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PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1915.

No man without an ideal has ever seen it realized.

Why Should We Pity Mexico? TILLA, Carranza and Zapata have rav-

aged Mexico and divided the loot. The spells in all Mexico are not so rich as the wealth the city of Philadelphia will expend during the next four years. The opportunities for graft are not so great, the

possibilities of pillage not more attractive and the wantonness of the leaders who have led their country into the depths is not more sheer than that of the eminent gentlemen who are now openly conspiring to kidnap the municipal Government, and through it lend the splendor of legality to their nefarious ambitions

It is humiliating to members of a great party, renowned for its humanitarianism, its long service in behalf of the people, to see it yoked to the selfish ambitions of mere "leaders," men who have done nothing and have sought to do nothing but acquire fortunes through administration of the public funds, men who conceive of government as a thing to be milked, a till from which to draw gold. It is even more humiliating to this great city to perceive these petty lordlings quarreling with one another as to the proceeds, each fearful that the others will play him false. Why, in the name of all that is decent, if "Jim" McNichol dare not trust the Vares, should the city trust them? Why, if the Vares know so much about "Jim" McNichol that they put respirators on when he comes around, should the people of Philadelphia trust him? These "leaders" know more about each other than the ordinary citizen knows about any of them, and they are as wary of each other as a mouse is of a cat. Good reason!

They tell us that we must have a Mayor of these men's choosing. They meet at the seashore and inform us that the question is not whether Philadelphia shall have a gang Mayor, but whether it shall be a McNichol gang Mayor or a Vare gang Mayor. For the word has gone out that there is to be a return of "the old days." Their instruments are tuned to play "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here." There is a promise of milk and honey to the hangers-on. They are told that there will be no hard times in Philadelphin this winter, because for every man who "votes right" there will be a share of money from the public till.

But who are these "leaders" to tell the citizens of Philadelphia anything? By what warrant do they issue their edicts; by what mockery of logic do they pose as patriots and hope to delude a whole city into the belief that efficient government has been inefficient, that it is in the interest of taxpayers to turn the wolves into the fold, that the time has come for a return to barbarism?

The "leaders'" attitude is a challenge to Philadelphia, the challenge of Lilliputians to a Guiliver. There is no place here now, no tolerance for municipal Kaiserism; there is no time for conspirators to clothe themsolves in a cloak and conceal their identity. The people tasted blood when they won the transit fight. They saw what they could do. They know at last their power. There is no cancer politic that the white light of pubficity cannot dissolve. And in this cumpalgu, it may as well be known, let every man who raises his head be sure that his hands are clean. There are great instrumentalities dedicated to the principle that Philadelphia corrupt cannot grow and that Philadelphia uncorrupt cannot help growing. They gilmpse the destiny of the city, and heart and soul they are determined that no settists ambitions shall prevent its consummation. There will be no sneaking into the City Hall: Who enters there must go in rough the front door with his shoes on.

Citizens for weeks have been watching the maneuverings of politicians quietly, but with aterest nevertheless. They see shead not a sinding, endless bath, but a clear-cut ave-E. They are willing, even anxious, to elect a Republican, although national politics has part in a municipal campaign; but he nist be a real Lepublican, one whom the eaders' must support, not a manikin with chuln on his leg. If such a Republican ery caunot get, if the party is so tied up by ment machinators that in the greatest of lieso sities only a plaything can be of the treet the best then the independs of the eliminatity will asset itself. The to in the street knows punity of men di

to be Mayor. He knows where and how to

You have a chance, you gentlemen who think that you have this city tied up in a bundle and ready for delivery; you have a chance yet to get on the right train. Your own blunderings and distrust, your hate of one another, may checkmate all your endeavors and compel your support of a decent man, an efficient man, a strong and honorable citizen. Therein lies your only hope, for if you penetrate to Warsaw, if you filing your mercenaries into the citadel of municipal power, then will your final defeat be the more certain, the more irredeemable. Progress is always forward. It steps backward, if ever it does, only for a greater leap

Let no citizen be discouraged. The doings of the "leaders" have filled the news columns. The sober judgment of the great masses has not yet had a hearing.

Unless it is true that defeat is certain for these men who are planning to put the city in pawn; unless it is true that neither the Vares nor McNichol can name the next Mayor of Philadelphia; unless it is certain that civilization means efficiency and good government; if, in fact, our own Villas and Carrangas and Zapatas can stalk crowned through the great halls of government, why, indeed, should we pity Mexico? But they cannot.

A Recommendation to Be Pigeonholed

TF WE grant that the Government should I operate the postoffices, there is no logical objection to Government operation of the telephone and telegraph lines. What objection there is to Government ownership of the telephone and telegraph is directed not against the principle of public control of the transmission of messages, but against the expediency of extending the activities of the Government in a branch of service where it has not succeeded in demonstrating its ability to do business on a business

The Postoffice Department has always been conducted at a loss. Manipulating bookkeepers, under orders from their political chiefs, have figured out a profit two or three times, but there has never been any real profit. The Commission on Industrial Relations, which has recommended the purchase by the Government of the telephone and telegraph companies, urges the change on the ground that the companies are overcapitalized; that their employes are overworked and underpaid, and for the additional reason that they are engaged in a public service, anyway,

These are reasons that are not reasons, and we come back to the question of expediency. Governmental service is notoriously inefficient. The British telegraphs, operated by the Postal Department, charge less for messages than is charged in America; but there is always a deficit to be made up by a general tax, and when this tax is apportioned the cost of the messages to the people is greater than in the United States. When the privately owned telephone companies were taken over by the British Government two or three years ago there was an immediate falling off in efficiency. The high salaried experts were dismissed and low salaried civil service appointees took their place, and every one was dissatisfied.

It may be admitted that if the American Government should take over the telegraph and telephone companies the employes would get more pay for less work; but until the Government succeeds in doing in a more businesslike way the business in which it is already engaged the country will be better served under the present arrange-

"Gallopscious"

MARK TWAIN once wrote that the casual observer upon seeing a woman's lead pencil would conclude she had sharpened it with her teeth, but he would find on investigation that she had used a hairpin.

This is a tribute to the ability of women to accomplish their ends even under difficulties, as well as evidence of the universal adaptability of the wire utensil found on every dressing table and on every woman's head. The number and variety of things that can be done with this implement are doubtless greater than are possible for any other human invention. There is nothing which she cannot do with a hairpin, from buttoning her shoes to repairing an automobile. The last achievement was accomplished the other day by a young woman whose electric car was stalled in the street, A wire was needed and there was none about save in her hair. She forthwith ex tracted two or three hairpins and they were used with success and the car moved on.

Every mother knows that there is nothing so effective for cleaning the ears of her children, though the doctors object to the use of such unscientific instruments, and every boarding school girl has discovered, as one of them felicitously remarked, that "Plum jam eaten on a hairpin at midnight is gallopscious." We have no doubt that if put to it a woman could build a house with no other tool.

Possibly Villa could gather some recruits in Georgia.

It is not well to be too optimistic. Congress meets in December.

There are two or three roads to fame, but infamy is not one of them.

If the Germans are not careful they will drive the Russians into Constantinople

The British will take care of the cotton. Let the planters take care of themselves. A Mayor is important, but the capacity of a people for self-government is more im-

The mortality would be less if they shot men out of cannon instead of shooting can-

When Josephus Daniels gets through with the navy there will be nothing left of

After all, it is not sex so much as cometency that should determine an election to the Board of Education.

Anyhow, the American fing gives more protection than most any other these days. But Washington is not to blame for that

It has been pointed out that the worst some through. That is the way with proph

THE PORTSMOUTH'S "TATTERED ENSIGN"

Sloop-of-War Which Brought the Stars and Stripes to San Francisco Burned in Boston Harbor

By GEORGE C. THOMPSON

PERHAPS it's because the United States is a youngster among nations and has not yet grown up to a proper respect for traditions and relics that every now and then some foreigner seizes occasion to accuse us or irreverence, as if it were a national trait. The domestic observer sees a difference between our East and our West in this matter. It is, indeed, a subject of many ramifications, social, political, and so on. It finds a place in discussions of constitutional change, and the Liberty Bell has lately furnished a text for civic sermons.

The proper function of traditions and relics is to serve as ballast. Too large an accumulation might result in topheaviness. If speed is the American idea, and some say it is, overloading is to be especially avoided.

California has its fair share of historical memories. When it comes to romance one might think from the bibliography of the State that it has something approaching a monopoly on that more or less sentimental commodity. The story of the conquistadores and the missions and the establishment of the twenty-four day "Bear Flag Republic" and the conquest of 1846 and the Forty-niners is romantic enough. No visitor to the great fairs can fail to see that the present glories of California are wonderfully colored by the past. It is a colorful State, historically as well as otherwise

Now a "tattered ensign" associated with the American conquest of California and the admission of the State into the Union has been lowered and laid away-to speak figuratively, for the way of it is not at all sentimental. In other words, the old sloop-of-war Portsmouth was burned yesterday on the mud flats of Boston Harbor.

The Conquest of California

For several months before the outbreak of actual hostilities between the United States and Mexico the sloop had been cruising along the Pacific coast. Its commander, Captain Montgomery, had no means of knowing what Washington intended to do, for means of communication across the Continent were not what they are today, but he scented trouble and was on the alert. The Portsmouth sailed into the harbor of San Francisco some months before Commodore John Drake Sloat with his flagship, the Savannah and two other ships, the Cyane and the Levant, reached the scene. Commodore Sloat had gone to the Pacific coast with instructions of a year's standing to take all California ports and hold them in the event of war with Mexico.

The captain of the Portsmouth knew no more than Commodore Sloat of what had developed in the negotiations between the United States and Mexico, but the presence of his now-famous sloop in the harbor, then known as Yerba Buena, was enough to give him control of the port and to assure protection to the inhabitants of the little village that has since grown into the city of San Francisco. At the same time, while awaiting news that war had been declared, Captain Montgomery was careful that his vessel should not take any warlike step which might embarrass his country.

In the meantime the "Pathfinder," General Fremont, had not exercised all these scruples, and on land was doing some vigorous fighting. Although the Portsmouth had taken San Francisco, Captain Montgomery refused to interfere with the escape by boat of Captain de la Torre's party which Fremont chasing. But as soon as the news was received that war had been declared the Portsmouth figured more prominently in the exciting events of the following months.

From the moment California was seized until it was ceded to the United States at the close of the Mexican War and admitted as a State in 1850, it bristled with excitement. When gold was discovered there immediately after the war nearly a hundred thousand adventurous men burst through the mountain passes or reached the new State by boat around Cape Horn. Into this land was poured the motliest collection of men imaginable.

Then that wonderful transportation system of the pre-railroad era came into existence. It was the pony express which carried letters from Independence. Mo., across the plains and mountains to California in ten days at a cost of five dollars per half ounce. That was when our famous "Buffalo Bill," William F. Cody, came into his fame by one continuous ride of 384 miles. The best record of the pony express was the accomplishment of 1950 miles in seven days and seventeen hours, by means of relays. Then came the Merchants' Express, which employed 5000 men. 2000 wagons and 20,000 oxen in carrying freight across the Continent.

"Old Ironsides"

It was because of the part that the Portsmouth played in the events of 1845-50 that the appeal to save it from destruction met with so much popular approval. The vessel, perhaps, was hardly entitled to the same consideration as the famous frigate Constitution, now moored to a dock in Charlestown Navy Yard and daily visited by scores of people, but at least it suffered the same ignoble fate from which "Old Ironsides" was saved when its fighting days were over by the stirring poem of Oliver Wendell Homes: Ay, tear her tattered ensign down!

Long has it waved on high, And many an eye has danced to see That banner in the sky; Beneath it rang the battle shout And burst the cannon's roar— The meteor of the ocean air Shall sweep the clouds no more

Where was the laureate of the Portsmouth? KINGDOMS

Kings of a hundred Dreadnoughts, ruling too Kings of a Sundred Dreadboughts, ruling the Seven Sees.

Parked artillery, powder and steel-shall ye endure by these

Keeping an armed lordship of earth whereso your sentries stand?

What are Akkad and Assur now? Bhards, in the drifting sand:

Kings of a thousand forges, kings of ten thousand men
Liner and limited, shuttlewise thrown, from
port unto seaport again,
Weaving a web of infinite threads, giants of
hand and of brain—
Where are the galleys Phoenicia suiled? Cone.
In a devolate main!

Kings of the soul's out-searchings, kings of the far ideal—
Poets philosophers, prophets the Christ-lift-lift men nearer the Real—
Net unto dust as the war lords go, not as the lords of greed.
But rising forever from life to life—Kings and Massiahs indeed)

WHY NEED WE PITY MEXICO, MR. CITIZEN? MUNBERPAL COVERNMENT

THE STRATEGY OF THE GREAT WAR

An Explanation of the German Advance and the French Retreat, Which Began Near Namur a Year Ago and Ended on the Marne, September 5, 1914

By GILBERT V. SELDES

DRECISELY a year ago yesterday there I began in France the military movement known as the retreat from Mons. To the readers of newspapers the outstanding feature of that retreat was, in fact, not a retreat but an advance-the almost miraculous advance of the German army, driving before it the flower of the French army and the British Expeditionary Force, until it came to the very gates of Paris itself. Yet Paris was saved, the great drive spent itself, and after a year the battle in the west is still indecisive. How and why did these things happen? What was the strategy of the Great War a year ago?

The simplest way to arrive at some answer to these questions is to consider, without reference to the belligerents, two armies One of them is superior in numbers to the other. The two can be represented so:

munitions, transport and quality of men. the larger force will shatter the smaller,

B D

C

bending it on both sides, tearing it through the centre for an utter rout. The problem of the smaller force, then, is to effect an arrange-ment by which a greater force can be met and held in check. Such an arrangement is that of

the open strategic square, which is shown herewith. (It must be understood from the first that these diagrams merely represent, but do not picture, what actually happened.) In this strategy we will say that 12 units are opposed to 16, precisely the numbers shown in the first diagram. The units in A may be called the operative corner; the three other units are the masses of maneuver.

"The Operative Corner"

It is the duty of the operative corner to go forward to meet the enemy, if a defensive campaign is to be waged. The first shock of battle must be absorbed in that group of units, and their object must be to engage as many of the opposing units as possible. Now, if the black units, in the first diagram, may be considered as numbering 1 to 16, it is clear that A, if it attacks opposite 4, 5 and 6, will also engage 2, 3 and 7, while 1 and all the units from 8 to 16 will be mere onlookers unless a flanking movement sets in. If these units were of 100 men each, such a movement would be possible. When they compose 40,000 men each, the movement is practically impossible in less than three or four days. (Unit 16 will have to move forward at least five places before it can turn without stepping on the heels of unit 15, which has been forced to move four places, and so on. Over a distance of 100 miles, with a quarter of a million men involved, such a movement is impossible in short order.) As a result, the three attacking units of A are actually fighting some six units of the black army, and are holding some 16.

Numbers tell, and eventually the operative corner A is forced to fall back. Then follows the hardest, the most critical time, of this plan-the retreat in close contact with the enemy. It means rear-guard fighting night and day, leaving the wounded, preserving the morale of the soldiers in the face of successive and probably terrific assaults from a conquering army.

But this retreat is only a time-maker The three units B. C, and D. which have been called the maneuvering masses, coming up. Obviously they can swing either to the right or to the left, without a change face, so that they are not imperiled by their own numbers, as were the black forces. The attacking (black) force, meantime, cannot foretell the direction which the maneuvering messes will take. In either case, at the right or left, the three masses, B. C and D. join with what is left of A

The diagrams are reproduced by courtest of Hearst's International Library, publishers of "The Elements of the Great War," by Hilaire Belloc, from which material for the following article has been drawn.

(the operative corner), and attack one half of the black army. The other half, for the reasons shown above, is incapable of coming around in time to outfiank A, B, C and D. And so, under favorable conditions, the commander of the open square can throw his army partly around his enemy, attack in overwhelming numbers (12 to 9, to keep to our original proportions), and force the black line back. The black commander, compelled to keep up communications, must retreat not only with the half which is under attack, but with his 16 units, and, as Mr. Hilaire Belloc, the historian, has said, "you then have the singular spectacle of 12 men compelling the retreat of and pursuing 16." One thing more. The entire plan would

fall to the ground if the operative corner A could not resist the first great shock. If it were cut to pieces, the black units could penetrate the open square, isolate each group and destroy it. If the reader thinks that all this has noth-

ing to do with war, let him look at the map of Belgium and France. Let him realize-that the black army is the German force sweeping into Belgium and France, that the operative corner, A, is the allied force which met the Germans at the confluence of the Meuse and bre Rivers, below Namur, and that the maneuvering masses are the bodies of French soldlery, and the arriving British expeditionary force which came up, swung to the left, precisely as indicated in the diagram, and halted the German advance on the River Marne,

Like Xenophon's Retreat

The German war theory was that no operative corner could withstand the terrific blow which its splendid armies were capable of delivering. The French theory was that the French operative corner could withstand the blow. The German plan of operation was for a quick, decisive blow at the operative corner, penetration of the maneavering masses, and Paris! The French plan involved the sacrifice of Paris, but the saving of France. Once checked, the German plan was doomed to revision. It resulted, in the end, in trench warfare.

The terrible retreat through France was, after all, a highly successful, almost incredible, military maneuver. The French underestimated the numerical force against them; they overestimated the strength of fortresses, Liege, Namur, Maubeuge. There was a signal lack of co-oreration between the



French and the army of General French, leading to the indescribable miseries of the British retreat from Mons, a feat so brave that if ranks, perhaps, with the retreat of the Ten Thousand under Xenophon.

In the course of the German advance, the whole marvelous strength of the Kaiser's armies was shown; in the final holding of the enemy the Frenchman restored himself to a high place in military history, a place higher than all the Napoleonic campaigns had won for him. Efficiency and science, military tactics and strategy, generals and cabinets, all came in for their glory. One thing alone was forgotten-the individual soldier who, in the operative corner, in the maneuvering mass and in the attacking body "did his bit." It was even said that the individual was lost in the present war. It may yet be shown that he is not lost—that he may even find himself

STATE AND CITY BUDGETS

Considered in the Weekly Bulletin of the Bureau of Municipal Research.

Bureau of Municipal Research.

The eyes of the country are on the New York Constitutional Convention now passing reforms. Whatever action is taken will have a great bearing on their fate in other parts of the country. In budget-r-ting the convention is taking a progressive sta, by providing that the state budget be prepared by the governor and his department heads, and by providing that the legislature may reduce but may not increase the amounts proposed, and may initiate appropriations for legislative or judicial expenses only.

adoption of this plan. After making, in co-operation with the Commission on Economy and Efficiency, a survey of the organization and functions of the State overnment, the New York Bureau perpared a ritical examination of the present form of government in New York State. Among other things, it submitted two proposals—(1) to reorganize the executive branch of the government, and (2) to provide a scientific budget system.

The following system and procedure was recommended:

First. The regular administration appropriation bills, with estimates for annual expendi-ture, to be submitted by the governor to the legislature during the first week of the session Second. The legislature thereupon to resolve itself into a committee of the whole, not less than one day a week, at which time the gover-nor and executive heads may be present to explain estimates and items and to answer ques-

Third. Not later than sixty days after the beginning of the session the governor to submit a budget containing a financial plan for the next fiscal year.

Fourth. Final action of the legislature to be on the complete budget as presented by the gov-

Many American cities have adopted a budget policy. New York City has made considerable progress along this line. Philadelphia, too, is working toward a scientific budget. From its inception, this Bureau has co-operated to this end. It is a difficult and complex problem and involves much study and experimentation. The action of New York Constitutional Convention is therefore of great interest to all citizens con-cerned about devising ways and means to meet the rapidly increasing expenditures of government, and to make these expenditures conform

GREELEY AS AN ARTIST N WORDS To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir-Your correspondents have not yet estab lished their assertion that some one else, and not Horace Greeley, said that "The way to re-sume is to resume." The discovery by "John sume is to resume." The discovery by "John Rogers" that Salmon P. Chase said that "The only way to resumption is to resume" is interesting, but it is not to the point. The theory may have been first stated by Chase in his let ter to Greeley, but it was Greeley, an artist in compact and forceful expression, who put the idea in the form of words which has become

Lansdowne, August 25.

NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW

Savings banks deposits nearly \$30,000,000 higher than a year ago suggest that there are people who know better ways of using money t gambling in war stocks.—New York World

The invasion of Russia by the Teutons was a brave undertaking, but for downright intre-pidity the invasion of Kentucky by the Prohibi-tionists has never been excelled.—Kansas City If organized labor could substitute the Roman

or civil law notion of prosecution on "informa-tion" for the Saxon or common law Grand Jury, it would lose more than it could possibly gain

Haiti has had 100 years in which to prove itself incompetent, and has done it. If for no other reason than to save it from wasting itself away, a protectorate government would beneficial.—Hartford Post.

Having nothing to speak of to show for its work and time, except the expenditure of about \$500,000 of the public's money, the Commission on Industrial Relations may close its career with sense of thankfulness on the part of the peo-le that it has done no worse.—Springfield

It is the business of this Government to stand up for the noncontraband, or at least the strictly conditional contraband, character of cotton. Some day even Great Britain may be giad we declined to acquiesce in her putting cotton defi-nitely in the same category with arms and am-munition.—Chicago Herald.

Ruef is said to have made a study of prison life and has formulated plans for organizins convicts and released prisoners into mutual aid societies. If he could prove such a power for good as he was for political evil, it would be well worth the experiment.-Colorado Springs

AMUSEMENTS

B. F. KEITH'S THEATRE Tom Lewis & Co. Grace Fisher; Charles Olcott Ameta; "Mysteria;" The Meyakos and Other Feature Acts.

Garrick Now Mats. 250, 35c. Children, 15e HOWE'S TRAVEL PRESTIVAL MANY OTHERS U. B. Navy of 1915 OTHERS Spats No.

MARKET ST. ABOVE 16TH George Fawcett STANLEY Bymphony Orchestra and Solciete.

GRAND WARREN & CONLEY: BOOTH LEAND DER WARD & HOWELL CARL STATEER & CO. TURBLE LY: BUN BOTO FILMS

Casino ROSEY POSEY GIRLS Dumont's

Trocadero BUCCANDELL AND MILO