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BELLEFONTE, PA., FEBRUARY 12, 1932.

## MR. SMITH'S STATEMENT.

The statement given to the public Monday morning by Alfred E. Smith, titular head of the Democratic party, seems to have befogged rather than clarified the situation as to what is really in his mind concerning the important matter of who will carry the party's banner in the coming Presidential campaign.

Mr. Smith says he is not a candidate for the nomination. In a way he mystifies that statement, however, by admitting he would not decline it should the Chicago convention tender it to him. By some of our party's leaders this qualification is interpreted to mean that Al knows that a wink is as good as a nod to a blind mule and has in this adroit way notified his friends to go to it.

Politicians are prone to read something into every public utterance of a political leader. They rarely accept his statement as meaning just what it says. Always they find more between the lines than in the actual text. It might be that that is what they are doing now.

Mr. Smith has a perfect right to be a candidate if he wants to. He says he is not, however. We accept that at its face value. He also says he will not refuse to lead the fight if the Chicago convention calls him. There is probably no other Democrat in the country who would refuse, either.

It might have been better if Mr. Smith had not amplified his simple statement that he is not a candidate, but the Watchman believes, no matter what others might think, that the last thing in his mind is the thought of doing anything that might impair the chances of the party he loves in the coming campaign.

Al Smith is a great Democrat, a great American, so great that those who helped defeat him in 1928 and would help do it again in 1932, merely because he happened to be born a Catholic, don't understand what real greatness is.

## A CHANCE FOR A REFERENDUM.

If the dry Republicans of Pennsylvania do not succeed in defeating Senator Davis in the coming primaries they will have to run an independent candidate or have no other alternative than to vote for a wet Democrat or not vote at all. For, in all probability, the nominee of our party will be wet also. In the event that the wets name the candidate on both tickets we hope the dries do put an independent in the field. In such an event Pennsylvania would have a real referendum.

With both a wet and a dry proponent the voters of the dominant party would have a chance to express themselves on the question of the Eighteenth Amendment. If there were only one nominee from their party, whether he would be wet or dry, many Republicans would hold their noses and vote for him because he was a Republican, regardless of his stand on Prohibition.

With a wet Democratic nominee doubtless some members of our party would support a dry Republican candidate and if he were a big, outstanding man, in such a triangular fight, his chances of election would be very good.

So far as the Democratic party is concerned the matter of who is to be the next United States Senator from Pennsylvania should not be as important as an expression of the State on the fundamental Democratic principle of bringing government back to the States. The next Senate almost certainly will be controlled by the Democrats, so that the need for securing a member from Pennsylvania is not vital to control. In fact in none of the forecasts that presage our party's dominance in the next Senate has the thought of gaining a member from Pennsylvania been entertained for a moment.

Governor Pinchot's name has been mentioned as a possibility for the dries to concentrate on. While he would scarcely make the sacrifice of giving up the gubernatorial office in Pennsylvania to carry the banner of a cause he never espoused until the day of his first inauguration he would not be the kind of candidate whose vote would reflect a real poll. The Governor has become so unpopular in parts of the State that many dries would probably vote for no one in preference to voting for him. The kind of a candidate needed in the contest now possible of development is one mentally of Senatorial stature, a Republican whose party loyalty could not be successfully challenged, a man known to be a Prohibitionist from conviction rather than for political expediency.

The idea of suggesting a Republican, rather than a Prohibitionist or a Democrat to fight the dry battle is because the State is so overwhelmingly Republican that a line up of members of that party on the issue would contribute to the reliability of the test.

With the line-up in the contest a wet Democrat, a wet Republican and an outstanding dry Republican the result in November would reveal, more nearly than could be discovered in any other way outside of a direct referendum, which is not likely to be possible for years, just how Pennsylvania stands on the moot question.

Even if a dry Republican were to win in such a triangular fight such a victory would not decide the question. If, however, he should have more votes than the combined poll of the wet Democrat and the wet Republican then it could be assumed that Pennsylvania is dry.

## DANGER IN CHINA.

Regardless of protests from Washington, London, Paris and Rome Japan goes brazenly on her way toward subjugation, capture or benevolent assimilation—whatever one can call it—of China.

The Mikado's government says it is not war. If not, then what might one call the seizure of Manchuria and the bombardment of Shanghai, Nanking and Woosung.

Japan's impudent flaunting of the Nine Power Pact and her evasive replies to the protests of the other signatories to that agreement reveals an arrogance equal to that of the German War Lord who, in 1914, set out to subdue the world; saying that his solemn agreements to help maintain its peace were mere scraps of paper.

The Yangtze river is full of American war ships, for thousands of our nationals are in China and must be protected, and the slightest slip might light the fuse that is attached to the bomb-shell of war. God knows we don't want that.

It is apparent that Japan has a motive as yet unrevealed. What it is none but the cunning "little brown men" know. Statesmen of the other nations carry on a diplomatic exchange of notes that are given no heed and result in no satisfaction.

The situation is a desperate one. We are not too proud to fight, but the awful price we have paid for maintaining our dignity abroad leads to conjecture as to whether it is worth while.

—In the matter of settlements arising out of the World war it looks as if France would be perfectly satisfied if she were to have the doughnut and her allies be content with the hole.

## 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.

### Mr. Parker Takes a Fling at Br'er Woodchuck.

Although January was a month with mild temperatures, as well as preceding months, there is no reason to believe that winter is over. Neither can any credence be placed in the Groundhog Day theory. This superstition has been investigated by many scientists to determine if there was any factual reason for belief in the idea that a prediction or prognostication of the weather could be based on the actions of a marmot. The evidence shows that there is absolutely no correlation. Common sense would convince a sensible person of this, but science always investigates with an open mind, the conclusion being what the facts reveal. There have been just as many cold six-weeks following a cloudy February 2nd as vice versa, over a long period of years, and in a majority of instances, different localities considered, even more years were wintry during the spring months.

The grand laws of nature cannot be forestalled by man and what instinct or time-sense does a burrowing woodchuck possess to enable him to come forth precisely on February 2nd after doing a Rip Van Winkle stunt, and what reasoning power or mind is he endowed with to decide to return to his hole after blinking a few blinks at the sun, even if he accidentally came out on Candlemas day? As a matter of fact, the superstition comes from Germany where the theory was built around an animal, similar in size and habits to our American woodchuck or groundhog. The early German settlers in Pennsylvania brought the belief here and endowed the groundhog with seership because the native German animal did not exist in America. The idea is a good joke to bandy about. It helps to fill in, in our everlasting conversation about the weather. The groundhog, so far as the weather is concerned, is just the same "baloney." No amount of "hecking" will make it anything else.

If anyone wishes to predict weather considerably in advance, in broad terms, as a cold or warm year, cold or warm winter or summer etc., it is suggested that he keep tab on old Sol's leopard spots. In the data published under the January weather report, there is some evidence of a cycle of approximately eleven years with reference to high or low temperatures. This theory has been tested by literally millions of figures from thousands of records by probably a hundred or more scientists in various lines over periods varying from 50 to 2000 years and, although most evidence shows a strong correlation, it is still a moot question and has not yet been accepted by the majority of scientists. The Weather Bureau welcomes research along this line but feels that evidence thus far deduced is not conclusive enough for adopting the theory as a basis of forecasting for long periods in advance. It is content to rely on its present methods of predicting which are verified in upward of 85% of all cases, and that is as accurate or more so than the diagnoses of doctors. Moreover the elements don't speak but act.

H. P. PARKER, Meteorologist.

Since Mr. Parker has shattered the ground hog myth we do hope he will not set about the job of making us believe there is no Santa Claus.—Editor's Note.

### DOLLAR DAY IN ALTOONA ON WEDNESDAY FEB. 17TH.

As announced in the advertisement of the Altoona booster stores that appears in this week's issue, the stores connected with this organization will hold their quarterly dollar day on Wednesday, February 17.

Dollar day in Altoona booster stores provides opportunities for making purchases at good savings as the stores not only offer merchandise taken from their regular stocks at greatly reduced prices, but also give their customers the advantage of special purchases made from manufacturers under exceedingly favorable conditions.

Goods suited for personal use, including wearing apparel of all kinds, will be on sale at special dollar day prices, while housewives will also find many opportunities for buying new furnishings for the home at special price reductions.

Dollar day is sponsored by stores connected with the Altoona booster association, all of which will display yellow cards so that there will be no difficulty in locating the official dollar day stores.

If you drive to Altoona you will be able to park your car in the business district for as long a period as desired, as the Altoona city officials are co-operating with booster stores by removing parking restrictions for dollar day visitors.

Our readers are given a special invitation to enjoy a splendid musical program that the Altoona booster association will broadcast over station WFBG at 7:15 Tuesday evening, February 16.

This will be rendered by a specially assembled orchestra and is a feature of the booster stores' dollar day plans.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of February 17, 1882.

—Capt. Ganoe, justice of the peace of Taylor township, is in the county jail charged with having obtained money from the County Treasury through the means of issuing fraudulent certificates to this that and the other persons for bounty on foxes and skunks. While it does seem that an awful lot of the varmints are being killed up in Taylor, the Capt. is a very clever fellow, and we hope he will be able to establish complete innocence when he comes to trial.

—Mrs. Louise Orner, of Eagleville, this county, underwent a remarkable experience in the University hospital, Philadelphia, Friday of last week. For nine years an ovarian tumor had been developing in her. Developing until her girth measurement was within three inches as great as her height. Death was staring her in the face when an operation was resorted to and when the tumor was taken from her it weighed 112 lbs and all that was left of her was a skeleton weighing 75lbs. Medical records are now being searched to refute the statement that it was the largest tumor ever removed from a human being. Latest reports are to the effect that Mrs. Orner will recover. She is 31 years old and the mother of two children.

—Notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the weather the musical entertainment given at Zion on Thursday evening of last week under the auspices of Prof. L. C. Romick was a marked sensation. The Zion Glee Club, all male voices, Miss Mary McKlein, Miss Helen McCalmont and Miss Bell Rupert were the featured performers.

Coincidental as it may seem Howard Struble was in the Watchman office only a few hours before we started to compile this "Fifty Years Ago" column to say that right now Zion is having great pleasure in an old fashioned singing school. He said they had over one hundred present at a session last week.—Editor's Note.

—The new pastor of the Presbyterian churches on the Pine Grove Mills and Port Matilda circuits has written the Watchman to say that never before in his ministry has he come in contact with such kindly and helpful people as are those among whom he is now working.

—Some of the Temperance folks in town are planning to open a Temperance Coffee House in the McArdy building opposite the railroad depot. The good people of Linn street are so blinded by their tears of concern for the welfare of the down town section that they can't see that there is greater need for a Temperance coffee house right in their own sacrosanct neighborhood.

—After a season of ten weeks the protracted meeting in the Bellefonte Methodist church closed last Sunday night. One hundred and fifteen persons joined on probation and nearly two hundred in all were converted.

—Mr. James Ryan, late of the box factory is to take charge of P. B. Cridler's store at Glenn Harris.

—The first of what are to be annual balls of the Undine Fire company will be held in Bush's hall tonight.

—Mr. Harry D. Shivery and Miss Etta Marshall, daughter of Joseph Marshall, of Benner Twp., were married yesterday.

—The six cases of smallpox in the Patterson family in Unionville have all recovered.

—Pitching for the Reno baseball club in a game with San Francisco recently Monte Ward won his game by the score of 5 to 3. He struck out sixteen men and gave only one base-hit in twelve innings.

—From the Washington papers we learn that Ex-Governor Curtin, our Member of Congress, has "at home" on Monday evening at his residence on H. street. In the receiving line last week were Mrs. Curtin and their daughter, Kate, Mrs. William Curtin, his son's wife, Miss Alice Wilson and Admiral Amy's daughter.

### IN BELLEFONTE CHURCHES.

#### METHODIST CHURCH.

Church Bible school, C. C. Shuey, Supt., 9:30; special events and music. League, 6:30, has very pertinent topic for young people: popular meeting. Worship at 10:45—pungent exposition of strong Scripture, at 7:30, evangelistic meeting opens with song service. Strangers and commercial travelers welcome. Pastor responds to calls for his services.

Methodist Activities.—Highest attendance in the church school's history last Sunday—413. World Service offering, passing the \$30 minimum, extracted a special tenth award from the pastor—additional to the \$30.06.

Howard was host last Friday night to the young people of the churches of the Bellefonte group. The educational programs prepared for this winter are of very high level: goodly social period is the regular closing of these meetings.

Horace Lincoln Jacobs, Minister.

#### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH.

9:30 A. M., Church school. 10:45 A. M., The Service and Sermon, "Christ Will Not Turn Aside From His Passion." 6:30 P. M., Catechetical instruction.

7:30 P. M., The Vesper Service and Sermon, "All are Sinners." Lenten service Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Clarence E. Arnold, Pastor.

—Miss Ruth Royer has been appointed tax collector of Potter township to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of her father, the late Jacob Royer.

### A HODGE-PODGE OF NEWSY INCIDENTS.

By reference to the annual report of Roy Wilkinson, probation, desertion and parole officer, published in another column of this paper, it will be seen that during the year 1931 he collected for the support of deserted wives and children the sum of \$11,666.36, all of which has been paid over but about fifty dollars. The above sum was over \$1100 less than was collected for support in 1930, but considering the depression it was a pretty good showing, at that. In the four years Mr. Wilkinson has been in office he has collected for support a total of \$36,723.66. In 1925, his first year, the amount collected was \$3,016.25; 1929, \$9,227.20; 1930, \$12,813.85, and last year \$11,666.36.

The fact that so much money is collected and paid annually for the support of deserted wives and children is a poor commentary on the matrimonial standards of the young people of the present day. Many of them rush into marriage without a serious comprehension of its manifold responsibilities. Faced with the actualities they have not the courage or stamina to fight the battle of life together, especially when finances are inadequate to meet the expense of keeping up a home, and the result is disagreement and either mutual separation or desertion on the part of the husband. In either case the law of the land provides that the husband is liable for support, and especially when there are children. Of course the woman is not entirely blameless, as many girls get married in expectation of living a life of ease and comfort and when they find the reality not what they anticipated they are not content to go through with it, and sooner or later another case is added to the desertion and non-support list.

Appropos of marriage, it is not very long ago that we saw a young couple coming out of the marriage license bureau and we felt like congratulating the young man on his selection of a bride-to-be. The girl was young, just in her teens, and pretty as a picture. The young man, however, may be nice enough but he will never give her cause for jealousy so far as looks are concerned, and we wondered why ordinary looking men pick beautiful girls and very ordinary girls get the best looking husbands. But it carries out nine cases out of ten.

Recurring to the probation, desertion and parole officer and his collection of so much money in support cases, it must not be considered an easy matter. It requires constant prodding and urging to keep the payments up to date and quite frequently arrests for non-payment have to be made and if the unfortunate is unable to pay up or give bond he must always be sent to the Allegheny county work house. There he is allowed 65 cents a day which is sent to the desertion officer and turned over to the dependents. But the county has to pay the work house about 67 cents a day for his keep while there, so that in the last analysis the people pay the bill.

The Watchman was in error, last week, when it stated that county agent V. C. Blaney had asked for and been granted an increased appropriation of \$200 for agricultural extension work in the county. The fact is that the request was for a decrease of \$200, from \$2000 to \$1,800, and our only excuse for making the mistake is that it was such an unheard of thing for anybody willing to take less from the county than they had been getting in the past that we wrote the figures the wrong way.

Everybody who can get something to do has to work these days in order to make a living but there are quite a lot of men who must lie awake nights figuring on the easiest way to do it. If you don't believe this just ask County Treasurer Robert F. Hunter in regard to the demands on the county cash box.

—The Christian Advocate of this week, the official organ of the Methodist Episcopal church, published in N. Y. City has a very interesting paragraph referring to the first correspondence pastor Horace Lincoln Jacobs of the local Methodist church, sent in to that paper on Feb. 11, 1892, just forty years ago. Editor Joy writes that his long service makes him the oldest member of the editorial staff, perhaps the longest in unbroken service in Methodist journalism. Pastor Jacobs writes weekly, his contributions appearing during these forty years in the Methodist papers in London, England, Toronto, Richmond, Atlanta, Nashville, Boston, Chicago and The Lutheran Observer.

—Why the towns and cities of Pennsylvania were given the names they have today will form the subject of a radio talk by Professor A. E. Espenshade on Sunday afternoon. Professor Espenshade is the author of "Pennsylvania Place Names" and in his talk will tell of the origin of many Centre county names. The address will be broadcast through WPSB, radio station of the Pennsylvania State College, the program starting at 4 p. m. The station operates at 1230 kilocycles. Musical selections will form a considerable portion of the program.

### UNIONVILLE.

Betty Ann McElwain spent Tuesday with her little friend, Margaret Alexander.

George Bauder, of Juniata, spent the week-end at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Bauder.

Mrs. Burton Tingue and children, of Pittsburgh, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McClellan.

Mrs. Aaron Hall took seriously ill on Saturday, and was taken to the Centre County hospital, on Sunday evening, for treatment.

The finance committee of the M. E. church, assisted by the ladies, will serve a chicken and noodle supper in the community hall Friday evening, February 12th. First serving at 5 o'clock. Home made noodles and pies. Price 50c for adults and 35c for children.

The Ladies Aid society met, Monday evening, at the home of Mrs. Lorenzo McElwain and during the meeting planned to have their usual Washington Birthday dinner at the home of Mrs. John Askins, February 22nd. It will be a \$1.00 social for the society and each one contributing one dollar must tell how they earned it. A plate offering will also be taken.

Among those who attended the funeral of Mrs. Thomas Fisher, on Tuesday, were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith, of Jersey Shore; Mrs. Millie Kepler, of Pine Grove Mills; Mrs. Mary Fisher and Margaretta Way, of State College; Mr. and Mrs. William Way, of Stormstown; Miss Pauline Peters, of Tyrone; Mrs. Charles Foster and Miss Katherine Smith, of State College.

The funeral of Miles Hall was largely attended by neighbors, friends and relatives, last Friday afternoon at the M. E. church. The services were in charge of his pastor, Rev. M. H. Crawford assisted by Rev. M. C. Piper, Rev. C. C. Shuey and Rev. William Kerry, of the Free Methodist church. He was 63 years old, had spent all his life in farming, was an honest, upright citizen, always ready to help the sick or needy. Among those who attended the funeral were Mrs. Heady Sult, of Berwick; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grove and children, Sarah and Harry, of Bellefonte; William Hall, Homer Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Toner Irwin, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Caldwell and family, Charles Caldwell, all of Altoona; Mr. and Mrs. William Caldwell, of Curtin; Mrs. Cora Young, of Port Matilda; Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Fletcher and W. F. Hall, of Howard; Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hall, of State College; Norman Resides, of Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Resides and daughter, of Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hall, of Milledale; Mrs. Mollie H. Bolick, of Bellefonte; Mrs. Emily Miles, of Milledale; Mr. and Mrs. H. Bottorff, Mrs. Katherine Furl, Leona Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. John Furl, all of Runville; Mr. and Mrs. F. McElhaney, of Lewistown, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hines and family, of Bellefonte.

### BOALSBURG.

C. M. Dale, of the Branch, was a caller in town on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wieland, of Linden Hall, were in town on Saturday.

Daniel Houser is slowly recovering from a serious attack of intestinal flu.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement Dale, of Pleasant Gap, were visitors in town on Tuesday.

Leland Walker and family spent Sunday at the Walker home near Potters Mills.

Charles Fisher, of Penn State, attended services in the Lutheran church on Sunday.

Edward Jacobs accompanied his brother, Bruce Jacobs, to Phillipsburg for an over Sunday visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Mowery, of Elmira, N. Y., spent several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Meyer.

A world's day of prayer service will be held in the Lutheran Sunday school room on Friday evening, February 12th, at 7:30.

Misses Anna Sweeney, Daisy Rowe and Jane Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kuhn and daughter and George Rowe were dinner guests of Mrs. Charles Kuhn, on Sunday.

The scarlet fever quarantine has been removed from the Lester Brouse and Harry Sunday homes. Others about town who have been ill are reported to be improving. A number of children are quarantined for mumps.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kuhn and daughter Margaret, of Williamsport, were week-end visitors in town. George Rowe, who had been visiting in Williamsport since Christmas, accompanied the Kuhn family and has opened his home on Main street.

Quick—McCullough.—Robert T. Quick, of Snow Shoe, and Miss Margaret McCullough, of Jersey Shore, were married at the Presbyterian church, in the latter place, at seven o'clock last Friday evening, by the pastor, Rev. M. W. Remaly. They were attended by Miss Francis Wolf and Duke Wellington, both of Jersey Shore. The bride is a graduate of the Jersey Shore High School and finished her education at Fairfax hall, Waynesboro. The bridegroom is a student at State College and the young couple will live there until he completes his education.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Orlando Wilson Conoway and Julia Margaret Krish, both of Snow Shoe.

John Franklin Whiteman, of Milledale, and Esther Margaret Shay, of Bellefonte.