

Evening Public Ledger

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ANOTHER CITY CHARTER COMMITTEE

The last of members of the newest city charter revision committee, announced 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.

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.

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, costumes 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 he reared a "state-of-pleasure dome" and, by the grace of competition, grand opera did most majestically thrive.

IMPORT OF THE JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRESSMEN held in this city on behalf of freedom and justice have a way of starting things. This augurs well for the sessions 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 homeland in Palestine will be considered as well as the rights of Jews in nations which have disgraced civilization by oppression of a people of high accomplishment in all phases of human activity.

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, Czechoslovak emancipation became an accomplished fact.

TAKING THE POLICE OUT OF POLITICS

It is up to you, Gentle Reader, and Not to Senator Vare or the General Assembly, to Do It

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.

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 Council 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 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 them there 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-

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 seas are to be made free, how about good old free lunch? When is that coming to us?

The Last Shall Be First
We are not one of those who are making fun of the new Republic of Brunawick 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.

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.

Ed Howe, the philosopher of Potato Hill, Kansas, prints an article in his paper called "Why Do So Few Wives Poison Their Husbands?" That is what we call irresponsible 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.

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

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?

What Did You Expect?
Postmaster General Burleson made pleasant reverberations in the press of the country with an announcement of the invention of a marvelous device designed to make the telegraph systems of the country about eight times more efficient than they are.

Enterprise Counts A Little
It will be a fine thing to have a direct Curand 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.

Putting the Ten in Intentions
There are members of the fair sex who 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 allotment 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 there, cricket games will be losing their appeal.

The request for Allied troops in Berlin seems to indicate that even peace, if it is to satisfy the Hun, must be warlike.

And then there is the lady who, having done her Christmas shopping early, rushes to the stores at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of December 24 with an armful of bundles for exchange.

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

It hardly modifies our shivers at the new influenza warnings to realize that the head of the Federal public health service is Blue.

Admiral Bowles has called Senator Vandaman 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, the next thing to be desired is a full-fledged harmonious symphony in Latin America.

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

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 wars that are operative.

SUNSHINE AND SHADOW

Freedom of the Seas
If the seas are to be made free, how about good old free lunch? When is that coming to us?

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CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.
IT IS early to talk about the next President, but President Wilson's absence from the country has given opportunity for many wisecracks to discuss the question. It hobbled 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, that was ever enjoyed by any other man in the history of the country; but Mr. McAdoo insisted he was no candidate and could not with propriety be one.

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.

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

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

All worldly ill that man pool-pools
Who takes on board sufficient booze.
He careth not for any nap
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 bride,
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!

No more, no more the demon rum
Your noble intellect will numb;
Come, jolly brother, shoot your lip
Over this buttermilk. Have a nip!

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

Two rules for today: Join the Red Cross and do your Christmas shopping early.



FLIES

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

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. 10th Field Artillery, A. E. F.

What Do You Know?

- QUIZ
1. What race distinct from the French composed the bulk of the population in Haiti?
2. Who was the last King of Portugal and where does he now reside?
3. For how long a period does Mr. McAdoo suggest that the railroads be retained by the Government?
4. Who said "In the adversity of our best friends we always find something that is not wholly displeasing to us"?
5. What is the origin of the phrase "hippopotamus"?
6. What is a reed bed?
7. What celebrated French marshal was killed at "the battle of the Marston"?
8. What is the correct pronunciation of the word "maraschino"?
9. What kind of a bird is a "weaver"?
10. How many times has Sir Thomas Lipton successfully contested for the America's Cup?
Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. Charles Fies succeeds Charles M. Schwab as director general of the Montgomery Ward Corporation.
2. The Tullerias was destroyed by the Spanish Communists in the uprising of 1871.
3. Samp is an article of food consisting of a mixture of molasses and usually eaten with milk.
4. Hoker-poker is a kind of cheap ice cream sold by street vendors. The name is said to be derived from hocus-focus.
5. The strait of San Juan de Fuca lies between the State of Washington and Vancouver Island.
6. The grandmother of Alexander Dumas, "Père," and great-grandmother of Alexandre Dumas, "Fils," was a Haitian negress.
7. Fanfaroues is arrogant or braggart talk.
8. Salem is the capital of Oregon.
9. Jean De Resaie, the celebrated actor, died about two decades ago, was a Pole.
10. The Transatlantic Provisional was launched on January 1, 1853, more than two years and a half after the outbreak of the Civil War.