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Philadelphia, Saturday, August 23, 1919

WOMEN AND THE MAYORALTY

MRS. JOSEPH P. MUMFORD may not be able to do much for reform in her telephone campaign to rouse feminine interest in the mayoralty fight and increase an independent registration. But she will at least provide an interesting test of the degree of women's interest in the practical application of the franchise.

So far, even in the suffrage states, women have manifested little enthusiasm for down-to-the-ground politics. What will they do in West Philadelphia when Mrs. Mumford entreats them over the wire to urge their husbands to the registration booths for the sake of righteousness? A study of the is dependent registration figures west of the Schuylkill ought to be interesting later along to those who believe that the women's vote, and the women's vote alone, can save the country from the unregenerate bosses.

MUCK

AMERICAN good nature and the touch of provincialism that is, curiously enough, a distinguishing characteristic of the few who honestly regard themselves as the cultured elect, opened the path of roses over which Dr. Karl Muck strode coldly to fame and money in the United States. Yet Muck remained a pro-German to the last. When he was Banner" at his concerts he did everything but jazz that stately tune.

We can spare the ex-lion of the Boston Orchestra, whose principal talent it was to seem bored even when the applause of his worshipers was loudest. A good many people who were by no means hysterical when the question of enemy aliens was raised will regret that he was permitted to go in unruffled dignity up the gangplank. Some one should have been there to kick him aboard the ship.

NINE HOURS FOR SLACKERS

THE sole change which the new regis-I tration act made in the system whereby the citizen qualifies as a voter reduces to a minimum excuses for the neglect of his duty. Under the old law the registration places were open from 7 to 10 a. m. and from 4 to 10 p. m. Now the officials will serve from 7 a, m. until 1 p. m. and under the former schedule in the afternoon and evening.

Totaling the three registration days. nine more hours of opportunity to perform the extremely simple yet indispensable function of citizenship are provided. Entire indifference to the city's welfare is now the only argument which the slacker can consistently advance.

Consideration for the citizen's engagements and personal obligations has been deep. It is now up to him to be considerate of a sensible law framed to prevent corruption on election day.

CROWDED SCHOOLS AGAIN

THE lamentable spectacle of a great city with inadequate school-building facilities will be presented on September 8. It is estimated that 23,000 children will be on part time. There are no new structures to relieve the situation. To add to the difficulties the treasury of the Board of Education is seriously handicapped by the failure of the state to supply money to meet the new salary increase for teachers.

From an economic standpoint, the schools of Philadelphia are always in trouble. Yet there is no valid reason why their plight should be chronic. Pennsylvania and Philadelphia are rich enough and powerful enough to perform the primary duties of a state and of a city-to furnish sufficient school accommodation for the children and to pay the teachers what they are worth. The practice of starting a school year with part-time pupils is a dismal and all-too-familian confession of indifference and inefficiency

STAGE WAR NEARS HOME

DHILADELPHIA'S inconspicuousness as a summer "show town" has given a somewhat academic character to our interest in the actors' strike.

But August is on the sliding board now. The Labor Day inaugural of our theatrical season has become traditional. Are the returned vacationists to enjoy footlight refreshment or must they seek di version in the inextinguishable silent drama, the museums or the zoo"

Nobody really knows. Some openings have been postponed, others canceled. A few of the autumn attractions are still cheduled. But the situation is as cloudy as it is phenomenal.

All but five of New York's theatres are ow closed. Burlesque and vaudeville are still flourishing throughout the counry and their exemption from the dead-Wes it possible to determine just | ent Governor of this commonwealth is

how strong the public's regard for the

so-called legitimate stage actually is. Theoretically, we ought to be able to exist without the mirror held up to nature. And yet it is denials of luxuries which always seem so particularly painful. Persons barred during the war from using three lumps of sugar in their coffee know just how distressing the depriva-

Much as both belligerents in the present "war" threaten to be unyielding, it seems inevitable that some adjustment will have to be reached before long. One side or the other must eventually respond to the public's zeal for self-indulgence.

LAFEAN AND AMBLER PRODUCTS OF "THE SYSTEM"

The Theory That Public Office Exists for the Benefit of the Office Holders Is the Curse of American Government

TT IS not pleasant for self-respecting Pennsylvanians to contemplate the spectacle of the former state banking commissioner and the former state insurance commissioner under arrest, charged with offenses in office.

The two former officials headed the great departments created for the protection of the public in its relation with the banks and the insurance companies doing business in the state. Their duty was to see that both the insurance companies and banks were solvent. Their functions were fiduciary and not political. They were the trustees of the people.

But why was Daniel F. Lafean appointed banking commissioner?

His entrance into that office was not so many years ago that the history of the appointment is forgotten. William H. Smith had held the office of commissioner of banking for many years. He was a capable official, familiar with the banking laws and possessed of a fine sense of responsibility to the public. He was asked o permit the politicians to use the paronage of his department to reward political workers. He refused to make a creat business office a part of a political machine. He was asked to resign. The bankers of this city and of Pittsburgh wrote to the Governor protesting against any change in the banking department. But Smith had to get out. . .

Then Daniel F. Lafean was appointed. and under his regime the North Penn Bank was looted. Under his regime the insolvency of the bank was reported in Harrisburg. And under his regime the bank was allowed to continue to do business, taking the deposits of the unsuspeeting public and making way with their money by devious devices not yet fully tracked out.

And why was Charles A. Ambler made insurance commissioner?

Was it because he knew anything about the insurance business? Of course not. Under the system which demanded finally forced to play the "Star Spangled | that the banking department be used to reward political workers Ambler was put at the head of a great state department. He had been a candidate for the nomination for auditor general and had been defeated. It was necessary "to take care of him." So they looked around for an appointive office just as good as the auditor generalship and found it in the insutance department. No one seemed to care whether the man fitted the office. All they were looking for was an office with a salary that would fit the man.

> Now Mr. Ambler is charged with using the North Penn Bank as a convenience for making the state funds in his charge available for use in his private business.

The surprising feature of the state of office which the failure of the North Penn Bank has exposed is not that it | Vaces, Councils berth by fake petition, such exists, but that it has not occurred before. It is the expected outcome of the system of using government as the mainstay of the politicians. It is the logical development from the theory that public office exists for the public officials.

This theory is not peculiar to Penn sylvania. The politicians in every state are guided by it and it is not unknown in national politics. It is notorious that President Wilson made William Jennings Bryan secretary of state not because the distinguished free-silver advocate was qualified for the office, but because he wished to disarm a dangerous opponent and prevent him from making trouble outside the breastworks. And Bryan fell down completely as secretary of state when the test came and he had

Notorious instances elsewhere, however, do not justify or excuse scandalous instances in this state. The public official who refuses to act on the theory always wins the confidence of the people It was the insistence of Grover Cleveland as mayor of Buffalo that he was the trustee of all the people and not the almoner of a political organization elected to reward the workers of any party at public expense that made him governor of New York and then President of the United States. Yet in spite of this shining example we have men in office who think that the way to get promotion is by dickering with the bosses and buying their support by appointing their followers to office. They act as though the primary function of government were the creation and maintenance of a political machine.

We do not mean to suggest that a political machine has not its uses, nor do we mean to imply that the men who take an interest in politics should not be appointed to office. But we do mean to be understood as insisting that the men appointed to office should be fit to perform the duties of the offices to which they are appointed. They may be as active as you please in party management if they are also qualified to serve as trustees of the people in the performance of their public duties.

The system has been irritating for years to the high-minded men in politics. They have seen state departments running along in a slipshod way, wasting the public money, when the application of sound business principles by a man familiar with them and interested in the work of his department would have brought order out of chaos and would have returned to the taxpayers full value for every dollar they have paid.

It is not too much to say that the pres-

attempting to apply business principles to state business. As soon as possible after he was sworn in he removed both Ambler and Lafean. Their administrations did not measure up to the standard which he had set. Whether they are criminally guilty or not is beside the question just now. They proved that they were not the right sort of men for the offices which they held. They might have served successfully in some other departments, but they failed miserably where they were put.

The real issue back of all the other ssues before the voters of Philadelphia today is whether they want the city to be governed for the next four years in accordance with the theory that public office exists for the benefit of the office holders, whether they want a Mayor elected in order to strengthen a local political organization or whether they want a Mayor elected to devote himself primarily to the economical and efficient conduct of public business.

THE "WHAT'S THE USE?" CROWD

WHEN an otherwise good citizen is YY urged to vote at the primaries he too often replies with the question, "What's the use? The organization will nominate its candidates and I have no time to waste.'

According to the present indications, the next Mayor will be chosen at the primaries on September 16. Unless something unforeseen happens, the man who wins at the primaries will be the man who will win at the November election, just as the mun who wins at the primaries in the southern states is assured of election. The South is not so solid as it seems to be on the surface. There are two Democratic parties in most of the states and they have their contests in the primary elections. The number of votes cast in those elections is greater than the number polled at the elections which give title to office.

If there is to be improvement in government in Philadelphia it must come about through a contest at the primaries, The "What's the use?" crowd, which is indifferent, must put away its indifference and assume responsibility. There are enough voters in it to get any kind of government they wish. They are controlled by no one, Their votes can be delivered by no ward leader. But they do not vote at the primaries and many of them do not even register to qualify for voting at the general election.

To put the case in as extreme a manner as possible, they are like a merchant who stands on the sidewalk cariously watching burglars loot his store, while he says to himself: "What's the use of interforing? It's the business of burglars to rob and it is too much trouble for me to interfere with them in the conduct of their business."

THE WAY TO MAKE PEACE

SENATOR FALL'S curiosity was so great that he wrote a list of twenty questions about the peace treaty which he asked the President to answer for him. He was especially curious about the ability of the President to make peace without the action of the Senate.

Mr. Wilson has answered him so directly and so precisely that the senator can no longer be in any doubt that the way to make peace is to make peace and assume all the obligations involved.

The attempt to pass the buck from the Senate chamber to the White House failed miserably.

concrable snares whereas that for William Horn, prompts the query why some mission wasn't given the unborn. As it is, this very hoary dodge ommingles cheer with gloom as an index that gang "glory" seeks its refuge in the

J. Wood Platt sings Put on the Crepe it this way; It is not tears since last Oui--Yes. Put met and Onimet meet agitin.

It is the hope of every Revised Version politician that government of the office holder by the officeholder and for the office holder shall not perish from the earth

Uncle Sam is not disturbed by declaration of one hundred thousand Mexican railroad men that they are ready to night if the present international situation results in hostilities. He favors one job at time, and the present job is to catch th bandits he has started after.

Twenty-three thousand children in Philadelphia are going to be robbed of their eights when school opens. They will be forced to go on half time during the term because of the lack of school buildings. And not more than twenty-two thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine will make omplaint.

The Wildwood baby show but con gued the belief of most Philadelphiansthat among the things the city is "first n must be included pretty bables.

No. Irene, the proposed federal depart ment of aeronauties will have nothing to do with the regulation of high fliers.

Archduke Joseph of Hungary hates to be among the unemployed, and he doesn't care what kind of a job he gets so that are working.

While the police are driving away street venders' stands, why not also drive way some of the mendicants? And always there is hope that while

the orators are busy with the high cost of living somebody will find a remedy. Reservationists are now bending their nergies to make an ex-article out of

All the slates having been made, voter will get ready to mark 'em and clean 'em.

The North Penn movie is just one in eresting close-up after another Every economist concedes that a fair

Corn on the cob is composed largely of

Living cost will alip into its proper niche when everybody gara down to work.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Gossip About Arthur H. Lea, W. W. Gibbs, Samuel Gilpin, Albert Gaw, C. D. Dyer, Jr., and Others

DAYLIGHT saving was beaten because there are more farmers' votes in Con-, gress than there are votes from the industrial centers. Men working in the mills and in the large cities wanted that extra hour of daylight. They used it in their gardens and for recreation, and they enjoyed t. Arthur H. Lea, of Philadelphia, figured out that 1,000,000 tons of coal were saved by daylight saving. It also saved gas and electric light. This may have induced a neutrality on the part of gas and electric light companies, but even so it seemed a shame that the workers should be deprived of that extra hour they had learned to enjoy. Benjamin Franklin thought it amazing that the people should lie abed in the cool of the morning, leaving their shops closed and their work undone at what seemed to be the choicest working hours. This sort of philosophy, however, had no effect on the farmer. He said the cow and the pig did not take time from any schedule, except that of the sun. The farmer had the votes, the President and the industrial ists to the contrary notwithstanding, and for the present daylight saving goes into the discard

W. GIBBS, of the Union League, has more than a passing interest in the International Mercantile Marine proposal to put 1000-feet ships into a four-days' ice across the water. It is a son of the Philadelphian who designed those ships. That boy with a big vision presented plans for a 1000-foot ship to the postmaster gen eral some years ago with the view of facilitating the postal service. The postal authorities were not able to put the scheme through, but the ship operators now propose to do it and that brings honor to the house of Gibbs. W. W. Gibbs himself is no novice when it comes to tackling big Some of his projects have not been things. successful, but it was he who conceived the consolidation of gas companies, and the origin of the United Gas Improvement Company may be credited to him.

IN BY GONE days when Henry Clay was the big thing at Beasleys Point, the Peahata Clubboose, the Rangalow and other points along the New Jersey const were obliged to step lively. The slogan, and it was a musical one, was: From Bensleys Point to Somers Point

Is just three miles. From Somers Point to Beasleys Point

Is just three miles. And we are reminded by Samuel B. Giboin, who still hangs up his shingle at the amercial exchange, that Reasleys Point is just about as far from Somers Point as ever was. Samuel Gilpin used to represent the Sixteenth ward in Councils and knew a good deal about the game. He is talking life easy now in the Forty-second ward, but does not forget to keep in touch with his old friends.

ALBERT GAW has been in the government service so long that the memory of man almost "runneth not to the con-tiary." "Allegory." as he is known to "the Hold Buccaneers of Barnegat," informs is that the mayoralty contest in Philadel his is a hot one, although that is about as far as a government official may dare express his opinion. Colonel Sayen, of Wayne and St. Davids, alleges that "Allegory" fine a sense of poetry as the late Frank Fenimore, of whose acquaintance he was

D. DYER, JR., now of the Commercial C. T; ast Building, Philadelphia, was sunerintendent of the service in charge of welfare, safety, Young Men's Christian Association. Hog Island Athletic Association. Hog Island News and all patriotic endeavors at Hog Island during the war period. With a lot of bright young fellows, some of whom Names of dead men had been experienced in newspaper work.

The Sham of Life still remind us of those they ran up against the worst winter this generation has known and accomplished wonders. The report in Washington is that the Hog Island plant had to hire more than 250,000 men in order to retain the 30,000 During the first six months of 1918, 40,000 calls were made upon the welfare department for assistance of one kind or another. This bit of information is dug by the boys in answer to Coroner Knight's recent reflection upon those who entered the shipbuilding service during the

> THEY have formed a National Republican I Club in the city of New York and Senator William M. Calder is at the head of This club is reaching out for resident and nonresident members in thirty-nine states and territories. It claims a memership now of nearly 2000. Wilbur F. Wakeman, one of the leading protectionists New York, is associated with the New York senator in developing the club's fluence. The feeling with regard to it is that Republicanism should be appreciated in all the states all the year. A National Re-publican Club for Washington has long been topic of discussion, alt might be a good thing and it certainly would be appropriate to have one in Philadelphia.

CURTOUS thing about those Mechan boys, one of whom went on the independent Republican ticket for recorder of deeds. It appears there were two brothers. Thomas and Edward, each of whom had gone into the First Regiment and each of whom had worked up to a post of houor when, under Colonel Millard D. Brown, of Germantown, the regiment moved to France. Each of these hoys was married, each was wounded, each gassed and each came as a lieutenant colonel. When the independent leaders were looking around for a candidate it was a toss-up whether their hoice would fall upon Colonel Colonel Ed. 1t happened it fell upon Colonel Tom with the entire approval of the Colonel Ed is likely to be on the stump for his brother.

COLONEL ED D. SMITH, who has a stock of stories equal to the best on the road, has returned to Philadelphia and resumed his political status in the Thirtysecond ward. Colonel Ed was one of the boys who helped to fight for the union of the States. Some years ago he was one of the popular comrades at the National Soldiers' Home, at Hampton Roads. In that shaded atmosphere, where the veterans delighted to swap their war yarns, Captain Ed had his biggest battle to get the buildings screened to keep out the mosquitoes, and being a vigorous fighter he suc-

When the aviation race at the Olympia surnament at Camp Dix comes off next month Philadelphia City Hall will be the turning point. It has already been the turning point of many a political career.

concerning the actors' strike; but if the strike ever reaches the movies—well, "that will be something else again." Uncle Sam would sell blankets more rapidly if the weather were cold.

THE CHAFFING DISH

TF THE theatrical managers will take our | end. And the fact that it has never given A advice, they will cave in. The position of the actors is the strategic one. For actors can go shead and act without a manager. But no manager can produce a play without

But perhaps our advice is not wholly disinterested. A play of our own was to have gone into rehearsal recently, but the strike ame along and embalmed everything.

"Very Delightful"

Newton Baker informed the President that the two soldiers he pardoned for sleeping on outpost duty had done unflinching service in the fighting last summer, that one of them had been killed in action and the other twice wounded. Mr. Wilson wrote concerning "the two youngsters" (as he is pleased to call them) : "It is very delightful to know that they redeemed themselves so

We don't wish to be harsh, but it seems to us that Abraham Lincoln would have found some more marrowy phrase than "very delightful"-the same words Woodrow used in inviting the senators to tiffin.

We are frequently told that Mr. Wilson has a marvelous command of English. demur. It is the marvelous English that has control of him.

"Actress Marries Broker," says a New York headline. That is one ingenious way to get even with the managers. There are very few producers who can fall back on a broker for support.

The great number of people who are found dead in bathrooms perturbs us. Is there anything fatal to the human race in ablution? Perhaps there's some joker in the old saw about cleanliness being the threshold of god-

At a modest estimate, we have about 100 poems stacked up in front of us, sent in by our gracious and nice-natured clients. These range from the roaring ballades of Client Bellem to the dainty jocoserias of Client Horace Hook. Were we not such a devotee of furious and unstinted toil, it would be a simple matter to take a fortnight off and chafe up the Dish with these nourishing gruels.

And in fact our clients are threatening strike unless we print more of their con-They have already begun to tributions. picket our office with talking delegates. But we shall never compromise with violence,

We have taken very sagacious measures We have retained our friend, Fred W. Brei tinger, as legal counsel, and got him down to the office the other evening to look over our vaults. By his advice we are printing the following, which he thinks the best of our present accumulation:

Arguments in a Wardrobe "WHAT dress shall I wear?" I some

And my mother tells me my "blue and gray. 'What 'blue and gray'? I have no gray dress!"

Very well, then, we will call it 'Bess'." So we have a name for all my clothes, And when I say "Green," my mother knows

It's the one she thinks is colored Blue .-We've agreed to call that "Emmy Lou.

It sounds so funny, when I go 'way To visit sometimes, to hear her say : Better wear Maria and pack up Jane. And carry Susanna in case of rain"

Se I know exactly what to take And it saves my making any mistake.

For it's always safer to have a name When you hear alike but don't see the same. BESSIE GRAHAM'S FRIEND.

Acid Ejaculation Humanity gets what it wants. It is per-

much serious thought to the business of elongating the span of life seems to suggest —well, draw your own conclusions.

"HIGHER-UPS"

On the other hand, consider the numerous devices humanity has invented for abbreviating the journey through the valley of tears. Motortrucks, grade crossings, night poker and chop sucy are the first that come to mind.

To Socrates in August Hay fever sets one wondering. O Death, about thy famous sting And one concludes that it might be A pleasure to be stung by thee. HORACE HOOK.

A City Notebook

South street is the last fortress of the watermelon and the witch-doctor. A stroll on that murmuring thoroughfare on a warm evening will convince one that rattlesnake oil is still the most merciful specific for human ailings. Patent medicine manufac turers live to a great age-this is one of Nature's compensations, as their customers die young-and their souls wander happily along South street. Here is an extract from an ad we found pasted to the window pane of a South street apothecary :

This is a prescription that we have pre-pared especially for Malaria, Chills and Fever, Intermittent, Remittent and Bilious Fever. We especially recommend—for those exposed to the weather as they can take it, eat anything they want, and go right on with their work with no fear of being Salivated.

Scene: South Broad street, the western pavement. A balmy summer evening, 10.15 p. m. A gentle cooling breeze puffing up the line, flapping the trousers of gobs escorting damsels home from the movies. In big club window, a vast leather armchair drawn up toward the sill. The room behind it dimly lit, and nearly empty. In the chair sat a gentleman softly musing, while the breeze toyed tenderly with his whiskers. We halted, entranced. It was plain that the gentleman was girdled with contemplation, bathed in abstract scrutiny. It Mr. Cattell, the city statistician, and we thought we saw his lips move secretly to the refrain of that fine old hymn, "Where Is My Wandering Decimal Tonight?"

The Hog Island Helen

safe to assume that there will be no vote slackers in the Hog Island beauty contest. The original Venus, one recalls, was born of the sea; and Helen of Troy was hailed as "the face that launched a thousand Sailor-men have ever been brisk judges of female charm, and the world looks to Hog Island to single out some damsel who will sadden the fifth decade of Maxine Elliott. Ladies, we who are about to languish, salute you!

"The Better 'Ole," running in New York, has been closed by the actors' strike. The embittered producer uttered a yell to the departing actors. Some say he said, "If you know a better role, go to it!" Others aver he said, "If you know a better olio, go to

Judge Bonniwell is going to talk on the Power of the Press tomorrow night. The press, more generous, will refrain from re turning the compliment

It seems heartless of Mexico to keep or triffing with the affections of a trusting neighbor. When Hamlet addressed his sharp words

the players they would have been entirely justified in at once insisting on an Equity Association contract. Most offensive to them must have been his reference to "inexplicable dumb-shows," which can have meant nothing else but the movies

And once again the fact is brought home to us that Schator Borah's name is one syllable foo long to be really descrip-tive.

The Horn play was really bone

IMMANENCE

COME in the little things. Saith the Lord : Not borne on morning wings Of majesty; but I have set my feet Amidst the delicate and bladed wheat

There do I dwell, in weakness and in power; Not broken or divided, said our God! In your straight garden plot I come to

That springs triumphant in the furrowed

flower: About your porch my vine. Meek, fruitful, doth entwine:

Waits, at the threshold, Love's appointed hour. come in the little things. Saith the Lord :

Of eager birds, the soft and pattering feet Of furred and gentle beasts, I come to meet Your hard and wayward heart. In brown bright eyes

That peer from out the brake, I stand con On every nest

Where feathery Patience is content to brood And leaves her pleasure for the high em-Of motherhood-

Yea, on the glancing wings

There does my Godhead rest. I come in the little things My starry wings do forsake. Love's highway of humility to take, Meekly I fit my stature to your need About your gates I shall not cease to plead-As man, to speak with man-

Till by such art shall achieve my immemorial plan Pass the low lintel of the human heart. -Evelyn Underhill, in the London Nation.

What Do You Know?

1. How many states compose the republic

of Mexico? 2. What do the English call a ticket office in a railroad station?

What is the "Unrighteous Bible" and why is it so called? 4. What were the two largest cities in France taken by the Germans during

Who wrote "The School for Scandal?" 6. Where was the late Oscar Hammerstein

When is the next United States census to be taken?

8. When was the federal constitution declared to be in effect. 9. Who were the patroons?

10. What is spikenard? Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. The repeal of the daylight-saving law was passed three times by the House of Representatives.

2. A prestidigator is a magician. The word literally means quick fingerer. 3. Theodore Roosevelt in a speech made in Springfield, Ill., in 1903, started the

phrase "a square deal" on its career of popularity. A polacre is a three-masted Mediterra

nean merchant vessel. Shantung is especially sacred to the Chinese because their great philosopher and moralist Confucius was born in that

peninsula. Charlotte Amalie is the chief town of the Virgin Islands. 7. A cadi in Mohammedan countries is a

s. Dipsomania is a morbid craving for al-

9. The word buoy should be pronounced as though spelled "boi."

10. Mercury was the classical messenger of