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PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1915

Opportunity is everywhere. If you do not see it, the man behind you will.

A Triumph for Law and Order

DIRECTOR PORTER has taken the police out of politics; he has had a hard time putting the criminals into jail.

Yesterday Judge Sulzberger sent for 35 prisoners, who had been previously sentenced by him to the House of Correction, and resentenced 33 of them to the County Prison. Other transfers are proposed and gradually the law will be complied with.

It has been the contention of the Director of Public Safety that the leniency of the courts was destroying the efficiency of the police. The suspended sentence has been a privilege abused, and the attitude of certain judges toward habitual criminals has seriously interfered with the preservation of law and order in the city. Nothing is so likely to induce activity among the criminal classes as the knowledge that the courts are antagonistic to the police.

The vindication of Director Porter's position has been prompt and emphatic. It should have the effect of clarifying the whole situation and making the enforcement of law and order in the community an easier task.

Vagaries of Super-Neutrals

THERE is a vast difference between an embargo on wheat and an embargo on munitions of war. The one would be enforced for the maintenance of our own food supplies, to prevent a shortage of bread and also to keep the price within reasonable limits. An embargo on munitions of war, however, would deprive artisans of work, thereby adding to the number of unemployed, and, in addition, it would overthrow all precedents of neutrality and put us in the very definite attitude of assisting Germany deliberately.

The trade of the United States cannot stop because Europe happens to be at war. Nor is there any reasonableness in the assumption that we are prolonging the struggle by offering an open market to all nations. The contrary is more likely to be true. Futhermore, it is essential that we maintain stoutly the doctrine of the open market, for the time may come when this nation itself in the agony of war may depend in large part on supplies from abroad.

There is a class so anxious to be superneutral that it actually advocates absolutely unneutral acts. It is important that this class be not permitted to lure the Government into an indefensible course. There is little likelihood that it will be able to do so.

Let Us Hope That This Is True

MEAT is to be cheaper, according to the statisticians of the Argicultural Department, because the number of meat cattle is increasing. Let us hope that their anticipations will be realized. The number of meat animals has been decreasing for several years. If that decrease has been checked the gain is considerable, but if it has been turned into an increase, the price of meat certainly will not go any higher. The demand has been greater than the supply for a long time, so that there can be a large increase in the supply without satisfying the needs of the market. But the housewives, who have been watching their meat bills grow for the past 10 years, may now be thankful for the promise that they will not get bigger.

Mexico a Shambles

THE spectre of famine rides jauntily with anarchy down the streets of the City of Mexico. Each successive corps of bandits finds the pickings a little less rich in the capital, the people a little more desperate.

Our passion for Mexican freedom has resolved itself into chaos for Mexico. Out of its terrible and prolonged sufferings there may arise a stable government, for in coming into being nations must pass through agonies, yet so bitter has been the experience of the country, through a century of nominal republicanism, that even optimists are doubtful. They wonder if peace can ever again reign in that distracted territory until the strong hand of a neighbor has lifted it up. It will come to that eventually, for there is no other process that offers any hope.

Mexico is a shambles and the Mexicans have a right to make it so. That is the result of our humanitarianism. A rural inhabitant rushed madly over to the Cawkins farm. "Help," he cried, "old man Shules is on a tear and beating his wife to death." "Well," yawned Mr. Cawkins, "it's his wife, ain't it?"

Nation Speaks Through the President

THE undoubted sentiment of the nation found a voice when the President vetoed the immigration bill because of its literacy test. The glory of America has been that it was the land of opportunity. Millions to whom the door was shut in Europe have crossed the ocean to find as wide a field for their growth as that growth demanded. Every immigrant has had to pass the test of initiative enough to tear himself from his old surroundings and the test of courage enough to travel 3000 miles into a new world to begin his life over again. Only those who have had that courage and that initiative have come. The exceptions are so few that they are not worth considering, and the law already covers all undesirables by excluding the criminals and the insane, and others who are likely to become a burden.

National tradition for more than a century has been that only tests of character and quality should be applied to those who seek to make a home here. But the bill which the President has disapproved applies, as he says, "not the tests of quality or character or of personal fitness, but tests of opportunity." He refuses to be a party to any program intended to deny admission to immigrants because in the Old World they have lacked opportunities of which they were so desirous that they have been willing to tear themselves up by the roots and come here in search of them. If the nation were polled it would support him by an overwhelming majority.

And now we shall see how Congress will pass the test of its own representative character which the President has put up to it. Does it represent the sentiment of the mass of the people, or is it afraid of the voluble and vociferous minority of restrictionists and limitarians?

Twenty-five Men Can Do It

"BILLY" SUNDAY says that he cou'd name 25 men in this city, who, "if they'd take their stands tomorrow for Jesus Christ," would be followed within a week by 10,000 other men "into the kingdom of glory."

"That's how 25 men can damn or benefit Philadelphia," he said.

Twenty-five men possibly can damn this city to a continuance of the disgraceful political conditions that have prevailed for a generation.

Twenty-five men can lift it out of the ruck of machine government into the high road of honesty and efficiency.

It is not necessary to name the 25 men. Every Philadelphian can make a list of representative citizens who have sat idly by and consented to the betrayal of the community to the gang. Their voices have been silent when political scandals were stalking unashamed through the public offices. When the indignant people were looking vainly for leaders they have remained in their own libraries, or in the lounging rooms of the clubs, wearily turning from the outrageous revelations in the newspapers, to read the stock quotations or the report of the latest hunt meet.

They have been guilty of the offense of indifference to the honest government of their own city. The power to cure the evils rested in their hands, as it rests there now, and the responsibility which goes with power was shirked. The city has been left to the tender mercies of unscrupulous men whose only interest in government is in the money they can make out of it.

There are 25 "big" men here, who, if they will, can drive the political mercenaries into hiding.

If they will only "hit the trail" of civic righteousnesss, not 10,000, but 50,000, honest voters will follow them on election day and give to this city such legislative administration as it has not had for many years.

They can damn the city by their neglect to fulfil the obligations of their citizenship, or they can bless it by acting like men.

The city is ripe for councilmanic reform to supplement the reform in executive government of which it has been so rich a beneficiary.

The leaders who have made it great commercially and professionally can make it a political model if they will only bestir themselves in the impending crisis.

Supremacy of American Wives

MILLIONS of American men have paid the highest possible compliment to American women by asking them to be their wives. Scores of distinguished Englishmen have ratified the judgment of the Americans that American women are the finest in the world by marrying American wives. They early discovered that there is nothing easier to look at than a charming American girl and nothing more delightful to live with than a gracious and amiable American wife.

Much has been written on the influence the American wives have had on the careers of their English husbands, and many of these transplanted women have been able by their grace and tact to smooth the way for advancement for men who, if left to themselves, would have blundered along for years without knowing that they needed a diplomatic pilot.

The luncheon, therefore, which Queen Mary is about to give in honor of the American wife of Vice Admiral Beatty is a tribute not only to the splendid achievements of the officer in the battles with the Germans in the North Sea, but it is also a tribute to the women of a sister nation who have left their native shores to ally themselves with foreigners. Even if Queen Mary does not agree with their husbands that the American wives are the finest in the world, she is willing at any rate to admit that they are equal to the British.

Do Not Disgrace the Liberty Bell

THE transcontinental junket, planned by Councils, on the pretext of escorting the Liberty Bell to the Panama Fair, would be a national disgrace. If the Councilmen wish to go to San Francisco this summer they should pay their own way, and go as private citizens and not as representatives of the city.

And the Bell should not go at all. Its condition is such that it is not safe to subject it to the strain of a 6000-mile journey by rail. Standing at rest beneath the tower from which it pealed forth the news of the birth of a new nation, it has to be guarded with care lest it collapse. It is contrary to reason to expect it to be moved and jolted about for two weeks without suffering irreparable damage.

The Bell is one of the most precious relics in the country. It should not be disgraced by being used as the excuse for a junket by a group of petty politicians.

Germany and England are each saying to the other, "I hurt you worse in that North Sea battle than you hurt me."

An increase in the payrolls of 10 per cent. this week is the measure of the prosperity wave that is rolling up the beach at Homestead.

Experienced iron men say that steel is either a prince or a pauper. The holders of United States Steel common just now feel as if the prince had donned his rags.

If John D. Rockefeller, Jr., by the simple expedient of an hour's gracious listening to Mother Jones, can transform her from a bitter opponent into a friend he is something more than just a rich man's son.

If the Lower Merion Township Commissioners object to being "joshed" about the disclosures of the Civic Association, they may make similar disclosures impossible in the future by preventing the occurrence of anything to uncover.

THERE ARE JOKERS EVEN IN CONGRESS

Joking Aside, Didn't John Fitch Build and Operate the First Real Steamboat? He Made a Trip From Philadelphia to Trenton in 1786.

By EDWARD W. TOWNSEND

IT IS interesting to consider whether or not a display of wit by a member of Congress in his official capacity aids or harms him. I feel somehow that that remark will evoke the comment that Congressmen could not display a quality they do not possess.

But that is not a good answer. There are a number of members, not very many, who at times do display wit of a first class order, and I fancy that there are a great many others who could, but judge it unwise to do so. However, I have in mind that a Representative from New Jersey, now a Senator from that State, William Hughes, once made a witty remark which perhaps as much as anything else he ever did brought him a favorable prominence which helped to his election to the Senate. We were discussing a Spanish war pension bill, which would add, I think, something like $8,000,000 to the annual pension expenditure, when Senator Hughes, himself a Spanish War veteran, remarked, "I feel certain that if I aided in the passage of this bill it would insure my reelection to Congress as long as I wish to stay here, but I cannot refrain from the confession that an outlay of $8,000,000 of the taxpayers' money is too much to pay to insure my re-election to the House."

Wit Helps Harmony

Cooper, of Wisconsin, one of the veterans of the House, a tall, straight, 65-year-old youngster, a musician and a very keen critic of music, has a wit with which he not infrequently convulses the House, and in the Foreign Affairs Committee, on which I serve with him, his wit helps to maintain amiable relations peculiarly necessary in that committee, because it is the only committee making appropriations in which members of all parties work together.

And then there is Martin Dies, of Texas, one of the few members who always draws in others from the lobbies and smoking rooms when he talks. Dies takes a whimsical view of the strenuous efforts of members to secure items of appropriations in the rivers and harbors bill, and he could, I think, kill that bill and not leave the execution to Senator Burton. But Texas gets mighty appropriations for river and harbor improvement, and Dies is too wise to vent his wit on the bill. So it is good fun to watch him, such times as that bill is under discussion, refraining by a mighty effort from strangling appropriations—even those for his own State.

Swager Sherley, of Kentucky, one of the real orators in the House and a hard-working member of the Appropriations Committee, being the chairman of that committee's subcommittee on fortifications, fails to produce the full effect of his great ability as a speaker by an occasional display of asperity of temper. But he has wit, too. When he was discussing his resolution proposing a budget committee, Bull Moose Murdock interrupted with a suggestion that under a budget scheme, as under the present scheme, Congress would still receive from the various executive departments "a maximum demand for appropriations."

Sherley promptly responded, "Yes, but that largely represents an appetite rather than a theory of government."

Not Robert Fulton, but John Fitch

W. F. Sadler, Jr., who is Adjutant General of the New Jersey State Militia, has brought to my attention a matter which I eagerly pass on to the nation at large in the cheerful hope that it will serve temporarily at least to displace the European war as a topic of discussion. General Sadler called my attention to a House bill providing for the erection of a memorial to Robert Fulton in honor of his service to transportation as the first man to use the power of steam to propel a ship in American waters. General Sadler proceeds in a forthright manner to set up a historical claim for a some-time citizen of Trenton who, he maintains, operated a steamboat under an exclusive privilege granted by the New Jersey Legislature before the time of Fulton's boat. General Sadler writes:

"I suppose that you know that the man who invented and first operated a steamboat was John Fitch, who was born in Connecticut and at one time resided in Trenton; that he operated his boat between Philadelphia and Trenton in 1786, 20 years before the Fulton boat ran on the Hudson; that in 1786 the State of New Jersey granted him the exclusive privilege to operate steamboats on their navigable waters; that shortly thereafter a controversy arose between Fitch and a man by the name of Rumsey, and that Rumsey's claims were proved to be false after having been investigated by a committee appointed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania and a committee appointed by the Legislature of our State.

The Documentary Evidence

"I have in my possession the original petition of Fitch, asking for the right to operate his boats, the original certificate of those who accompanied Fitch on the first trip that his boat made, and a number of other very interesting original documents relative to the matter.

"I do not know whether you are interested, but it seems to me that if Congress is going to do anything in regard to erecting a monument, that it should honor Fitch rather than Fulton, who got his ideas from him."

I asked General Sadler to submit some proofs. And, if you please, he responds promptly with a photographic reproduction of a petition by John Fitch "To the honorable, the Legislative Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

"Petitioning, That your honors will be pleased to grant him the exclusive privilege of constructing boats impelled by the force of steam and the advantage arising from that discovery for such length of time as your Honorable body seems proper."

This was dated Trenton, N. J., March 14, 1786. Appended to this petition is a statement signed by 12 New Jerseymen, which recites: "We the subscribers having examined the Principles of the steamboat constructed by John Fitch, are of opinion that it may be the means of improving the inland navigation of these States to great advantage, and therefore that it deserves the protection and encouragement of the Legislature."

Among the signers to this is Samuel W. Stockton, of that family of New Jersey Stocktons who have ever been prominent in naval and military affairs, and of John Stevens, Jr., whom I take to be a member of that Hudson River Stevens family. But that is not all. General Sadler is having photographed for me the act granting Fitch the exclusive privilege to operate boats in New Jersey, and photographs of other evidential documents. Now, can it be that the world is in error in this matter, and that to a New Jerseyman, Captain John Fitch, and not the New Yorker, must go the credit of having first operated a boat by the power of steam?

THERE WAS SOMETHING UNDER THAT HAT

VERSIFIED PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Effervescent Puns—Chemistry in the Metre of the Rubaiyat.

Edwin E. Slosson in the Independent.

If I should ever get into the British Who's Who, which requires a specification of one's recreations, I should be obliged to put down mine as "teaching physical science to Freshmen in Journalism." It's more fun than you would think. More work, too, for I can't say that they study harder or are quicker on the uptake than ordinary students. But they are more unexpected in their reaction. Lecturing to the class is like dropping a reagent into a row of test tubes containing unknowns. Sometimes there is a precipitate, sometimes effervescence, sometimes nothing. The effervescence usually takes the form of puns and poetry, somewhat to the student's disadvantage, for metrical physics commands no premium since the days of Lucretius. But when I look over the papers on gravitation I come across this thrown in as a sort of lagnappe or pourboire:

Sir Isaac Newton underneath a tree,
A bunch of facts whose wisdom I can't see,
And Doctor Slosson handing out a quiz—
Yep, wilderness looks pretty good to me!

The long, long thoughts of adolescence seem to fall most naturally into the meter of the Rubaiyat. In among the equations of a notebook I found the following from some belated Rosicrucian:

'Tis all a chemistry of night and day
Where alchemists supreme with humans play.
Ignite within us one great cosmic ray
That makes us human souls—not living clay.

By what innate perversity of mind teachers manage to ask the wrong questions is always a source of wonderment and grief to the rising generation. This emotion found poignant expression in these verses written in a quiz-book whose pages left, alas, all too much opportunity for such impromptu addenda:

Sometimes I think that Doctor Slosson hates me,
For all the term he has done naught but task me.
The question that I know—how it aggravates me!—
Is aye the one that he will never ask me.

I tried cutting down the time of the quiz to 10 minutes, but even that did not result in pure prose, for even while I was collecting the papers this quatrain is precipitated on the test paper:

Here is a question I fain would ask,
The answer you've not yet taught,
If you give me a naught on this quiz on air
Does it make me an aeronaut?

Deploring this dissipation of energies so much needed in other directions, I determined that if another outbreak occurred any measures of retaliation short of war would be justified to put a stop to the practice. So when these lines appeared on the back of a quiz-book:

Doctor pray give me a "C"
Or you'll be upbraided,
For if you grade this a "D"
I'll feel D-graded.

I administered the following as an antitoxin:

You'll get a "C"
In chemistry,
Yet might have done much better;
But for this curse
Of writing verse
You'd have a superior letter.

But eve., this awful example did not afford relief. Chronic paranomasia is doubtless incurable by anything short of 10,000 volts. On the final examination these verses appeared:

I can tell you the compounds of sulfur
Or the reason why diamonds are hard,
Why oxidized metals are dull for
I'm a regular chemical bard;

I can tell you and most precisely
The complex components of air,
Or figure out quickly and nicely
How long bunco jewelry'll wear.

Perhaps you're aghast at my knowledge
And think I'm of uncommon clay,
Fret not! I spent two years at college
And two years in chemistry A.

(P. S.—Please pardon the frivolity—it sizzled up—like CO2.)

A Bonfire of Blessings

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Don't make a bonfire of your blessings and call the ashes "Trouble."

WAR NEWS OF FORTY-FOUR YEARS AGO

The Fall of Paris as Reported in the Cable Dispatches—Incidents of the Close of the Franco-Prussian War and the Beginning of the Franco-Prussian Hatred.

FORTY-FOUR years ago today the newspapers printed the news of the fall of Paris. Though not the decisive event of the Franco-Prussian War, and though military operations did not entirely cease until the capitulation of Belfort on February 16, it really marked the end. The capital surrendered January 28, 1871, something like half a year from the declaration of war. An armistice had been arranged.

The war had helped Bismarck's plan of German unity. By the treaty of peace France lost Alsace and Lorraine. She also had to pay an indemnity of 5,000,000,000 francs. An American historian wrote a few years ago: "The bitter feeling of the French for the Germans dates from this war, and the longing for revenge still shows itself."

War news in those days was different from what it is today. The PUBLIC LEDGER of Monday morning, January 30 (there was no Sunday PUBLIC LEDGER then), carried, after the summary of "The Latest News," the following head:

BY ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.
The Capitulation of Paris—An Armistice Agreed Upon.

Then the story:

"LONDON, Jan. 29, 4:30 p. m.—The Emperor William has sent the following dispatch to the Empress Augusta:

"'VERSAILLES Jan. 29, 2 p. m.—Last night an armistice for three weeks was signed. The Regulars and Mobiles are to be retained in Paris as prisoners of war. The National Guard will undertake the maintenance of order. We occupy all the forts. Paris remains invested, but will be allowed to revictual as soon as the arms are surrendered. The National Assembly is to be summoned to meet at Bordeaux in a fortnight. All the armies in the field will retain their respective positions—the ground between the opposing lines to be neutral. This is the reward of patriotism and great sacrifices. Thank God for this first mercy! May peace soon follow. Signed,

"'WILHELM.'

"LONDON, Jan. 29, 5:30 p. m.—A Versailles dispatch just received says that the 12th Saxon Corps at 10 o'clock this morning occupied Forts Romainville, Noisy, Rosny and Nogent. The Bavarians occupied Charenton, Montrouge, Vanvres, and the Silesians Forts Ivry and Bicetre.

"Paris is to pay 1,000,000 francs.

William I and Bismarck Confer

"LONDON, Jan. 27.—The following particulars have been received of the first visit of Favre to the German headquarters at Versailles. It appears that Favre arrived at Versailles on January 23 at 5 p. m., in Bismarck's carriage, which was sent to the Prussian outposts for him. He was much fatigued, but drove at once to the Chancellor's office, where after a long interview he took dinner with Bismarck. The latter held a conference with the Emperor at 11 p. m. Odo Russell, representative of the British Foreign Office, was apprised beforehand of the approaching visit of Favre.

"LONDON, Jan. 27.—M. Favre was in conference with Bismarck at midnight, and the latter carried his point. The capitulation involves peace, the cession of Alsace and German Lorraine, and part of the fleet; a money indemnity to be guaranteed by the municipalities; a portion of the German army to return home, and the war is to cease. It is necessary that some territory be retained, to secure the fulfillment of the compact. The Mobiles are to be sent home, and the German army is to enter Paris. The Emperor will return immediately to Berlin."

Then follow two dispatches, as brief as the foregoing ones, on the negotiations for the preliminary armistice arranged between Bismarck and Favre. One quotes a London Times dispatch from Versailles:

Riots in Paris

"VERSAILLES, Jan. 27.—An armistice has been agreed upon, which is to extend immediately to the whole of France. There was great agitation in Paris last night, and the beating of drums and shouts of the multitude within the walls were plainly heard.

"LONDON, Jan. 28.—It is stated in diplomatic circles that negotiations for the capitulation of Paris would have been concluded earlier had not Bismarck insisted on the acceptance of conditions of peace.

Berlin Rejoices

"LONDON, Jan. 29.—Berlin is rejoicing today over the news from Versailles. No confirmation of the reports of the capitulation was received there last night, and it was only this morning that the announcement of the actual signing of the terms was received. The first official dispatch was read in the churches."

In the same issue of the PUBLIC LEDGER were a few brief dispatches telling of the military operations around Paris for the few days preceding January 28, and in other parts of France.

On Tuesday morning the following was printed:

"VERSAILLES, Jan. 30.—A cordon is drawn around Paris, and no person is allowed to enter or leave without a permit from the German authorities. The revictualing of the city will proceed under German supervision. Confidence is expressed at the German headquarters that peace will be insured. The German soldiers are chagrined at being prohibited from entering Paris."

The war news of that day occupied less than quarter of a column.

Glad to See Peace

The PUBLIC LEDGER of the day following the news of the capitulation of the French capital said, in the course of a half-column editorial:

"After the week of rumors concerning negotiations for the surrender of Paris, a telegram dated January 27, published yesterday, announced that 'the capitulation of Paris has been signed,' which was soon followed by another, dated 29th, announcing a truce of three weeks by land and sea and the probable end of the war. That this may end the war every one, including all the friends of both France and Germany, should earnestly hope. Whatever may be the feeling of humiliation or profound regret over the spectacle of France proatrated, and her proud capital in the possession of a victorious enemy, there should be a sentiment of universal relief that the end has actually come to the sacrifices, the destruction of property, the sufferings, the loss of life to the people of both nations.

"Outside of all the dreadful casualties of battle in the constant and desperate fighting of the last two months, a single brief item in the latest news from Paris tells a sorrowful story. The deaths within the city for the week ending January 29 were four thousand four hundred and thirty-five. As the population of Paris does not exceed three times the population of this city, where the deaths last week were but 280, the deaths in Paris under ordinary circumstances should not have been over nine or ten hundred at the outside; but they are between four and five times that many. What a story does this unfold, of food that poisoned the springs of life, instead of feeding them; of hunger, privation, wretchedness, misery and suffering in some of its most horrid forms—and this suffering not confined to the victims numbered in the weekly death list, but extending in greater or less degree to all of the two millions of inhabitants of the once gay and luxurious city! Who can fail to feel a strong sense of relief over the prospect of an immediate end to this? * * *

"Making all allowances to the supreme ability of the leadership of the Germans under Moltke and Bismarck, there would seem to have been some lack of statesmanship there also. There has been a visible effort to give more consideration to the demonstration of their power than to what ought to have been the superior objects of the war. We feel persuaded that they could have put an end to the war in October by the exercise of a little more forebearance, and we question very much whether what they have gained since, although they have laid France prostrate at the feet of Germany, is at all commensurate with the fearful cost of that display of overwhelming power. * * *"