



HARRISBURG NEWS LETTER

The "Do-Nothing" Session of 1917 Continues To Cost the People \$1,400 a Day, With No Adjournment in Sight.

Every move which either Republican faction in Pennsylvania makes serves only to widen the split between them. Nothing, it appears, ever will reconcile them except some sort of an agreement as to a "division of the spoils." There is nothing of the sort in sight.

Appointment of two York County men to office, almost simultaneously, illustrates this as well as anything which has happened in months. Scarcely had Governor Brumbaugh named Daniel F. Lefean to be banking commissioner than Samuel Lewis was given a fat clerkship in the Auditor General's Department when Charles A. Snyder assumed charge. Appointment of Lewis was public notice of war to the knife by the Penrose faction.

Lefean "made" Lewis. First Lewis was Lefean's general handy man. Then Lefean, while in congress, made Lewis postmaster of York, with Penrose sanction. Lewis, at any rate, was "loyal to the boss" the real boss. When Lefean deserted Penrose and cast lots with Brumbaugh Lewis refused to follow. He figured he had more to gain by sticking with Penrose. Recent developments prove him a canny figure. At any rate, the Republicans in the Twentieth Congressional District are widely separated as the Republicans in the State.

Senator Penrose's organization will determine when the present general assembly will adjourn or whether it actually will adjourn at all or just take a recess. The sharp battle a few days ago over the Dunn resolution fixing May 31 for final adjournment was sufficient notice to that effect for any persons who did not already appreciate it. The Penrose forces choked off the resolution by 101 votes to 78, with twenty-eight votes not recorded.

As the resolution emanated from the Vane forces in the House the Penroses rallied to the slaughter. They would rally to the slaughter of anything coming from the Vane side, on general principles. So scared were the Penrose-McNichol men that the resolution might be adopted that Speaker Baldwin himself forsook the chair to lead the fight on the floor. Assemblyman Dunn read from the record of 1915 and taunted Speaker Baldwin with the fact that two years ago the present speaker had been in the front rank in a fight for early adjournment. The best that Speaker Baldwin could retort was that "conditions are different this year". That was quite true. They are different. The Penrose plan probably will be (it hasn't been quite decided) to hold the assembly in technical session for a good many months, very likely until it expires constitutionally in December, 1918. This can be done by the expedient of taking a recess, instead of adjourning sine die.

Except for the fact that the do-nothing session of 1917 costs the people a minimum of \$1,400 a day, the recess plan instead of adjournment isn't a bad scheme from a popular standpoint. From the Penrose standpoint its purely a matter of politics. Penrose wants to have the Legislature handy as a check on Governor Brumbaugh. By creating this situation, however, each would be something of a check on the other. Without such a counter-check no one can fortell to what lengths either side might go. If the Legislature would take the necessary steps to suspend the per diem pay of employes during a recess, a recess would be the best thing for the people.

Actual friends of the people will be given a chance to display their colors more than once this month. More than one battle over nonpartisan ballots in all cities except Philadelphia will occur. The Lynch bill repealing the nonpartisan ballot in Pittsburgh and Scranton will be reached on third reading in the House before many days. The Ramsey bill which carried a similar abolition for third class cities was amended in the House last week so as to wipe off the repealer and preserve the nonpartisan ballot. Senator E. E. Beldeman's new third class party bill, which also abolishes nonpartisan, is due to be considered by the Senate soon.

Democratic support of the nonpartisan feature naturally can be expected. The nonpartisan ballot has done more to educate Pennsylvanians to the folly of "machine government" than any other single law. At the same time, it has brought about the election of many first-class Democrats who never could have hoped for public service under the blind system of voting a party ticket.

Republican factional politics now are due to pop, according to repeated

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BIG S. S. CONVENTION NEAR.

Centre Hall Will Entertain Centre County Sunday-School Convention, May 22 and 23.

Big preparations are being made for the annual convention of the Centre County Sabbath School Association which will be held in the Reformed church in Centre Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22 and 23. Several hundred delegates are expected and the committee on entertainment has already canvassed the town and found that practically all the homes are ready to entertain their quota of the delegates and visitors.

The convention will open on Tuesday morning and continue until Wednesday evening, there being six sessions—three each day. A most interesting program is being arranged, and among the speakers to be present are many who are in the front line in Sunday-school work in this and other counties. The complete program will appear in next week's issue.

The music will be under the direction of Prof. B. D. Ackley, of Philadelphia.

To Prospective Volunteers.

Under recent legislation Postmasters procuring enlistments for the Army, Navy and Marine corps will be paid \$5.00 for each enlistment. To stimulate volunteering the undersigned pledges that this sum will not be retained but will be cheerfully paid over to each volunteer or his representative as soon as it is remitted by the Government.

S. W. SMITH,
Postmaster at Centre Hall.

Rockview Prisoner at Large.

Last Wednesday afternoon C. A. Wilson escaped from the Western penitentiary at Rockview and a search was at once begun to apprehend him. Wilson is a farmer by occupation and was serving a short sentence for larceny. On the day of his escape he was working with a gang of prisoners some distance from the prison buildings, and pulled off for Nittany mountain.

A reward of fifty dollars is offered for his return.

Festival at Spring Mills.

The Spring Mills Grange, No. 158, will hold a festival in their hall at Spring Mills on the evening of Memorial Day. Ice cream, cake, and other delicacies will be served. Everybody is invited.

Old Glory—1777

All the other greatly respected flags are youngsters in comparison with "Old Glory". Spain's standard was established in 1785; Great Britain's, 1801; Netherlands', 1808; Japan's, 1859; Italy's, 1861; Germany's, 1871, and the tri-color of France, 1794.

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threats of Penrose leaders. Growing along for months, the Penrose contingent has accomplished nothing against the Brumbaugh-Vane faction. Penroselites have been telling everyone to "wait till May". May has come. Charles A. Snyder and Harmon N. Kephart are in office. Penrose is in full control of the two fiscal offices. Now it is up to his followers to make good their threats about holding up paychecks and similar Republican machine tactics to "drive Brumbaugh into line". No one expects Penrose to do anything of the kind.

He hasn't been successful in "driving Brumbaugh" anywhere so far, except into a corner. Brumbaugh has retaliated in kind. The general belief is that the deadlock will continue with both sides, jackallike, quarrelling over the spoils. Attempts to withhold paychecks are too likely to result in mandamus suits, with the law on the anti-Penrose side. Such a development, however, would probably result in several more entertaining "wash days" like the present Legislature has seen, with much Republican linen hung out on the line.

Both Snyder and Kephart are refreshingly frank about their appointments. Some persons had thought they would publish a big list of these new officeholders when they took office. Not so. Only two or three were named. To inquiries about further action the auditor general and state treasurer make no bones of the reply: "The rest haven't been agreed upon."

Penrose appointments are made by the department head only nominally. They actually are made when the marshalls of the army get together in Philadelphia or Atlantic City over week-ends. Then the department chief comes back to Harrisburg and passes out the word.

So serious has become the daily-widening Republican split that there

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MARSHALL JOFFRE'S CHICAGO RECEPTION.

[Written for The Centre Reporter by DR. ALFRED BEIRLY, of Chicago, Ill.]

Editors of the Reporter:
During every person's life time some days are more eventful than others. Today, May 4th, proved to be one of the eventful kind to the writer, brought about mainly through the presence of Marshall Joffre of France, who, together with his compatriots, are paying a two-day visit to Chicago.

The name France brings to mind the American Revolution period and the aid that was given the cause by that nation, as well as many of her private citizens. I often wonder if that eight-year conflict would have resulted in establishing the first Republic on the Western Hemisphere, dedicated to greater human liberty, if France and her patriots had not lent American colonies the substantial aid they did?

Had not Admiral De Grasse, General Rochambeau and Marquis LaFayette come to the aid of General Washington at the most critical period of the war, could the latter have won the struggle without the very efficient assistance rendered by those patriots?

It is historically recorded that the French forces succeeded in bottling up the British forces at Yorktown, Virginia, laying siege to that citadel, and that Washington, upon being informed of the action, hurried forward from his northern position to aid the work so auspiciously begun, arriving in time to consummate the event and receive the surrender of the British forces under command of General Lord Cornwallis, which action closed the Revolution.

The public receptions accorded the noted Frenchman today were such as only a large-hearted city like Chicago can bestow. Everywhere the people by thousands greeted the distinguished visitor with fervent huzzas and delight. Two semi-private receptions and luncheons were tendered the guests during the afternoon by social and business clubs, and at 6:30 p. m. the third reception took place at the Congress Hotel in which the writer enjoyed the pleasure of participating. When in regular order of action it became our turn to be presented to the victorious French Marshal, General Joffre, hero of the world's greatest conflict at arms, the battle of the Marne, the writer made an effort to rise to the occasion, for realizing that to have stayed the on-rushing German legions, then only thirty miles from the city of Paris, defeating and routing an army of five hundred thousand, thereby preventing the overthrow of democratic government upon the earth, was one of the greatest achievements ever consummated by mortal man.

The great Marshal does not speak English, and the writer is not highly versed in the French tongue, but the event demanded that the hero be made to understand our sentiment, and to that end we rose to the occasion and addressed him accordingly, and as follows:

"Vive le Marshal Joffre" (Long live Marshal Joffre).

The great hero was visibly pleased to be addressed in his own tongue and gave evidence to that effect by a hearty grasp of the hand and a genial smile.

A NOTEWORTHY OCCURRENCE.

After departing from the reception hall our thoughts turned to an occasion that transpired when Andrew Jackson was president. Prior to that period President Jackson had had his famous controversy with Mr. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina over the question of States Rights. The occasion referred to were the commencement exercises at Yale University, to which President Jackson had been invited as the chief guest.

The professor who delivered the oration took for his subject, "The United States of America," and spoke in Latin. After concluding President Jackson was invited to speak. Not being able to respond at length in the Latin tongue, he nevertheless also rose to the occasion. Rising slowly to his feet, and with all the dignity devolving upon the highest official of the Nation, he stepped forward, and after looking impressively at his audience, remarked: "E Pluribus Unum," and then resumed his seat. Thus did he once more fortify his contention that our Nation is more than a mere confederation of states from which compact any state may withdraw at will and defy the national authority.

EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED.

While we are engaged in writing this letter to the readers of the Reporter, a public ovation is being given to our French guests in a great Chicago Auditorium where 5,000 persons pay due homage to the noted visitors. Tomorrow, May 5th, is set apart as a day when a great street parade will

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It's Now Captain T. D. Boal.

On Friday of last week Theodore Davis Boal, of Boalsburg, was promoted from First Lieutenant to Captain of the Mounted Machine Gun Troop which he organized last summer and which spent several months on the Mexican border last fall and winter. The promotion is well merited, and was made by the Auditor General of the State through the Governor. The former captain, C. W. Lloyd, of Philadelphia, resigned his post last week and the vacancy was immediately filled, Capt. Boal being justly considered the logical successor.

Thieves at Work.

At the present high price of poultry, grain and meats, robbing of hen houses, granaries and smoke houses is a profitable business, and the thief who is captured should have his sentence increased in direct proportion to the increase in the cost of these food-stuffs.

Over in Buffalo Run Valley a farmer and his hireling were arrested for an alleged raid on a neighbor's hen house, and were released on bail last Tuesday for their appearance at court.

Considerable stealing of a similar character is reported to be going on, near Spring Mills, and only recently the thieves visited the farm of Mrs. Lettie Goodhart, taking away corn and chickens. The cowardice of the thieves is plainly shown from the fact that it was a widow's premises they entered upon, knowing full well that molestation would be reduced to a minimum.

School Boy Labor on the Farm.

Pennsylvania State College authorities have the right idea of utilizing school boy labor on the farm, when they declare that it is between July 1st and October 1st that the High school and college youth is most needed on the farm. During this period the crops—hay, grain, potatoes, fruits of all kinds, and much of the corn—are harvested. The school boy can give material help in caring for all of these crops, and if the school opening period is postponed to October 1st, or even later, it will not interfere with his school work.

Struck by Auto; Badly Injured.

The Milroy correspondent to Daily Sentinel at Lewistown contained this item of local interest: In an accident that might have proved serious, Rufus Reaick, was struck by an automobile in front of McNitt's store on Thursday and painfully injured about the head and body. Mr. Reaick stepped from behind a wagon in front of an automobile driven by Dr. Kohler and was knocked down. Neither party saw the other until it was too late to avoid the accident. The young man is a son of W. O. Reaick, formerly of Centre Hall.

Mothers Day.

Next Sunday, May 13th, is Mothers Day. The Governor in his proclamation says in part:

"If she is here still, be thankful, and pay her the respect her exalted station warrants and merits. If she be not here, may our thoughts and our pure love climb the angelic stairs to her abiding home, that of the choir invisible may sing with Him the glad song of a mother beloved and remembered!

"May all of us be drawn on this day to our loved ones, and in their midst let us place our dear mothers, and thank God for what they have done for us, for our country, for the Lord's Kingdom!"

Lewisburg Man Commits Suicide.

Just as the officers of the law were about to lay hands on John E. Rheapard, at his home in Lewisburg, following the reading of a warrant for his arrest, charging abuse of his wife, he brought a .32 calibre revolver to his right temple and sent a ball crashing through his head. The act occurred Sunday morning of last week. Rheapard was aged fifty-five years, and is survived by his wife and four children.

Auto License Figures Climbing.

Auto licenses are seen issued by the State Highway Department which are in the 224,000 class. More licenses have already been issued in Pennsylvania in the first four months of the year than during 1916. The scarcity of gasoline, and its tendency to reach a top-notch figure, apparently does not deter the purchase of the popular machine.

All through April and the beginning of May high winds prevailed, making the weather conditions rather unpleasant. The high winds also carried from the soil much moisture that may be missed later on.

THE HIGH SCHOOL PLAY.

Will be Presented in the Grange Hall Next Thursday Evening.

The 1917 class of the Centre Hall High school, with the help of several under-graduates, will present a play entitled, "Civil Service," in Grange hall, on Thursday evening, May 17th. The play consists of three acts. An admission of 10 cents will be charged, the proceeds to be used to meet the expenses incident to commencement.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Old R. F. D.—A Mystery Robert Neff
The Inspector—B. J. Cochran Lewis Wolfe
The Postmaster—J. L. Reynolds Thomas Foss
Money Order Clerk—Steve Ardaine Dwight Foss
Mailing Clerk—Simson Peavy James Sweetwood
Country Boy—Goldie Wex Lynn Bitter
Postmaster's Daughter—Octavia Ethel Rowe
Lady of Importance—Mrs. T. R. Jeffs Elizabeth Sweetwood
Hired Girl—Biddle Bivins Adaline McClenahan
Collector—Miss Goldstein Mary Whiteman
Stamp Clerk—Kate Kenyon Lillian Emery

Act I. The work room of a post-office, Saturday after Christmas.

Act II. Same as Act I. A week later. The trial.

Act III. Same as Acts I. and II. The next morning. The new life.

On Sunday evening, May 20th, Rev. F. H. Foss will deliver the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class, in the United Evangelical church.

Commencement exercises will be held on Thursday evening, May 24th, in the Grange hall, at 8:00 o'clock. Everybody is invited.

Rev. John A. Bright to Preach.

The Rev. John A. Bright of Topeka, Kansas, will fill the appointments of Rev. M. D. Geesey, of Aaronsburg, on Mother's Day (May 13th), as follows: Penn Hall, 10:30 a. m.; Coburn, 2:30 p. m., and Millheim, 7:30 p. m.

Rev. Bright, who is a native of Aaronsburg, came east a few weeks ago to be present at the exercises marking the fiftieth anniversary of the church at Jersey Shore, which he served as one of its early pastors. He will remain for a short time among his many friends in the valley and the announcement of his intention to preach three times on Sunday will be received with much rejoicing by the people in the section where he was born and raised.

Will Dedicate New Church on Sunday.

The dedication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran church, at Pleasant Gap, will take place on Sunday, May 13th. Pre-dedicatory services are in progress this week, and will continue until Saturday evening. The sermon on Sunday morning will be delivered by Rev. C. T. Aikens, D. D., and the evening sermon will be delivered by Rev. M. W. B. Glanding, D. D.

Full Week of "State" Commencement.

Commencement exercises at Pennsylvania State College will not be shortened this year, despite the rumors to the effect that exercises would be cut down to one day owing to the fact that a great number of graduates have left college to attend the officers reserves training camp.

Dean Holmes says: "The fact that we might not be able to have 200 graduates, is no reason for shortening or doing without the commencement exercises, as in former times, graduations were held for classes of as low as seven members, and in addition, the women students will be here to participate in the exercises."

Meeting of Pomona Grange.

Centre County Pomona Grange will meet in regular session, Saturday, May 19th, with the Penn State Grange, at State College. There will be the usual two sessions, opening at 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.

Did You Get Proper Credit?

The Reporter's mailing list was corrected on Saturday. All payments on subscription made prior to that time are credited on the pink label which appears this week. Be sure to look at it and if an error appears, report to this office at once.

Ask for Presidential Suffrage.

Defeated in their attempt to have the Legislature give the voters of the state an opportunity to decide the question of woman suffrage, women of Pennsylvania are again before the house asking the members to give them directly as much suffrage as is in their power, namely, Presidential suffrage, or the right to vote for all Presidential candidates.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The T. L. Moore residence was wired for electric light last week.

A number of Masons of the local fraternity attended the Masonic lecture in Bellefonte on Wednesday night.

Lumberman and automobile dealer, L. L. Weaver, of Woodward, received a severe injury to his foot when a log rolled onto it, and now he is obliged to use crutches.

More than 175 babies in State College are booked for the popularity contest which closes on Saturday. With a list such as that the future of the college town looks safe.

Despite the fact that Friday was a cold and rainy day there was a fair attendance at the district Sunday-school convention held at Spring Mills on that day.

Prof. and Mrs. George P. Bible, of Bellefonte, announces the engagement of their daughter, Dorothy Margarette, to Louis S. Schrad. The wedding will take place early in June.

Forester Leonard G. Barnes finished planting his allotment of seedlings on the Greens Valley State forest on Thursday. The number of trees put out this year was 150,000.

Pine Grove Mills is planning for a big flag raising on Saturday of this week. The State College and Citizens bands will be in attendance and prominent speakers will be on hand.

Mrs. William Magee and little son, Hoyet, of Wenonah, New Jersey, were arrivals at the home of the former's parents in this place last Friday, and will remain for several weeks.

Miss Margaret Muser, an instructor in a college at Burnsville, N. C., arrived at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Muser, in Millheim, and will spend her summer vacation there.

A copy of the Omaha Daily Bee, forwarded to this office by William E. Kerr, heralds in big headlines the passing of the liquor business in the whole state of Nebraska, commencing May 1st.

J. J. Kitner, a Lock Haven attorney, has announced his name as a candidate for President Judge in Clinton county. The nominations will be made at the primary election in September.

At this time, May 10th, finds almost all the oak sown and here and there corn planted. Much of the corn ground has been ready for planting, but the cold weather deterred the farmer from putting the kernels into the ground, fearing the ill effects of the cold soil on germination.

F. M. Ackerman has been doing painting on the interior of several homes in Centre Hall, and also finished the Golden Eagle Lodge rooms on the third floor of the Reporter building. Later on he will paint the exterior of the J. S. Rowe home.

William Hoy, of Lemont, has been awarded the contract for hauling the mail between Lemont and State College. Hereafter the mail will be delivered by automobile instead of horse and wagon. This will enable the residents of State College to get their mail an hour earlier.

Walter Webb, turnkey at the Clinton jail, was made a prisoner the other afternoon, charged with opening a registered letter and taking from it \$20.00. The letter was addressed to a prisoner. On being questioned by a post office inspector, Webb finally acknowledged guilt.

Last week mention was made of the very liberal spirit exhibited by the parishioners in the Methodist charge, at Howard, of which Rev. C. W. Rishel is the pastor, but it now appears that his flock was even more liberal than it was given credit for being in the article referred to, for instead of presenting him with a Ford car it was a Bell touring car.

The roads covered by mail route No. 2, J. A. Wagner, carrier, are at present in very bad condition, owing to the fact that the supervisors in the two townships through which the route passes have squads of men and machinery doing repair work on them. The state is also doing work on the Brush Valley road. Of course, when the work is completed, the roads will have been improved.

Don't expect too much of Providence when gardening. Do what you can yourself. Much of the planting and sowing, both in fields and garden, is done in too much faith. No gardener nor farmer however skilled can make the seed sprout and plant grow, but he can use his best efforts to put the soil in proper condition to aid nature in working the miracles that must be accomplished within the next six months to keep us all well fed for another year.