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BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 18, 1932

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.

The Cost of The Collins Trial.

Bellefonte, Pa., March 8, 1932 Mr. Editor:

In your last issue you stated that the Collins murder trial would cost Centre county \$1000.00 or more.

CHANGING PUBLIC OPINION.

Whatever your views may be on the merits of the Eighteenth Amendment, evidence is accumulating that the country has lost faith in its practicability and is turning from it.

Congress just voted to discharge the House Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the Beck-Linthicum resolution proposing a home rule modification of the Amendment.

While there can be little doubt that the surprising results of the "Digest" poll have had their influence on Members of Congress it is possible that the gentlemen have had more intimate contacts with their constituency and are motivated to abandon their course of smug indifference more because of what they have actually seen and heard in their own Districts than of what they have read of changing sentiment in others.

Representative Rainey, of Illinois, majority floor leader in the House, and a life-long dry, unexpectedly changed front last Saturday. He will justify his attitude by saying the right to vote on any question is a fundamental principle of Democracy and should not be denied Congressmen who demand it.

Here in Pennsylvania, where everyone who is interested in such matters was convinced that Governor Pinchot had induced Gen. Smedley D. Butler to oppose James J. Davis in the Republican primary for no other reason than because Davis has decided to run as a wet, we have the spectacle of the Governor attempting to pussy-foot on the wet and dry issue.

Just why the Governor should take such a stand can be explained only by the conclusion that his candidate will have a better chance as a straddler than as an out and out dry—spelled in capital letters. Governor Pinchot's sincerity to prohibition has always been questionable. In fact it has been more a matter of political expediency with him than one of conviction.

At the annual session of the Philadelphia Methodist Conference, in Germantown, on Saturday, Bishop Richardson, president of the Anti-Saloon League, and presiding officer of the Conference, advised Dr. Gladstone Holm to revise a resolution he had presented in which he charged that "The Democratic party is joined to its idols—let it alone."

The Watchman has always believed that it is temperance, not prohibition, that the country needs. Likewise, it has deplored making a political issue of a question of morals. It is a sad commentary on the homes, the churches, the schools of the land when they have to resort to legal enactments to correct the damage caused by their failure to properly teach the laws of God.

We are not prepared to say that prohibition has been a failure, notwithstanding indications are cropping up everywhere to show that the country is becoming skeptical as to its success. What has happened in Congress within the week, Governor Pinchot's unexpected advice to Gen. Butler and Bishop Richardson's sop to the Democratic party—all are indications of alarm over the trend of the public mind on the question.

Prohibition may not be tottering, but certainly it isn't holding the impregnable position it did a few years ago. Fanatics may keep their heads in the sand, and be content, but astute politicians who have exploited it see trouble ahead.

—Tuesday, midnight, was the dead line for filing income tax reports. While no one expects the government's revenue from that source to be anything like it was in 1930, or the years preceding, it is highly probable that few will be prepared for the tremendous shrinkage that the 1931 return will undoubtedly show.

—Our Republican friends in the county have a three cornered fight that is interesting because it reveals a probable new alignment of their factions. There are three candidates for county chairman and three for State Committeeman.

—The Governor's recent visit to the State labor camp near Curwensville has brought to light a condition that will lead many taxpayers to wonder just why the expense of maintaining it is justified. The Governor arrived at the camp, in the midst of the blizzard last week, to find it manned with a full complement of cooks, kitchen helpers and other salaried attendants looking after the comfort of one lone worker.

—Pity poor Babe Ruth. He had to take a cut of five thousand in his salary. How in the world will the Bambino be able to balance his budget for the coming year with only seventy-five grand to do it with?

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

—The poor house at Lock Haven was destroyed by fire yesterday. —Rumor hath it that Mr. Ed. Gorman, of this place, has been captured by some fair young creature and is engaged—actually engaged? Why, Edward!

—A "sociable" was held in the Logan hose house hall, on Tuesday evening last, by the members of the Company. And it was greatly enlivened by the sweet strains of music supplied by "Barber" Beck and his flageolet.

—The Benner Twp. school board, with Noah Stover, as president; Ferdinand Beezer, as secretary; Henry Armagast, treasurer, is coming in for a lot of praise recently. Their settlements with the auditors and reports to the State Department of Education have been so prompt and in such complete form that the County Superintendent has been complimented by Harrisburg by it. He has no claim to the credit, hence this notice to place credit where credit is due.

—Harry Green has returned from Philadelphia rather unexpectedly, having been summoned home to take charge of the Green drug store because of the sudden illness of Walter Bayard, who has been in charge while Mr. Potts Green, the owner, has been away. Harry looks a little cityish, otherwise he is just the same Harry.

—Pinkeye is raging among the horses in Penn township and Millheim. Christ Alexander and Daniel Hosterman lost valuable animals, within the week, from the scourge.

—The news comes up from Nittany valley that John Gates, the much feared maniac, has made his escape from the Danville asylum.

—John Dorman, the noted trapper and bear hunter of Nittany, found his dog fast in a bear trap, the other day.

—The Mrs. Roan or Rhone, spoken of in the Watchman of last week as a niece of Gen. Benedict Arnold, the traitor, is only a niece by marriage. Her maiden name was DeHaas and she is a sister of Harriet and Eliza DeHaas, who have lived for many years in the Benner family in this place.

—A tremendous thunder storm passed over Bellefonte on last Saturday night. The rain fell in torrents, thunder shook the houses and the lightning—well, it made everybody duck.

—The Methodist conference in session in Lock Haven until Tuesday sent Rev. Geo. D. Pennypacker back to Bellefonte, Rev. James S. Beyer to Half Moon, Rev. John Stine to Howard, Rev. J. A. Woodcock to Milesburg, Rev. Furman Adams to Pennsvalley, Rev. J. P. Polsgrove to Philipsburg, Rev. Henry S. Mendenhall to Pine Grove, Rev. George E. Ague to Fort Matilda, Rev. William A. Carver to Snow Shoe, Rev. E. H. Yocum was made presiding elder of the Williamsport district.

—D. S. Keller, the attorney, has moved from Spring to Linn street, next door to post master Johnston's residence.

—Rev. Ben Hamlin, one of the big guns in the Methodist church, filled the Presbyterian pulpit here last Sunday, morning and evening. He preached two very able sermons notwithstanding that he looked very old and feeble. Unlike Moses, his natural force is abated and he wasn't the same man, physically, who hurried for a Republican trimmer after the sermon he delivered here twenty years ago.

—Miss Florence Peters and brother Kenneth, who have been staying with their grandfather, B. Frank Peters, are both suffering with a bad sore throat and have gone to their home, at Flemington, until they recover.

—John Shawley Jr., of Runville, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Shawley, in this place, last Thursday afternoon.

—Mrs. Martin Harnish went down to Philadelphia, last week, to visit her two daughters, Miss Virginia, a teacher in the city schools, and Miss Beulah, a student in the girls High school.

—Miss Florence Peters and brother Kenneth, who have been staying with their grandfather, B. Frank Peters, are both suffering with a bad sore throat and have gone to their home, at Flemington, until they recover.

—We are authorized to announce that Frederick B. Kerr, of 805 south Second St., Clearfield, Pa., is a candidate for nomination for Congress in the Twenty-third Congressional District, of Pennsylvania, composing Blair, Centre and Clearfield Counties, subject to the rules governing the Democratic primaries to be held on April 26, 1932.

—We are authorized to announce that Charles P. Long, of Spring Mills, is a candidate for delegate from the 23rd Congressional District to the Republican National Convention, subject to the rules governing the primary to be held April 26, 1932.

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—Beginning Tuesday, March 22, there will be on display at The Peacock Art and Gift Studio a complete showing of Easter flowers. 12-21

A HODGE-PODGE OF NEWSY INCIDENTS.

Governor Pinchot promised to pull the farmers out of the mud but he didn't promise to dig them out of the snow, consequently when he made his return trip from Curwensville to Harrisburg, Wednesday morning of last week, the highway crews working in Brush and Pennsylvania were withdrawn from digging through the drifted highways long enough to take two large truck loads of ashes over to the Seven mountains and spread them on the ice covered roadway to prevent the Governor's car from skidding and dumping him down the side of a mountain.

Every big criminal in the country is endeavoring to take advantage of the sorrow of Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh over the kidnaping of their only child by making rash statements as to what they could do if they were only out of jail. And we venture the assertion that not one of them has any more knowledge as to the identity of the kidnapers as to the child than the writer, and that's absolutely nil. While every means possible should be resorted to to recover the child neither the courts nor the government, state or national, should be cajoled into turning out into the world any man on his individual claim of what he could or would do.

How often we hear the exclamation "Oh, I almost died laughing!" when the fact of the matter is that the person making the remark was not affected in any way aside from a sensation of mirth. It is only one of many exaggerations of expressions peculiar to Americans. A few days ago we overheard a young salesman in commenting on the various causes of radio noises and disturbances in Bellefonte remark that as the West Penn Power's testing truck passed a certain house the radio was turned on and it almost knocked the truck from the roadway, when as a matter of fact it probably wasn't moved an inch.

A news item states that State College sportsmen have petitioned the State Game Commission for the appointment of a fish warden for special duty on Spring Creek, Penn's creek, the Moshannon, Elk creek, Pine creek, Spruce creek and Stone creek. That's hardly enough to keep one warden busy. Why not let him cover Logan's branch, Fishing creek and the various smaller streams in the Allegheny mountains so he could be busy all the time.

When Old Boreas put in an appearance almost two weeks ago we all thought his visit would be of brief duration but he has stuck so persistently that the spell of real winter has not only been a little unseasonable but has had a more depressing effect than it would have had two months ago. But with Easter only ten days away we have every reason to expect more reasonable weather, especially as spring will officially begin next Monday.

Sheriff John M. Boob can't build a new jail but he has improved the interior appearance of the present one ten-fold by the application of a coat or two of paint.

There are fewer public sales of farm stock this spring than for many years, and less actual cash is received at the sales so far held. There are also fewer farm sales, as indicated by the real estate transfers in the recorder's office, and there are also fewer people getting married, all of which can be charged up against old General Depression.

State highway crews were kept busy last week, keeping the roads open to traffic.

Mrs. Florence Lucas sold her Ford coupe, last Saturday, in order to avoid the trouble of undergoing examination for a license.

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—Rev Horace Lincoln Jacobs, pastor of the Bellefonte Methodist church, has been invited to deliver his address on "Washington" in Williamsport, on Monday evening, April 4th. This will be the second time he will speak before the Masons of that city on the subject of Washington.

—The largest showing of Easter flowers at the lowest prices. The Peacock Art and Gift Studio, 19 W. High St. 12-21

THUNDERING DOWN THE CORRIDORS OF TIME - ANOTHER MASTERPIECE TO LIVE IN YOUR MEMORY - Years Will Never Dim Its Glory!

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