

SNAPSHOTS AT STATE NEWS

All Pennsylvania Gleaned for Items of Interest.

REPORTS ABOUT CROPS GOOD

Farmers Busy in Every Locality—Churches Raising Funds for Many Worthy Objects—Items of Business and Pleasure That Interest.

Dr. Edwin E. Sparks, president of State College, delivered a lecture at the Reading University Club on "Experiences of a College President."

Pennsylvania Railroad officials have started their official inspection on the Schuylkill division, and four prizes will be awarded, aggregating \$140, to foremen and supervisors.

The Parkerford post office, which for 17 years has been at the store of I. B. Custer, the present official, will be moved to the Hiestand store when Charles M. Shade, the new postmaster, takes charge.

Six pears weighing four pounds, in one cluster, were cut from a tree by Oscar Brunner, of Harveyville.

The branch factory of the Boyer town Burial Casket Works at Topton will be enlarged.

Berks county hunters report foliage so thick in forests that they have great difficulty in hitting game.

There was only one case for trial in Court at Mauch Chunk, all the others having been settled or continued.

Richard E. Cochran, of York, has been appointed trustee of the State Hospital for the Insane at Harrisburg.

Another large consignment of fingerling trout has been received by Weather sportsmen for distribution in nearby streams.

Lutherans, in council at Lewistown, have elected Rev. Dr. A. H. Spangler as pastor for life of the Yeagertown-Readsville-Lilleyville circuit.

The Reading Fair had 70,000 paid admissions—its highest record.

Four big Wilkes-Barre mills have increased wages and decreased hours.

The 525 teachers of the schools of Berks county have begun their annual teachers' institute at Reading.

Granville Hamilton, a Norristown boy, is charged with taking for a joy ride a wagon belonging to Joseph Buzen, which Buzen left standing in the street.

Negotiations are practically closed for the lease of a portion of the Chadwick automobile plant by the North-western Motor Company, a new industry for Pottstown.

The funeral service of Bishop James T. Myers, of the Parkerford Brethren, was held at the Green Tree Church and was largely attended.

In a suit for \$1500 damages brought by John Walz, of Easton, against Harvey Moser, because the latter closed a lane running between their farms in Bethlehem township, a jury awarded Walz six cents damages; but the lane will have to be opened up.

Pittsburgh Machine Tool Company's 230 strikers at Braddock returned to work on an eight-hour day without cut wages.

Rev. Charles Ketter, a native of Bethlehem, has accepted the call to Grace Lutheran Church at Norristown.

Carbon county is breaking its records making sweet cider.

On November 4 the Public Service Commission will hear all complaints of violations of the Full Crew law.

One of the curiosities at the recent Reading fair was the skeleton of a real Berks county Indian, found last Spring near Strausstown by Harry J. Paul.

In the presence of the Burgess and Council, West End Fire Company, Phoenixville, burned a \$5,000 mortgage, and canceled the last debt on its \$10,000 building.

As a challenge to other organizations claiming the honors of having sent out the first defenders, Berks County Daughters, of the American Revolution renamed their chapter "First Defenders" Chapter, Berks County, D. A. R.

The 125-acre farm of the late Benjamin Helfrich, of Maxatawny township, Berks county, was sold to Edward E. Schweitzer, for \$6,392.

Tires, a speedometer and other parts were stolen from the automobile of H. B. Liebenstein, of Allentown, which was wrecked near Pottstown in a collision with an express train.

For vandalism at Nell's school, six hired boys from farms near Kutztown were fined \$5 each by 'Squire Shorradin.

NEW WHEAT CROP SHOWS EXCESS

Total Yield 750,000 Bushels Over Last Year's Production.

CORN SHOW BIG SHRINKAGE

Wet Weather, Which Affected Grains, Responsible for Drop in Potatoes—State Bureau of Agriculture Makes Report.

(Special Harrisburg Correspondence.) Harrisburg.—Pennsylvania's wheat crop for 1915 will exceed that of 1914 by three-quarters of a million bushels, according to the estimates made by the State Bureau of Agricultural Statistics from reports made as of October 1. These figures were made up largely after threshing had been finished. The estimate is for a yield of 24,928,000 bushels, an average of 19 bushels to the acre. The quality is about 97 per cent. of the average for the last 10 years.

In issuing the estimate L. H. Wible, chief of statistics, says:

"The tabulation has been done conservatively, and we have every reason to believe that the above is a reliable estimate. The quality of the wheat, as well as rye and oats, is a little below the average condition. This is due to the wet weather that prevailed at harvest time, and while much of the grain was standing in the fields, it was feared at that time that that the damage would be greater. Less than 2 per cent. of the 1914 wheat is now in the producers' hands. The price last winter and spring was too attractive to permit much wheat being held."

The total production of rye is estimated at 4,672,000 bushels or 90,000 bushels less than last year. The production will be 17.2 bushels per acre, the acreage being 3 per cent. less than in 1914.

Oats will far exceed the production of 1914. The estimate of the 1915 yield is 43,095,000 bushels, against 31,117,000 last year. The average is 39 bushels per acre.

Buckwheat is estimated at 4,990,000 bushels, an average of 18 bushels to the acre. This a decline from last year.

State Orders Tax Stamps. Pennsylvania's first order for stamps for the new State stock transfer tax, which will become effective with the new year, will aggregate 45,000,000 stamps. The contract has just been placed with a Philadelphia engraving firm by A. Nevin Pomeroy, state superintendent of public printing and binding, and the first lot of the stamps will be delivered in time for distribution.

The stamps will come in nine denominations, the lowest two cents and the highest \$20. Two cents tax is placed on each value of \$100 of securities transferred. The stamps will be of different colors and will be sold through the auditor general's department.

Aim to Catch Fish Pirates. Special details of State policemen have been made for the lower Susquehanna valley, to break up gangs of fish pirates which have been operating between Sunbury and the State line.

Permit to Sue Thompson. Unsecured creditors of the coal and coke magnate, Josiah V. Thompson, and 12 of his associates, who have been in the hands of receivers since last January, are permitted to enter suits to reduce their claims to judgments, according to a decision handed down by Judge J. Q. Van Swearingen. The decision, which was announced in compliance with an order issued by the State Supreme Court in Pittsburgh, was made on the petitions of more than 50 of Mr. Thompson's unsecured creditors, representing an indebtedness of more than \$500,000.

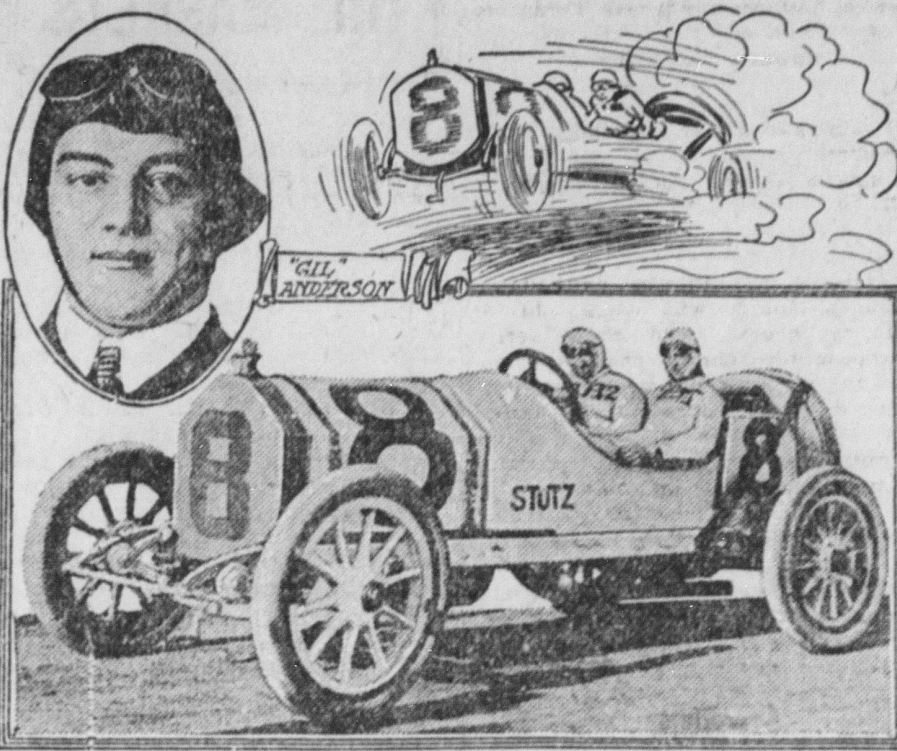
Four Hunters Killed This Season. Four fatalities due to accidents since the opening of the hunting season have been reported to the State Game Commission. The fatal accidents are apportioned two in Mifflin County, one in Juniata and one in Luzerne county. Last year 31 persons were killed and 98 injured during the season.

Governor Erosts Patton. Charles E. Patton, of Curwensville, the new Secretary of Agriculture, took the oath of office before Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth Godcharles at the Capitol and assumed charge of his department. The Governor, after signing his commission, said:

"I have outlined to Mr. Patton my ideas in regard to the Department of Agriculture, with which he is in hearty accord, and he will take hold of the department immediately."

State Baptists Meet. The eighth annual session of the Pennsylvania Baptist General Convention was opened in the First Baptist Church at Pittsburgh with a conference of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, one of the six branches of the convention. Mrs. J. C. Walker, of Philadelphia, president, was in charge of the meeting, at which committees were named and reports read from various associations. At night the Baptist Ministers' Union, another branch, was addressed by Rev. Dr. W. Quay Rosselle, of Philadelphia.

WINNERS OF A GREAT AUTOMOBILE RACE



In one of the most spectacular and closest finishes ever witnessed in an automobile race Earl Cooper of Los Angeles just nosed out by less than a second Gil Anderson of Indianapolis. In the 500-mile motor derby at Fort Snelling, Minn. The official time of the two cars was: Cooper, 5 hours 47 minutes 29 seconds; Anderson, 5 hours 47 minutes 30 seconds. Cooper's average for the long, grueling race was 56.35 miles an hour. Incidentally, Cooper won \$20,000 and Anderson \$10,000.

MORAN TO TACKLE WILLARD

Efforts Being Made to Secure Match for Big Pittsburgh Fighter With Present Champion.

Since the return of Frank Moran, the Pittsburgh heavyweight, from Europe, strong efforts are being made to match him with Jess Willard for a championship battle. Moran is a good fighter and a fine fellow, but there are other heavyweights in the country who are just as much entitled to a chance at the title with Willard.

Moran's greatest feat, so it is claimed, was in going 20 rounds with Jack Johnson before the latter lost his title to the present champion. Moran lost the contest. There has been a great deal of notoriety connected with the Johnson-Moran match, the claim being made that Moran had agreed to "lie down" to Johnson, but after en-



Frank Moran.

tering the ring declined to go through with it.

The claim was made by Moran's manager that it was the only way they could get Johnson into a match at that time. Reports of the contest indicated that Johnson was in very poor form at the time and therefore had little chance of putting the Pittsburgher away. It proved one thing, however—that Moran had considerable class, no matter how Johnson felt about it.

Moran's win over the British champion, Bombardier Wells, by the knockout route in ten rounds, was the occasion for a big boost, but Wells had lost the same way to Al Palzer, Gunboat Smith and Georges Carpentier. Moran's latest win by a knockout over George Sims in six rounds was nothing to brag about, as Sims was considered only a third-rater over in London.

Hard Man to Pitch To.

If there is any man in the world harder to pitch to than Miller Huggins, the average National league twirler hasn't yet lapped the individual. One day when Huggins was batting against Vic Willis, then with the Pirates, the Rabbit fouled off 12 consecutive balls. Vic was an easy going cuss, but he became highly incensed, and yelled to the umpire: "Get a batter! I'm tired of throwing the ball to a bunch of nothing like that guy up there now!" "Beg pardon, but I can't help you," replied the ump. "You will have to get rid of Huggins first. The rules say so, and I can't go behind the rules, you know."

Cobb Leads in Everything.

Ty Cobb is at the head of four departments in baseball. He is the champion base-stealer, champion batsman, champion scorer and champion total-base hitter. If there was anything else worth while in the game he would try for that also.

FAIR PLAY

Is the reluctance of certain opponents of Woodrow Wilson to give him credit for the diplomatic victory in the Arabic case, partisanship or patriotism? America First!

TARIFF COMMISSIONS.

Tariff commissions are of two kinds, those that are talked about before elections, with the attractive purpose of "taking the tariff out of politics," and those that are created by Republican Congresses to postpone the reduction of indefensible tariff schedules. The Taft tariff board is a brilliant example of the latter kind, and the plan of the Non-Partisan Tariff Commission League is an example of the former type. The two should not be confused in the public mind.

We have recently had two exhibitions of the attitude of the Republican party toward tariff commissions. Senator Penrose, leader of the Republican minority in the United States Senate, who says he favors a tariff commission, nevertheless proposes to present at the next session of Congress a tariff bill making a horizontal reduction in the schedules of the Payne-Aldrich law. So far as we know no reliable authority believes that the Payne-Aldrich bill was the kind of scientific and symmetrical tariff which any Non-Partisan Tariff Commission would recommend. If the Payne-Aldrich bill was unscientific and discriminatory, it is difficult to see how the discrimination would be removed by making a horizontal cut.

Congressman Mann, leader of the Republican minority in the House of Representatives, who says he favors a tariff commission, nevertheless proposes to make an old-fashioned, log-rolling, high protective tariff revision first, before he sets up a commission to study the problem. During the ten years which would be required for this scientific study, according to Mann, his old-fashioned, log-rolling, extortionate tariff would be undisturbed on the books.

These two eminent and authoritative examples of Republican statesmanship on the tariff question affords the only measure of Republican sincerity on the tariff commission question, except, of course, the discredited Taft board.

We do not hesitate to set opposite this program the simple, sensible plan of the Wilson administration: Tariff agitation shall be suspended until the Underwood law has a fair test under normal conditions and until the actual effect of the world war upon commerce and industry can be determined. Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission, which was deliberately clothed with the necessary authority, shall study the business questions connected with the tariff—the cost of production at home and abroad, the effect of tariff duties upon industries and prices and the pay envelope of the worker—so that, when the time comes for action, Congress will have accurate, reliable data for its guidance in adjusting conditions to the facts. If, under present abnormal conditions, tariff revenues are not sufficient, changes shall be made in certain schedules, whose revenue-producing qualities are well established, so that the treasury shall not suffer.

This avoids another long tariff contest, with the uncertainty that upsets business, and at the same time it handles the tariff question in the business-like way demanded by interested students of the problem. If ever there was a time when America needed to avoid internal disorder and to apply itself to a long, quiet, prosperous period of development, this is the time. The Wilson administration points the way.

Judging from the reports from many counties, appearing in the Republican newspapers, it seems likely that the machine is going to be handed some awful jolts in the local elections of November 2. The man who does not vote is a bad citizen, unworthy of the franchise. There never was a better time to strike the gang, than this Fall, through the election of anti-gang county officials. Look over the Democratic candidates, and give them a boost, for the sake of better government.

We venture the opinion that about 90% of the people of these United States believe that the President's bride-to-be will be the first lady of the land for at least five years. Congratulations are in order all around.

Our idea of nothing to do is to read the labored efforts of certain Republican organs to make Wilson appear insincere or incapable.

Daily Thought. Physical courage, which despises all danger, will make a man brave in one way; and moral courage, which defies all opinion, will make a man brave in another.—Colton.

Try This, Daughters. Papa—"Why, hang it, girl, that fellow only earns nine dollars a week!" Pleading Daughter—"Yes; but, daddy, dear, a week passes so quickly when you're fond of one another."—Judge.

Little to Worry About. Investigation by the geological survey of the erosion of drainage basins proves that the surface of the country is being worn away at the rate of about an inch in 760 years.

THE ISSUES

WATCHFUL WAITING

Hindsight is notoriously clearer than foresight. It is also much safer as a basis for a political battle-cry. The cocksure pronouncements of infallible editors and politicians should be read in the light of this obvious truth, which applies with peculiar force to the policy of watchful waiting.

Certain public men who, for political profit, one year ago endorsed watchful waiting and commended every step in the President's Mexican program, are now, for political profit, vociferously denouncing it, as if they had thought all along that it was foolish and wrong. Others, having a year ago predicted very definite disasters as a result of that policy, are now, for political profit, moving heaven and earth to make present facts tally with their early prophecies. Still others, being partisan by instinct, have, for political profit, denounced impartially every step taken, falling utterly to see how they themselves have boxed the compass of possible Mexican policies, and at different times have denounced war-like action and peaceful action, have denounced diplomatic pressure, have denounced the failure to take the South American republics into consultation and have denounced acting with them.

One severe critic of the President's Mexican policy has been frank enough recently to admit that while watchful waiting has not been to his liking, he has yet to find two critics of that policy who were agreed upon a better one. This statement of Dr. Albert Shaw, of the Review of Reviews, is simply a candid admission that while it is easy to criticize and denounce, mere criticism and denunciation never show a statesmanlike grasp of the situation, unless they are coupled with constructive suggestions, based upon principle, consistently adhered to and bearing the test of time and later events.

Pending the time when Wilson's critics get together on some constructive policy regarding Mexico, it is pertinent to enumerate certain definite, outstanding effects of Watchful Waiting.

(1) We are at peace with Mexico, at a time when we need every ounce of strength in readiness to defend our interests, threatened by a vastly greater peril across the Atlantic.

(2) The United States has conclusively demonstrated to all Central and South American countries that it has no designs upon their territory or their sovereignty, but earnestly desires their friendship and confidence, in order that common American problems may be settled with their cooperation, and that common American interests may be supported by their joint purpose and power.

(3) Several of the most disturbing military and political factors in Mexico have been definitely eliminated, as possible sources of permanent disorder and unrest, so that any government now established has far better chance of maintaining itself in peace than ever before in five years.

(4) Formal assurances have been given by a de facto government in Mexico that brigandage shall be put down, that the underlying causes of revolution shall be removed, that the dominant force in Mexican internal affairs shall no longer be a specially privileged minority, but the great body of the plain people who have borne the burdens of misrepresentation in the past.

(5) America has proclaimed to the world its abhorrence of assassination and usurpation as a basis for any government that asks the respect and recognition of civilized nations. We submit that these results are tremendous, and that no policy which does not absolutely assure equally vital effects can be successfully defended before the bar of history.

QUESTION BOX.

Question: "How many of the President's cabinet are from the South?"

Answer: Four of the ten members of the cabinet are from the South, if Missouri, a border State, be classed with the South. They are, Postmaster General Burleson, of Texas; Secretary of Agriculture David F. Houston, of Missouri; Secretary of the Navy Daniels, of North Carolina, and Attorney General Gregory, of Texas. Secretary of State Lansing, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, and Secretary of Commerce Redfield are residents of New York; Secretary of the Interior Lane is a Californian; Secretary of Labor Wilson is a Pennsylvanian; Secretary of War Garrison halls from New Jersey.

Question: "Why did not the Underwood tariff law reduce prices as promised?"

Answer: For the nine months the Underwood law was in operation prior to the opening of the European war, the prices on necessities of life fell about 95%, according to the figures given by nation-wide commercial agencies. The drop in the price of sugar was especially marked. Since the war began, the effect of the tariff upon prices has been offset to a considerable degree by the decline in imports, and the abnormal demand for necessities of life in the war countries, where provisions are carefully hoarded and hoarded for future use. Abnormal exports of foodstuffs, because of the war, have caused increases in the retail price of some of these articles. The Underwood law, under the present abnormal conditions can hardly be blamed for high prices.

"Who's loony now?" Wilson or the Innores?