

Illustrated Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY. Editorial Board: Chairman, H. Curtis, Chairman. Editor, F. H. WEALEY. Business Manager, JOHN C. MARTIN. Published daily at Public Ledger Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

ing that hidden in the intricacies of the lease which Mr. Lewis sponsors is a firm and binding contract for the city to purchase the property of the P. R. T. at the expense of the riders.

A GREAT CITY PUT UP AT AUCTION; HOW MUCH IS BID FOR PITTSBURGH?

Two Political Tigers of Philadelphia in Close Rivalry for the Rich Pickings to Be Found in Vice-Ridden Municipality

II "BIDS-BURGH"

This is the second of a series of five articles by a staff representative of the Evening Ledger who has made a serious study of political conditions in Pittsburgh, which are almost without precedent in the history of the Commonwealth.

By SAMUEL MCCOY

"GOING, going— How much am I offered?" "This handsome property, consisting of forty-one square miles of territory, eight hundred million dollars' worth of taxable real estate, now offered for lease for a period of four years!"

"How much am I offered?" The lease carries with it the disposal of \$16,000,000 of annual revenue, the appointment of 6000 city employees, the control of unlimited forms of revenue!

"Millions in it, gentlemen, millions! What do I hear? What do I hear? Whadd'ya hear?"

"The big gentleman with the black mustache has made his offer; now, whadd'ya hear from the little gentleman? Going, going, and—"

It is the voice of the auctioneer of a queenly city, the city of Pittsburgh. But, although he shouts that the property is "going," he cannot pronounce the word "gone" until September 19. The sale hasn't yet been made.

The bidding of the local seekers after the control of this staggeringly valuable property is complicated this year by the entrance, the noiseless entrance, of two veteran bidders from Philadelphia.

When they packed their grips for Pittsburgh the two left everything in their home city serene and quiet. The two tigers of Philadelphia, acknowledging that they had come to a temporary dead-lock in their fight for supremacy in Philadelphia, had lain down side by side and were purring throatily. No one foresaw a recrudescence of their quarrel before a campaign for a new Mayor of Philadelphia in the fall of 1918. The two had smoothed their jaws and come to a compromise in selecting a "fifty-fifty" slate for the city officials to be elected this November. Outward harmony in Philadelphia was safe for another year.

Tigers to Divide Spoil But their yellow eyes had been restless, nevertheless. They simply could not make their eyes behave. And, shifting them from spot to spot, they rested lovingly at last upon a city 350 miles to the west of the Delaware, from which was wafted the tantalizing odor that tells of good hunting.

By daylight the two tigers of Philadelphia are to be found lying peacefully side by side. But by night each has been slipping on noiseless paws through the streets of Pittsburgh. The game has been marked for the kill. The date for the killing has been set. But how will the slain carcass be divided?

Pittsburgh itself, the ordinary population, that is, which goes to work in the morning and worries over the army draft and scrapes to pay the grocery bills and believes itself on weekdays as well as Sundays and has a good average time raising a family—this Pittsburgh, which includes a right goodly number of voters, has scarcely received an inkling as yet that two gentlemen living in Philadelphia have an especial concern in the Pittsburgh mayoralty campaign. You do not hear the names of either Vore or Penrose mentioned by the man on the street. To the staid Pittsburgher the fight is still between his home-grown politicians. Only the professional political observer has come to a realization of the interest which the Pittsburgh fight has to the political barons of the eastern city.

Afraid of Doctor Kerr I talked with one such man, more informative than reticent, who forgot for the moment the proverbial silence of his profession.

"Anybody who thinks that the mayoralty fight in Pittsburgh has only a local significance has his eyes shut," said he. "Although William A. Magee, appointed Public Service Commissioner by Governor Brumbaugh, who has, for the last two years, used the weight of his office to strengthen the Vore machine, resigned as commissioner two weeks ago and announced his candidacy for the mayoralty, and although it was rumored that he would do this two weeks before he actually resigned from the Public Service Commission, I was informed of the plan in Philadelphia—in Philadelphia, notice—indicated by two of the Penrose machine leaders themselves that Magee would enter the race. And this information came to me neither two weeks ago nor one month ago, but three months ago—at a time when it was still generally believed that Commissioner Magee would support Dr. James P. Kerr, chairman of the Pittsburgh Council, for the mayoralty.

"It was then that the Penrose crowd decided they could take no chances with Doctor Kerr, an independent. As between Doctor Kerr, who would certainly be against them in the city primaries and who would also be against them at the elections, and Mr. Magee, who would certainly be counted upon to be with them at the elections, there was no choice. "Commissioner Magee's promises of support to Kerr were broken or avoided in a most ingenious manner. Like the ultimatum sent to Serbia, a 'request' was made upon Doctor Kerr by Mr. Magee that certain Magee followers be 'taken care of' in the event of Kerr's election. One of them was to be made head of the Department of Public Safety. Doctor Kerr refused to stomach the suggestion. Mr. Magee then considered himself absolved of his promise of support to Kerr and entered the race himself!"

In the politics of the State, it is of little consequence to the Penrose or the Vore camp who is elected Mayor of Pittsburgh, so far as today's situation is concerned. But of the greatest consequence to both camps is the question: Will Senator Penrose sway the Governor elected in 1918 or will he be dominated by the Vares and their counselor, Francis Shunk Brown?

And the answer to that question hangs on the relative strength displayed at the polls in Pittsburgh on September 19 by E. V. Babcock, the first Penrose choice for the mayoralty, and by W. A. Magee, the Vore appointee to the Public Service Commission.

If the citizens of Pittsburgh did not know that their votes on September 19 were of vital significance to Philadelphia, they ought to know it by this time. For an open attack on the Penrose machine—outwardly a violent attack, no matter what the underground alliances of the two factors may be—was made by the Vore candidate in beginning his campaign last week.

"I am opposed," said Mr. Magee unequivocally, "to that alliance of selfish interests which is called Penrosism, which controls the Republican party in the State and which, through such control, is dominating Pittsburgh."

On the same day on which Mr. Magee made that speech, I talked with E. V. Babcock, the Penrose candidate. "There isn't a doubt about it," said he, leaning forward to me confidentially, "the Magee crowd will have a lot of money to spend for this election. Aren't they gettin' help and succor from the East? You let your life!"

Now these are the straight-from-the-shoulder interchanges which establish the importance of Pittsburgh's mayoralty fight in the future of the State regime.

The Vice Question But what of the local fight? Is there one in reality?

It's easy enough for would-be reformers to set up a cry that there is "vice" in any great city. The vice may exist, but to get legal evidence of vice is "something else again." The wholesale arrest of alleged offenders in this city a year ago, the ponderous examination conducted by the Grand Jury, and the resulting fiasco, when none of the persons caught in the raid could be held because of the lack of proper evidence, is still fresh in Philadelphia's memory. Has Pittsburgh any real "underworld" of alarming proportions, or are the rumors of such a vicious body merely rumors? Listen to the remarks made by Judge J. McP. Carpenter, a Republican, of the Quarter Sessions Court, in Pittsburgh last week. He is talking to the Grand Jury, which convenes this month, before the primaries:

It is currently reported that there are a number of social clubs in Pittsburgh, others than Judge Carpenter estimated the number of these clubs to be no fewer than 10000 conducted under their charters for the financial gain of one man or a small number of men. When any club is so conducted it becomes a menace, a public nuisance, sink of iniquity and a breeder of crime. You will, at the proper time, investigate these reports carefully, with the assistance of those who have made complaint, the District Attorney and persons acting under his authority and direction, including the chief of the police, and also the chief of the constables of the various districts in which these clubs are said to exist.

And then, after this vigorous charge to the Grand Jury, there follows a sentence whose second word provokes a recollection of the humorists of "Witsburgh."

"You may be able to ascertain the truth or falsity of the rumors so persistently circulated," said Judge Carpenter. "What 'assistance' can the Grand Jury count upon to establish acceptable evidence? That of the District Attorney? Two days after Judge Carpenter's instructions of last week that officer was peremptorily summoned before the Judge and informed that the Judge meant what he said. Abandoning hope of assistance in that quarter, the Judge personally instructed a deputy sheriff to close one notorious club of the type which brought out the Court's denunciation.

Big Revenues From Clubs Nor is the "assistance" of the chief of county detectives and his force anything but doubtful. Repeated instances of the arrest of county detectives by the city police when the county detectives were attempting to obtain evidence have been published. One Pittsburgh business man who told me last week that if he were to undertake a private investigation of the "one-man clubs" it would cost him not less than \$100,000 to obtain inconceivable evidence. Although wealthy, he wouldn't have that much money to spend.

Operating under charter as "social clubs," which can sell liquor to their "members" only when their charter contains such express permission from the Attorney General, it is alleged that a license clause has been written into the charter of a thousand clubs with official connivance. The charge has been brought before the offense committee of the Allegheny County Bar Association that the business of reverting these charters has been dispensed to friendly attorneys, the privilege of selling distilled liquors to the clubs dispensed to one liquor house, the privilege of selling beer to a bottling concern, and the privilege of installed slot machines for gambling to another syndicate. The revenue collected from the "one-man clubs" by the leaders of the underworld, in return for protection from the city administration, is estimated at a half million dollars annually. It might worry some of those interested in the continued collection of these revenues, some of those who smile at the idea of any accomplishment by the Grand Jury, to know that the Grand Jury is not the only body to whom evidence against the "one-man clubs" has been or will be presented. In a certain guarded office which I entered in Pittsburgh last week there are reposing three little blankbooks, bound in black oloth, which, I respectfully submit, are loaded with "dynamic" sufficient to rock Pittsburgh on its supporting hills.

How much is bid for Bids-Burgh? The third article on the Pittsburgh political situation, "The Leaders in Pittsburgh's Great Mayoralty Campaign," will appear on this page tomorrow.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



DISTRIBUTING THE WAR COSTS

Business Men Talk Plainly to Congressmen About Loans and Taxes

Special Correspondence of the Evening Ledger WASHINGTON, Sept. 4. EXPERT financiers talk about bonds and taxes with more gusto than the average business man who is now coming to Congress with his grievances. And the more the grievances the better Congress understands the extent of the burden which both bonds and taxes impose upon a nation. As a rule, the expert financier argues for bonds to put the burden on the future generations. The old-time Democrat considers that an unfair to the man in the trenches, who must help pay the debt after his fighting is done.

He also argues that this method of distributing the war cost means that those who are making money out of the war will be relieved of a just proportion of the taxes and will have no interest in bringing the war to a close. It is so much easier to issue bonds than to levy and collect taxes that it is not necessary to explain why the effort is being made to popularize the bond issue. It has taken more than three months to pass a \$2,000,000,000 tax bill, whereas the first \$1,000,000,000 bond bill passed in a day. Even the legislators would rather take the path of least resistance in matters of this kind, which accounts in part for the moderately generous reception of the new and larger bond bill of the Administration.

Everybody knows that what is borrowed on bonds has to be paid some day, just as taxes have to be paid. The difference is that instead of paying the obligation now it is passed on to other generations of taxpayers to pay, principal and interest and interest on these new Government obligations is going to make the business man of next year and the year after next and thereafter sit up and take notice.

Business Men Complain Listen for a moment to a few sample complaints, not about the loan bills which are passing the burden along, but about the \$2,000,000,000 tax bill, which has given the Senate such trouble and which is only now being passed by the House. The aggregate of loans thus far authorized or contemplated by this Congress, says one manufacturer:

"I tell you again and again that if a tax is placed directly on our product it will not simply disturb our profit, but it will eat our capital and compel us to go to the wall.

"We are not alone losing the best men in our sales and manufacturing department who are going into the draft in addition to those who have volunteered before, but our mediocre help is now receiving anywhere from 80 per cent to 120 per cent more than it received two years ago, and there isn't a raw material that we use that has not advanced more than 50 per cent. Take glucose, for which we paid 2 1/2 cents, and for which we now pay 6 1/2 cents; take sugar, for which we paid 5 cents and for which we now pay 15 cents.

"If certainly cannot understand the Administration.

"It might be a good thing to follow up the fashion and vie with England in piling up an impossible national debt, but how they are going to get the country to carry such a debt when they tax the minor industries out of existence, is more than I can understand."

The letter came from New York. Here is another from a large iron manufacturer near Philadelphia. He complains that the Government threatens "to boss everything, from the salt on our food to the coal we cook it with."

"The Civil War, as I remember it," says this writer, "placed the country in a great deal worse position than the war in Europe does, yet we did not then have commissions to supervise everybody and everything. We are not only creating an army to fight, but a greater one to supervise. If a man should be taken suddenly ill with colic, apparently he would have to obtain the Government's permission to obtain a stimulant for his relief, and that would go hard with the Irish. Joking aside, you are giving us too many commissions. Lawyers to build ships and possibly to direct our army in France; experts to regulate prices—all except labor, which seems to be given free hand so long as it votes right. The North is going to pay the piper for all this supervision of business."

THE FARMER ALSO KICKS

Evidently it is hard to please those who are to be taxed for war necessities. Everybody is patriotic, but very few are going to be satisfied with the war-tax levy, or those additional levies which must be made hereafter for war expenses and to pay interest on our loans. Already the "war tax" of the United States is nearly equal to that of Great Britain, and if the Allies continue to make demands upon us it will not be long before the United States will have spent more than any one of the belligerent nations of Europe.

It is not manufacturers alone or business men who are complaining. The grain raiser is not quite satisfied with his \$2 per bushel rate. He contends that he is to be taxed to the extent of the difference between \$2 per bushel and what grain will actually bring. There have been some grain statesmen in Washington recently who have talked very plainly to some cotton statesmen about the freedom of cotton from taxes and from the export embargo which pertains to other commodities. It is not correct but that sooner or later cotton will have to pay something or will have to be restricted by the Government, which is now openly charging that cotton is going into Germany and is supplying ammunition with which to shoot up American soldiers.

"That the farmer has been touched by the Senate suggestion to tax farmers' profits is being coming to Washington in considerable numbers. Take the resolutions of the Wilmington Co-operative Truck Growers' Association of North Carolina. They start out with the customary declaration of patriotism and a "whereas" which declares that they "ask no immunity or release as farmers and patriotic Americans from our full share of the burdens of taxation with which to support our Government," but they submit that, whereas, "farming involves the hardest labor, exposure to weather conditions, sunshine and rain, and the greatest sacrifice in muscle and brain," therefore it would be better for the Government to raise revenue by taxing inheritances, the contention being that every dollar earned by the farmer is earned by the sweat of his brow, whereas inheritances represent "neither dollars nor cents, labor nor investment."

So that every man seems to have his ax to grind on this war-tax question. And the tax to be raised, remember, is only \$2,000,000,000, approximately, is only loans in existence and contemplated, if levied as taxes, will amount to eight times that sum. In this connection it may be stated that the general stock of money in circulation statement of the Treasury Department, was not quite \$5,500,000,000.

J. HAMPTON MOORE.

A CLEAN BETRAYAL

What ought to prove the finishing stroke to the wretched rapid transit lease scheme now before Councils is given this morning by A. Merritt Taylor.

In addition to all of the other iniquities which this lease covers, Mr. Taylor charges that it binds the city to buy the property, leaseholds and franchises of the Rapid Transit Company, and that the stockholders in the end would receive approximately \$50 a share. Furthermore, the patrons of the lines will have to shoulder the city's full interest charge on the debt to be incurred for rapid transit development and repay the entire cost of the system.

Besides this, the illegal eight-cent exchange ticket is made a permanent fixture, with the certainty of an increase of the five-cent fare to six cents.

The lease is a betrayal of the people, and they will be bound hand and foot and sold out unless they take steps to stop its adoption by Councils.—The Impartial Philadelphian.

What Do You Know? QUIZ

- 1. About how many election divisions are there in Philadelphia? 2. Italian and British monitors were shelling Pola, where and what is Pola? 3. About how far is the Hiza region, which Germans have just captured, from Petrograd? 4. A severe earthquake is reported in Bosnia. Where is Bosnia? 5. What is the wine generally known as "red" in France? 6. The artificial harbors of Zebrugga and Dedeag have been created to protect the structure of these stone moles. What are moles? 7. What are Mr. Villanov's, boy is the war pronounced, and from what famous episode in American history does the great war take its name? 8. What specifically is meant by "the co-ordination of wealth"? 9. What great woman was born at Downport in 1814? 10. What is the meaning of "status quo ante bellum"?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. "Vorwärts" (Forwards) is the leading socialist newspaper of Germany. 2. The Battle of Jutland, which was fought on May 31, 1916, has been described as the greatest sea battle in history. 3. George B. McLean was Mayor of New York City in 1874. He is now generally known as "Little Mac," who failed in his bid to become Governor of New York in 1914. 4. The "Reds" are the communists (Cross of War) in France. 5. The Rhonda is the British food product. 6. Judge Hyman is a prominent candidate in the New York election. 7. "The Red Iron" is an imitation of the medal awarded to the soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force in order to draw from his honor. 8. A "display of supposed knowledge" is a display of supposed knowledge. 9. The "place of Peter and Paul" is the name of a place in Europe. 10. Mississippi will celebrate her one hundred anniversary of statehood in December.

THE MISCHIANZA

NO ONE who seriously tries to "understand Philadelphia" and the effect of its rich and colorful history and traditions upon its present social life can go on without studying that curious and significant phenomenon known as "The Mischianza" of May 18, 1776. For it is an exaggeration to say that the forces which made that famous fete possible are still at work in the Philadelphia of today.

Any one who has read Weir Mitchell's "Hugh Wynne" and "The Red Rover" will remember that there was a strong Tory element in the Philadelphia of Revolutionary times. "Cradle of Liberty" this city did indeed become on July 4, 1776, and it ever will remain the spiritual capital of world democracy. But in spite of—because of—this fact, the reactionary opposition held its head high and predicted the utter punishment of the rebels, fellow citizens. The "Tory" ladies were not going to give up lightly the social pre-eminence they were born in favor of a lot of upstart, middle-class republicans. It might not have been so had it not been for the Declaration had been formulated in Boston or New York. But to make Philadelphia the seat of anarchy and rebellion was a crime against the future social and financial standing of a proud and privileged class.

And on September 27, 1777, little more than a year after we were pledging our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor to the redcoats of Sir William Howe entered Philadelphia and proceeded to attempt to wipe out all vestiges of the meaning and purpose of the great Declaration. The Tory ladies were not going to give up their position held its head high and predicted the utter punishment of the rebels, fellow citizens. The "Tory" ladies were not going to give up lightly the social pre-eminence they were born in favor of a lot of upstart, middle-class republicans. It might not have been so had it not been for the Declaration had been formulated in Boston or New York. But to make Philadelphia the seat of anarchy and rebellion was a crime against the future social and financial standing of a proud and privileged class.

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