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Philadelphia, Friday, December 20, 1918

DOESN'T MANN KNOW BETTER?
T BEGINS to look as if it would be necessary to teach Representative James H. Mann that he is so far out of sympathy with the Republican party and what it stands for that he must remain in the background. He does not know it yet, for he has announced that he is a candidate for the speakership of the next Congress. This announcement was made after a caucus attended by seventeen of the twenty-two Republican Representatives from Illinois. The caucus endorsed his candidacy.

If the rule of seniority is to be observed regardless of the consequences, there was no other course open to the caucus. Mann has been the leader of his party on the floor of the House for four or five Congresses, a position to which he attained by length of service and not because he was a representative Republican.

He has been out of his seat for more than a year on account of illness, and it was understood that he would not attempt to assert his claims under the seniority rule when his health was restored. Before he was forced to go home he lined himself up with the opponents of the war. He came so near to being a pro-German that there was a danger of distinguishing between him and the defenders of the Kaiser than by getting at their motives.

But his party was a war party; that is, it was a party which was committed to the proposition that the United States should not submit to the disregard of its rights by Germany. There was a small group of Republicans, in which Mann was conspicuous, which stood out against the majority.

It would be a stupendous blunder to pick a man from this group at the present time and promote him to the speakership. The Senate might as well make La Follette its president pro tempore, for Mann and La Follette are tarred with the same stick. Mann is no longer a spokesman for his party. He is out of sympathy with what it stands for and he must know it, even though he has influence enough with the Illinois machine to force the Representatives from his State to endorse his candidacy and to insist on the observance of the seniority rule, disregard of which might deprive some of the Illinoisans of promotions for which they are not fitted.

The party is on trial just now, and the surest way to convict it of unfitness for the tasks with which it has been entrusted would be for it to lift Mann up as its spokesman in the House. Mann ought to have patriotism enough to keep in the background and permit those Republicans who are ready to lead the nation whither it would go to occupy the posts of authority and responsibility.

Almost any old change in sea regulations would be welcome to Germany just now.

THE BIG-GUN MURDERS
THE German mania for spectacular cruelty is emphasized anew in the first official Paris report on the ravages of the frontier cannon which boomed almost simultaneously with the opening of the March offensive. From a military standpoint the big gun was an utter failure. The morale of the French capital was unshakable. The power of the sinister weapon hidden in the St. Gobain forest was altogether insufficient to destroy a metropolis. The monstrous instrument won nothing for Germany but shame, the shame of wanton murder.

Of its victims more than 100 were killed at their Good Friday devotions at the church of St. Germain. Mr. Wilson has been urged to view that Friday edifice and doubtless he will visit it before he departs. The significance of a Somme battlefield is less hideous than this exemplar of criminal yet intrinsically futile megalomania.

The French Government displays acute sensitivity in publishing the figures of the "Big Bertha's" slaughter at the very moment when Paris is mightier and more radiant than ever. The lesson of dastardly folly is vividly intensified.

Jeffre was one of the immortals before the French Academy made him a member.

REWARDS IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA
MARK TWAIN once remarked that the United States had given to General Grant every conceivable honor—that was "cheap," and thus characterized immorally the American method of rewarding those who serve the country.

Dewey got nothing but promotion from the Government for his exploit in Manila Bay. The House which was given to him was paid for by popular subscription managed by a newspaper, and when Dewey gave the house to his wife, who was rich in her own right, he ceased for the time to be a hero.

They do things differently in England. Arthur Wellesley was made a duke for his services in the Napoleonic wars and received a grant of money sufficient to enable him to maintain the style of a prince.

proper dignity. Horatio Nelson was rewarded with title and a parliamentary grant for his achievements on the sea. Kitchener and Roberts were similarly honored, money enough going with their titles to remove them from financial worries. Now it is said that it is planned to raise Sir Douglas Haig to high rank in the peerage and to give him a grant of money in accordance with the established custom.

Much can be said in defense of this practice without defending the British system of nobility. It rests on the sense of gratitude of the nation to the men who have made great sacrifices and run great risks to serve it. No one has proposed that we introduce the custom here and reward General Pershing with higher rank than he now holds or with an appropriation from the Treasury large enough for him to live like a gentleman for the remainder of his life. Such rewards as we give him will be like those heaped on General Grant—they will not cost anything—and he must be content with the consciousness that he has done his duty.

THE P. R. T.'S SKIP-STOP LOGIC; WHAT IT REALLY PORTENDS

Committee of Thirteen a Blind Aid Mitten in Eliminating Half the Pre-War Steps in Defense of Public Opinion

NOBODY who knows the infamous history of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company and its underlying corporations is going to be taken in by its present clumsy and clownish maneuvering over the skip-stop question. But lest there may be ignorance on this point among some of the very estimable members of the Committee of Thirteen who have submitted their good names to the uses and possible abuses of this effort to put over on the public for purely mercenary motives a subtraction of service that is at once deadly to pedestrians and irritating to passengers, it may be well to discuss the subject clearly and without undue mincing language.

The first act of this committee was to hold a secret meeting at which it elected as its chairman the chairman of the State Public Service Commission, which is supposed to be investigating the standing and credibility of the P. R. T. along fundamental lines touching the proposed lease with the city. W. D. B. Ainey is the gentleman referred to and his mere acceptance of service on such a committee, quite apart from taking the chairmanship, shows an utter lack of comprehension of his official relation to the company, a deplorable want of taste both on his part and on the part of those who prevailed upon him to serve and an absence of understanding by his fellow committee members at the very first stage in their proceedings of what is fitting and proper. Already complaints are pending before his commission which he must later help to adjudicate.

But let that pass.

The second act of the committee was to receive a communication in the nature of instructions from Thomas E. Mitten, president of the company, which in itself is a wholly disingenuous presentation of the situation they are expected to elucidate and is evidently intended to prejudice their minds at the outset to such an extent that they will be unable to see the public side of the controversy when it is presented—if it ever shall be fairly.

The third act of the committee was to authorize the secretary to invite the publishers of the four Philadelphia papers, which have been bold enough to tell the truth in disregard of the desires of the P. R. T. management, to appear before that body at a meeting this afternoon "with such evidence as you may have to support, to justify or substantiate the charges which your paper has made that deaths were caused by skip-stops."

Of all the impudent efforts by the P. R. T. in the past to impose upon the people of Philadelphia, this is the most ludicrous. Plainly, Mr. Mitten wants to confuse the issue. He wants to direct attention away from the relatives and friends of the victims whose lives were ground out by his street cars at skip-stop crossings and turn this into a quarrel between his company and the newspapers. He wants to make it appear that there is some malicious or intriguing purpose behind the outspoken criticisms of his blundering management and thinks he can do so by obscuring the fact that the newspapers he mentioned were merely recording the opinion of the great riding public upon whose nickels he has to depend to earn that 5 per cent dividend and pile up further that four million dollar surplus of which Mr. E. T. Stotesbury is so proud.

And, strangest of all, the committee appears to have been meekly led into this deception!

Of course, the evidence of whether the skip-stops caused the recent deaths reported in the newspapers is readily obtainable first-hand, relative, relevant and germane, from the eye-witnesses of the accidents, whose names were listed by the police and whose statements will probably be found carefully compiled in the claim department of the P. R. T.—if they have not been conveniently pigeon-holed or eliminated by the familiar "settlement." The Coroner's court and the police courts where the implicated motormen were arraigned are the proper places to apply for such testimony. It seems silly to point this out to the members, but it is necessary since Mr. Mitten adroitly avoided doing so. Let the committee go to the obvious sources and not try to shift responsibility.

Now as to the skip-stop itself, about which Mr. Mitten writes with such copious but non-illuminating phrases. The milk in that coconut is the \$250,000 which he asserts can be saved yearly in fuel and maintenance. That is what he is after. That is why he imported an expensive set of press agents to hunt out biblical proverbs and cash phrases to cozen the public withal, and not the promised improvement of the service

which is so questionable. That \$250,000 would go a long way toward paying the war taxes of the predacious underlying, underwater companies recently imposed through a decision of the lower courts on the holding concern—the P. R. T.

After glibly admitting that the skip-stops were badly arranged, inviting "justified criticism," and attributing it to the haste of war needs, Mr. Mitten says that a board of out-of-town "experts" will be "intrusted with the task of establishing car stops at an average of six stops per mile, to be so placed as to best serve the public."

If this means what it says, it implies the elimination of about half the present stops in the city. Is the public awake to this fact?

Philadelphia city blocks are about four hundred feet long, and under the old system cars stopped at every main or "hundred-numbered" street. But six stops to the mile would mean an average stop only every 880 feet, or every two blocks throughout the city, a quite different proposition even from the one adopted as a war measure at the suggestion of the fuel administration.

In other words, instead of modifying the skip-stop in deference to public opinion, Mitten is actually planning to increase it almost twofold, and that explains the expensive campaign of publicity and the pains he is taking to put his scheme across. The Thirteen is a blind—and probably an unlucky one—to overcome public opinion.

Are the people of Philadelphia going to stand for it?

Constant mention of the fact that several other cities are using the skip-stop system is counted upon as a trump card by the P. R. T., but this argument entirely overlooks the fact that in no other city where it is used are conditions so unfavorable to it as in this city, with its checkerboard squares with multitudinous right-angle crossings and its narrow streets, which make it impossible for persons to see a car approaching a crossing before it is within a few feet of the center of the cross street.

But most astonishing in its cynical disregard of both the public and the Thirteen jury is the plain announcement that Mr. Mitten is going ahead with his skip-stop tomfoolery and put it into operation before he submits it for a decision to either. Listen to what he says:

"Following such revision and the consequent saving of time the car riders of each line will be asked to say as to whether skip-stop shall go or skip-stop shall stay."

This means that in the face of the present anger and protest among all classes of people against this dangerous and irritating system the P. R. T. is determined to adopt the scheme which will force riders to walk blocks in either direction along car lines in the approaching bitter weather of the year, over snowy and icy pavements, while cars whiz past their regular corners, so as to save coal—and protect dividends and surplus. Could anything be more arrogant?

It begins to look as if there were need for new direction in the P. R. T. if it is going to avoid arousing the old antagonisms of the people of Philadelphia.

It cannot come too soon if the skip-stop muddle is due to Thomas E. Mitten.

As with infants generally, the new German democracy is tottering.

THE PAPER-RS OF PLAY ACTORS
WHAT is villainy without the "paper-rs"? The stage will have none of it and neither would that most amazingly melodramatic of conspirators, Major Franz von Papen. In truth, according to his lights—the limelights—his affection for incriminating documents quite places the dress-suited, patent-leather booted "bad man" of the shilling shocker in the shade.

Whither Von Papen went, there went those precious and damning manuscripts which repeatedly damned him. "For God's sake don't take any compromising papers with you!" wailed Von Bernstorff as the inveterate sensationalist was dismissed from Washington. There was reality in the warning, but little in its recipient. Theatricalism could not be denied, and so Von Papen packed up the whole batch of darling records and the English had a rich haul, including among other useful articles his carefully annotated check book.

Soon, however, the omnivorous collector set to work anew and a wallet stuffed with treasures made the journey with him to Palestine. Then came the rout at Nazareth and the fast fleeing major forgot his effects at last.

Allenby's men discovered them, and they now comprise some of the most interesting of the revelations of the Senate committee now investigating German propaganda. They demonstrate with salutary emphasis to those who so long feared the alleged superlative craft of the Hun mischief makers in America that many of them were a mere troupe of stony bunglers.

Subjects of the Kaiser wax woeful in these documents. Doctor Albert declared, "we suffer from thoughtlessness, which offers a sad contrast to our supposed efficiency." A certain strangely discerning Hosenfelder unmercifully roasts the gorgeous Von Papen for such absurd futilities as the attempt to destroy the Welland Canal and a railway bridge into Canada. The bogie in America of Teuton intrigue despite certain despicable success seems to have been a pumpkin head.

"Theatricalism," as exemplified notably in Von Papen's documentary mania, was its bane. The whole pack of infatuated muddlers, from the Kaiser and his multitudinous uniforms down, were maniacal yet foolish play actors. That is one of the reasons why their play failed.

It is said that we will soon be able to travel to New York in an hour by airplane. The beauty of the arrangement will be that we can get back just as quickly.

Mr. Wilson is planning to eat his Christmas dinner with the army in France, and he will put one over on the Kaiser by keeping his engagement.

THE READER'S VIEWPOINT
Make the Delaware Bridge a Memorial
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—In response to your invitation to suggest a memorial to the men who fought in France, I would say:

Why not call the new bridge over the Delaware, from Philadelphia to Camden, "The Soldiers and Sailors' Bridge"?

The approaches and towers would give our artists an opportunity to show their worth in the matter of arches, groups and towers.

Of course, some of us might not see its completion, but millions more would never live to see its passing away.

JOE LENOIR
 Philadelphia, December 18

Plant Trees
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—In making the suggestion that the planting of trees would be the most fitting way of perpetuating the memory of our heroes I voice the opinion of a large number of persons.

There can be no finer memorial than an avenue of noble trees, and it is almost the only one which improves with time and which can never go out of fashion.

BERTHA A. CLARK
 Secretary of the Society of Little Gardens.
 Philadelphia, December 18

Memorial Trees
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—What finer tribute can be paid to the men of Philadelphia who gave their lives or offered their lives in the great war than memorial trees?

The American Forestry Association is urging the planting of such memorial trees along our motor transport highways and public parks and as the proper setting for any memorial plans that may be adopted by a municipality, it urges that memorial trees be given consideration by the committee which will determine what Philadelphia is to do in this way. I take the liberty of calling to your attention the famous poem, "The Tree," by Joyce Kilmer, which I think expresses as words have not expressed before the beauty of a tree as a memorial. I quote the poem.

"I think that I shall never see
 A poem lovely as a tree.
 A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
 Against the earth's sweet flowing breast.
 A tree that looks to God all day
 And lifts her leafy arms to pray.
 A tree that may in summer wear
 A nest of robins in her hair;
 Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
 Who intimately lives with rain.
 Poems are made by fools like me,
 But only God can make a tree."

The American Forestry Association is planning to register all the memorial trees planted in this country and will make a record in that way of what is done. A memorial tree will be a constant reminder of the heroism of the men who went to the front. It will also serve another purpose and keep constantly before the people the value of forests. Our forests have been drained to a great extent by the demands for war work and everything possible must be done to encourage an awakening in the value of forestry in this country.

CHARLES LATHROP PACK,
 President American Forestry Association,
 Washington, December 11.

The Truth About Skip-Stops
Reprinted From Today's Public Ledger
A COMMITTEE of estimable citizens, men and women, selected by the management of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company and invited by that corporation to "say whether skip-stops are really guilty of causing death and increased accidents," has begun its labors with an interesting attempt to "pass the buck." A request has been sent, in the name of that committee, to the publisher of the PUBLIC LEDGER, to come before that committee with such evidence as you feel you may have to support, to justify and substantiate the charges which your (this) paper has made that deaths were caused by skip-stops.

Philadelphia, undoubtedly wants the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about this skip-stop business, but it will not look to the management of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company nor to any committee of its making for a judgment that will be worth the paper on which it is written. The very fatuousness of the committee's initial proceedings, in calling upon the newspaper—the mere channel through which the charges have been voiced by scores of individuals and associations—instead of going directly to the final sources of information—the witnesses before the Coroner's inquests—through which the suspicion that the principal purpose of the company is to cloud the issue and divert public attention from the real question.

Instead of frankness the public has been treated in this matter with an elaborate camouflage, with the result of deepening popular distrust in the good faith of the company, intensifying discontent with a system of skip-stops which, whatever may be said for it in principle, has been designed with a clumsy disregard of public opinion and of the convenience and comfort of riders. It was not until the agitation against the skip-stops became universal that the company designed to admit that its system might not be perfect and that it would be willing to meet just criticisms and make corrections. One would have thought that after its long record of clumsy blunders in dealing with the public the company might by this time have considered the value of tact and conciliation in seeking to introduce a new system of this sort, involving admitted inconvenience to thousands and designed to save expense to the company. Instead of that, it went ahead in the old autocratic public-be-damned fashion. It has only itself to blame that the opposition has taken a violent form and if the possible advantages to the public in increased speed of transit are overlooked in the light of the increased money in the coffers of the company.

If the committee of thirteen—a sinister title—wants to know the truth about the relation of the skip-stops and accidents, let it summon the witnesses before the Coroner's inquests. Then if those witnesses have not been already "seen" by the claim department of the company, perhaps the committee will be enabled to "say" to the satisfaction of the management whether skip-stops cause death. Whether their say-so will satisfy the public is another story.

The German navy did not have nerve enough to come out and face destruction during the war, but the belief that it should be destroyed is so strong that reports keep coming from London and Paris that the ships are to be sunk. That would be the safest way to get rid of them.

"YET, PAPA, CHRISTMAS DINNER ISS SAFE; OUR GEESE VAS COOKED LONG AGO!"

The Import of a Pazzi Chapel Here
The Proposed Duplicate of This Building for the Johnson Pictures Should Serve as an Artistic Stimulus as Do Our Other "Copies" of Famous Architectural Gems

FOUR structures in Philadelphia which especially delight the eye—the main building of Girard College, the Custom House, the Girard Trust Company's building and the former Marime Exchange at Third and Dock streets—derive direct inspiration from foreign masterpieces of architecture. A fifth will be added when, if present proposals are carried out, the superb Johnson collection of paintings are housed in a reproduction of a signal esthetic achievement, Brunelleschi's Pazzi Chapel, of Florence.

Unlike other arts, architecture is one in which avowed imitation—often warrants praise than blame. It is absurd to rewrite "The Tempest," as Dryden did; stupid to compose another "As You Like It," which George Sand so injudiciously made over for unsuspecting French readers; fatuous to "imitate" "A Doll's House," as did Henry Arthur Jones in his "Breaking of a Buttery." Books, being portable, may grace innumerable environments. Their intimate appeal is pervasive.

ART in architecture can only approach that universality when its highest concepts are freely employed, either in detail or replica, by designers unaided to echo or beauty that has become standard. The fear that originality may be shadowed by the annals of American cities. Our own distinctive architecture, that of the skyscraper, suffers, whatever its faults, from no sterility whatever.

The structural Americanism of New York is unmistakable. Such foreign models as exist there, however, season the scene and unquestionably serve as esthetic stimulus and as a safety valve on presumptuous crudity.

The heaven-kissing Singer Building is undeniably picturesque in certain lights. Chastening influences, however, are certainly exerted by the aspect of the Madison Square tower, copied by Stanford White directly from the famous Giralda by the Seville Cathedral; and the Herald Building, with its deliberate suggestions of a particular Italian Renaissance palace.

AT HOME the knowledge that Girard College is "after" the Paris Madeleine; that the Custom House, though in some respects rather a botch; reflects columnar "motives" of the Parthenon; that the singularly interesting structure which crowns the Maritime Exchange stems from the lovely choragic monument of Lycabrates still standing below the Acropolis; in Athens, and that the Girard Trust Building, and in the main reverently imitator the Roman Pantheon, cannot fail to develop taste and quicken the imagination with a sense of beauty.

The Pazzi Chapel on the Parkway should, therefore, exert a wholesome influence on the growth of that thoughtful. Imitation in this instance typifies gratifying discrimination, inasmuch of the late John G. Johnson's pictorial treasure is composed of paintings by Italian masters of Brunelleschi's time. Gems will appropriately replace the setting of a gem, for the original building is one of the glories of the one-time supreme dynamo of artistry on the Arno.

Elegance rather than grandeur is its keynote. Filippo Brunelleschi had already

Little Studies in Words
RIVAL
THE word rival, meaning competitors for the favor of a lady, comes to us directly from the Latin, both in its original and its secondary meaning. It is the Anglicized adjective form of rivus meaning a brook, from which rivulet comes. The Latin word rivalis, meaning pertaining to a brook, was used in the plural as a noun to denote one who used the same brook as another. Water rights were precious and disputes grew up among the users of the same stream so that in time the word came to mean one who disputed with another for the enjoyment of a right and from that it was transferred to the suitors of a lady.

The word has three meanings in English also, starting with the one about the possession of a common right with another and including competitors for a common object and the suitors in love.

There is many a provisional government in hungry Russia that wishes it could live up to its name.

More than one was a surging Boulevard des Italiens when King Victor and his entourage thrilled Paris yesterday.

Is the proposed expansion of the Philadelphia water system one means of preparation for the days when prohibition will be operative?

"Hale Columbia!" has significance indeed for the burghers of Coblenz as our first and stalwart Yankee settle down there.

In the hapless realm of the P. R. T. a pass merely entitles the public to walk a couple of blocks.

Senator Knox says he does not know what the President means by a League of Nations. Perhaps the President does not know either.

The Congress of Soldiers and Workmen's Councils in Berlin seems to be a riot, the actions of which no one can foretell.

What Do You Know?
QUIZ
YET triumphant over the echoes of such passions is the chaste and happy aspect of a symbol of artistic culture. Authority of architectural conception is sustained in the low ribbed dome, the elegant porch in two stages, the open colonnade of six Corinthian columns, with the middle opening covered by an arch rising to the second story, and there the graceful loggia, while the humanizing touch of intimacy is revealed in the delightful della Robbia reliefs of the interior.

The evocation of Brunelleschi's witchery will assuredly be rightly keyed to the purpose for which his architectural "motives" will be employed on Philadelphia's ambitious boulevard. The full dramatic flavor of an architectural masterpiece can only be tasted "in situ." The story of the Pazzi Chapel abroad enriches its appeal so far as history goes. But its purely artistic import can be carried overseas. The attractive duplicates which adorn parts of the city are expressive of beauty which need not wither if the transporting be reverent.

The message of such buildings is pertinent in any community where allied utility is so often placed second to artistic considerations. A bit of Florence in the wondrous days in which ideals of beauty had first place should be inspiring, even in a copy.

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
 1. Renier Clemenceau, of France, is seventy-seven years old.
 2. Senor Canto y Castro is the new President of Portugal.
 3. The unused yearly income which the Italian Government sets aside for the Pope is \$2,250,000 lire, or about \$445,000.
 4. Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston, was Prime Minister of Great Britain during the period of the American Civil War.
 5. The approximately correct pronunciation of the name of the American Civil War hero, "G" in Leo wounded as in the word "G" and the accent in Angeles on the first syllable.
 6. Carlo Dalei, or Carlini, was a noted Florentine painter of religious subjects. His dates are 1418-1480.
 7. The national hymn of Wales is "The March of the Men of Harlech."
 8. A movement in a short literary or musical composition is called a "movement."
 9. Sausage was the ancient Roman food of early culture.
 10. A libel is an arch and vulgar insult.