

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 investigative reports on the subject of this paper or its editor. Contributions will be signed or initialed, as the contributor may desire.—ED.

The Pitometer Boys Hold the Secret.

Manchester, Vt., October 10, 1931.
Democratic Watchman,
Bellefonte, Pa.
Gentlemen:

When I was a small boy in Bellefonte, and you can get my vintage easily by reference to the week's news in the fifty year column, I used to hear the town wisecracks say that it was evident that all the water that was pumped from the spring was not being used in everyday living; that it was evident that there were leaks somewhere. For, perhaps, twenty years more there were occasional references to the higher per capita consumption of water in Bellefonte. And then a year or so ago a company appeared in your columns with the offer to look over the town's water system and uncover leaks; no uncover, no pay. But, they got their money hence it is to be thought they found the leaks. I have been living abroad for some time, but ever since the search for leaks I have been poring over the Watchman, sometimes months did, to find out where the leaks were discovered and how bad they were. So far nothing doing. Was someone running a still or was someone lugging his just payments? The mystery of the fifty years solved and nothing in the Watchman. Come on, all you the news! I feel sure that Cal Delige did not steal the water; same for Sonny Miller. If Leander Green took it and now wants to resituate all he has to do is call on me and it will be arranged gratis for Leander; same for Beck, the barber, the man who played the lute, or the piccolo—"Choke that goose."

JOHN L. GIVEN

It was like a voice from the grave when we received the above from a friend with whom we played as a boy. We would like to be able to tell him where the water leaks were found, but we can't, simply because all that were reported were so trifling as to have no material effect on the quantity of water pumped through Bellefonte's mains. The pitometer boys came here, contracted to find \$1500.00 worth of leaks or ask for no pay. They got their \$1500.00 and departed. The mystery of it all was that after they had supposedly found and plugged up leaks through which they said water to the amount of \$1500.00, at the then cost of pumping, was escaping annually, the meters on the pumps recorded no reflection of any saving, whatever.

Now, 2,600,000 gallons of water daily are being used in Bellefonte. We say used, instead of consumed, because if it were all being drunk by Bellefonte's 5000 people the local population would be getting outside of 10 to 25 bbls. of water per person per day.

As a matter of fact Bellefonte water is supplied to all the section of Spring township, surrounding the borough, as well as to the Penna. R. R. Co., for its engines, to the American Lime and Stone Co., the Titan Metal and other industries, which are very heavy consumers.

While the idea that the per capita consumption of water in Bellefonte is anything like 10 to 25 bbls. is ridiculous we believe that a very few of our people have any conception of how much water they do use daily.

Sometime ago we got curious about the matter and after a talk with the plumber as to how much water would flow through the half inch pipe serving the wash stand in our bathroom, how much a closet tank holds, and how much the bath tub holds we made a rough calculation that we use at least 20 gals. personally every morning before we even get down stairs. Mow much more we use nobody knows. When we go to wash our hands we turn the faucet on full and let it run all the while, the same goes while we are washing our face. Because water is so cheap and plentiful in Bellefonte nearly everybody else does the same.—Editor's Note.

His School Master Speaks for Mr. McDowell.

Clearfield, Pa., Oct. 24, 1931.
The Democratic Watchman,
Bellefonte, Pa.
Gentlemen:

I have just been reading the Watchman and note the splendid men you are supporting for county office and am especially interested in the candidate for Recorder of Deeds, D. A. McDowell.

More than forty years ago I taught in the Frain school house in Marion township. David A. McDowell was one of my pupils and then he was suffering from the physical affliction that he has borne patiently all these years. I have watched him grow to manhood, meeting him many times, and he has always greeted me with a warm hand-shake and a smile. As his affliction became evidently almost unbearable he still smiled and fought on with his courageous struggle for a livelihood under conditions that would have caused many less stout-hearted ones to give up and accept alms. But not David.

I notice in your paper that Burgess H. P. Harris has called a meeting to start the activities of your Associated Charities. Why not include some votes for D. A. McDowell? He never asked charity, but here is an opportunity for Centre county to perform a real charity. You have so many splendid organizations such as the Elks, Masons, Odd Fellows, Fire Companies and churches. They all have such fine records for work of this kind. Wouldn't it be an outstanding charity if they were to turn in for D. A. McDowell.

Certainly he is worthy. I have abiding faith in Centre county.
Very sincerely yours
M. I. GARDNER

Well Known Educator Pays Tribute to Bob Hunter

Bellefonte, Pa., Oct. 27, 1931.
To the Editor of The Democratic Watchman:

I have been a Republican all my life, and as well, a citizen and taxpayer for fifty years, but when Robert F. Hunter first announced himself a candidate for County Treasurer, on the Democratic ticket, I made up my mind that I would give him my most sincere and enthusiastic support. I have known him from boyhood. I have watched him in his business relations. I have observed his activities in social life as I have had ample opportunity to do. I served with him, messaged and tented with him when we were both members of the National Guard of Penna., as privates in the Fifth Regiment. I applauded his advancement to Staff Sergeant, and later to Regimental Adjutant with a Captain's Commission and I especially noted that becoming an officer never gave him the slightest symptoms of swell head. I have always enjoyed his whole hearted fellowship with its wit and humor. The result of it all is that "Bob" Hunter has no friend more loyal than I am, or who holds him in any higher esteem, for his clean, enthusiastic and successful life, than I do.

But my admiration for "Bob", as we all call him, is not occasioned alone by those personal qualities, but as well by his supreme selflessness and untiring devotion to the best interests of his town and county. Bob has expended unlimited time, energy and money in the promotion of public enterprises which meant a lot more to both business and laboring interests than perhaps they ever fully appreciated.

When a man of business acumen and persuasive ability was needed at any time to pave the way for worth while enterprises, those who knew him best, always secured his enlistment in the cause, and the moment he assumed the leadership, final success seemed assured. I have been a resident of Centre county all my life of sixty-seven years, except three years, and I can truthfully say without fear of successful contradiction that Bob Hunter has stood and still stands in a class by himself, as a leader among men.

It has come to my knowledge, that those who have personal interests to serve are representing Bob Hunter as a man who does not need the office.

There could be no discredit in a man hustling and saving. To my personal knowledge, however, Bob Hunter even in his declining years relies almost entirely on his daily hustling for his livelihood. This I am adding only to correct the above rumor which is a direct result of studied propaganda to appeal to the prejudices of those who do not know the facts.

I want to add, finally, that this letter is volunteered and not solicited, and it is not a paid political advertisement, but simply a frank statement of the feelings that are in my own heart toward a man who, if he is elected, and is granted the small favor he asks, has even then been poorly paid for the time and ability he has devoted to his community and his fellow men.

Very respectfully yours,
J. R. HUGHES.

Yes, How About the Other 680?

Scottsdale, Pa., Oct. 16, 1931.
Editor "The Watchman".

Dear Sir: It is not lack of appreciation that causes me to neglect sending check when due—just carelessness. No doubt this is the trouble with others. But if our family pay check failed to arrive when due it would be just too bad, so I can fully appreciate your situation.

The Watchman is the only "Letter from Home" to me, and certainly a pleasure and entertaining one.

Here's hoping the other 680 come across and that the dear old paper may long continue its work.

Most sincerely
ADA DOLAN KIETHLY. (Mrs. J. T.)

Claire Had a Swiss Cheese Nightmare.

Westfield, N. J., Oct. 12, 1931.

Last night I retired quite early to my humble bed, I was feeling rather blithesome, not a sad thought in my head, and as my conscience was O. K., I was soon fast asleep. Never moved a muscle, till the birds began to peep.

Although I slept so soundly, still I had an awful dream, Almost thought I was awake, so natural did it seem; Hoover was re-elected, everyone was singing his praise, The I. C. C. had granted the railroad's application for a raise.

All the factories were running, unemployment was unknown, The 18th Amendment repealed, improvement everywhere was shown,

Taxes had been reduced, surplusses were piling high, Wars had been outlawed, not a cloud was in the sky.

The Communists were happy, had even gone to work, Armenians were living peacefully with the awful Turk, China and Japan were loving friends once more, Russia had stopped trying to make the U. S. sore.

Will Rogers was quiet, could find no subject for a joke, Congress had turned so rational, fun at it he could not poke, No more gangster holdups, all of them were safe in jail, Everything is just lovely, we've got the world by the tail.

It certainly was refreshing while it lasted, Too bad our dreams should be so rudely blasted, But when I awoke I found the bubble had busted, Things were just as before, so, like Andy, "I see regulated."

C. B. WILLIAMS.

Prohibition! Ah, Yes, We Do Have Something of the Sort.

From the Houtzdale Citizen.

Speaking of prohibition, which they tell us is still done in polite society, we quite agree with a certain Republican Senator who said: "If all the prohibitionists in this country would get good and drunk for a week, and at the same time the liquor interests would try and sober up, we might get somewhere."

We're in favor of starting a campaign of education to acquaint every business man with what alcohol will do to his system, his wife's system, his looseleaf system and his heating system. We're going to explain it in everyday language, which doesn't mean we'll have to use profanity.

What is alcohol? Where do we get it? No one asks this last question, so we'll skip that and try and define the first one.

Alcohol is a clear, colorless fluid found in flavoring extracts, hip pockets, Washington, and various clubs and speakeries. The temperature at which it freezes is so low that many people fill their—radiators when it when expecting to be out all night. It was formerly listed in the druggists' pharmacopodia as an official remedy. That meant that many officials used to step into the back room and take their remedy on the premises. It's no longer listed in the book, but it's still in the drug stores. The difference is it's harder to get, hence we call it hard liquor.

From a strictly economical standpoint, alcohol can be classed as a food, as it contains no bones, skin or seeds, gristle or crust. There is absolutely no loss, that is, so long as the person drinking it can keep it down.

As to habit forming—well, strictly speaking, alcohol is a habit-forming drug, and causes the formation of such habits as hiccoughs, telephoning friends at three o'clock in the morning, sitting on lunch counter stools without removing the mashed potatoes, sleeping with the lights on and spending the money which was to have been paid on the radio set.

Liquor has a great demoralizing effect on women and makes them forget their sex—which isn't so hard in many cases. The only thing worse than an intoxicated woman is two intoxicated women.

A case is on record of an intoxicated mother who nursed a three-months-old infant. An hour later the little one staggered from its crib and offered to bet anyone that Shakespeare never wrote half the stuff credited to him.

Helping the "White Collar" Men

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Governor Roosevelt has revealed a plan for helping "the white collar man" in his plan for unemployment relief in New York State. Ten per cent of the \$20,000,000 which is to be appropriated for helping the jobless is to be used for administrative purposes. The major part of that percentage is to be paid out for clerical services; and the aim of those in charge of the measure is to give these jobs to middle-aged and elderly men who are unable to do pick and shovel work. "Should these positions be given to the unemployed themselves", says a dispatch from Albany, "it would reduce actual cost of administration well below the ten per cent figure, perhaps to a mere fraction of that amount."

One difficulty with all funds of this kind is the fact that it takes money to distribute them. There is no way of avoiding what are called "necessary expenses" unless there is a complete staff of volunteers; and that, naturally, is very difficult to obtain. But what will interest the country at large is the New York attempt to do something for the "white collar men." They are, in many respects, the most unfortunate of all the needy. Those who are fitted to do hard physical labor can turn to scores of jobs and manage to eke out a living. But it is different with the grand army of men who have been trained only for desk work. It is a well-known fact that men of this class are extremely reluctant to ask for aid. Nor are they easily discovered, because relief agencies do not usually find their way to them.

No less an authority than Mr. Owen D. Young says that no one will want for something to eat during the coming winter. The relief plans are comprehensive and far-reaching; the amount of money to be raised will be record-breaking, and the desire to help is universal. But it is to be hoped that when the rigors of winter come upon us some effort will be made to reach and to help those of the middle class who are always the last to be considered in times like the present.

FARM NOTES.

—Bulbs, including dahlias, gladioli, canna, and others which have bloomed during the summer, should be taken up as soon as frost has blackened the tops, place in a dry, shaded place until the tops are dead and the bulbs dry. Leave considerable stem when cutting the tops and store the bulbs in boxes in a place where potatoes keep well.

—Prolapsus and cannibalism are common in pullet flocks soon after they are housed. Many poultrymen have found it practical to remove the tips of the upper beak on all birds. This practice will prevent losses for two weeks after which the birds may find other things to attract their attention.

—Soil and manure should be cleaned out of the hotbed this fall so that it will be ready for use in the spring. This also makes a fine accessible place for storing celery, root crops, potatoes, and cabbage.

—One way of helping to reduce farm costs is to produce as much of the family living as possible on the farm.

—Good health demands plenty of milk. It supplies the body with necessary materials in exceptionally healthful and economical form.

—A heavy dropping of apples indicates that the fruit should be picked without delay. Prompt action will prevent loss.

—The herds in the Centre County Cow Testing Association No. 1 are headed by sires with high production records back of them according to information furnished county agent, R. C. Blaney, by the tester, Ira Whiteman. Dams of the twenty herd sires with official records average 18503 pounds milk and 838 pounds butter. Twenty-nine grand dams average 20851 pounds milk and 941 pounds butter, and thirty-four great grand dams average 21214 pounds milk and 1010 pounds butter. The average production of all the cows in the association for the year just ended was 9219 pounds milk and 385.7 pounds butter. Considerable improvement is expected when these bull's daughters come into production.

—"Bob White" is an extremely useful bird to the farmer through its weed-seed eating habits in the winter and insect eating habits during the summer.

—Eight hundred million dollars is the annual loss to agriculture and forestry in the United States through the depredations of insect pests.

—Nitrogen obtained from the air and plowed under in clover, costs less than 3 cents a pound, while purchased nitrogen will cost very much more per pound. The nitrogen that is grown has the additional advantage of adding to the humus supply in the soil.

—We cannot rob our soils without robbing ourselves. We must invest in ways and means of soil improvement if we would continue to harvest crops and feed animals.

—The requirements of a farm where sheep can be handled with profit are good drainage, plenty of fresh pasture, land that will produce clover, alfalfa or soy beans, a good water supply, fences that will keep sheep out of growing crops and furnish two or three fields for frequent change of pasture, a shelter that will protect the flock from cold rains, winds and storms, and an attendant who can give the flock interested and intelligent care.

—Too many farmers follow the practice of weaning pigs when too young, many being weaned at six and seven weeks of age. A good brood sow properly fed has a good flow of milk when the pigs are of this age. There is no better feed for growing pigs than their mother's milk, consequently it should be used to the greatest extent possible.

When the pigs are of suckling age the sow should be on full feed. Unless there is some extraordinary reason for earlier weaning, the pigs should not be weaned under the age of 10 weeks, and it is better to let them nurse until they are 12 or 14 weeks old.

Often serious results follow weaning at too early an age. An entire change of feed following weaning may create serious trouble. If, however, pigs have access to corn, shorts, middlings or tankage in a self-feeder placed in the open where they can eat at pleasure without being disturbed by other hogs, they can be weaned at the age of 12 or 14 weeks, with very little change in their feed, by allowing them to continue on the self-feeder. To obtain the best results, pigs should gain continuously until they are ready for market.

The best results will not be obtained unless pigs have access all the time possible to good forage crops, alfalfa and red clover preferred. If these feeds cannot be procured, rye, oats, barley, rape or any other grain or grasses that will produce good forage in the locality should be sown. The pigs should be watched closely to see that they are on their feed. If they are not, the food should be changed, replacing corn with barley and using skim milk or butter milk if possible. The pigs should be kept free from lice by the use of crude or good black oil. They must have access at all times to good pure water. Shade must be provided during hot summer weather. Natural shade is always best, but where this is not obtainable, temporary shade may be provided by setting posts and nailing boards on poles about three and one-half or four feet from the ground and covering with straw or grass.

—Vote for Robert F. Hunter for Treasurer. You might not have directly felt the effect of his constant plugging for the good of the people of Centre county, but indirectly, we are so sure some benefit has come to you through his work that we think one good turn deserves another.

—Vote for D. A. McDowell for Recorder. That position would fix a man who is physically incapable of doing anything but clerical work up for life. His opponent is young, physically fit and sitting pretty in a good job that he can hold as long as he wants it.

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