

Municipal and township elections in Illinois on Tuesday indicate that the political pendulum is still swinging far to the Democratic side.

Under date of March 29 Ralph Flinn, owner of Beechwood farms, somewhere in Allegheny county, writes to tell us that because we are brother breeders of Guernsey cattle we ought to rally to his cause as a candidate for Auditor General of Pennsylvania.

Rev. Floyd Thompkins Jr., who has succeeded his sainted father as rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal church in Philadelphia, is evidently as simple in his faith and sound in his doctrine as was his distinguished forebear.

Gen. Butler, Governor Pinchot's candidate for United States Senator, will be in Bellefonte tomorrow. Somehow, the General's campaign hasn't gotten off to a very encouraging start.

Having voted enough taxes to balance the budget the House forthwith started in to cutting down expenses by voting to make the Philippines free.

Our protectorate is the most one-sided pact ever written. Of course the Senate will not pass the bill. If it did the President would veto it.

Maj. Eugene H. Lederer, burgess of State College, who is running for the Republican nomination for Congress on a "bring the government back home" platform, has taken a very daring stand.

Those clever Adamases, of Lock Haven, have our goat again. For some weeks we have been suffering with nerves to the extent that we have been taking big brown pills, big purple pills, little white pills and using neuro-phosphate as a chaser.

Notwithstanding all this medicament we were on the verge of what Mr. Andrew H. Brown had, just before he entered the ring to wrestle Bull-neck Mooseface.

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BARN ON JODON FARM DESTROYED BY FIRE ON SUNDAY EVENING

Eighteen Head of Stock, Corn, Oats Hay and Farm Implements Burned. Owner Had no Insurance.

One of the most disastrous barn fires that has occurred in Centre county for many years was that, on Sunday evening, on the Thomas E. Jodon farm along the State highway to Pleasant Gap.

About half-past 8 o'clock Paul Dubbs and Jack Yeager were on a little motor trip out to the Gap and as they passed the barn saw a glare of light.

Hurrying to the barn the men were horrified to find the upper portion already a mass of seething fire and they turned their attention to saving the stock.

By that time the barn was a regular inferno and it was impossible to save anything else in it or in the outbuildings adjacent to it.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The barn was equipped with electric light so that there was nothing in the fire line in it at any time.

The worst feature of the fire is that Mr. Johnson did not carry a cent of insurance and his loss, which will probably be several thousand dollars, is total.

The barn was located on the site of the old historic "black barn," which figured in history as the starting point for many a road race half a century ago.

Thirty or more years ago the farm was purchased from the Valentine estate by former Governor D. H. Hastings, who planned to fix it up as a country home but died before he got around to it.

Shortly after the fire Mrs. Hastings sold the farm to E. J. Pruner and the barn and out buildings just destroyed were built for him in the fall of the same year by Elias Breon.

COST OF HIGHWAYS IN CENTRE COUNTY DURING CURRENT YEAR

An announcement received, this week, from the Governor's office in Harrisburg, states that "in addition to the funds spent for road maintenance during the year June 1, 1931, to May 31, 1932, the sum of \$606,130.10 will have been spent by the Department of Highways for building roads in Centre county."

More men were employed building roads in the county last winter than ever before. This was due to construction of roads with highway forces.

The percentage of the total cost of road work paid to local labor was as follows: Reinforced concrete (contract), 24 per cent; bituminous surface treated macadam (federal-aid contract), 33 per cent; rural roads using napped stone base, 58 per cent.

On January 31st the number of men at work building and maintaining State roads in the county was 334.

FREE FLOUR ARRIVES IN BELLEFONTE ON MONDAY

The requisition of government flour for free distribution under the auspices of the Bellefonte chapter of the American Red Cross arrived in Bellefonte, on Monday, two car loads of it, and trucks were busy all afternoon hauling it to advantageous points for distribution.

As stated in a previous article in the Watchman the flour will be given out only as needed to deserving families of the unemployed.

The State College chapter of the Red Cross put in a requisition, on Saturday, for a car load of the flour but it will probably be several weeks before it will arrive.

In the two car loads of flour were 3200 24-lb. sacks and 438 48-lb. sacks, a total of 98,000 pounds. As stated above the flour has been stored in the Potter-Hoy building and will be distributed only on orders from the overseers of the poor or members of the Associated Charities.

Through the country districts the flour can be secured from the following named people:

- Worth township, W. J. Woodring, Port Matilda, Dennis Reese. Taylor township, W. A. Walker. Huston township, V. B. Heaton. Pleasant Gap, Mrs. T. E. Jodon. Howard borough, Mrs. Weber. Walker township, Hogan Markle. Liberty township, James H. Neese. Curtin township, J. A. Welch. Unionville borough and Union township, Howard E. Holtzworth. Milesburg and Boggs township, Miss Besse Miles. Benner township, Hiram Grove. Marion township, E. E. Vonada.

AUTO DERELICTS MUST BE REMOVED FROM STREETS

Standing on the streets and alleys of Bellefonte are quite a number of old auto derelicts, bearing 1931 license tags, which have either been abandoned by their owners or allowed to stand because of inability to secure 1932 tags.

found until nearly noon on Monday. Then they were standing on top of the hill to the west of the ruins, evidently looking them over.

HOUSE AT RUNVILLE BURNED TO GROUND

The bungalow home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bennett, at Runville, was burned to the ground, with all its contents, last Friday afternoon. Mrs. Bennett had been in charge of an eating stand they have a short distance from their home, and went to the house on an errand.

—We will do your job work right

BUSINESS TRANSCATED BY BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MONDAY EVENING

Borough Solicitor Instructed to Continue Condemnation Proceedings on "The Island."

Every member of council was present at the regular meeting on Monday evening. Secretary W. T. Kelly reported that he had notified the Bellefonte school board to put down pavements along the old steam heat property, corner of Spring and Lamb streets, and Mr. Emerick stated that a member of the board informed him that the pavement will be built as soon as the weather settles.

The Street committee reported opening the Howard street sewer, cleaning streets and the collection of \$30 for a sewer permit at the West Penn garage, on Lamb street.

The water committee reported the collection of \$550 on water rents and various minor repairs. The committee also reported that during the 61 days the water meter has been on the High school building it shows the use of 1,371,217 gallons of water which, at five cents a thousand gallons would amount to \$68.55, or at the same average for the school year of nine months \$908 for the one building alone.

Mr. Cobb stated that he had received a blue print and tentative plans from engineer H. E. Shattuck on the repair of the reservoir by putting in an eight inch reinforced concrete lining, to be raised two feet above the present wall.

The Finance committee reported the collection of \$14 in milk dealer's fees by Dr. Nissley and a contribution of \$27.50 from residents of Howard and vicinity to the fire department for services at the fire which destroyed the Pifer planing mill.

The sanitary committee presented the monthly report of Dr. Nissley, health officer.

The Special committee called attention to the fact that this has been "Clean-up" week and urged council to co-operate in every way possible.

G. Mac Gamble appeared before council to find out if anything is being done in the matter of the condemnation proceedings on "The Island," and the secretary was instructed to notify the borough solicitor to proceed in the matter.

Mr. Badger reported that he had been out at Vandergriff inspecting streets made of tarvia and he was much impressed with its lasting quality, and he recommended getting enough of it to top-dress the brick pavement between the Watchman office and the Penn Belle hotel.

Councilman William Doll reported that policeman Howley is in need of a new uniform and the Fire and Police committee reported that they are considering the purchase of one.

The borough auditor's report for the year 1931 was submitted to council, approved and ordered printed for distribution.

Borough bills totalling \$1932.05 and water bills \$844.40 were approved for payment, after which council adjourned to meet next Monday evening.

With its issue of last Friday the Daily Journal, of Philipsburg, completed the forty-fourth year of its existence and started the new volume on Saturday. When editor W. T. Bar launched the daily edition in 1888 it was considered a daring venture and the journalistic infant was given a short lease of life by residents of Philipsburg.

CHICAGO GUNMAN WHO ESCAPED FROM PEN NOW A FARVIEW INMATE

Back in June, 1923, Edward Fiddell made his escape from Rockview penitentiary where he was serving a sentence of three to six years imposed in Cambria county for breaking and entering. He was captured in Chicago ten days later and brought back to the Centre county jail.

It developed in the meantime that Fiddell was a Chicago gangster and gunman. On August 2nd he made an attempt to break jail by assaulting Sheriff Harry Dukeman as the latter was going out of the jail door into the corridor.

On September 26th Fiddell was taken before Judge Quigley. He refused to plead guilty but acted as his own lawyer in trying his case.

On direction of the court he was sentenced to serve two and one-half to five years for escaping the penitentiary, three and one-half to seven for assaulting the Sheriff and one and one-half to three for attempting to break jail.

PHILIPSBURG MAN PAROLE VIOLATOR RETURNED TO PEN.

Edward Bannon, of Philipsburg, recently released from the western penitentiary on parole, was placed under arrest, last week, on charges preferred by the parents of several young girls, and at a hearing before Thomas Byron, justice of the peace, he was adjudged guilty, and turned over to parole officer A. P. Long, of the western penitentiary, to be conveyed back to that institution.

Bannon was arrested in 1916 on the charge of starting the fires which destroyed the Majestic and Lyric moving picture theatres, in Philipsburg. He pled guilty to the crime of arson, in open court, on November 16th, 1916, and was sentenced by the late Judge Henry C. Quigley on one indictment to pay a fine of \$500 and imprisonment in the western penitentiary of not less than five years nor more than ten, and on the second indictment a fine of \$1000 and from 10 to 15 years in the penitentiary.

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Miss Eleanor Julia Smith, of Buffalo, New York, has been appointed home economics extension representative of Centre county to succeed Miss Jean Alexon, resigned.

Beginning March 28th, Miss Smith will have charge of the program in home economics extension which includes projects in nutrition and health, clothing, household management, and girls' club work.

DEMONSTRATION OF SHRUBBERY PLANTING AT FORRESTER TANNERS

Prof. A. O. Rasmussen, ornamental horticulturist of State College, gave a demonstration in shrubbery planting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Tanner, last Friday, and very few, if any, members of the Bellefonte garden club were there to see how it was done.

Fred L. Alexander, of Milesburg, is one of twelve new members recently elected to the Symphonic band, at State College.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

The Bethlehem Steel company's plant at Danville reopened on Monday to fill orders for a large quantity of reinforcement bars and steel fence posts.

The cause for the great popularity of Mrs. Mamie Rush's boarding house at Media, proved the undoing of its proprietor. Police discovered Mrs. Rush was serving beer with meals and arrested her on a charge of illegal possession of liquor.

Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts, 95 years old, of Bloomsburg, was quarantined for mumps on Tuesday. Physicians expect her to recover, although she is the oldest mumps patient in their knowledge.

Paul Deifenbach, ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Deifenbach, of Milton, died at the Evangelical hospital near Lewisburg at 7 o'clock Saturday evening from lockjaw which resulted when he was hit at school Friday by a snowball which contained a briar.

The liabilities of Norman H. Bailey, of Coatesville, as revealed in the bankruptcy court records are \$125,848. His assets are \$760. For a number of years Bailey engaged in the hardware business at Coatesville. Later he embarked on the political seas of Chester county politics, was elected to the Legislature and is now postmaster of Coatesville.

A moratorium on increases in teachers' salaries is sought by the Altoona board of education. In a letter to Governor Pinchot, the State Department of Education, they urged influence be used to bring the action. It was pointed out that school directors over the State are having difficulty balancing budgets and that taxpayers can stand no further increases in levies.

Rev. Lawrence Trembley, of Erie, administered the last rites of his church to a woman killed in an automobile accident, unaware that the victim was his mother, Mrs. Joseph Trembley, 56, of Holyoke, Mass., who was killed on Tuesday by an automobile as she alighted from a street car. She was en route to St. Joseph's orphanage to visit her son, Father Trembley.

Russ Citra is back at work in the mines, slightly tired from strenuous activities. On Monday he was sentenced to the Fayette county jail for a traffic violation; he walked the 17 miles to the jail only to find the place on fire; he worked an hour helping to extinguish the blaze then he was released and hitch-hiked to Brownsville 20 miles away. He went back to work on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank George, 65, were bound and gagged by three robbers armed with blackjacks, revolvers and ropes at their home in McDonald Monday night. The house was ransacked from top to bottom and \$50 in money was taken. The bandits apparently were under the impression they would make a rich haul, but George said he never kept much money about his home.

Joseph "Woggles" Jacobs, small-time Philadelphia gangster, had not been slain by racketeers in Pittsburgh, last week, he would have been \$5400 richer today. A winning "numbers" ticket, found in his pocket, would have been worth that amount had he been able to collect. The ticket cost \$10 and would have paid odds of \$40 to one. Police say they have been unable to learn who issued the ticket and the winnings probably will never be collected.

After sending her two small children to the home of her parents and her brother on an errand, Mrs. Grace Rickard, 24, Marion Center, Indiana county, fatally wounded herself in her home last Friday, according to police. The woman, found by her brother, Eugene Thomas, Marion Center high school student, when he returned from a store was taken to Indiana hospital where she died without making a statement. Police said they believed she was partial because her husband had only part-time employment during the past two years.

English sparrow and European starling, much berated as pests of the first order, have at least one use in the world, says Dr. Thomas E. Winecoff, of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, in a report to the headquarters of the National Association of Audubon Societies. They are destroyers of a much worse pest, the Japanese beetle. Not many birds will eat Japanese beetles, Dr. Winecoff says, but sparrow and starling are joined in their attack by two of our commonest songbirds, themselves occasionally looked upon as nuisances by orchardists: robin and purple grackle. And down on the ground an introduced game bird, the ring-necked pheasant, lends a helping hand, or rather beak, in the good work of destruction.

A truck owned by George Fairs, of Altoona, and driven by L. A. Williams, also of Altoona, was destroyed by fire Sunday afternoon while traveling toward Northumberland, on the Danville-Northumberland highway. The truck was loaded with equipment for restaurant booths, and was en route to Altoona, when the driver of the machine saw the smoke from the fire in the rear end of the truck, when he glanced in the mirror at the side of the car. A patrolman of the Milton State Highway detail happened to be at the spot and assisted the driver in maneuvering the blazing truck from the highway. The car and the contents were destroyed in the blaze, the loss of the equipment being estimated at \$800 and of the machine at \$200.

Securities worth \$35,000 were found in the cold, dark shack where Alfred Carlson, 55 years old, of Ridgway, died, after years of self-imposed privation. Carlson's body was buried in a casket that cost \$1,000. For years he bought only over-ripe fruit and stale bread for food. These he crammed into a black bag he always carried, and for that reason he was popularly known as "the man with the black bag." A search of Carlson's hut revealed Liberty bonds, Building and Loan stock and other investments. He had been employed as a night watchman at a shop until a few years ago. Carlson was generally believed to have been destitute, but little attention. He was a well known figure about the town, and the fact that he had such a large sum hidden away in his shack was learned with general surprise. The man was not married, but he is believed to have a brother and sister in Sweden.