekly newspapers of the land and I trust you will pardon me for relieving my feelings, from time to time, in dropping you a letter of commendation.
Perhaps the fact that I spent ten years on a weekly newspaper may account for my weakness in enjoying a good one when I see it. If ever I could have gotten to the place where I could claim credit for such a paper as you are publishing I know my cup of joy would have been full.

Sincerely yours
W. V. D.

While the following was not in the form of a letter to the Editor it refers to the Watchman's recent change of form and expresses the opinion of one of the ablest of the younger writers in the field of Pennsylvania journalism. Marion Schoch owns and edits the Selinsgrove Times. That must be mere play for him, because his contributions to metropolitan journals appear almost daily.

Praise from a writer who has made a name for himself that any of us might envy, is praise indeed and for that reason we publish what was said of the Watchman by Mr. Schoch in his "Pepper Box" last week.

Speaking of other days. The Bellefonte Watchman, that brilliantly edited, last survivor of that old school of personal journalism in the weekly field in which the first page was the editorial page, changed its make-up last week for the first time in the seventy-six years of its scholarly and fearless expounding of the doctrine of Democracy. The Watchman's two outstanding columns, Ink Slings, and Spawls from the Keystone, continue to occupy their old positions in the first and last columns of the first page respectively, but the other four columns of that page were filled with news this week rather than their traditional editorial observations. The four columns of editorial comment were removed to page four, where a double-column masthead appeared and under it a double-column editorial in typographic and editorial style of the old Philadelphia North American. Another innovation there is the appearance of the names of George R. Meek and Mary Gray Meek as editors. The Watchman was founded by their distinguished father in 1855 and edited by him for fifty-seven years. The son and daughter of the founder, with their associate Charles L. Gates, edited the Watchman the score of years since his death, they did their work anonymously and continued to carry their deceased father's name in the masthead as editor until last week, thereby maintaining another tradition of that praiseworthy institution, The Bellefonte Watchman. The newspaper continues distinct in its make-up in that large type is not used for headlines. Perhaps scare heads are to be adopted too for The Watchman, for George R., observes in the revamped edition of the 25th:

"After fifty six years of residence in this particular corner of this unusual country newspaper 'Ink Slings' are threatened with eviction. The management is thinking of relegating them to page 4. Can it be that we are slipping?"
The above paragraph may smack too much of newspaper shop talk to be of absorbing interest to those readers of The Pepper Box, who are not interested in the mechanics of the publishing business, but to those who have been reading The Watchman many years and admiring it all the while the change is worthy of note as well as careful consideration of George's shoot-the-shoots query.

—At a special session of court, Saturday morning, S. Kline Woodring presented a petition for the parole of Homer L. Illian, from the Allegheny county work house. On May 19th, 1931, Illian was sentenced on two counts for a violation of the liquor laws, one for three months and the other for nine months and \$400 fine. He is also under indictment for a violation of the liquor laws act. He has served his three months sentence and about a month and a half of his second sentence, and attorney Woodring stated in his petition that arrangements have been made to pay the fine and costs. The court granted the parole with the understanding that Illian is still subject to the liquor laws charge and action on it will depend largely on his conduct after returning from the work house.

—During August 27,958 applicants for automobile operator's license were examined by Troop C, of the highway patrol. Of the number 7669 failed to qualify. At the Bellefonte station 307 passed and 105 failed.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

IN CENTRE COUNTY

Items taken from the Watchman issue of October 14, 1881.

—On Wednesday night the drug store of Howard A. Moore, at Howard, in which is also the jewelry store of Marius Miner, was broken into and robbed of a lot of chains and rings that had been left outside the safe. Mr. Miner slept over the store but the thieves went about their work so quietly that he heard nothing.

—Mr. Bauer, from St. Mary's has been conducting a school in penmanship, at Hublersburg, for the past four weeks.

—Fire broke out on Chaney & Thompson's coaling, two miles west of Port Matilda, on Friday, Sept. 30th, and as everything was so dry it soon got out of control. Several thousand dollars worth of bark, logs and cord wood were destroyed.

—The advance blasts of Old Boreas have been felt during the week.

—A building valued at \$5000.00 and owned by J. F. Steiner, was destroyed by fire in Philipsburg the latter part of last week.

—A little daughter of David Glenn, of Howard street, died on Sunday and was buried on Wednesday. She was only two years old and had eaten some water-color paints that had been given her by other children.

—While driving from town to their home in Spring township, last Saturday night, Mr. Harrison Kline and his good wife met with an accident that injured both of them severely. For some unaccountable reason their team took sudden fright at something and wheeled about in the road so unexpectedly that the conveyance was overturned, throwing both Mr. and Mrs. Kline out.

—The closing day of the county fair, last Friday, drew an unexpectedly large crowd. The racing was good. As Lock Haven failed to show up for its base-ball game with the State College team a nine was "picked" on the grounds to take the field against the collegians. It was a great game, but the college boys defeated our fellows 31 to 22. In the foot race between A. Pullin, Charles Schmidt and William O'Leary, once around the track for \$5, O'Leary came third.

—At its meeting Monday night the Boy's Branch of the Y. M. C. A., added 33 recruits, bringing its roster up to 148. They completed arrangements for bringing Ralph Bingnam, the eleven year old boy orator from Richmond, Va., here to give one of his entertainments.

—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoover, of Unionville, celebrated the silver anniversary of their wedding, last Friday by holding open house all day. Addresses were made by Revs. W. W. Morris and J. A. Woodcock. Mrs. Woodcock sang a solo. Toward evening the older folks departed and the younger friends of the family flooded the house and there was plain dancing and singing until midnight. Among the Bellefonters there were Mrs. Orie Hoover, Miss Bella Hoover and the two young accomplished and fascinating daughters of Mr. Humes.

—E. C. Bender Esq., late editor of the Philipsburg Journal, has moved his family to York, Pa. Mr. Bender was a lumberman as well as an editor and was quite successful in both.

—Gen. James A. Beaver, of Bellefonte, William V. Emery, of Williamsport, and Samuel Auchenbaugh, superintendent of the nail works at Crescent, have formed a copartnership and will begin the erection of a nail mill in Bellefonte at once. The partners left for Buffalo yesterday to contract for the machinery.

—The Hollidaysburg correspondent to the Altoona Sun says: "Yesterday Mr. Bruce Lingle was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Lilah Knox, one of Newry's fairest and most accomplished young ladies. The groom is from Leont, Centre county, Pa."

ANOTHER MURDERER PAYS THE PENALTY

William C. Snipes, Bucks county murderer, was electrocuted at Rockview penitentiary on September 28th, the fourteenth person—thirteen men and one woman—to go to the chair so far this year. Snipes was one of three youths who robbed Edward Gamils, proprietor of the Blue Spruce inn, near Trevoise, Bucks county, of \$500 then shot him dead in his tracks. Two of the three young men were given life imprisonment and Snipes, who did the shooting, was condemned to death. The robbery and shooting occurred last February.

About three weeks ago Snipes attempted suicide by setting fire to his cot in the Bucks county jail then lying down on it, but was rescued before the flames made much headway. He made no statement before his execution, that morning, but said goodbye to the chaplain in a voice that showed no fear. The young man was said to be a member of a well to do southern family, and has six sisters and a brother living at Lancaster, S. C. His was the 220th electrocution at Rockview since the establishment of the death chair.

—Centre county is generally regarded as a farming community, but more than half its area is mountain land. To be exact just 496,000 acres out of a total of 733,440 are covered with forests, most of it scrub and second growth. Clearfield county has 500,000 acres of forest land, Potter 510,000 and McKean, with 585,000 acres, is ninety per cent. woodland.

A HODGE-PODGE OF NEWSY INCIDENTS.

The Board of Game Commissioners have decreed an open season for both bucks and does for 1931—December 1st to 15th, inclusive, Sundays excepted. This will no doubt mean an increased slaughter of the fleet-footed animals during the hunting season but it will greatly lessen the sport of the chase unless the hunters are gallant enough to spare the female of the species. On an ordinary drive, in past seasons, half a dozen does were driven out to one buck, and the regular hunting party ought to have little trouble in shooting down their limit the first day, and their hunting season will be over before it has rightly begun, which will take all the fun and excitement out of deer hunting this season.

The Game Commission's reason for declaring an open season, too many deer in the woods, is well-founded. One Bellefonter who recently made two automobile trips out through the Allegheny mountains counted eighty-six deer on one trip and over sixty on the other. Down in the Woodward Narrows they are reported so plentiful that they actually jump at autos passing along the road at night. This condition has been brought about through the game protective laws of the State.

Older residents of Bellefonte who can remember back forty years ago will probably recall that while there were no game laws in those days, and deer were killed most any time in the year, the natural hunting season was in the fall. The Gentzle hunting party was about the only organized gang of hunters in this section and they always went to the Green Woods, in Clearfield county. Whether they stayed a week or a month they invariably came home with a two horse wagon load of dead deer. There were no regulating laws in those days. In fact the first game law was passed in 1897 when an Act of the Legislature fixed the month of November as the season for deer. In 1907 a new act fixed the season as the first two weeks in December and made bucks with visible horns the only kind of deer that could be legally killed. Thus the does were protected in the entire State for a period of 16 years. In 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926, two day seasons for does were declared in several or more counties in the State. In 1928 there was an open season for does only, and in 1930 there was a special season for does in restricted areas. And now every hunter will doubtless be on the anxious bench for the 1931 season for both bucks and does to open.

For some time past we have been wondering where all the money that is supposed to be in circulation has gone to, but now we have discovered that the Republicans have it. At least it looks that way from a summary of the expense accounts filed in the Prothonotary's office by the various candidates at the recent primaries. A comparison shows that only four Democratic candidates spent in excess of fifty dollars during their primary campaign and those four a total of \$589.55, or an average of \$147.39. Twenty two out of a total of thirty-nine Republican candidates spent in excess of fifty dollars, in fact all told \$5,110.86, or an average of \$232.31. Phillipsburg candidates were the best spenders, five of them putting out \$1559.27, or an average of \$311.85.

Down at the Bloomsburg fair, last week, prizes were paid for the best exhibits of homemade bread and we were really surprised to see that there was quite a competition in this line by the housewives of Columbia county. In most of the counties of the State baking o bread in the home is almost a lost art. Time was when bread-baking days came around twice a week a regular as Sunday but the automobile has made it so convenient to drive to a bakery for the staff of life that many women who used to bake prefer the drive in the automobile to watching a baking o bread in a hot oven.

Every winter, it seems, something turns up to interfere with the perfect attendance marks of kiddie at school. Last winter it was the chicken pox, measles and mumps with a few cases of scarlet rash thrown in. Now it is the Iris itch, if you know what that is; is a number of children who have been sent home from school for a period of two weeks. A evidence that there is a lot of it Bellefonte one druggist has put up forty prescriptions recommended a cure for it.

Last Friday evening there was considerable shooting on Bald Eagle mountain, south of Unionville, at people who heard it have been trying to figure out whether it was some persons shooting mark or pheasants after either deer or wild turkeys. It is a known fact that there are a number of deer on the mountains in that section as the have frequently been seen during the summer; and there is also quite a large flock of young wild turkeys in that locality, as they also have been seen.

—Don't be a pessimist. Be an optimist and boost Bellefonte.