

"BRR-R-RR!"

THREE LEADERS IN PITTSBURGH'S GREAT MORALITY CAMPAIGN

William A. Magee, "Big Ed" Babcock and Dr. J. P. Kerr—Their Characters, Strengths and Weaknesses

"MADE IN PHILADELPHIA"—AND OTHERWISE

This is the third 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

THREE men are fighting for the majority of Pittsburgh.

I admire the human qualities of one, the mental grasp on municipal undertakings held by the second, and the moral issue upheld by the third. None of the three possess the qualities which typify the other two.

The first is that strangely inconsistent creature, "a successful American business man." Inconsistent because the success of a business man so often strangely combines scrupulous personal honesty with an astonishing blindness to the methods adopted by his agents to accomplish results.

It is not the business of the people of Pittsburgh as a whole to inquire into the commercial methods which have made E. V. Babcock a millionaire in the lumber business, because, since no man with whom he has had dealings has attacked his integrity in the courts, the presumption is that the lumber king is as sound to the core as one of his own pine timbers.

The second candidate is William A. Magee, who has already served as Mayor of Pittsburgh, and who as a Public Service Commissioner displayed in many respects a remarkable grasp of the problems involved in the operation of a city.

The third man is Dr. James P. Kerr, chairman of the City Council of Pittsburgh, who has made an honest attempt in the Council to give the city a clean government, but whose chances for success in the present primaries got a staggering blow when Mr. Magee, who had given it to be understood that he would support Doctor Kerr, decided to enter the race himself.

Doctor Kerr's Candidacy

To begin with Doctor Kerr, my readiness to consider him a man of force suffered a considerable shock when, in the course of his campaign, he was taken over to his one guide, counselor and friend, Alexander P. Moore, and allowed another to be his spokesman.

He struck me in that fleeting glimpse as a man who, in his own mind, still dares to be left in the lurch by his friend Magee; fleeing to Alec Moore, publisher of one of Pittsburgh's newspapers, with a semiconfidential newspaper, who has reached out to him; pouring out his troubles on Alec Moore's broad shoulders and being patting reassuringly on the back by Alec Moore's plump hand; and generally appearing to me as a man who had been chased to the refuge of his mother's arms by two hard-fisted little urchins with dirty faces and armfuls of bricks supplied by grown-up men.

In the case of ex-Commissioner Magee, no one with the possible exception of capitalist interests, which might have a purpose to serve in thwarting the plans for reform, has any objection to his appointment of a good little boy to a progressive administration to the city. But I found a ponderable element which suspected that such weighty improvements for the city would be accompanied by a continuance of a protected underworld.

Mr. Magee in his platform speaks up for the "police" and "order" and "protection" of the subject. He refused to comment on it publicly for me. I therefore went to a man who is in a position to speak for Mr. Magee, and asked him to explain the subject. He refused to comment on it publicly for me. I therefore went to a man who is in a position to speak for Mr. Magee, and asked him to explain the subject.

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A war prophet's tax would prove particularly severe in deluded Germany.

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Austria's day of judgment ominously coincides with her inability to control Saint Gabriel.

Quite the healthiest draft to which democracy has ever been exposed is the present American variety.

The drafting of a composer of popular music may be a trick of chance or the long-deferred vengeance of a kindly fate.

Gorz may be a neat, short headline word, but it's far behind the times. Italy calls the town Gorizia, and the unbroken chain of victories by General Cadorna's men inspires the solid hope that that pretty pronunciation will be permanent.

The often-repeated axiom that musical art knows no boundaries of race is demonstrated anew in the Philadelphia Orchestra's roster of soloists for the coming season. When the two great factors in the war of the world reach such equality of opinion as do violins and pianists and singers, democracy will be a pretty lasting and safe bet.

Under the terms of the (Taylor) proposal if the City should find it necessary to raise the fares for its own benefit, the Company would secure 10 per cent of such rise in the division of net income.

affection for that brave young Frenchman, for it was at the Brandywine, in an attempt to defend this city from the invader, that he fell wounded. We see him again sharing the sufferings at Valley Forge. Later he is for a time at the head of the Revolution in France, courageously standing for a constitutional monarchy against the wild extremists who all but got his head.

In celebrating his birthday today, at a time when the whole world strives to make one despot a constitutional monarch, it is well to remember that this hero of democracy was not afraid of the mere name of king. He never struck at the symbol of the throne. It was real representative government that he wanted, and Louis XVI could live as long as he liked so long as he remained a powerless figurehead. So, perhaps, can William II. Our mission and our sacrifice are too real to waste effort in clearing silly emine and bauble acceptor out of palaces.

THE FACTS AND THE EVIDENCE

ON MARCH 9 Ford, Bacon & Davis, in compliance with the request of Director Twining, submitted a report on "the engineering and financial features" of the proposed Taylor lease.

Under the caption "Recommendations" that report concluded as follows: "We believe that a businesslike method of handling the problem now presented to the City is comprised in the following plan:

1. Cut the program of immediate construction of rapid transit lines as nearly as practicable to the amount of the appropriation. 2. Refer for a period of lower prices such portions of the construction as will not interfere with the value of the rapid transit system to the public.

3. Devote to the payment of fixed charges on the City's investment in rapid transit such part as practicable of the annual increase of taxes on real estate caused by rapid transit development. 4. If there should still remain a deficit in the payment of the City's interest and sinking fund charges on cost of construction, increase the fare in order to make the undertaking self-supporting.

5. Charge for transfers between high-speed and surface lines; or second, if this be not sufficient, by charging six cents on high-speed lines with a five-cent fare on surface lines; or third, by charging a uniform six-cent fare on both high-speed and surface lines.

6. Formulate a working contract embodying the foregoing changes and guarding the City's interests in the particular discussed in our report. 7. Elsewhere in the report the opinion is expressed that "unit prices will be 10 per cent lower on the average for construction to be undertaken after January 1, 1918, it being considered probable that on the average prices will so decline."

The important point for every citizen to understand, however, is this: Ford, Bacon & Davis recommended that there should be no increase in fares until after the city had devoted to the payment of fixed charges on its investment "such part as practicable of the abnormal increase of taxes on real estate caused by rapid transit development." The firm reiterates that view in its report published this morning.

The Smith-Mitten lease in its present form ignores utterly that recommendation, and the very basis of the lease is a refusal to apply any of the abnormal increase in tax receipts resulting solely from rapid transit to the financing of the operation. The lease is, therefore, a repudiation not only of definite promises made to the people, but also of the recommendations of the department's own consulting engineers.

FORWARD OR DEATH

IT CANNOT be given high hopes to every one that one great German newspaper, Vorwaerts (Forward), the Socialist organ, has had the courage to interpret the President's reply to the Pope as it meant to be interpreted and to insist that the democratization which Mr. Wilson stipulates as a guarantee of a peace treaty is what Germany ought to have and will have, whether through outside pressure or not, whether in war or peace.

The fierce wrath of the whole Pan-German press has fallen upon Vorwaerts and other papers which have followed its lead. Suppose they have their way and turn Forward into Backward. In that case American statesmanship, which is inclined to accept the theory that the fault until now has lain with the German Government, will proceed with relentless logic to prove that the German people are intent upon identifying themselves with the fate of the autocracy. That nation can commit suicide if it wants to. It can go forward or accept death.

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PICKETING SHOULD STOP WE HAVE great sympathy with the women who have been picketing the White House, but none with their method. The President is not a law-making body. The pressure brought to bear, therefore, is not in the nature of a mandamus to compel a public official to perform an obvious duty.

In ordinary times the heckling of the President would be inexcusable. It is the more unpardonable now because he bears on his shoulders not only the tremendous burden of directing this nation's participation in the great war, but also the supreme task of guiding other nations and peoples into full espousal of the religion of democracy.

American and other women have won their right to suffrage. Touch the heart of any nation in the pending mighty struggle, be it Serbia or Belgium, France or England, and the sacrifice and heroism of women bubble up. They have done men's tasks and they have done their own, too.

This newspaper's enthusiasm for woman suffrage is well known. It is, we believe, an absolute requisite to the final winning of good government in this Commonwealth. It is humiliating to good citizens to see such a woman as Mary Winsor sentenced to a term in jail.

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Well, let me tell you that if he does he's got to go some. The defiance reminded me of the sturdy challenge he had made in his public campaign speech of the day before.

"WHY WE PICKET"

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—As members of the National Woman's party will unquestionably continue to make their silent though dramatic appeal for freedom by placing pickets in front of the White House, it may interest your readers to know the logic that is behind this determination.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Gallery of War Cartoons—War and Citizenship

A WAR-CARTOON GALLERY

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—I have the honor to inform you that the Borough of Wanganui is now carrying on a cost of some \$18,000 an art gallery with the funds provided by the generosity of a deceased citizen, Mr. Henry Sorrent.

"SHALL NOT DIE IN VAIN"

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Whatever the terms of peace are, they must include the demonstration of a great moral principle. We owe that to the dead and to those still to die.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. What member of the Cabinet is directly in authority over the United States district attorneys? 2. The United States Government under the Constitution was organized by eleven states.

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. There are about 1100 election districts in Philadelphia. 2. Pola is the Austrian naval base at the end of the Adriatic peninsula, on which Trieste is located.

DETAILS OF THE MISCHIANZA

We were speaking yesterday of the Mischianza and its origin. However, the commander in charge of the British force holding this city, had been recalled and his officers and Tory society determined to offend the London Government as much as possible by giving him a send-off.

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