

Evening Ledger

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PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1915.

Fire and passion are good servants, but poor masters.

AN INCREDIBLE STORY

NO MAN will believe the confession of Robert Fay, Lieutenant of the 16th Saxony Infantry. No one will be convinced that he was sent here by the German Imperial Secret Service to cripple or destroy steamships destined for the Allies. The story is preposterous.

TRANSIT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

A proper and effective adjustment of the ventilation and the avoidance of the overcrowding in street cars will greatly assist in abating the nuisance created by a vitiated atmosphere and thus protect the public from the possibility of the spread of disease.

IMPROVED RAPID TRANSIT, APPARENTLY, IS NOT A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE ONLY, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPENDS ON IT.

We have learned that coughing and sneezing spread disease, yet the well have to be crowded into the street cars night and morning along with those suffering from colds of one kind or another.

BIBLES AND WAR

The American Bible Society, which will celebrate the centenary of its founding in May of next year, reports that it distributed 6,400,000 Bibles and Testaments last year, but that it has received \$36,000 less this year than in 1914.

AGAIN THE SACRIFICE

WESTERDAY it was Pittsburgh that paid the penalty. Months ago the blow fell on Chicago. Years ago it fell on New York. When will it fall on us?

TAPT ON THE VALUE OF SENSE

We seem to think, for periods at least, that God will take care of us and we don't have to use any sense at all.—Ex-President Taft.

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THE attitude of mind of the good people who are opposing preparation for national defense has never been more aptly described. Mr. Taft has been at the head of the War Department, and he knows something about the problems of raising and equipping an army and moving it about the country.

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WILL THE FAIR DO ANY GOOD?

If So, What?—Influence and Effects of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, "the Hundred Million Dollar Show"

By REV. DAVID M. STEELE, D. D.
THERE are three general things, above others, that impress you most at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The first is that all exhibits are of things contemporaneous rather than historical.

VALOR OF DISCRETION

THE only kind of courage that the Organization leaders seem to be displaying is the valor of discretion. They march right up to an issue and when it does not run away they march as boldly back again and refuse to face it.

This happened with Smith's challenge to Porter to debate the issues of the campaign. Porter accepted so quickly that Smith discovered that a debate would interfere with his scheduled addresses, and declined to meet his antagonist.

When the Organization demands an investigation of its own charges that Mayor Blankenburg's Superintendent of Supplies has accepted and paid for coal below the quality called for in the specifications, and the Mayor hastens to second the demand, the Organization announces through Speaker Ambler that it is not "expedient to appoint an investigating committee until after the election is over."

"PEACE IN SPRING"

"BUT in April we will have peace," they are saying in Berlin. It is a grim jest when the Imperial Government takes charge of the entire food supply and the order goes out that meat may not be eaten on two days a week. It is followed, of course, with a "we have plenty"; but the assurance is in falsetto.

Apparently there is to be but one great victory in this war—the victory of Starvation. The peace that follows is the peace of death.

A YEAR OF DAYS

IF YOU are inclined to forget that 1915 is composed of 365 days, and if you aren't quite sure that every one of those days is interesting, provide yourself with one of the almanacs which the Atlantic Monthly is giving away to those who care for such things.

You will be advised, admonished, amused, instructed, edified, perplexed and intrigued. You will learn that on St. Agnes' Eve you may expect high winds and that cold does not hurt poultry, but draughts are fatal. The Almanac grows positively skittish when it reminds you that January 26 is the anniversary of the first Ford joke (1492).

THE MOST FOR THE MONEY

"Seventy Thousand Exhibits"? Yes. Well and good, if any one could, or if every one did, look at one upon an average out of a thousand. The unpleasant fact is that it is not the palaces at all containing these that are most patronized, but what even the boot-black at the St. Francis Hotel had enough discernment to describe to me as "That Lousy Zone." Here troop the people, the millions, the myriads, day after day, to the sound of the flippant frivolity of the Barker and the tout and in sight of side-shows that are crude beyond all credence.

"The Tower of Jewels" also shouts the advertiser. "It is 585 feet high, hung with 100,000 crystal prism novagems, a greater single work of art than all the art works of Greece put together." That is true, if one is content to supersede entirely the quality of abiding endurance in the particle by the temporary effulgence for the moment of a tout ensemble. I am not. That is the crowning effect of our people in all their passing judgments. They leave out entirely the element of time. Grasping so eagerly for the thing that is ephemeral, they shout: "Look! We have attained. We have arrived." When, as a matter of fact, on the morrow, all the things that they possessed today are as the snows of yesterday. The heightening of standards? By beholding what they mistake for reality in tawdry imitation? This is what they do in worshipping displays of things that are but reproductions. If one likes paste diamonds, tinsel trappings, papier mache statuary, stucco structures, in twentieth-century, near-modern architecture; if he finds enjoyment in opera bouffe entertainment and edification in the fictitious and unreal, then, of course, here is the most for his money. But, if this is all, well, then, is it cheap or dear at the price?

GET WISE QUICK

It is reported that 822 conventions and congresses have chosen San Francisco as their meeting place for 1915. These cover a wide range of subjects, and it has been estimated that the attendance from delegates and their families and friends interested in these alone will reach a million. But in this herding together of masses of people an improvement on, or even a fit substitute for, individual endeavor by each one alone of this million in any or all of eight hundred and twenty-two lines? Such people will not have "done" the exposition; they will be done by it. They will be done out, trying to see things of which there are too many; they will be deluded by mistaking their joy for their duty; they will be self-deceived through estimating quality by quantity, seeking education in crowd pedagogy and attempting the impossible by the get-wise-quick method.

POOR JOHN POOR DOG

The lamentable case of John Poor Dog, an Indian accused of stealing hogs, an offense to which he pleaded "not guilty," is told thus by an Oklahoman: John Poor Dog was arrested before the Judge, who inquired where were his attorney and witnesses. "Got none," John Poor Dog said. "No witnesses," said the Judge; "no one to speak for you who knows anything about this." John Poor Dog shook his head sorrowfully. "Only one man knows about this," he said. "He's the one helped me steal the hogs, and he's so sly a feller he couldn't tell the truth. So I didn't get him."—Kansas City Star.

"TRANSIT BE HANGED! THE FIRST LAW OF NATURE'S THE ISSUE WITH ME!"

By ELLIS RANDALL
The announcement that George McAneny has resigned his duties as president of the Board of Aldermen and member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, of the City of New York, and is soon to return to newspaper work, calls attention again to those services which have won for him the high title of "municipal patriot."

neering and financial problems involved. And so it was with every other question with which he dealt. He always had the facts and figures, and he always had them thoroughly organized and ready for immediate use on any occasion. His memory, by the way, is remarkable. He is a walking encyclopedia of New York history and municipal statistics, and when the charter is under discussion he takes the place of an index.

His Favorite Study

Slight in build, indeed, almost frail, he looks the scholar that he is. The subject he studies most is a very live one, the subject of municipal government; he was one of the incorporators, by the way, of the Bureau of Municipal Research. The bottom idea in this subject, he believes, is the welfare of the people. Acting on this principle he has precipitated some hot fights. One of these followed his proposal of utilizing a part of the city's electrical power equipment during idle hours for the manufacture of artificial ice to be sold at cost to the city poor through the municipal milk stations.

From the howls that went up one would have supposed that McAneny was seeking to commit the city to an entire system of socialist municipal ownership. To most of us the proposition may seem harmless enough, but when a man's in politics the good he tries to do makes headway over a rough road.

Efficiency by the Efficiency Route

"The first necessity," he said, "is that rapid transit lines should observe the proper future development of the city rather than that they should be laid out along routes between present congested centres which promise the largest immediate prospects." This view did not, of course, meet with much enthusiasm on the part of the operating companies, but it was the view which won. McAneny proved himself a peacemaker when he dictated the terms of the subway agreement, after rapid transit improvements had been at a standstill for eight years, and made both the city commissioners and the railroad directors sign the document which provided for immediate relief and left a broad basis for future development of both the city and the transit system.

Efficiency by the Efficiency Route

His work as a builder of the future city has been equally valuable in other directions. He has tackled with great success the many problems connected with the height, size and arrangement of buildings on Manhattan. He has gone after the property owners who were encroaching on the city sidewalks. He has busily widened and straightened old streets and planned new ones. He has made good on his job, and as borough president and later as president of the Board of Aldermen has given municipal administrators a remarkable example of efficiency and economy. His appointments have always been absolutely non-partisan. He himself, although a Democrat, has never engaged in partisan politics.

Efficiency by the Efficiency Route

Before his election to a city office McAneny had already been engaged in many civic activities and had become known as a "reformer." It was a name at which the politicians looked askance. What could a "reformer" know of the practical problems of an administrative office? McAneny showed them. In the matter of transit he revealed a startling knowledge of the engi-

GEO. McANENY, MUNICIPAL PATRIOT

He Secured the Adoption of Transit Plans in Which the Future Loomed as Large as the Present, and the Present as Large as the Future—A City Builder

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WALNUT
THE PENN PLAYERS WITH Irene Oshier and Edward Everett Horton

THE PALACE
"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"
"THE DUMMIES"
"THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS"

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