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CLASS MAIL MATTER.

PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1915. The extravagant wife throws more out of the

back door with a teaspoon than the husband can get in at the front door with a shovel.

Policemen More Necessary Than Councils THE Director of Public Safety wants 1000 additional policemen. The crime thermometer rises in periods of unemployment; 1000 men given steady jobs would reduce unemployment and crime, too. The situation. therefore, offers a double reason for granting the Director's request. Besides, unless 500 patrolmen are added to the force at once it will be necessary to return to the two platoon system, which means a 12-hour instead of an 8-hour day for present members

There has probably been no greater increase in crime in Philadelphia than elsewhere. All large cities have been infested this winter with an unusually large number of social delinquents. But it is true that in some sections police protection is so inadequate as to amount to no protection at all. Thieves have done their will without interruption. Cracksmen and others have worked with more or less impunity. Great as is the efficiency of the force, one man has but two eyes and two legs and cannot be in more than one place at once. It is simply a question of more officers of the law or a continued violation of law.

The situation is so plain that Councils should not hesitate a minute. But it will hesitate, and delay, and pussy-foot along in an exasperating way, unless all signs fall. The reason? Mr. McNichol and some of his friends cannot get out of their heads the idea that the police are still in politics. One might suspect that they feared lest the nests of criminals had been stirred up by the Administration as a mere device to get more policemen wherewith to intimidate voters next fall. So it is considered good politics to leave the town at the mercy of thieves until after the next election. As to what will go on then and how, no prediction is possible until the votes have been counted. The city really could get along better without Councils than without an adequate police force.

Waiting for the Three Tribunes

TN A report from Harrisburg, relative to the reconvening of the Legislature, it is naively stated that "unless Senators Vare, McNichol and Crow return from Florida early in the week little but routine legislation will be acted on." Yet the Commonwealth goes to the trouble

of electing scores of legislators and paying them salaries. How much simpler and cheaper it would be to have these three great tribunes of the people do their lawmaking directly without the use of intermediaries.

It has been suggested, too, that instead of the Legislature recessing while Vare, Mc-Nichol and Crow take a vacation in Florida, it would be a saving of time to have the other part of the lawmaking body go South likewise. Doubtless an appropriation of State money could be secured to erect a suitable assembly hall at St. Lucie.

No Landlubber Governance at Sea

THE seamen's bill is a perfectly good cold water spray for capitalists who have been thinking of investing money in American bottoms. It has the great merit of violating many of our most important international agreements, wherefore it is certain to involve us in disputes with foreign Powers. It further penalizes American ships, increasing the cost of operation, and it has the additional advantage of being as ill-suited to the necessities of the situation as any meas-

Farmers make laws for cities; city statesmen legislate for farmers; landlubbers prescribe rules and regulations for the governance of those who go down to the seas in ships. The man who does not know the difference between a life raft and a life boat delights to determine how many of each a ship shall carry and "safety at sea" becomes a slogan of such tremendous force that it floats to passage a bill which experience and logic have shot through and through with hoiss.

The President is not a seaman, but he ought not to be fooled by so palpable a masquerade as this seamen's bill is. He should treat it as he did the immigration bill by indignantly vetoing it.

The Blockade Proclaimed at Last

AMERICAN relations with the belligerent Powers will be simplified if the blockade of German ports proclaimed by the British Is made effective. A paper blockade may be disregarded with impunity, according to all the international pre edents. That is, there must be something more than a proclamation that the enemy ports are closed to all ship ping. There must be a sufficient force of warships to intercept all merchant vessels seeking to enter the interdicted harbor.

The Allies certainly can make an effective blockade, if they set about it. The French and British fleets ought to be able, not only to prevent merchant ships from entering therman ports, but to prevent German warwhim from getting out to sea. The blockade will not be effective unless it works both

We may expect, therefore, to see greater unval activity in the North Sea than has been shown thus far. The fleets must be moved closer to the Continent and must be prepared for any emergency, or the profits of lactude gunning will attract adventurous raptains and lead to many disputes over the regions of neutrule to trade with the beilig-

starys Girmely into submission, and to con- I wheat association.

serve the food supplies of the world for the Allies. Russia has \$0,000,000 bushels of wheat at Odessa which will be shipped to France and England as soon as the way to the Black Sea is forced by the flest operating in the Dardanettes. The release of this mass of food grain will relieve the pressure in the United States, and should be followed by a rapid fall in the price of wheat here and prevent the disaster of six-cent bread in the homes of the poor. So, saide from any interest in the fortunes of either of the groups of belligerent Powers, every American should look with eager expectation to the success of the naval campaign in the Turkish

Incidentals Must Not Obscure the Main Issue in the Transit Fight

A SIDE from the personal factor which has been injected into the fight for rapid transit, one big fact stands out. It is that last May the P. R. T. recognized the Taylor program as practicable, reasonable and feasible, from an engineering as well as a financial viewpoint, and presumably considered it also the best possible plan for the realization of the hopes of Philadelphia.

The achievement of the agreement then entered into, Mr. Stotesbury declares, was "our expectation and desire, AND STILL IS."

Mr. Stotesbury, it will be observed, enters no objection to the plan. He is merely doubtful of the ability of his own company to finance its part of the undertaking, owing to conditions in the money market and because the credit of the company, he avers, has been attacked. It is but fair to observe that the campaign for transit was remarkably free from assaults on the P. R. T. Not until last week was a demand made for a statement from the company, a statement which obviously was necessary both for the protection of the company and the interests

Be it remembered that the city proposes to spend more than \$45,000,000 in the building of high-speed lines. So vast a property is to be turned over to the operating company, upon investment by it of a quarter as much, under specific guarantees against loss. The credit of the institution would be enhanced by participation in so favorable an arrangement, not injured.

The situation is not different from what it was last week. There is an illegal and trick ordinance before Councils. It is the business of the people to see that this ordinance is defeated and the original legal ordinances substituted in its stead. The time has passed when participation by the P. R. T. is essential, however desirable it may be. The construction, not the operation, of the new lines is the subject under consideration. This construction must be assured by the passage of proper legislation.

There is not less but greater reason now why there should be a monster outpouring of citizens Thursday afternoon. Councils must be made to see what public opinion really is and compelled to respond to it. No man who is for rapid transit can afford to be absent from that demonstration. The fight is on. It must not be lost by default. The city must not be made the victim of jugglers and tricksters. Now is the time for Philadelphia to get rapid transit if it is ever going to get it.

A Poor Reserve Is Better Than None TT IS unfortunate that the organization of A a first line of reserves should be left to private initiative. But it is fortunate that private citizens are taking enough interest in the subject to begin the formation of an American Legion to serve as such a reserve. The plan, which has the indorsement of the active officers of both the army and the navy, provides for the collstment of all men with military training and all men who are able to take care of themselves in the open, together with machinists, electricians, engineers, photographers, chauffeurs, blacksmiths and men skilled in all the trades and crafts involved in the maintenance of an army in the field. These men will be required to do no more than to express their willingness to respond to a call when they are needed, to report by mail to division quarters four times a year and to pay 25 cents annually to defray the cost of keeping the

records. The purpose is to prepare for emergencies by securing the promise of patriotic citizens to do their part. No reasonable person can find any objection to this plan, save the general objection to war. But even that argument against military preparedness will not held in this case, for there is no intention to increase the size of the army or the navy, no plan to encourage military drill or to do any of those things which offend the pacifists. It is merely to find out how many men there are ready to respond in case their services are needed. As army reserves go this will be a pretty poor excuse for such a line of defense. But it will be better than nothing,

That riot in Jacob Langeloth's model town

March came in, not like the roaring lion of the fable, but about as the British lion will feel if the Germana win.

It is understood that the proposed hospital in the financial district of New York is for the accommodation of the lambs who were clipped too close in the shearing process.

We are impressed with the bigness of this great country when we read that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was played in Red Lion, York County, for the first time a few days ago.

If the prairie dogs guess wrong on the weather, the head of the Weather Bureau, who is a man gifted with brains instead of instincts, may be excused for his frequent miscalculations. Perhaps if he trusted to his bones he might guess right oftener.

The managers of the Panama-Pacific Fair ought to send a resolution of thanks to the Kaiser for his submarine campaign. It has frightened tourists from the Atlantic and compelled them to look elsewhere to spend their spare cash. Much of it will be used in seeing America first.

The hunt in New York for a "conspiracy" to raise the price of wheat has failed. If the search were continued over to Europe it would doubtless be found that the real reason for the war was the desire of the Euro-The blockade is intended, of course, to pean statemen to turn a pretty penny in

POLITICS BUBBLES AS CONGRESS ENDS

The Good-by Love Feast in Washington-Senator Burton Planning a World Tour-Vice President Marshall's Dangerous Little Joke.

By J. C. HEMPHILL

As CONGRESS approaches its end politics begins to bell and bubble, not the politics of debate in the open by the members intent only upon "making a record" for the people back home, nor of the caucus with the majority beating down budding insurrection; but the politics of turning what has been said in debate and caucus to "popular" ac-

Of course, on the last night of the session there will be a sort of love feast at which Minority Leader Mann, Republican, will rise at his place and say how much he really thinks of Speaker Clark and Bull Moose Leader Victor Murdock on positively his last appearance, and the Speaker and Mr. Murdock will say how Mr. Mann has brightened their lives and made the days and weeks and months and years of the present Congress "one long sweet dream." There will be tears and love for the Pops, and love and tears for the Fops, and it will all he just as sincere as anything this Congress

pass out will never be heard of again in a of them are not going.

Before Kansas Was Discovered

The House is too big for a deliberative body, it is hig enough for a convention, but it is too unwieldy for effective work. This s what Representative Phil Campbell, of Kansas, told the University Club last week, He would cut down the number of Congressmen to about 141, and that would be quite enough to do good and thorough work if there could be any way of assuring the country that the 141 would be less worthless than the 435 who now encumber the payrolls of the Government. How Mr. Campbell hit upon 141 as the right number is not knownthe number of Representatives in the Second Congress in 1800 was 142, and that was "some Congress," as the saying goes. But that was 115 years ago, long before Kansas was discovered, which is why it is worth knowing that out of Kansas in this age of big business has come the solemn thought that mere bigness is not real greatness.

who supported him for the nomination withwere doing something for themselves. There as if they really meant it.

this time how much they have been benefited, and are only thinking this one thought; When the Democrats are in power the country is in distress; when the Republicans are in power the people are prosperous.' It is on this one issue that the next presidential contest will be waged. The facts are here; seeing is believing. Any Republican can be elected.

Burton Around the World

the Senate on March 4, Mr. Burton will leave the United States for a trip around the world. and when he comes back in time for the presto take the leadership of his party, and unless all my gifts of prophecy fail, his return

home will be a sort of triumphal entry. He

will not make a speech at Madison Square

Garden advocating dangerous dectrines to de-

stroy the business interests of the country,

but he will tell his countrymen how they can

deliver themselves from the evil spell that has

The same Republican authority said fur-

ther: "Mr. Taft is gaining every day. More

people are talking about him in a friendly

way than ever before. He has behaved so

splendidly in all things since he left the

White House, has talked so sensibly on all

public questions, has kept his head when all

about him were losing theirs, has reproached

none of his former opponents, that he has won

his way into the hearts and consciences of all

his old party associates. Could be be elected?

Why, without half trying. Will be get the

nomination? That's different. Does he want

it? I don't know. But any Republican can

There has been a good deal of quiet fun

about what Vice President Marshall said on

a recent festive occasion here. The story is

that in the course of a variously appreciated

speech he said something like this: "In 1876

we elected Samuel J. Tilden President of the

United States, and you fellows cheated us

out of the election. I want to say now that

in 1916 you won't have to cheat us out of the

or, as another version has it, "We are going

to force you to take it." But, of course, as

anybody can see, the Vice President was

WAR INSURANCE

It Is Paid in Higher Wages on Ships

Transferred to the American Flag.

Mr. SWANSON. I desire to call up the un-

Mr. GALLINGER. Will the Senator from

Mr. SWANSON. I will yield temporarily to

Mr. GALLINGER. I ask unanimous con-

sent to place in the Record a statement con-

cerning the wages on foreign and American

United States Senator, Washington, D. C.

States Steel Corporation, has been referred to us for attention, as this company is the sub-

sidiary of the corporation which owns the for

eign-built steamers recently transferred to the

of wages on our steamers and the percentage

fixed, being same on all steamers.

year, payable annually January 1, on al a clean record for the previous months.

cisco is quoted as an example;

Crem.

Donkeyman

parison.

From the Chicago Herald.

learning the same lesson.

Safe-navigation money to captains, \$300 per

The wages of the following members of the crew vary on the different steamers, depend-

ing upon the supply available and the port at which signed on. The steamship San Fran-

Owing to the unsettled conditions which have

prevailed throughout the world since the out-break of the present war in Europe, the in-creased cost of operation in the other depart-

ments can not be fairly stated, as we have no basis upon which to make a definite com-

WHAT MEXICO MUST LEARN

The Chinese government has given a pardor

to Dr. Sun Yat Sen and other leaders who

helped create the republic. It has invited them

to return and accept high office on the sole

condition that they take the oath of allegiance. In brief, China is beginning to learn the fundamental fact that all government is compromise and that a republic means toleration. It is a pity that Maxico gives no indications of learning the same learning.

OF THE SAME BREED

It's better than an even bet that the man who rushes by your open bedroom window every morning at 5.30 with his auto muffler cut out would block the alale with his feet if he were

United States Steel Products Co.

John Hughes, General Agent.

Yours very truly,

of increase is shown in the following state-

February 24, 1915.

British, Avgs. American

British
6. \$38.93 \$55.9
6. \$19.47 25.
6. \$19.47 25.
6. \$4.07 40
5. \$0.24.83
6. \$24.07 40
6. \$19.34.67 40
6. \$19.34.67 25.
6. \$19.34.67 25.
6. \$20.24.76 82
6. \$0.26.20 35.
6. \$0.26.20 35.

British Am.

Virginia yield to me to make a request?

From the Congressional Record.

presidency—we are going to give it to you";

be elected."

"only joking."

finished business

Hon. J. H. Gallinger.

the Senator.

fallen on all our industrial progress."

Underwood will be leaving for the Senate, but Kitchin will have a chance now, and Kitchin is no slouch. Murdock will be going back to Topeka, wondering all the way how many people will be at the station to meet him. Hobson will be returning to Alabama. with not a wet eye in the House at his going, with the hope, possibly, in his heart of coming back either to take Thomas Riley Marshall's place in the Senate by virtue of being William Jennings Brynn's Vice President on a straight Prohibition ticket, or of beati g old Bankhead for his place in the upper house. The most of those who will national way, and the pity of it is that more

At the risk of giving offense it can be said that the present Congress "averages up" fairly well with the people who are responsible for it, and it is mainly valuable as Exhibit A of what a pure Democracy would do if it had the chance. There has been much criticism of the President for compelling the Congress to do his will, and many persons think that he has gone too far; but it is only fair to imagine, if one can, what might have happened if Congress had followed its own

When Benjamin Harrison was President he was quoted as saying how hard he had found It to handle "the herd of wild asses up on the hill," or something like that. It is true that the President has controlled the course of legislation; but suppose he had not, what not have happened? He has driven the team hard; but he has held it back some or the country would be swamped with cotton currency, the Government would have taken over the entire cotton crop of the South at a price agreed upon by the owners of the staple; woman suffrage would have been submitted to a vote on the amendment of the Constitution; the country would be involved in entangling alliances which would have meant the United States at war with the world, so that in many ways the Prestdent has saved the country from Congress even if Congress has not saved the country from the President. The hand that has driven has at the same time held back, and for this the President is entitled to sincere

When the Congressmen Get Home

One of the things the Congresamen, particularly those who are coming back, will do when they reach their districts will be to line up their constituents for the presidential struggle, and there is reason to think that the President himself will not be wholly idle during the vacation period. When he was elected there was a popular misapprehension that he was "not much of a politician," that the boys would pull the wool over his eyes. that he "didn't know." The fact is that he has shown the old dogs a side of politics they never dreamed of, and no President has ever been so absolutely the master of his political party. He has given offense to many who helped to put him in office; but he has made friends of his former opponents and held firmly to himself the great majority of those cut any thought that in voting for him they is no other Democrat who can win-the most active of the Democratic leaders figure it out that he can win, hands down. But the Republicans do not think he can, and say so

A Pennsylvania Republican who spent his whole time with the publicity end of the recent contest in that State said yesterday: "Any Republican can be elected President next year. You can talk all you please and until you are black in the face about the necessity of tariff revision and spin out the old yarns about service to the struggling masses and how all that has been done has been for their relief; but the people know by

"Senator Burton, of Ohio, would make a great President and would beat Mr. Wilson out of sight. After he gives up his seat in idential campaign he will come back, I think,

Making a Bore for Friends Into a Boon for Playgoers-What the Washington Square Players Have Done to Solve the Theatre Problem.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS AS PLEASURE

By KENNETH MACGOWAN

THE everyday - or everynight - theatre-I going public long ago learned this sad truism: the trouble with private theatricals is that they are usually given in public, And yet a group of amateurs who call themselves the Washington Square Players have been turning away Broadway play-goers every night from a modest but thoroughly interesting production of four one-act plays. The answer, of course, is quality to begin with; but it is also several other things. And those things are rather important to any play-going community.

UNDETERRED

Quality First

To get over the question of quality first, let us look at the brief facts in the case. At the Bandbox Theatre-a playhouse on East 57th street, New York, that lives up to its name-the Washington Square Players presented four plays on Friday, February 19, and repeated them or intend to repeat them on every Friday and Saturday until the middle of March; then another bill. The organization is made up of writers, painters and actors from the younger lights of Washington Square: subscribers and ticket-takers come from all over, and wander from Edna. Ferber and Fola La Follette to people just as staid and unobtrusive as all New Yorkers think all Philadelphians.

The plays were as varied as could well be. They began with "Licensed," by Basil Lawrence, a realistic little drama of lower middle-class Brooklyn, questioning and testing some of our notions on long engagements. irregularities outside marriage and the sterile attitude of some churchmen toward these things. Its opinions are manifestly matters for debate, but its humanity and its art were definitely enough established by the performance. On the whole, it was typical of the modern spirit in social drama,

There being no objection, the statement was The second play was an intellectual farce. "Eugenically Speaking," in which a very ordered to be printed in the Record, as folmodern young daughter of a street-car mag-Cost of Operating Foreign-built Vessels Transferred to American Flag.

29 Church etreet, New York, N. Y. nate picked out one of his employes as a mate, but her parent in his place with, "Why will you insist on talking to me as if I were a public service commission," and only retired defeated before the conductor's assur-Dear Sir-Your letter of the 10th instant, ad-iressed to A. J. Farrell, president United ance that a well-bred young lady already had him in tow as a eugenic husband. In "Eugenically Speaking" Edward Goodman was often audacious, but always very levelheaded and very crisp and biting. American flag. The present and former scale

Maeterlinck's "Interior," the principal piece, needs no word of description or praise. The nature of its production deserves separate comment.

Wages of captains under American scale vary according to seniority. "Another Interior," a gastronomic allegory, Wages of other officers and the engineers are

was ingenious in itself while supplying a bit of dancing and spectacle to round out the bill. Suitable presentation of the rushing emotions of a cocktail, an oyster, three sauces, a meat and an irresistible liqueur on encountering the dissolvents of Mr. Smith's interior, calls for more dancing ability than amateurs may furnish. But they can supply-and in this case they did supply-a scenic atmosphere.

The Scenic Side

If amateurs are w lo anything which others besides their friends can bear, they must learn, once and for all, that scenery is not to be neglected. The ugly and absurd warehouse relics of amateur theatricals simply will not do. And yet hat doesn't mean the expense of . Broadway scenic studio. There are any number of young artists to be had who will supply brains instead. Ralph Roeder, a young Harvard man, and several others, put some of that valuable commodity into the productions of the Washington Players. They used a simple, flat, pale wall and corner for the Brooklyn play. They put narrow frieze of fruit across as simple as the wall, and with the aid of a few carefully chosen chairs, produced a suggestion of a well-to-do home that amateurs never achieved before. "Another Interior" was presented by two black curtains with a red strip between and a hot red light from above, while the Dissolvanta danced in grotesque yellow and green striped mother hubbards and chalked faces, and the rest of the diners had bits of bright symbolism in their cos-

"Interior" was the triumph of the evening scenically as well as dramatically, and it proved just what any amateurs may do. The illusion was perfect; the gray wall of a moonlit house with some garden bench in the half light of the moon, and in the wall two large and well-proportioned windows that threw into relief the simple room of country joy within, lit by yellowing candles. Nothing, however elaborate, could have caught Masterlinck's spirit better. And it cost \$30. Economy and heauty are ready for any amatour society that wants them.

The evening began with an impromptu

prologue between a well-known novelist in the audience, who said he was a business man-tired-a lady in a box and the director, Edward Goodman. The pretended argument over the time of starting put the audience into a new mood toward amateur productions, and it enabled the management to call several novel facts to the attention of the assembled play-goers.

First Aid to the Theatregoer

The chief of these is what every amateur acting society needs to ponder-and every playgoer, too. The Washington Square Players are trying to give a varied selection from the plays that people can't see ordinarily, and they are giving them to people who are quite sure that these are the sort of things they want to see. In other words, the amateurs have invoked the subscriber system by which fine editions and unusual books are issued. They will sell tickets to the general public, but they ask first for an audience that shows an interest by subscribing to a season's productions.

This subscriber system, which is ready to the hand of any set of amateurs who really want to see and give good plays, has reached its perfection in Berlin. There the "Free People's Theatres," beginning on as modest a scale, have grown through good work and genuine service to startling proportions. They are no substitute for the ordinary commercial theatre, but they are a supplement, and a very important supplement. They not only give certain play-goers what they want and what they can't get in any other way, but they everylee a to lating effect on the regular theatres and productions. Such organizations in America would be trebly valuable because of the necessarily wholesale character of plays which are produced commercially to reap the popularity of a continent.

I have been tempted to keep the most surprising fact and most vital fact for the last. It is the key to drawing an intelligent audience of youth and age, rich and poor. It means letting down the bars as well as supplying a real pasturage of art. Here it is: The Washington Square Players charge an admission fee of 50 cents.

WESSEX HEIGHTS

By Thomas Hardy.

There are some heights in Wessex, shaped as if by a kindly hand For thinking, dreaming, dying on, and at crises Say, on Ingpen Beacon ese ward, or on Wylis-Neck westwardly,

I seem where I was before my birth, and after death may be. In the lowlands I have no comrade, not even

the lone man's friend—
Her who suffereth long and is kind; accepts
what he is too weak to mend: Down there they are dubious and askance; there nobody thinks as I, But mind-chains do not clank where one's next neighbor is the sky.

In the towns I am tracked by fantoms having weird detective ways Shadows of beings who fellowed with myself of earlier days: They hang about at places, and they say harsh,

heavy things—
Men with a frigid sneer, and women with tart disparagings.

Down there I seem to be false to myself, my simple self that was,
And is not now, and I see him watching, wondering what crass cause Can have merged him into such a strange continuator as this.

ething in common with himself, my chrysalis I cannot go to the great gray plain; there's a

figure against the moon, dy sees it but I, and it makes my breast beat out of tune; l cannot go to the tall-spired town, being barred by the forms now passed

For everybody but me, in whose long vision
they stand there fast.

There's a ghost at Yell'ham Bottom chiding loud at the fall of the night, There's a ghost in Froom-Side Vaie, thin-lipped and vague, in a shroud of white.

There is one in the railway-train whenever I do not want it near.

I see its profile against the pane, saying what I would not hear. As for one rare fair woman, I am now but a thought of here.

me that she prefers;
Yet my love for her in its fullness she herself
even did not know;
Well, time cures hearts of tenderness, and now
I can let her go.

So I am found on Ingpen Beacon, or on Wylls-

Neck to the west, Or clas on homely Bulharrow, or little Piledon

Or else on nomely distance; and to haunt, nor women have never cared to haunt, nor women have walked with me.

And ghosts then keep their distance; and I know some liberty.