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Political Decency an All-party Issue

POLITICAL righteousness rises above partisanship. The public is learning the lesson every day. Even Penrose will know it by November. Of course, the Senator has never been so devoted to the interests of party as to interfere with his personal comfort or the welfare of his friends. But that partisanship of his on which the liquor interests have justly counted has received a rude blow from another and very different sort of party alliance. The National Popular Government League, itself an organization of men of all political creeds, has voted unanimously to campaign against the election of two notorious candidates, one from each of the two great parties: Roger Sullivan, Democrat, out in Illinois, and Boies Penrose, Republican, here in Pennsylvania. The issue is broader than party. The life and virtue of our political institutions are at stake.

Treat Turkey Fairly but Firmly

WHATEVER course may be taken by the United States in consequence of Turkey's abrogation of the capitulations, it should at least be definite and firm. For obvious reasons there is little continuity in our diplomatic policy, so far as we have one; but that is certainly no reason for hesitancy and wavering in dealing with such a question as that which rises out of the action of the Ottoman Government. Internal conditions in Turkey are much disturbed, as is evidenced by the fact that several of the principal American schools in that country have been cut off from communication with the outside world for more than a week; the manner of the renunciation of the treaties with European nations and the United States is not exactly encouraging to easy diplomatic negotiation; and the conduct of Ambassador Ruzem Bey, which may or may not represent the Turkish attitude toward this country, hardly suggests mildness in our communications with the Government from which he is accredited. As for Ambassador Bey, he has been blandly insolent. Our educational and charitable "interests" in Turkey, which were established under the protection of a treaty now broken, are just as important as large commercial interests could be. The American people know comparatively little, as yet, as to what the Administration has said to Turkey and how it has been said; but there is no doubt that prompt and decisive action on the part of this Government is indispensable to national self-respect and the protection of our "interests" in Turkey.

Reform the Patent Office

NOW that Congress has torn itself rightfully away from the pork barrel, it might turn its attention to some matters in which there is neither political profit nor an opportunity to sandbag the Government. One of these is the American patent system. If any public service needs reorganization it is the patent office. There may be very good reasons for altering much of our attitude toward the vested monopoly of invention, but Congress need touch no such question in order to do good work in readjusting the laws and proceedings by which we try to stimulate inventive genius. Let it merely make the present scheme workable. Yards of red tape should be cut away. The whole method of testing the priority of a patent should be simplified. Now it is only the corporation with endless resources and a multitude of lawyers that can outlive the ten or a dozen mazes of legal proceedings through which a case may be driven. And the public is quite defenseless when a rich company prefers buying and suppressing a patented improvement to using it for the people's benefit.

Trifling with the Telephone

TELEPHONING isn't what it was. It won't even be what it is very long, if the inventors keep on. One of them has spent 11 years on the maniacal job of turning out an attachment to detect the third party who enters in to listen to a little gossip. With 9,000,000 party lines in use in the United States, the misery likely to be caused by this single invention is appalling. Worse still, the same mechanism may be set to cut off a conversation at the end of a certain number of minutes.

Belligerent Footnotes to History

THE writers of each warring nation present a united front against the pens of the enemy, and no quarter is given to persons or peoples who wave a foeman's flag. The literary conflict is interesting to watch. Hugo Muensterberg, who usually backs his German propaganda with the name of Harvard University, presents in one of the October magazines a most engaging picture of "Emperor William, the Man." The Kaiser's sense of humor, the beauty of his domestic life, his marvelous intellectual versatility, which surpasses even that of Theodore Roosevelt; the incomparable magnetism of his personality—all blend in this portrait of "Germany's most delightful man."

PASSED BY THE CENSOR

WHEN King George was still a midshipman in her Majesty's navy and his brother, the Prince of Wales, since dead, was known as "Collars and Cuffs," because of his fondness for those appurtenances of everyday attire, the twin were aboard a ship off Southampton. Wales was a sleepy head, hard to wake, and one morning Prince George found it well nigh impossible to rouse his brother in time for the usual inspection. Finally, driven to desperation, he bawled out: "Hey, Collars, get up! They're singing 'God Save Your Grandmother' already." "History fails to relate whether 'Collars' ever told Grandma Victoria.

Leader or Bandit?

IF WE are ready for a little faith, the situation in Mexico is not so bad as it appears. If we accept Villa's sincerity, he seems to be striving logically for those things that he has always stood for. Consistently, through all his campaigns, he has championed the peon. And he has stood always for a non-military government to perpetuate its reforms. Carranza has not given evidence of carrying out the plans which Villa thinks necessary to the salvation of the peon. The "First Chief" has hesitated to endorse the land program. He has shuffled over the military question; worse, he seems to have kept his personal ambition squarely in the foreground. Villa is demanding—and with what looks like success—that the military leaders, himself included, be eliminated from present or prospective holding of political office.

It is a good stand that Villa has taken. Why does it receive so little endorsement in the United States? Primarily because Americans have lacked faith in his sincerity. They have thought him an ambitious man, bent on self-aggrandizement. The evidence has been his record—or what is said to have been his record—before the revolution. The one word, "bandit," has done the trick. Yet it is well to remember that the very conditions in Mexico against which Villa is fighting are the sort to make our definition of "bandit" next to useless. Many a Revolutionary leader of 1776 was technically a smuggler against the navigation acts of England.

Hail to the Braves!

PHILADELPHIA extends the hand of congratulation to the Boston Braves and promises them a cordial welcome to our city. It is pleasant to have a new foe, the first since the Cubs fell before the mighty prowess of the Athletics. Not the haughty, metropolitan enemy this time, but an embassy from learned, cultured Boston. The world's series of 1914 will be unusually classic. To the Braves all courtesies will be extended; the keys of the Quaker City will be theirs; everything but the title of World's Champions.

Watchful Waiting in the Philippines

SINCE the Spanish war too much partisan rancor has been caused by the Philippine question. Political lines have been too tensely drawn. It may be granted that there are essential and important differences between the two leading parties in respect to their notions of "colonial policy," but broad conceptions of national responsibility have sometimes been subordinated to narrow, bitter partisanship. The real issue which hinges on the Jones bill, now under discussion in Congress, is not "Shall the Philippines ultimately have self-government?" The bill does contain a provision which pledges ultimate self-government; and a promise even of something certain is rather dangerous in a case like this. But the real question is: "Have the Filipinos proved themselves worthy of a more liberal share in their own Government?" That issue does not call for partisan rancor.

State Conscience Wields Power

NOTHING can withstand the irresistible power of the collective conscience when men make an interlocking society of their consciences. Public opinion takes the shape of something that resembles an avalanche in strength. Nothing is more feared by enemies of the public welfare than the combined moral sense of a State. Issues of the campaign are supposed to be determined by this non-partisan morality, which represents the sound good sense of the citizen, who believes that "righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." The illumination of this faculty, which coordinates the human with the divine, ought to be one of the purposes of the present campaign now making appeal to the people of Pennsylvania.

Never talk war with your barber. Perhaps he is one of them.

And besides it is a needless revolution, as we already have a surplus of Mexican films.

It is a pity that the domain of Santa Claus should be in the heart of the war territory.

About now look out for an announcement that the price of coal will be increased because of the scarcity of labor in the mines, due to foreign nationals being drafted into imaginary European armies.

Writes the Colonel to Sulzer: "The reason that I was reluctant to see you instead of continuing to communicate with you by writing, was because I wished to record to arise for failure on your part to recollect just what I had said." Thanks for this longer and more beautiful verbiage!

Britain has yet to learn the lesson which all nations must learn. War is a terrible thing, and the nation which indulges in it must pay the "price that staggers," as President Kruger of the Transvaal put it. And, above all, no war is won until the last battle has been fought.

IN A SPIRIT OF HUMOR

Means to an End
"You taking cornet lessons, and 50 years of age?"
"Yes, but not for long. I expect to bring the young lady next door to terms within a week. She takes singing lessons."

Never Fails

Life's grim perversity appals,
And makes one frown.
The darn fly paper always falls
Sticky side down.
—Kansas City Journal.

Chance for a Stout Lady

From the Chicago Tribune:
Wanted—Woman, clever, to fill vacancy with large corporation.

Happy College Days

"Did you ever do anything wicked at college?" asked the first winceless.
"We once pulled up a bed of timothy weeds, dear," replied the freshmanette.

Modern Poetry

This is a zig zag poem,
It runs up, then down.
(Old Milton didn't know 'em; it makes the printers frown.)

An Unkind Cut

Let us once more take a look adown the vista of time as the years unfold themselves.

A Winner

There was a man in our town
And he was wondrous smart;
There never was an auto that
The fellow couldn't start.

Applied Appellatives

"Mother," asked Tommy, "is it correct to say that you 'water a horse' when he is thirsty?"
"Yes, my dear," said his mother, picking up a saucer. "I'm going to milk the cat."—Ladies Home Journal.

A Useful Invention

"I reckon," said Farmer Contonssel, "as how much barbed-wire ought to be counted as one of the most useful inventions of the age."

How Firm a Foundation

Two Philadelphians were talking of the fortune of a third denizen of that city when one said:

Exposing an Epicure

The epicure provokes a smile;
He bubbles on and will not hush;
He talks champagne and roostbirds while
The doctor feeds him oatmeal mush.
—Washington Star.

Violated Neutrality

"Why, Johnny, what's the matter with you?"
"We had a free fight, mother."

The Open Season for Idiots

The hunters now get in line,
Their turn will soon be here;
And every corner will be sign,
"Don't Shoot Me, I'm No Deer!"
—Cincinnati Enquirer.

If Cost-of-Living bars the way

And throttles Love's sweet tone,
Why, then, to Cupid men will say
"Don't Shoot Me, I'm Immune!"
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Hotel Child

After several years of hotel life, Percival's parents took up their residence in a city suburb.

Constructive Diplomacy

A certain diplomat, perceiving that the peace of the world (loud laughter) depends upon a nicely adjusted equivalence of martial bristling on the part of the Powers severally,

ALTHOUGH THE SEASON OF THY LIFE

DECLINE
Although the season of thy life decline,
And this thy body show her wint'ry night,
These springing suns will grant perpetual light.

CURIOSITY SHOP

The word "factotum," denoting a man of all work, dates back several centuries. Ben Jonson in one of his plays, makes Tip ask: "Art thou the Dominus?" to which the host replies: "Factotum, here, sir." Poinsin, in his "History of the Plots of Our Pretended Saints," 1674, says: "He was so farre the dominus factotum in this junctio that his words were law."

In other days, apothecaries were called by the name of Bohos, because they administered boluses. George Colman adopted this name for his apothecary, who wrote labels in verse, one of which was the celebrated:
"Be well shaken."

But the patient being shaken instead, died.

Although Napoleon I is credited with originating the phrase, "from the sublime to the ridiculous," yet Paine in his "Age of Reason" antedates him as follows:
"The sublime and the ridiculous are often so nearly related that it is difficult to class them separately. One step above the sublime makes the ridiculous, and one step above the ridiculous makes the sublime."

DONE IN PHILADELPHIA

WHEN a small news item announced a few days ago the death of the driver of the first police patrol wagon used in this city I have no doubt that many who read the report were rather astonished to learn that this adjunct to the Police Department had been introduced so long ago as 1884. Another generation has grown up since that time, and it cannot properly appreciate conditions that existed here before this system was introduced.

MAYOR WILLIAM B. SMITH, who did not

dislike the title bestowed upon him of "The dandy Mayor," was responsible for many reforms in the Police Department. When he came into office in 1884—this was before the days of the present city charter—the Mayor did not have the authority which the Bullitt bill has given him. It has been said with more truth than romance that in those days the Mayor was little more than the chief of police so far as his authority went.

Probably that is why Mayor Smith paid so much attention to regenerating the force. There were only about 1500 policemen in 1884, and the city had long outgrown so small a protective force. Even the small army of police today is scarcely adequate. In 1884 the present era of expansion in all directions in the city was beginning, and it became a problem how to protect and patrol so large an area with so small a force.

ONE of the first things that Smith did when he went into office was to reorganize the police dress. He had entirely new uniforms designed, and a part of this new equipment was the helmet, only retired for the more military cap a few years back. He even went so far as to change the buttons on the uniforms, which were not of brass but of a white metal. He introduced service stripes on the sleeves of the men of the force to show how long they had served. New badges were designed, as well as a more modern uniform for the higher officers of the police.

For the first time a physician was attached to the Police Department. Mayor Smith appointed the late Dr. Morris S. French police surgeon, and the first work assigned to him was the physical examination of every man in the department. Lectures on first aid to the injured followed, and Doctor French prepared a little guide for the policeman embodying the main points in these lectures. All this reform, introduced 30 years ago, is in line with modern practice. In cases of accident, or attempted suicide, it is the policeman who is first called to the victim. In the old days he did what he could, but if he were clumsy or had no genius in this line he was worse than useless.

Now all this was changed. He had attended lectures, and where he had failed to understand he found some useful hints in his little book that stood him in good stead at a critical time. He also had been instructed in bandaging; he had directions for restoring persons apparently drowned, and he carried a list of antidotes for the most familiar poisons.

BUT even with all these improvements, the fact remained when a patrolman was taking a prisoner to a police station or an injured person to a hospital, his beat was unprotected for an hour or even as much as three hours. More delay was caused by the necessity of taking "drunks" to the police stations in wheelbarrows, when they were too much under the influence to walk. To reform a condition such as this was a real work of civic betterment, and having learned how successful the police patrol system had worked in Chicago, Mayor Smith advised that the system be adopted here. Late in the year the first patrol wagon was installed in the Third Police District, and its first driver was Alexander Boyd, who died a few days ago.

The system included the telephone, which in 1884 was not in general use even in business places in this city. Consequently the police patrol system was more than a mere reform; it was a radical change. The patrolman went to a little box, telephoned to the station for the wagon and remained at his post. The plan also provided a system by which the police reported every hour to show they were attending to business.

THE introduction of this system was as good as a hundred extra men on the force. By the end of Mayor Smith's term there were eight patrol wagons in the city. There was still need of many more, but he had made a decided step toward efficiency.

At first, when the wagons were a novelty, the drivers believed they were expected to respond as rapidly as a fire engine. As this was found to wear out the horses unnecessarily, after the many runs in the course of the day, a moderate rate of speed was ordered. The plan proved to be the best adjunct to the police department up to that time, and with the introduction of motor wagons the efficiency has been again increased. Although Mayor Smith was impeached, he did a good work, and there are still living persons who believe that he was a "dandy Mayor."

The Kaiser: Bad or Incompetent?

From the Columbia (N. Y.) State:
The Germans continue to protest that they did not want war; that the Kaiser was for peace.

If we grant the truth of the claim one of two conclusions is inevitable:
First, that the Kaiser was grossly incompetent as a conservator of peace and ought to abdicate so that some more intelligent German can go on the job, or—
Second, that practically the rest of Europe was wickedly and insanely eager to make war upon him.

In the latter case it must be confessed that the Emperor has failed to so govern his empire that other nations would not hate it, or else that other nations are altogether bad while righteousness is a German monopoly.

THE IDEALIST

"Prayer," said a simple Japanese convert, "is like the two buckets of a well. When one bucket is sent down empty the other bucket comes up full."
And there we have the true concept of prayer. Not only is it impatience; it is receptive. As one gives one receives.
Two young men were camping in the woods. Neither was what is popularly known as a "churchgoer." They were just two average American boys—healthy, alert and in for a good time.

VIEWS OF READERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

Contributions That Reflect Public Opinion on Subjects Important to City, State and Nation.

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—In view of the fact that the vote in Virginia makes eleven States that have gone prohibition through the non-partisan influence of women on the vote, how can we, who are suffragists, circulate such ridiculous appeals as they sent out recently?

Of the nine suffrage States, none is prohibition but Kansas, and it went dry three years before women got the vote there. Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and California, suffrage States, all rejected prohibition, and Wyoming, where women have voted 45 years, never voted as much as one county "dry." Can Dr. Anna Howard Shaw or any of the other suffrage leaders tell you newspaper why?

If only 88 per cent. of the Colorado women had voted against the saloons in 1912, prohibition would have been more than 6000 votes, without one male ballot in its favor. Why do the women voters there represent true womanhood as well as the male voters have in male suffrage States?

HE WANTS SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—Knowing nothing whatever about the matter, I am, of course, competent to discuss the question of Sunday amusements. I realize at the outset that it is woefully wicked to enjoy one day of a week. I know that seeing a game of baseball or a polo match, or a football game, will send me to eternal damnation. I feel, too, that if I were to spend an hour watching moving pictures of world's events I would waste in the shell of past ages.

And yet, I have a brain, and I would willingly take a chance on the hereafter in order that I might escape a typical Philadelphia Sunday—the dull, more horrifying day of all the week. Truly, I'd rather work than pass a Sunday in this town.

Is there no happy medium on which the Blue Stockings could meet the same Sundayites and arrange for religious observance until, say, 1 o'clock, and decent, orderly amusements after that hour? Or, is this city to remain retroactive and blue-lawsy?
MICHAEL E. PHISTO.
Philadelphia, September 29, 1914.

WHERE IS THE FRENCH NAVY?

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—Like many readers, I have been puzzled to account for lack of a sea battle in the European war. The British fleet, England's great navy to do something spectacular when Churchill first gave it sealed orders. But so far nothing has happened beyond a few petty engagements. Germany's fleet is apparently able, by means of the Kiel canals, to sail back and forth from the North Sea, where England waits to the Baltic, where the Russian navy is not strong enough to do any damage. But where all this time are the French ships? Why not have the French fleet of England, France and Russia been able to close up both ends of the canal and cut Germany off from intercourse with Scandinavia, across the Baltic?

A SHOP GIRL PLEADS GUILTY

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—as a saleslady, I have been much interested in the letters appearing in your columns regarding the treatment of customers. I was pleased, of course, that a shopper should admit her occasional faults; but I feel that she could do quite as much to her to admit that very often we are far from courteous or patient. Sometimes, of course, it is not our fault. Standing all day at work gets on one's nerves. But often we are guilty of "souring on life," and let our feelings on the customer.
F. A. G.
Philadelphia, September 29, 1914.

A COMMISSION FOR PHILADELPHIA

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—There is one very plain lesson from the "marble battle" grab. Philadelphia needs a commission of some kind, the members of which should be able to put her finger squarely on the man or men who plunder her. She needs the chance of electing a few good men like the present Mayor, instead of a drove of nondescript professional politicians, who are slow to see ability and business efficiency in her government. A commission is the way.
H. L. PLUMMER.
Philadelphia, September 29, 1914.

NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW

No greater opportunity has been offered American genius by the exigencies of the European war than is to be found in the great advance of the development of a real dye manufactures.—Washington Times.

Even in baseball it is good to get out of a rut. New York's failure to win the National League pennant this time in succession is from that point of view a boost for the game.—New York Tribune.

Let the suggestion of H. C. Faries, of New York, and rephrase everywhere in America. He says: "To keep every American worker fully employed and every honest American business man prosperous, demand 'made in America' goods. This is self-defense and true patriotism."—Detroit Free Press.

The praises of militarism, still sounded in certain quarters, are strangely like the laudations of negro slavery which were heard in this country on the eve of the Civil War which was to abolish it forever. In both cases, that is to say, what was being dogmatized was a temporary evil which was to be later as the highest good.—New York Evening Post.

The President has been notified that if he insists on the passage of the Government-owned merchant marine bill Congress will not be able to adjourn before the November elections. This means that the ship-subsidy bill is improving their strangle-hold on a Democratic Congress and that it will take a long fight to shake them off. This being the situation, why a surrender rather than a fight?—New York World.

Times of stress produce strong men, and the "Fanchu" Villa of other days is now a strong man of Mexico. If he was a soldier, he would be a general. He is the soldier who destroyed the power of the conspirators who had seized the government. If he was a bandit, nevertheless he has been ordered to the political doctrine of the November elections. He is a tyro in politics, he gives evidence of statesmanship sufficient to lead soldiers to the United States toward offering good will of the United States toward the Mexican people.—Boston Herald.

The administration of the Treasury is a highly educational occupation, and the Secretary is giving signs that he is a highly educated man. The banks have so far sided with Treasury funds have so far abused his trust in them that he had to discipline them privately and that he had to do so publicly. He is moving the funds for a public purpose—the moving of the crops—and they have diverted them into private purposes, the heaping up of excessive profits.—New York Times.