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Philadelphia, Saturday, March 15, 1919

GOVERNOR SPROUL ON COAL
 COMMISSIONS have followed commissions in dizzy succession in the endless investigation of anthracite prices—and the costs of coal are still going up. In almost every case the "probers" talk interminably and retire in fog and bewilderment. Can Governor Sproul put anthracite investigations on a new basis? The tone of his pronouncement in relation to the present state of prices in the industry indicates that he will at least make an attempt.

There is an unlimited supply of coal in Pennsylvania. There has been a lavish overproduction at the mines. And yet the public has been informed that rates will go up in spring at a season when they should be going down. Governor Sproul's threat of a new investigation reminds us that a Senate committee went to Pottsville a few weeks ago and quizzed and thundered for a week or more. Whatever that committee learned was forgotten in the fever and tumult of the attack on President Wilson's league of nations covenant. Senator Vardaman took a fling at the Girard estate because it obtains a royalty of more than a dollar on every ton of coal mined in its extensive holdings. But that was all.

Transportation costs and the costs of mining have been going up steadily, but the rates paid by the consumer of anthracite still seem exorbitant and unreasonable. Testimony offered before the Senate committee recently make it plain that the coalfields are not being efficiently operated. There is a great deal of coal land that is not even being worked. It is held by interests which operate other tracts.

The question now is whether there can be organized in the State Legislature a commission qualified to do something that stumped the committee of Senators—to give the public a simple and lucid explanation of the situation as it actually exists in the coal industry. The people themselves will do the rest.

INS AND OUTS OF THE HOUSE
 RECORDS of the congressional roll-call during the last session are illuminating. Pennsylvania is entitled to some satisfaction, for several of her Representatives deserve attendance prizes.

J. Hampton Moore, for instance, is a conspicuous winner of fidelity honors. Only seven absences are registered against this energetic Philadelphian, who is a member of some of the most important committees and was one of the House conferees on the war tax legislation. Messrs. Darrow, Clark, Rose and Temple have also been particularly faithful.

It is the nature of accurately compiled figures to be unsparingly frank, and hence both the assiduity and the delinquency of the Pennsylvania delegation are revealed by the House clerks. On only one occasion during the session the response of John R. K. Scott—now in the State Legislature—rang through the legislative chamber. The absences of this duly elected Representative number 102.

Reference to the clerks' little statistical table might be a profitable performance when the next election comes around, providing, of course, that the public really cares to think on that decisive day.

LESSON OF SCHOOL GARDENS
 THE school gardens, which produced \$30,000 worth of vegetables last year, furnished such admirable lessons in resourcefulness and economy that it is good news that Superintendent Garber proposes to extend the work this spring.

American wastefulness was severely jolted during the war. How far the needed spirit of reform extended was admirably illustrated in this interesting and profitable work which the children did. There was good fun to be had in the school plots, which could boast of fertile soil and helpful instruction for the juvenile farmers.

The food crisis is by no means past, with the cessation of armed strife; but even if the pressure were relieved the little "agricultural stations" would be well worth retaining. Habitually we think of farming as cultivating the land on a large scale. That attitude amuses the Chinese, who can produce nourishment for a man on a bit of ground no bigger than a billiard table. Today, when the world is suffering from an era of unexampled destruction, the wisdom of an

industrious and careful cultivator like the "Celestial" has a new meaning. The maintenance of the school gardens provides an attractive and healthful diversion. Its prime value, however, lies in teaching young Americans not to be agricultural spendthrifts.

FUTILITARIANISM WILL NOT TRIUMPH

Our Korean-Minded Statesmen, Seeking to Make America a Hermit Nation, Are Engaged in a Rootless Task

WHERE are Americans who if properly clad would be going about wearing a nightshirt outside of their trousers, with pointed cloth slippers on their feet, their hands concealed in the long sleeves of their shirt, and their head covered by a tall hat with the brim at the top instead of at the bottom; the whole head covering held on by a ribbon running over the top and tied under the chin. This is the costume of a Korean statesman.

Korea is a hermit nation, long indifferent to what has been going on in the rest of the world. Certain Americans, if they had their way, would make a hermit nation of the United States, for they are preaching the Korean philosophy. Let us look a moment at that doctrine. It found expression at the time of the Russo-Japanese War, when Japan sent her armies through Korea to attack the Russians. The Koreans protested against the invasion. They asserted that they were an independent nation and had done nothing to interfere with the rest of the world. They said that it was not right for Japan to disregard their wishes. They rested their case upon the principles of right and justice and expressed their confidence in the recognition of those principles by every one. It was a beautifully worded document. No pacifist or anti-preparedness advocate could have produced a better one.

The Koreans sat on their haunches and waited for things to happen. And they happened. Under the urge of "military necessity," the Japanese sent their troops through Korea, and when the time was ripe they annexed the peninsula. Before that climax, however, they made a treaty with the hermit kingdom which is one of the finest examples of bamboozling on record. It recognized the "independence" of the country in its first sections and pledged Japan to respect all its rights. In the succeeding sections all control over the military and foreign affairs were transferred to the Japanese. And the Koreans professed to be satisfied with it. Some of them protested that it had been secured under duress, but the majority who gave any thought to it at all in the spare time left after propitiating the demons, which their religion teaches them beset them on every hand, felt assured that right had triumphed.

In the meantime certain Koreans have discovered that Japan is the real ruler of their country and they have adopted a declaration of independence, as finely worded as the earlier expressions of confidence in the righteousness of their case when Japan was sending troops over their railroads. They have declared that they are "no mean people" and that they have "forty-three centuries of continuous history as a distinct self-governing nation," and that it is their "solemn duty to secure the right of free and perpetual development of their own national character."

As a matter of fact, their present subject state is the result of the development of their national character. Their civilization has remained stationary for the forty-three centuries of their national life. They are stagnant, steeped in ignorance, fooled by fine phrases, and as innocent and as helpless as babes in a world of blood and iron. It is doubtful if the progressive peoples ought to allow such a nation to cumber the face of the earth. It can be admitted that the Koreans are less dangerous than the Germans without weakening this doubt.

Every American who has opposed preparedness is applying the Korean philosophy to this country. Every American who insisted that the European war did not affect us was trying to make a hermit nation of the United States. Every American who is opposed to our participation in a world union to insure peace on the ground that what happens across the seas is no concern of ours, is blood brother to the silly statesman who sit about Seoul in their foolish costumes, twiddling their thumbs while a live people hold the reins of power.

Forty-three centuries of independent life, forsooth! It is forty-three centuries of a living death, the like of which no real American would wish to see imposed upon his native land. There may come a time when the mere statement that a nation rests its case upon the principles of justice will find its protests heeded. The theologians say that in the far-off millennium foretold by the prophets such conditions will prevail. But there never will come a time when a nation can cut itself off from the rest of the world and become a hermit without meeting the fate that has overtaken unfortunate Korea. It will rot and stink to high heaven.

Striving is the law of life. As Colonel Roosevelt once said, it is only by strenuous effort, grim resolution and desperate courage that we rise to better things. Every man and every city and every nation which fails to strive upward is left behind to take the dust of those who are moving onward with their eyes on the future.

There are fortunately few Koreans among us. But the Reeds and the Borahs and the Poindexters, in their long Asiatic nightshirts, cloth slippers and inverted top hats tied on with a ribbon, are making all such noise repeating

their platitudes and outworn formulas that they may now and then deceive the unthinking. But the majority, when they think on Korea, thank God that they are not as these amiable futilitarians are, but that they are willing to play their part in the world and to shoulder all the responsibilities which may be placed upon them, confident that they are strong enough to stand up like men and hold their own in the competition now on to make the world a better place to live in.

THE PASSYUNK TROLLEYS

RAILROAD corporations accused of discriminations in the past were the first to plead for a right to protect their capital, even at the cost of communities on their rights of way. Thus the Pennsylvania Railroad Company argued with a good deal of logic that after it had organized elaborate terminal systems with the money of stockholders it felt morally bound to encourage business in the terminal area and to protect the industries which contributed to its maintenance against unfair competition. Some sound argument was offered for freight differentials on the ground that millions invested in business, in the railroads and in the homes of workmen depended on the stability insured to manufacturing communities by rates which made it impossible for adventurers in industry to organize destructive competition by establishing themselves nearer to the center of consumption. It is interesting now to observe that the Passyunk avenue business men are applying the same moral principle in their efforts to restrain the P. R. T. from eliminating its service on their street.

It is a fair inference that these men invested their money in buildings and in business organizations because they had the tacit assurance of the city and the transit company that traffic facilities would be maintained on Passyunk avenue. The P. R. T. is under a moral obligation to these business men, just as any railway company is under a moral obligation to maintain the sort of service that may be necessary to maintain the values of property in suburban communities built upon faith in the good intentions of the corporation. The blanket franchises of the P. R. T. should not be utilized in any effort to discriminate against any one section or street. The existence of a street franchise implies that service will be maintained on the lines indicated. If the P. R. T. were to exercise its own free will in such instances it could do infinite damage to many suburban communities by merely withdrawing the service which property owners paid for by their original investments.

The mutual obligations and relationships which exist between property owners and traffic corporations have never been clearly defined, though they exist and constantly affect private and corporation investments. The Public Service Commission has given the P. R. T. a technical right to do injury to property in one section of Philadelphia. But no moral right exists to justify the transit company in this case. Nearly every large company in the transportation business runs some of its lines at a loss. To eliminate a line of cars on an important street merely because it does not pay is to violate the intent of the franchise agreements under which the P. R. T. operates. The business men in the affected district have acted properly in arranging for an appeal to the Superior Court. It is about time that some specific definition were given to the rights of property under such circumstances, whether that property is on a suburban railway line or in the city proper.

DIGGING IN

WHOEVER has wriggled and squirmed amid the blind alleys and involutions of the income tax forms will feel today that only the poor are happy. And he will be a potential roofer for universal peace. Patience like Job's and the persistence of Columbus were necessary to any one who could emerge from the maze of questions and provisions without a fear that somehow he had accidentally left himself liable to arrest and imprisonment.

But the forms were the simplest that could have been devised for so huge a task. And reports from all parts of the country show that all Americans met the situation cheerfully, and that they are meeting the heaviest demand ever made upon a people wholeheartedly, cheerfully and in the best of good humor. This is the last day for returns. He will be a wise man, who, filling out his blank, stops to realize that income tax represents the easiest of sacrifices in the business of war. Hundreds of millions have paid heavier and bitterer tolls. What is it for? Is it to give peace to the world or was the whole unimaginable expenditure of blood and money only to give one group of trade imperialists in Europe dominion over another group of trade imperialists?

Two women have been sentenced in courts for burglary. The boldest motor thief recently arrested in this city was a girl. The time has come, surely, for the anti-suffragists to warn the males of the species that women will yet crowd them out of some of their favorite professions.

George Creel's one of his critics causes one to wonder what sort of noise he would make if he happened to be President.

The hat-check boys at the Quai d'Orsay must be eager for the arrival of the German envoys next week. Sweet revenge!

Enrico Caruso would probably confess that his most taxing "roll" was the one of \$153,000 which he handed the income tax collector.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

What the Committee on Committees Has Done Explained and Defended; How Local Banquets Impress Philadelphians in Washington

Washington, D. C., March 15. THE big thing in politics in Washington this week was the work of the committee on committees, authorized by the Republican conference to fill committee places for the new Congress and to elect a floor leader and steering committee. Much ado has been made by some of the newspapers about the so-called "reactionary group" being in control. It has been said the "progressives" are dissatisfied and may attempt to kick the bucket when the Republicans get together again in conference. The name of National Chairman Hays is sometimes used in connection with this so-called progressive movement. Up to date, however, the older members of the House cannot see any excuse for upsetting the House organization as arranged by the committee on committees, except the desire of some newer members to occupy positions held by older members. In other words, there are some chairmanships held by older and more experienced members which newcomers would like to take unto themselves. It is the old story of the reformer in politics. There would be very little in this controversy except for the desire of some Republicans to unhorse the Republican floor leader, Mr. Mann, or that of the friends of Mr. Longworth, of Ohio, to wrest the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee from Mr. Fordney, of Michigan. It may be that these personal ambitions may be carried back to the Republican conference before the next Congress convenes, but careful observers are inclined to think the report of the committee on committees, which fairly and equitably distributes the honors between the elements of the Republican party, will not be overridden.

Mr. Gillett has been elected Speaker, which was supposed to be a "progressive" move, satisfactory to the national chairman and other big leaders who are presumed to have their ear to the ground. Mr. Mondell, the new floor leader, is a western man who received the votes of a number of western members who were opposed to Mr. Mann. Mr. Moore, an eastern man, who could have been nominated for floor leader had he stood for it, has been made first man on the steering committee. The Gillett forces, so called, were well taken care of by the committee on committees, even to the extent that Mr. Winslow, their leader, and Mr. Longworth were placed on the steering committee. Mr. Winslow's name was presented to the committee by Mr. Moore and Mr. Longworth was nominated by Mr. Mann, so that so far as the so-called steam-roller of the Mann forces is concerned it operated in a conciliatory spirit and with the expectation that ultimate harmony would be secured. That's the big outcome of the week's deliberations of the committee on committees.

THE procession of after-the-war banquets in Philadelphia reminds the on-looker in Washington of the boys swinging up Pennsylvania avenue during a municipal parade. Testimonial banquet to Magistrate Mcleary; Judge Joseph P. Rogers, toastmaster; William A. Reuter, secretary; one can almost see the Thirty-first Ward clubs marching by the grand stand with Mcleary in the lead. Anti-Cobden Club, David Martin, president; John Leonard, secretary. In the good old ante-bellum days, instead of gathering around the banquet board at Scottish Rite Hall, Senator Martin is visualized, high hat, spats and all, coming down the line at the head of the procession, with "Bucky"—which means Select Councilman Buchholz—close up to the front; and then George W. Morrison, the right bower of city Treasurer Fred Shoyer, comes into view at the head of Jerusalem Lodge, and a strong contingent from Tacony and Holmesburg. Mighty interesting to hear about these things in Washington, and wish one might be with the boys at home.

RAISING millions is now the favorite occupation of Methodists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Jews and other denominations. They were all hard hit by the war and their sustentation funds need replenishing. In Washington we have reason to believe that men like Bishop Berry and Brothers Bickley and Boswell, of the Methodist Church, and the Rev. Drs. Hunter and Davies, of the Presbyterian Board of Ministerial Relief and Sustentation, are more than gratified with the revenue law, that friendless instrument which is proving so burdensome to most people, which affords relief from taxation in the matter of certain charitable and philanthropic institutions. Indeed, it is whispered about that some of the rich folks who have not given much thought to charity heretofore are now disposed to loosen up a little in view of the fact that their gifts may be made without deduction for taxes.

WHEN David Baird quit the Senate the Camden folks were here to say goodbye. Coming to Congress was a big thing in the life of the South Jersey leader. Among those who had a right to feel proud of the record the Senator made during his brief term was Henry R. Humphreys, who captured a fair portion of the Baird family some years ago and who has been the apple of his father-in-law's eye ever since. Harry has been active in promoting the work of the New York Shipbuilding Company, but in one respect has helped to stay the hand of progress. He is endeavoring to preserve for the historical sharps of the New Jersey Society the quaint old farmhouse close by Newton Creek, which might otherwise be razed to satisfy the demands of the builders. If the New Jersey Society will meet in Harry Humphreys' historical house it might solve the controversy that has arisen over the cannon supposed to have been used when the British frigate Augusta was sunk in the Delaware below Philadelphia.

We don't know just why the Kaiser should think the climate on the Riviera will agree with him any better than that of Amersfoort. Of course, it will be less of a contrast.

"For England, home and beauty" used to be the old motto of the British fighting man. But some of the Tomnies in the trenches may have wanted to paraphrase it as "For England, home and cootie."



ELBOW ROOM

THERE were two blizzards yesterday: one of snow and one of income-tax returns. There are some things that not even the patient chroniclers of the Congressional Record can endure. Looking over that journal to see what thrills we could find in the account of the recent filibuster, we notice the following entry: Mr. SHERMAN addressed the Senate. After having spoken for some time—Mr. SMITH of South Carolina, Mr. President—And then a little later: Mr. SHERMAN addressed the Senate. After having spoken for some time—Mr. REED, Mr. President—And then, still later: Mr. SHERMAN resumed his speech. If the Congressional Record doesn't print this famous oration it will probably take its place among the Ten Lost Diatribes.

Looking over a copy of Punch at Nifty Ben's smoke-shop on Tenth street, we found the following wheeze: So the Kaiser is growing a beard. Probably he didn't want to share the fate of Wilhelmshaven.

Last Thoughts on the Income Tax We think it is extremely ill-judged of Signor Caruso to let it be so widely known that he is delighted to pay his \$150,000 income tax. Darn it all, if Carter Glass gets the idea that the public enjoys this sort of thing, think what we'll be up against next year. Let Mr. Caruso pursue the noisy tenor of his way and leave us to return to plain living, high thinking and low taxing.

New York is all worked up over a "spite fence" that was built around the shimmering ankles of some courtroom dame. We wish we had known how to build a spite fence around our poor little defenseless income.

We are mailing a duplicate of our income-tax "work sheet" to the postmaster at Sarajevo, Bosnia, asking him to post it on his bulletin board. The next time any one in Sarajevo wants to start a world war we trust he will take a look at that pathetic document and stay his hand. We suggest that you all do the same.

If Revenue Commissioner Roper is a smoker, he will doubtless sympathize with our repressed desire to include among the "deductions" the amount we spent last year for Swedish matches that failed to ignite.

The good old Ridgway Library has been opened again. Well, well! If we are ever a fugitive from justice and hard-pressed by the police we shall speed thither and mingle among the solitude. No one would ever think of looking there.

The Red Queen made a very sage remark to Alice when that young lady was visiting behind the looking-glass. We often think of it in connection with the rapid demobilization of money that continues every day. "It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place."

Some day, no doubt, some deep thinker will arise to tell us that "Through the Looking-glass" is a very subtle allegory about Bolshevism. In which the jabberwock is undoubtedly Germany and Lenine and Trotsky are Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Studying the curious psychological transitions of a friend who is about to buy a car, we are wondering when his candor was at its lowest ebb: six months ago, when he was asking bitterly what would

THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

STRANGE in the ears of dying boys, who thought They died to make the world securely theirs The footsteps of whose nearing messengers Are beautiful upon the mountains; naught Could sound so strange and sad as this wild cry Of jealousy and selfishness and hate And envy—this parochial debate, Held by old men, who dare condemn untried The hope of the world, for which boys went to death Gladly, By Heaven, and if it were in truth Only an eager mystic dream of youth— As it is not—then we who still draw breath In this harsh world—these old men, I and you— Should be the more resolved to bring it true. —Alice Duer Miller, in the New York Times.

We often wonder what the map-makers are doing to keep alive in this period of flux while there are no frontiers in Europe.

Today is "Der Tag" in the Treasury Department and every American who had a good year in 1918 has somehow a feeling that he is "it."

President Wilson is said to carry a "conjure bag" containing good luck symbols. We don't know just what's in it, but there's more likely to be a rabbit's foot than a pussy-foot.

Secretary Daniels will sail for Europe today. Of course he will speak of the "right" and the "left" of the ship. But there will be a great many naval officers to pray for the honor of the service, that he will never talk of going "down stairs" to his cabin.

What Do You Know?

- QUIZ**
1. What two American brothers played a conspicuously important part in the development of the airplane?
 2. What is the meaning of the word feral?
 3. Who is the present poet laureate of England?
 4. Who was Ary Scheffer?
 5. What is the Italian name for Venice?
 6. In what year did the German Crown Prince undertake his disastrous siege of Verdun?
 7. What is the apex of a cathedral?
 8. What is schnapps?
 9. Who said "The wit of a family is usually best received among strangers"?
 10. In what century did St. Patrick live?
- Answers to Yesterday's Quiz**
1. The loss, without a trace, of the United States naval officer Cyclops is the greatest mystery of the war.
 2. John Jay was the first Chief Justice of the United States.
 3. A gibbon is a kind of long armed ape.
 4. The Victory Loan campaign will start on April 21.
 5. Philadelphia was officially founded in 181, although an English settlement under Captain William Markham, deputy for William Penn, had been started the previous year.
 6. A senet is a signal call for a trumpet.
 7. New Zealand is the other British colony besides Canada that is officially termed a Dominion.
 8. The United States has coaling stations at Guantanamo and Bahia Honda, Cuba, for which an annual rental of \$100 is paid.
 9. Rosini wrote the music of "The Barber of Seville."
 10. The majority of Panama hats are made in Ecuador and not on the Isthmus.
- One of the saddest of men nowadays must be the proprietor of the leading hotel on the Princes' Islands.
- SOCRATES.