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Editors.

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BELLEFONTE, PA., - - - - - - DECEMBER 4, 1931.

A TRYING SITUATION.

Congress will convene on Monday. With its organization the Democratic party should be greatly concerned, since responsibility for what may be done by way of legislation during the session will weigh heavily in the election of the next President.

As the membership of the House stands the Democrats are in position to organize it. The wisdom of taking advantage of numerical strength, however, is the debatable question under existing conditions.

Rumors are coming out of Washington to the effect that several of the best Republican minds in the Senate are of the opinion that it would be wise to force the Democrats to organize that body, also. Such intimations should be warning to our party to fear the Greeks bearing gifts."

In control of both House and Senate the Democratic party could properly be held to accountability for legislation during what will be the most trying situation our country has ever known. Aside from unprecedented depression and the economic chaos in our own country, there are extremely critical and delicate problems in our foreign relations to be met.

Billions of American dollars are invested in German securities, as well as those of other foreign countries on the verge of bankruptcy. France is obdurate in her demand that German reparations shall be paid her before Germany provides for the integrity of private loans made in this country. France appears to be selfish to the point of making every plan for relief of Germany subservient to her own enrichment.

In the far east China and Japan are at swords points over Manchuria and our Secretary of State, Mr. Stimson, has involved us in an unpleasant controversy with the Tokio government. Under ordinary circumstances it might be regarded as merely an incident for diplomatic notes to close, but the nerves of nations are strained to the point where a snap in anyone of them might precipitate world-wide war.

Such conditions may not be chargeable to the Republican party, but admission of probable failure to find any palliative for them is very apparent in the suggestion that opportunity to organize the Senate be wished on the Democrats.

In such an event our party would be responsible for all legislation. If any of it should appear to have merit a Republican President could veto it and we would be without power to pass it over his head, the net result being that we would go into the campaign of 1932 with a record of having accomplished exactly nothing when given a chance to show what we could do.

Public confidence is a very fickle thing. The mind of the masses thinks only of today and tomorrow, rarely of yesterday. It would give no thought to the fact that the Democratic party is not even remotely responsible for any of the impending great problems. It will measure it solely by what Congress does during the coming session by way of their solution.

For that reason control of either the House or the Senate, or both, might thwart what now seems the certain election of a Democratic President in 1932

MACHINES ADD TO ELECTION EXPENSE.

One of the several arguments used in launching the campaign for introduction of voting machines in Pennsylvania was that they would effect a saving through the elimination of printed ballots that would, in time, pay the cost of the machine. The claim sounded reasonable enough because printed ballots for election districts when there are many offices to be filled, many parties filing tickets and many candidates for places are intricate and costly work, upon which penalty prices are quoted because they must be rushed to completion regardless of what other pressing work the printing plant might have in process. Actual use of machines has revealed the surprising fact that they have added to, rather than decreasing, the cost of holding elections.

In Luzerne county, where machines were used for the first time this fall, the combined cost of the primary and general elections was $40,000 in excess of that for 1931.

Other items of expense not necessitated by the machines might have contributed to this unusual increase in Luzerne. As to that possibility we are not informed, but the experience right here in Centre county gives support to the belief that the whole increase might be chargeable to them.

In Philipsburg borough, the much discussed machines that Mr. Secretary Beamish ordered against the protest of the Commissioners of Centre County, were used at the last general election. They worked very satisfactorily and the returns from the wards of that borough were known almost before election boards in other precincts of the county had gotten the ballots out of the boxes preparatory to starting the count.

Now that the bills have come in the price of getting early returns is taking the edge off the enthusiasm for machines that was manifested on the evening of November 3. The cost of printing ballots per district in Centre county was $12.00. There are three districts in Philipsburg, so paper ballots for that borough would have involved an expense of $36.00. The cost of printing the labels for the various levers and other gadgets on the three machines used was $72.00. Just twice the amount the ordinary ballots would have been done for.

In the light of such facts it is easy to believe that the increase which Luzerne county is wondering about is directly attributable to the use of machines.

—Mayor Jimmie Walker, of New York, is in California to make a personal appeal to Governor Rolph for the pardon of Tom Mooney, who is serving a life sentence in San Quentin prison for supposed bombing of a pre-paredness day parade in San Francisco, in which a number of persons were killed. Whether Mooney was an actual participant in the murderous outrage was not definitely established at the time of his trial. His record as an agitator in defiance of law was a long one and it was known that he was in sympathy with the spirit of the bombing, so that his conviction was regarded as a just one, if for no other reason than it put a very dangerous man in a place where he could no longer be a menace to society and government. Mayor Walker's unusual interest in the case has caused much speculation as to its real motive. To many it well appear as being more a play to the gallery than anything else.

—The State Department of Mines is crowing because deaths have decreased in the bituminous fields. Why shouldn't they? There are so few soft coal mines going in Pennsylvania that casualties ought to be few.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of December 9, 1881.

—Mr. James Steel writes from Pleasant Gap to say that our correspondent from that place stretched the truth slightly when he reported in the Watchman that the Excelsior Bible class out there busted up because it couldn't pay the janitor of the church in which it met eighty cents due him for making the fires that kept them warm. His version is that the trustees of the church wanted sixty cents a night for rent and as the class was small it couldn't pay so much. —Those who remember him will be interested to know that the late W. Francis Speer, originator of the breezy "That Column" still running in the Keystone Gazette, was the teacher of the class—Editor's Note.

—Mrs. Mary Lemon, aged 63 years, died at her home in Ferguson township on Saturday, Dec. 3, 1881. Typhoid fever was the cause of her death.

—A handsome iron fence is to be placed in front of the Episcopal church building on Allegheny street.

—Pomona Grange, No. 296, is building a very handsome hall at Sprucetown.

—The Zion band has purchased a set of silver instruments that cost them $800.00.

—The hod carriers on the new Centre county bank building struck the other day. They came to the conclusion that carrying hods of mortar and brick up a perpendicular ladder three stories high was worth more than a dollar a day. They got a slight increase and went back to work.

—Word comes from the Robert Haynes hunting camp at the head of the Fishing run dam that they have nine deer hung up. In the party are Mr. Haynes, J. H. Holt, of Snow Shoe; John W. Gardner and the Messrs. Lucas, of Howard.

—The largest woman in Centre county, Mrs. Kline, of Philipsburg, died last Sunday. It is said that her casket was so large it couldn't be gotten into the hearse and had to be taken to the cemetery on a wagon.

—Professor Hayden, former professor of music at State College, is now in the Blair county almshouse. The Professor was a wonderful musician. He was a wonderful drinker, also, and that caused his downfall.

—Maj. James Gilliland, at one time Treasurer of Centre county and now living in Maryland, was in town last week. At the age of 70 he was looking hale and hearty.

—John Corman, of Hublersburg, was badly bitten on the hand by a hog he was butchering last week.

—The new nail works here are expected to be ready for operation by February 1st.

—The Bellefonte glass works were put in operation again last Thursday night. The first batch of glass is said to have been of a very superior quality.

—Mr. Charles McCafferty, of this place, and Miss Catharine Williams, of Philadelphia, were married in that city on Wednesday, Nov. 30th. Miss Williams is of the Bellefonte Williams family and is a relative of Mr. McCafferty's first wife. She is the woman whose profile was taken from which to model the "Liberty" that adorns the silver dollar of the U. S.—The Williams family referred to were pioneers in Bellefonte and their descendant, the late Mary Ellen McQuistion, left the residue of her estate for the purpose of founding a Centre county historical society—Editor's Note.

—One, James Stimson is suing the city of Altoona for $50,000 damages to his character. He was standing in front of a church there waiting to take his girl home when a policeman nabbed him and chucked him in the "jug." Because of the disgrace his girl broke their engagement and a rich maiden aunt, who had made him her legatee, cut him off without a cent. And so he proposes to make the city produce some balm for his troubles.

BELLEFONTERS AROUSED BY EARLY MORNING FIRE

Three-fourths of the people of Bellefonte were awakened from their "beauty sleep," about 5.20 o'clock on Tuesday morning, by a double alarm of fire, which proved to be on the roof of the James R. Hughes residence at the Bellefonte Academy. A spark from the smoke stack at the heating plant evidently caused the blaze, which started at the cornice on the rear part of the roof.

Both fire companies responded and the fire was extinguished by the use of the chemical apparatus though some water was used as a precautionary measure to wet the roof and outside of the building. The damage was not large and is covered by insurance.

——Rev. and Mrs. William Gibbs, of Cresson, celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary, on Sunday. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Gibbs was Miss Minnie Kline, of Bellefonte. Rev. Gibbs is a retired Presbyterian minister.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

R. G. Cole and Vivian M. Poorman, both of Bellefonte.

William H. Callahan, of Linden Hall, and Virginia E. Bailey, of Boalsburg.

Paul Edward Bohn, of Centre Hall, and Alice Emeline Ralston, of State College.

Lester William Schmoke and Twila E. Fye, both of Moshannon.

A HODGE—PODGE OF NEWSY INCIDENTS.

During the past week Bellefonte firemen have responded to a number of alarms and at one in particular, that on Thanksgiving evening, they were unable to find any fire. This, of course, was not because the firemen didn't try hard enough but because if there was a fire it was out by the time they arrived. But what we want to do here is speak a word in behalf of the operators in the telephone exchange. They will go the limit in case of a fire to notify the firemen or have the alarm sounded, but the large majority of people in reporting a fire are not explicit enough. They rattle off the call into the telephone so fast and unintelligibly that the operator is unable to catch the name of the person making the call or the exact location of the fire. Frequently the person hangs up the phone before the operator has time to question him or her in regard to the property or location. All fire calls should be made in a distinct and plain tone of voice, and the person making the call should never leave the phone until he is certain the operator knows the exact location of the fire. This will enable her to give the firemen explicit directions and save endless confusion in getting to the scene on time.

We have always wondered what is gained by the law compelling candidates to file expense accounts, and we have not yet been able to figure it out. Right here in Centre county one of the candidates at the recent election filed his account showing expenses well along in the hundreds and later a man bobs up who says that the candidate told him that his campaign cost him over three thousand. Now one of the men must surely be mistaken.

The Lutheran church at Pleasant Gap has a class of "Willing Workers" who served a Thanksgiving dinner of chicken, Etc., for 50 cents a plate. A number of Bellefonters went out for dinner and what we know of the capacity of some of the men we conclude that the P. G. girls must have been very willing workers to feed them for four bits.

It was Thanksgiving morning. Two well known Bellefonte men met at the postoffice. Said one to the other "I hear you bought a new Buick Six." The man looked the part of perfect astonishment as he replied: "Well, I'm sorry for the man who sold it to me." After explaining that he had not bought a car and didn't intend to buy one, he said he considered it quite a compliment to be placed in the class of Buick Six owners, and that it was the third such compliment he had received during his life. The first was when a stranger asked him what big league ball club he played with and the second when a man stepped up to him and asked him for change for a hundred dollar bill.

Granite markers have been placed at the four corners of the new federal postoffice site on the corner of Allegheny and Howard streets, evidence that borough engineer H. B. Shattuck and his assistant engineers have completed their survey of the plot. Granite markers were probably used so they would last until all the legal preliminaries have been disposed of and the government is ready to erect the buiding.

With over seven thousand hunters in the Centre county mountains on the trail of deer neither the male nor the female of the species will have half a sportsman's chance of escape. And the slaughter will probably continue until the end of the season on December 15th.

——The annual fair and country store of the Bellefonte Presbyterian church will be held in the chapel, on Spring street, on Thursday afternoon and evening December 10. There will be all manner of articles suitable for Christmas gifts, aprons, candy, cakes and other foods. The fair will open at 3 p. m.

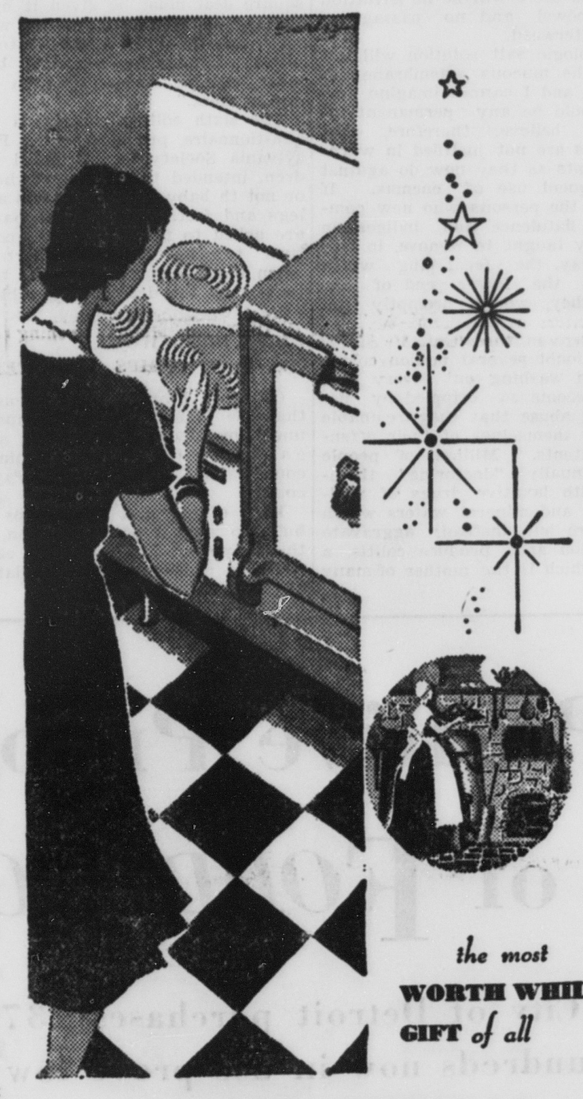
——Herbert Bruce Auman and Pauline Boyer, both of Bellefonte; Bruce Emerson Smith, of Mill Hall, and Dorothy Winifred Berry, of Beech Creek, were among those who were granted marriage licenses at Cumberland, Md., on Saturday.

CATHAUM
A Warner Brothers Theatre
STATE COLLEGE
Matinee daily at 1:30
Evening opening time 6:00 p. m.

FRIDAY—
Joan Crawford, Clark Gable in
"POSSESSED"
Slim Summerville Comedy
SATURDAY—
Lilyan Tashman, Kay Francis in
"GIRLS ABOUT TOWN"
MONDAY AND TUESDAY—
Lawrence Tibbett, Lupe Velez,
Jimmy Durante, in
"The Cuban Love Song"
WEDNESDAY—
John Gilbert, Leila Hyams in
"THE PHANTOM OF PARIS"
THURSDAY—
James Dunn, Sally Eilers in
"OVER THE HILL'

NITTANY THEATRE
FRIDAY—
Ronald Colman, Fay Wray in
"THE UNHOLY GARDEN"
SATURDAY—
"POSSESSED"
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY—
Alfred Lunt, Lynn Fontaine in
"THE GUARDSMEN"
THURSDAY—
"THE PHANTOM OF PARIS"

She'll be
FOREVER THANKFUL
for this new freedom from her kitchen..
AND THIS OLD DUTCH OVEN GOODNESS TO HER MEALS..

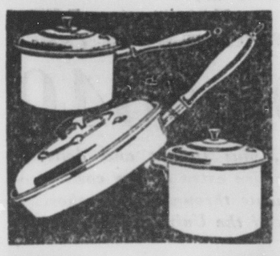


Wonderful meals that cook all by themselves! Foods rich with the flavor of old Dutch Oven Cooking! Basting, tending, watching, stirring vanished like a dream! That's what the gift of a Flavor Zone Range means to a woman. The infallible automatic control and retained heat feature of a Westinghouse Range will lift a hundred cares from her shoulders. She'll only have to place cold foods in the oven, adjust the clock and thermometer, to serve the most delicious meals her family ever tasted.

the most **WORTH WHILE GIFT** *of all*

OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER
... As Low As
$9.50 Down
Then as long as 12, 18 or 24 months to pay the small balance!

Westinghouse
Flavor Zone Ranges



FREE "Wear-Ever" Aluminum

Buy your electric range NOW, from us or any other dealer, and this 3-piece $13.50 set ... for electric "waterless cooking" ... will be given to you absolutely FREE.

Two Sauce Pans (2 and 3 quart) and one Steaming Skillet (10½" diameter by 2¼" deep). All have black Glyptal bottoms for quick heat absorption. "Steam-Seal" covers allow foods to cook in their own juices with a minimum of water. Removable handles for oven use.

WEST PENN ELECTRIC SHOPS