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PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1914.

A David Ready for Goliath

SENATOR PENROSE is a big man—a very Goliath. There is no doubt about that, and his bigness is not only physical. He is big with the potentiality and actuality of political and economic evil.

There was a time when Pennsylvania's voice rang through the nation. There was a time when the Republican party in this State, standing for economic truth and political decency, possessed at its head, in every crisis, an honored leader who could interpret properly and effectually the beliefs and the teachings of that party.

Saddled by a master who is riding for a fall, who in blind selfishness is spurring madly and ruthlessly toward the stone wall of disaster, the party has one obvious means of escape.

Let it take the bit in its teeth. Let it win its head. Let it kick and buck—and bolt if need be—until the Goliath is thrown. Then the course will be free and open.

Democrats Tear a "Scrap of Paper"

FROM Washington comes the interesting news that the Alexander bill, which proposes a Government controlled steamship line, is not having clear sailing and that the war tax bill is likely to run aground in the Senate.

Democratic opposition to the shipping bill rises largely from recognition of the fact that a \$30,000,000 appropriation on top of a \$100,000,000 emergency tax is not likely to improve the party's chances at the polls.

Two years from now will come the real judging of the Wilson Administration. Political south-sealers have declared that the European war is a great blessing to the Democratic party, inasmuch as it will obscure the effects of tariff, currency and other legislation.

Is a political platform a contract or "a mere scrap of paper"? The Democratic platform called for drastic economy. The pledges made at Baltimore have not been kept.

License of Diplomatic Guests COURTESY has generally been regarded as one of the essential qualities of diplomacy. Despite the strained relations of European governments immediately preceding the outbreak of hostilities diplomatic communications among them were marked by almost excessive courtesy.

It seems that Ambassador Ruston Bey, Baron von Schöner and Sir Leonel Gordon are not diplomatic in any true sense. Sir Leonel is not an accredited representative to this country, but he does bear the official credentials of the British Government.

From floor to floor, Schöner and Ruston Bey, there have been two things we called diplomats who were made the inexcusable mistake of taking to the United States as if American dignity meant honor, even for guests. The three latest offenders should be taught that governmental and popular tolerance does not extend to insult or to the attempt to stir up prejudices, animosities and hatreds.

Every City Has a "Big Stick"

IN PHEN words according to a report of the United States census bureau, the number of municipalities owned public plants in this country are approximately 100,000. As yet the municipal ownership movement has not reached the stage of universal adoption.

The only question is how far it advances the public welfare. The ownership of private management of public utilities are principally two divergent and opposed social policies.

Good Will is Public Spirit

SCHILLER had for the whole human race a kindly feeling, which might almost be called intense. The history of statesmanship is not devoid of names which stand for utterly unselfish devotion to the public good.

President Wilson requests that American neutrality be preserved, but any housewife can tell him that with sugar selling at war-time prices it's difficult to preserve anything these days.

expressing to Charles Sumner his sorrow over the possibility of war between England and America and his intention to retire from public life if such an event should come to pass, was filled with a sense of brotherhood which left no room for personal or national narrowness.

Our good will toward our fellowmen is public spirit. To search out the effects of our acts as citizens and voters is to prove ourselves public-spirited. Good will is made efficient by knowledge.

Wanted: Fire Protection

FIRE—and rotten hose again! It is becoming an old story, a sickening, maddening story; fire that destroys property and rotten hose that bursts. Today, tomorrow, or some other time, it may be more than property that will be destroyed; it may be human life.

Getting After the Coal Embargoes

NEW laws and regulations have not put an end to railroad rebates and discriminations. Even a college economist can testify to new ways of turning old tricks. By pro-rating spur-lines and half a dozen other means and methods all the essential practices of rebating are still possible.

Though it is evident that coal-owning roads might be sorely tempted to such action, the truth of the matter is not yet at issue. The commission simply considers the charge serious enough to justify some action, and it has summoned representatives of all the roads affected to appear before it in January.

"Button, Button"

WHOLESALE grocers think that housewives have raised the price of sugar. Housewives, or those with enough ready money to buy a barrel at a time, blame it on the grocers. They saw the price rising and they laid in a supply. So nobody gets the blame for what seems an unjustifiable situation.

Verbal Atrocities

THERE are atrocities and atrocities. One of them is a name like Kluck (we prefer the common or barnyard spelling). Half a dozen more are the "sweeters" such a common draws from the professional humorists.

Now, my friend, thundered Bennenkamp, as he gave the "forward march" order to his men, "take all our faces and don't forget my mustache!"

War Is Gethsemane

IN explaining why Christians go to war it should be understood that when the command is given to fight a man's faith counts for nothing. He must answer the call. Christianity is not discounted by the European war, any more than the multiplication table is destroyed by shooting it full of holes.

As a Man of Experience, Villa Distrusts the Military Politician

New York's primary purpose was evidently not the defeat of Tammany. "Penrose, at Pittsburgh, says voters are aroused"—Parrot confession.

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PASSED BY THE CENSOR

FOR ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, the Pennsylvania machine politician is the veriest type compared to his Texan prototype, if reports from Delhi in the Lone Star State be correct.

Colonel Blood, a disreputable and cast-off member of Cromwell's party, seized the Duke of Ormond's coach on December 6, 1670 and carried the Duke to Tyburn to hang him. The Duke escaped through the aid of friends.

There is more than one "City of Palaces"—Rome, which was converted from a city of brick huts into a "city of palaces" by Agrippa; modern Paris; Calcutta, with its splendid European residences. Edinburgh is sometimes given the title.

IN A SPIRIT OF HUMOR

The Knock Subtle. A certain man makes hats and in them advertises as follows: "New York and big cities."

Yes, Who? We do not like McGraw to win. And yet his losing makes us sigh; Just think of what we'll miss this year. In all!?

Easy Money Three minor political workers whose party lost an election found it necessary to do something to keep the wolf away and applied to the boss. He got them work as conductors on the local trolley line.

A Kindred Feeling Fighting aboard ship nowadays, with attacks from beneath the sea and from above the clouds, is very much like going through a graveyard at night—you're apt just to feel that something's going to grab you from behind.

The Higher Explanation "Father, what is this 'higher criticism' I read so much about?"

Our Position is Impregnable. Say that our jokes are shy of point. And our verse is lame and halt. Spot it if you will, and show the world Our every slip and fault.

Quite Damp. Hokus—I never knew such a wet blanket as Flubdub.

Of Course. Barney Ebelan, Father Healey's servant, was celebrated for his ready wit. One day, while he was serving at dinner, one of the guests said to him: "Barney, why is my ankle placed between my calf and my foot?"

The Impossible. War has been able to do everything except push the pretty girl from the front cover of the popular magazine.—Chicago Herald.

A Health Hint. Never sing the "Marseillaise" at a German picnic.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Cubist Poem. (Composed by Celeste Leona Goble, of Peperstown.) A year ago, on Labor Day, (Sept. 7, 1913), There came an awful whack.

The Lightning bit the top and ran to the ground; I think that barn must be sound. Mrs. Goble and her daughter were the only ones at home.

A Natural Query. The Flirt—"Oh dear, what a lot of people will be unhappy when I get married!" The Other—"Why, how many are you marrying?"—Exchange.

What's in a Name. It must be difficult to find a prouder man than Grant H. Peacock, the Princeton golfer who beat Champion Gullett 2 up and 1 to play at Greenwich.—New York Sun.

ON SOME HUMAN BONES. (Found on a Headland in the Bay of Panama.) Vague Mystery hangs on all these desert places; The fear which hath no name hath wrought a spell.

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DONE IN PHILADELPHIA

MANY of the big events in the world's history come to America first from an unexpected quarter and in an irresponsible, mysterious manner. I recall that a week before we received the official account of the result of Dewey's battle in Manila Bay, a brief dispatch came from Paris to the effect that the battle had been fought and the American fleet had not lost a single vessel.

How did Paris receive the first word? It has always been suspected that it got it from Spain before Dewey could cut the cable. And this appears to be the only reasonable theory.

THE TREATY OF GHENT

THE first report that the Treaty of Ghent had been completed and peace established with Great Britain reached Philadelphia in a most mysterious manner and fully a week before Washington had official advice. As we expect to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the conclusion of the peace of Ghent this year, this little known story may be of interest now.

That night this same mysterious stranger sent a letter to John Binns, who published the Democratic Press in this city, giving him the same news. Probably no modern newspaper owner would have done what Binns did. Any newspaper receiving such important news today would instantly get out an extra edition, for the whole country was waiting patiently for word that peace had been concluded.

BUT Binns, not knowing from whom the news came, and fearing that it was a rumor intended to influence prices of cotton, rice and other home products, hesitated. The letter, which was anonymous, reached the editor one morning. He read it and then meditated upon his next step. He feared that the information was so important that it would be risky to consult any person as to his next step.

No person in Philadelphia had received even a suggestion of the news. Binns made it his business to mix among men likely to have heard such a report, but no one approached him with rumors of that kind. Late in the afternoon, however, he sent the letter to the Merchants' Coffee House, and had it placed in the coffee house books, with his name as authority. In no time the whole water front was busy getting ships in readiness to send them to the South for cotton and rice. The merchants were ready to accept the news than was Binns. He printed the news in his paper the next day.

THE TREATY OF GHENT received the news in the same manner and spirit. One evening in a room not known in Washington, presented himself at the President's House. He was met by Madison's private secretary, Edward Coles, afterward the second Governor of Illinois, who listened to the stranger's story. The private secretary asked the stranger to remain seated until he carried his message to the President. The latter was much surprised at both the information and the method by which it was brought to him, and then told Coles to admit to him the mysterious courier. Madison wanted to have a look at the man, and to determine if he was worthy of belief. He also called to his aid the Postmaster General, R. J. Meigs, and the two questioned the stranger closely.

AFTER a long conversation, the President seemed satisfied, yet no information on the subject came from the President's House until the confirming official dispatch arrived some days later, by which time the news had already penetrated through a large part of the country.

BINNS, who relates the incident in his recollections, declared that he never was able to learn the identity of his mysterious letter writer, whom he believed to have been the same person who called upon President Madison that evening in the winter of 1815.

IN view of how the news of the peace of Ghent was first given to the American public through the agency of a Philadelphia newspaper, Dame Rumor may not be so faithless a jade. While it is a good plan to be wary of tales of a surprising character, it does not necessarily follow that all rumors are untrue, no matter how extraordinary they may appear. Big news does not always come first from the fountain head.

THE ETHICS OF SHIPING. "Shiping" is a comparatively recent addition to the red lexicon of war. Originally or on its first appearance it signified shooting from ambush or at a great distance. A soldier under this definition might be a sniper. The current definition, however, applies only to civilians who take part in fighting and are therefore not eligible to the consideration accorded to those who fight in uniform as members of a recognized military organization.

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SARCASTIC IN REGARD TO PENROSE. Sir—I am heart and soul for Boies Penrose, Senator Penrose is a professional office-seeker, and a professional is always more competent than an amateur.

A NEW COLLEGE DECREE FOR PENROSE. Sir—The colleges give honorary degrees each spring. If a few more men like Penrose (Harvard '83) develop his failings, their alma mater will have to join us in administering the sort of dishonorary degrees that the State of Pennsylvania is going to bestow.

FEROUCIOUS PACIFISTS. It is strange to find some of the fiercest advocates of a fight "to the finish" among the advocates of peace. The honest voice of pacifism is found demanding that Germany must be crushed, and its Emperor, perhaps, sent to St. Helena, what seems like vindictiveness explains as really due to a desire for peace.

Banning a Bane. School is on in the big cities of the East and "war" in school has been taboed. In Philadelphia the acting superintendent of the schools, Doctor Brumbaugh, being busy on the hearings has banned all war discussions, all geographical studies pertaining to the battle lines and all narratives of thrilling experiences had by teachers before their flight as refugees.

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