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Philadelphia, Saturday, December 14, 1918

ANOTHER CITY CHARTER COMMITTEE THE list of members of the newest city charter revision committee, appounced this morning by Russell Duane as a result of last Tuesday's dinner conference is a

roster of impeccable respectability. Many of the names are familiar in important business and civic welfare connections, and the good faith and sincerity of such a body are beyond question. But with all due respect, it ought to be

suggested to Mr. Duane and Mr. Winston. the chairman, that there should be a still further expansion of the roll so as to include more men with a practical, firsthand knowledge and experience in the politics if the effort is to be successfully steered through the shouls of enactment at Harrisburg.

There are no members who may be said to be truly representative of either the Republican or Demecratic party organizations and this may prove unfortunate, because It will give some of the old guard opportunity to label the movement as merely another emanation of "theoretic | reform."

While it is desirable that the committee should be eminently nonpartisan in its personnel as a whole, it is also essential that it should be wholly representative of the great mass of citizens. Governor-elect Sproul's sound advice not to ignore the "practical" aspect of local politics seems to have been somewhat overlooked, but it is not too late to remedy it.

Doctor Solf has resigned at last, and yet it's a good bet that that irrepressible whiner

MORE EVIDENCE

IN POTTSVILLE and other coal region towns and cities street railway traffic is not so heavy as it is in Philadelphia. Nor is efficiency in trolley service so imperative a necessity. Yet the street car companies have voluntarily abolished the skip-stop introduced at the suggestion of the fuel administration, as it was introduced in Philadelphia to conserve coal when coal was a war essential.

It was found in the coal regions that the skip-stop was an annoyance to the public and that the system did not operate conserve any considerable quantity of fuel. Baltimore reports a similar result and a similar decision. The experience of these cities and the testimony of corporations outside of Philadelphia ought to be studied by the committee appointed by the P. R. T. to make a report of the skip-stop

We didn't bargain for "rabid transit."

LIFTING THE OPERA BLOCKADE

MEMORIES of the last "opera war" are revived by Oscar Hammerstein's announcement that the termination of his ten-year period of "captivity" will see him once more marshaling song birds, costumers and scene painters for a lively season of lyric drama in this city. His promises as yet are somewhat vague, but so was his forecast of a temple of music at Broad and Poplar streets in 1908, when lo! with the celerity of a djinn he reared a "stately pleasure dome" and, by the grace of competition, grand opera did most mafestically thrive

Philadelphia is still reaping the benefits of those capacious times. Mr. Hammerstein's artistic and admirable rival, the New York Metropolitan Company, has displayed commendable initiative and resourcefulness in its offerings here. Partly because of the engaging battle of impresartos opera can never again be the faded art form of the old humarum Academy days. The impetus nas endured.

New spurts, however, cannot fall to be profitable to music-lovers, if, when the the ten-year blockade is legally lifted in 1920, the irrepressible Oscar once again exemplifies artistic self-determination.

Berlin's demands are apparently as in-

satiable as ever. Now she wants our army! IMPORT OF THE JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRESSES held in this, city on behalf of freedom and justice have a way of starting things. This augurs well for the ssions of eminent American Jews which will begin here on Monday.

The convention formally known as the First American Jewish Congress will consider constructive plans for the welfare, political, civil and religious, of the race throughout the world. Zionism relative to the establishment of a national Jewish nestead in Palestine will be considered well as the rights of Jews in nations which have disgraced civilization by opession of a people of high accomplishnt in all phases of human activity. -

With the inspiring projects and liberty tering purposes of the delegates Philailans are proud to be in sympathy; re is noble precedent for the practical tion of idealism expressed in convocathe meeting of the Declaration

signers and of the Constitutional delegates, but there is happily a very recent heartening instance. Only a few weeks after the creed of Bohemian independence was voiced at the State House this fall, Czecho-Slovak emancipation became an accom

plished fact. It is our privilege to expect that the annals of freedom will also be illumined by the deliberations of these latest welcome guests. The monument to religious liberty which the Jews erected in Fairmount Park in centennial times is likely to be still further enhanced in import.

TAKING THE POLICE

OUT OF POLITICS It Is Up to You, Gentle Reader, and Not to

Senator Vare or the General Assembly,

ONE of the laws of physics is that water will not rise higher than its source. It can be forced higher by pumps, but when the pump stops working the law of gravity resumes its operation and the water sinks to its natural level

One of the laws of society is that government is never better than the governors. It can be forced above their moral level for a time under pressure of the indignation of a minority, but when that indignation burns out, as it always does, government sinks back to its natural

Philadelphians have seen this law operate time after time. The latest instance was when Rudolph Blankenburg was elected to the mayoralty. But within two years the people elected a Councils opposed to him and to all that he stood for. And within four years it elected the present Mayor. There is widespread dissatisfaction with him and his administration, but the dissatisfied are more noisy than numerous. He knows it. The Republican city committee knows it. But those who believe that the administration is bad, wasteful of the public funds and moved by low moral standards are hoping that they may be devious ways of municipal and legislatives able during the next few months to stir up sufficient realization of these facts to induce the voters to repeat the experiment when they elected Mr. Blankenburg.

The Republican city committee is aware of what is going on and it has set out to "pander to the moral sense of the community," to use the phrase invented by Tammany leaders when they were confronted by a popular uprising. The committee has commissioned Colonel Sheldon Potter and Edwin O. Lewis to draft a bill which will "take the police and firemen out of politics." Senator Vare has reminded the charter revisers of the existence of this committee and has announced that the bill will be introduced in the General Assembly at Harrisburg this winter.

But Senator Vare, Mr. Lewis, Colonel Potter and the members of the city committee know that the bill now drafting will not take the police and firemen out of politics unless the men whose proxy the Mayor is wish them to be taken out of politics. They were not in politics during the administration of Mayor Blankenburg. When Colonel Roosevelt was Police Commissioner in New York the police were not in politics. Whenever in any city a man has been in control of the police who sought only to make the police force an efficient instrument for preserving order and protecting the lives and property of the people, the police force has not been in politics and its members have breathed freely and stood erect with the consciousness that faithful performance of their duty as peace officers was sufficient to warrant the approval of their superiors.

Nothing would please the rank and file of the police and firemen in this city better than to be assured that the only thing required or expected of them is attention to their duty.

Director Wilson, of the Department of Public Safety, began his administration with the announcement that the police and firemen were to be taken out of politics. But the men who controlled him and who controlled the city administration did not want any such thing to happen. They had been brought up in the same school as that which taught "Blue-eyed Billy" Sheehan, of Buffalo, who became Lieutenant Governor of New York, that the men who controlled the police need not care how the votes were cast. They could swing elections to suit themselves. They were determined to use the policemen as political agents. They have done it repeatedly. Officers who have refused to obey political orders have been transferred to districts a long way from their homes and have been subject to consistent persecution. When these men read that the Organization is planning to take the police out of politics they say that this is a tale which must be told to the submarines, for no marine will believe it.

The police are in politics because the Organization puts themothere and forces them to stay there. It could take them out of politics tomorrow if it wanted to, without asking the General Assembly to pass any laws. And no law that the General Assembly is likely to pass will of itself prevent the present Organization from using the police for political ends when it controls the Mayor and desires to use them for this purpose. The law may be strengthened and improved, but it requires honest and sincere observance and enforcement.

We may have a metropolitan Police Commission appointed from Harrisburg or we may have a Police Commission appointed from the City Hall, but each commission would be political in origin and of no higher moral standards than the power which created it. We have a law forbidding the assessment of office- wars that are operation

holders for campaign purposes, but the leaders of the very party which passed it conspire to disregard it.

The police can be taken out of politics in this city whenever this city wants them taken out. And until it does clearly and insistently show that it wants this result the police will continue to be used for political purposes, no matter what tribute to the need of a reform the men in control may give with their lips.

It is up to you, gentle reader, and to your neighbors on both sides of you. If you like what is going on, then that is what you like. If you don't like it you can end it by choosing at the next municipal primaries and general election men who will stop it.

The associated husbands of America have a Yuletide feeling that "skip-shops" would be quite all right.

SIR THOMAS AND HIS SPORTSMANSHIP

THE wholesome compensations of being a "good sport" were imperceptible while the war lasted. Germany broke all the rules at the outset and Britain soon tragically realized the impossibility of preserving her traditional code of "cricket" in the midst of a shambles.

To call the struggle, as did some sentimentalists at first, "a big game" was heer sentimental nonsense. It was a gigantic contest between international policemen and a gang of thieves and murdereis. Sportsmanship in a world of ocean mines and deadly submarine, of bombed cities and gassed regiments cuts an un happy figure. But it inevitably quickens into life the minute the madness caused by a blustering malefactor is dispelled.

Sir Thomas Lipton, a good sport, if there ever was one, has sensed the passing of the college with verifable hair-trigger promptitude. His gallant challenge for the America's Cup is a heartening index of the good fun obtainable under conditions of a sane civilization. It is doubtful if even reformed" Germany could yet comprehend is action. It forecasts international rivalry and to the Hun that is something to be festered only with machine guns and goose stepping cannon fodder.

The sense of sport must be instinctive America and Briton have long enjoyed it and seldom more vividly than in the international yacht races-not for colonies or trade routes but for a paltry cup "lifted" off Southampton one interesting day more than a half century ago.

The Irish baronet has contributed more than his share of zest to the contests. After three failures he so invigoratingly bobs up again that only the most respectful sense of sport subdues the temptation to give him the trophy as a merited

With the cup races once more in prospect and, significantly enough, with the same Shamrock IV and Resolute which were to have competed in 1914, the impression that we are at last getting back to normal is spiritedly speeded.

> Postmaster General Burleson made pleas-What Did You Expect? ant reverberations in

try with an announcement of the invention of a marvelous device designed to make the elegraph systems of the country about eight times more efficient than they are. But it is noticeable on a close reading of the good news that no politician had any part in perfeeting the invention, which is the work of engineers engaged to work for the wire companies when they were under private owner-

It will be a fine thing to have a direct Cunard Line service from this port, and the

project is also informative with respect to the tales of British dismay over our vastly increased merchant marine. For all its expansion we have yet to hear of an American passenger line between this city and Europe.

There are members of Putting the Ten the fair sex who will doubtless soon find a way of profiting by the latest telephone device by calling up ten different persons at once. We admit that the problem is difficult, but of its allurement there can be no question.

For the first time in her history England holds her elections all on one day. If this sort of hustling becomes chronic over

seems to indicate that even peace, if it is to satisfy the Hun, must be warlike, And then there is the lady who, having

The request for Allied troops in Berlin

done her Christmas shopping early, rushes to the stores at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of

It was some figure of speech which Lloyd George used when he addressed his constituents on the theme of a bill of hundreds of dillions for Germany,

It hardly modifies our shivers at the new

nfluenza warnings to realize that the head of the Federal public health service is Blue. daman a liar because of the Senator's charge

of graft and waste at Hog Island. Seamen always were a reticent lot. Now that the United States has made a friendly overture to restless Peru and Chile,

harmonious symphony in Latin America. For obvious reasons we have always naintained that Svinhufvud was not a name to conjure with, and our claim now has valid support in his retirement as Finnish Premier.

the next thing to be desired is a full-fledged

With the new air mail service between Chicago and New York in operation the real high-fliers are in neither of those lively towns, but somewhere between them.

The French welcome to President Wilson more than made up for the lack of enthusiasm manifested on this side at the time of the George Washington's departure.

While Oscar Hammerstein is alive it will take more than the first formidable decrees of a Paris Peace Conference to end the

RUBBER HEELS

OF ALL the delegates to the Peace Conference, certainly Doctor Koo is the most appropriately named. We are sorry our own Dove Dulcet didn't go.

Freedom of the Cheese If the sens are to be made free, how about good old free lunch? When is that coming back to us? We see so many little books around on

'How to Learn French in Ten Minutes" that we think the French children should be ashamed of taking twelve or fifteen years to learn it. On hearing that the Crown Prince has dismissed three cooks 1678 Philadelphia

housewives called us up to ask what we

thought the chances were of their getting

them.

The Last Shall Be First We are not one of those who are making fun of the new Republic of Brunswick for having appointed a shoemaker as President and a washerwoman as Minister of Education. Probably they will be much better administrators than the statesmen Germany has been plagued with. Certainly there will be plenty of dirty linen to wash.

If prohibition really goes into effect, one of the few pleasures left some of our citizens will be the reading of Burns's poems.

Ed Howe, the philosopher of Potato Hill, Kansas, prints an article in his paper "Why Do So Few Wives Poison Husbands?" That is what we call irreponsible journalism. Once start an idea like that on its way and no one knows what it might lead to. We presume that Ed is a bachelor.

We are opposed to this idea that a trade rivalry with any other nation is a 'menace." There are a lot of remarks floating about to the effect that American shipping will be a "menace" to Great Britain's commerce, and vice versa, Surely here's enough trade to go round, and nonest competition is the salt of both business and friendship.

Not a little of the "apprehension" about the freedom of the seas comes from those whose real wish is freedom, for the German dreadeverythings gathering rust at Scapa

One of the most piteous illusions of this season is that of the man who, knowing be won't have time to send a Christmas card o all his friends, decides to send none at all. He hoaxes himself into believing that each one of his acquaintances will think "Oh, well, he couldn't remember everybody, and probably I'm the only one he forgot!"

Our national mania for committees flourishes apace. The latest instance that we have heard of is the Committee for the Severance of All Social and Professional Relations with Enemy Sympathizers. The object is all right, but why make a committee out of it?

by the Allies toward punishing Germany for her misdeeds, but judging by the reports from Berlin that city is trying hard to punish itself.

No very active steps have been taken yet

There is no mood quite so grave and reflective as that in which a man starts on a new check book.

The Missing Link

Dear Socrates: I notice that an order of frankfurters now contains only two sausages. It always used to be three. Can't something be done about this? BEN ZEEN.

Mottoes for Beer Mugs

Among the matters that the Peace Conference might discuss, but will not, is the regrettable fact that the mottoes on beer mugs are always in German. Surely we have native poets capable of turning out sentiments in rhyme appropriate for blazoning on seidels! Tentatively, and just to give greater bards a start, we suggest the

Drink hearty: wallow like a fish For next year may be prohibish.

All worldly ill that man pooh-poohs Who takes on board sufficient booze. He careth not for any hap While good old bourbon is on tap.

Make sure, ere wits begin to spin Which pocket your latchkey is in.

On, stalwarts, on! The night is young! Ho, landlord, start another bung!

. . Wipe your bridle, Start anew, Bring the seidel And the brew.

Never mind the going home: Blow the foam, boys, blow the foam!

Brave commuter, feel no pain If you miss the midnight train: The police, if you get tight, Will give you lodging for the night.

The wise manufacturer of mugs, however, will be prepared for any emergency. In case what is predicted actually happens, rhymes of the following type will be advisable:

A viper lay within this mug: He stung us when we went glug-gug; But now, in softer stuff immersed, We quench a harmless safety thirst

The old hard stuff stung like an adder: It used to make the bad man badder-No more that hideous sight we see, Come, souse yourself with nice hot tea!

Your noble intellect will numb: Come, jolly brother, shoot your lip Over this buttermilk. Have a nip!

. Two rules for today; Join the Red

Cross and do your Christmas shopping early.

No more, no more the demon rum

We often wonder what will become of all the spurs when Washington gets back into mufti. SOCRATES.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Presidential Booms of Schwab, Henry P. Davison, Pershing, Wood and Others-Former Governor Stuart as a Lawyer-When Penrose Read "Pilgrim's Progress"

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14. T IS early to talk about the next President, but President Wilson's absence from the country has given opportunity for many wiseacres to discuss the question. It bobbed up momentarily when Secretary McAdoo announced his purpose to retire from official life. The gossip still is that it was not alone the matter of personal finance that induced him to part company with the President. Mr. McAdoo had more machinery in hand with which to promote a presidential candidacy, if he desired to avail himself of it, than was ever enjoyed by any other history of the country; but Mr. McAdoo insisted he was no candidate and could not with propriety be one. Be that as it may, several feelers have been put forth with regard to other men. Charles M. Schwab has enjoyed a temporary boom. In this connection it has been said that the President hesitated about appointing Schwab as "shipbuilding boomer extraordinary" until it was reasonably sure Schwab could not permit himself to be considered. Another name that has been quietly sprung in financial circles is that of Henry P. Davison, president of the American Red Cross. There are those who say that Mr. Davison's friends, notwithstanding his close association with the house of Morgan, are seriously advancing his claims. Like Schwab, he has certain Pennsylvania connections.

These rumors account to a certain extent for the war booms of General Pershing, General Wood and others. The old-line politicians, however, are not making any real predictions at this time, and Republican National Chairman Will H. Hays is going about the country, as he himself confesses, "just keeping an ear to the ground."

THINGS sometimes happen just as we would have them. Sometimes they happen by design. When he was Governor, Edwin S. Stuart, who is not a lawyer, but a bookseller and financier, made a remarkable hit with a bunch of big lawyers, and he admits it was no accident. In an idle moment he picked up a law book and found a decision that attracted his attention. He read it carefully, made a mental note of the page and title and then laid it away Some days later a distinguished delegation, men of the type of Alexander Simpson, Jr. M. Hampton Todd and Dimner Beeber, appeared before him to argue an important question of law. They cited a number of cases. The Governor listened. Presently he broke in with: "Gentlemen, this is all very interesting, but I'm inclined to think the case of Smith vs. Jones, thirteenth Weekly Notes, page 1141, covers this situation thoroughly." Then the Governor sent for his book, looked as if he had been hunting up legal decisions all his life and awaited developments. The lawyers examined the decision, conferred with each other and then looked at the Governor, as if to say, "We didn't know it, but he's some lawyer." . The ex-Governor holds the opin ion that things do often come our way without our special planning.

TERE'S another. Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, H author of "Hugh Wynne," was thrown next to Senator Penrose in a parlor car en route to Washington one day. It was at a time when the Pennsylvania Senator was undergoing a lively fire of criticis

of the offer of New Jersey, which stands ready to spend \$1,000,000 for the right of way as soon as the Government is prepared to dig. for alleged political offenses. He had just CCORE one for the Jews of Philadelphia. reached down into his grip for something They are bringing to that city the first to read, and as fortune would have it he American Jewish congress, which is to fished up a quaint old volume of "The deal with the world status of the Jews in Pilgrim's Progress." "What are you readthe peace negotiations and with the estabing. Penrose?" said the distinguished litlishment of a national home in Palestine. terateur as he settled himself next to the Editor Jacob Ginsburg, of the World, and Senator. "Just refreshing my memory." Editor Louis Gerson, of the Journal, are said Penrose, handing the book over to the getting ready for the big event, some of doctor. With a glance which seemed to the details of which have been arranged say, "I would not have been surprised if at the capital. it had been 'Nick Carter' or 'Solid for Mulhooley," the doctor handed the volume

back. Subsequently, when there was some

of Philadelphia savants, the critics were em

phatically squelched by the learned doctor.

"Too much loose talk about that man."

he said, relating the parlor car incident.

WITH the prospect of increased appro-

kill Rivers, local communities along the

Delaware are beginning to look up their

own premises. Shipbuilding has done much

to increase the feeling of expectancy. The

Philadelphia Navy Yard is also a big fac-

tor. In the coming rivers and harbors bill

provision will be asked for several over-

looked projects. One of these is Darby-

we call it "river" for legislative reasons-

concerning which there has been quite a

revival of interest. E. F. Dodson, clerk of

Council of the borough of Prospect Park,

sends along resolutions from that body in

harmony with the demand for a survey

of the stream, which is confidently ex

pected to be authorized in the forthcoming

bill. Much of the Darby agitation is due

to George Kyle, a business man of Darby,

who has been preaching the doctrine of

waterways it, that vicinity, C. J. Berlin

chairman of the highway committee of the

Woodland Avenue Business Men's Asso

ciation, is also taking a hand in the game

MY LOGAN, whose rise in the news-

paper world in Washington has been

exceptional, has gone abroad. There is a

suspicion that he is one of the forerunners

of the President Wilson expedition. Tom

Logan is the son of Thomas F. Logan

one of Philadelphia's old-time newspaper

men, a contemporary of Joe Robinson,

Clayton Fife and Joe Reed. He was active

before William Perrine inaugurated his

famous "Penn" articles, and his son came

into the newspaper field about the time

Clem Congdon was doing the Builders' Ex-

change and Billy Matos, of Swarthmore

was dreaming of big advertising busines

to come. To a certain extent the news-

paper boys in Washington have kept their

eye on young Tom. He has married well

and mixes with the social set. He was

very close to the White House during the

Taft Administration and has stood pretty

close to Secretary Tumulty under Presi

TATERWAYS are looking up again

W President Wilson in his farswell mes-

sage to Congress spoke of the necessity of

their utilization to catch up with the in-

sufficient railroad service. Professor Lewis

M. Haupt, of Cynwyd, a distinguished en-

gineer, whose father, General Haupt, was

the big bridge builder of the Civil War,

reminds us that it took two centuries to

get the Cape Cod Canal built and that it

ras not built until private capital did the

ork. Professor Haupt surveyed the ship

dent Wilson.

priations for the Delaware and Schuyl-

'You don't know the real Penrose."

iscussion about the

SUNSHINE AND SHADOW

FLIES

canal route across New Jersey long before

that project was approved by the United

States army engineers. He wonders why

the United States does not take advantage

THEY'RE a-buzzin' round us always They're a-buzzin day and night, When we're sleeping, eating, working Or starting into fight,

There's a dead horse down the valley, And he's in an awful state, From there they come a buzzin' Right upon our dinner plate. When we're in our dugout resting,

Weary from a sleepless night, For the Boche had tried to shell us And a little sleep seemed right. From there they come a-buzzin'

And his humming seems to say

We are here and only waiting

For we'll swarm on you some day. And as the shells go whistling, And we duck down very low. Those darned flies keep a-buzzin'

And they're waiting, yet, I know. For the shell that stops a-whistlin' And goes "bing" just where I am, Then those flies'll come a-buzzin

But I won't give a damn. PRIVATE ERIC SAUVILLE, Battery F. 108th Field Artillery, A. E. F.

What Do You Know?

1. What race distinct from the French compose the bulk of the population in Brest? 2. Who was the last King of Portugal and where does he new reside?

3. For how long a period does Mr. McAdos nur-gest that the rallroads be retained by the Government? 4. Who said "In the adversity of our heat friends we always find something that is not wholly displeasing to us"?

5. What is the origin of the phrase 6. What is a reredos?

7. What celebrated French marshal was known as "the bravest of the brave"? 8. What is the correct pronunciation of the word

9. What kind of a bird is a foucan? 10. How many times has Sir Thomas Lipton no-nucreasfully competed for the America's Cup?

Answers to Yesterday's Quis Charles Ples succeeds Charles M. Schwab at director general of the Emergency Real Corporation.
 The Talleries was destroyed by the Turis Communics in the uprising of 1871.

sold by street venders. The name is said to be derived from hecus-pocus,

The grandmother of Alexandre "Pere," and grant-grandmother of dre Dumas, "Fils," was a Haitlan

7. Fanfarousde is arrogant or bragging to 8. Salem is the capital of Oregon.
9. Jean De Resako, the celebrated tenor, a mbout two decades ago, was a Pole, 10. The Emmelhation Proclamation was on January 1, 1863, more than two and a half after the pulbreak of the way.