

Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Monday, December 1, 1919

TRAFFIC JAMS

THE question of traffic regulations in this city is a little like the question of coal. It has been ignored and evaded and postponed until it has grown to be an almost interminable complication.

The Christmas season opens today in the shopping districts, and the police will have to deal with unprecedented tides of traffic because this happens to be the first normal holiday season of years.

INCOME SLACKERS

NEWS that the government intends to hunt down every big and little war tax alacker in the country seems to have been read with a shock by a good many people who supposed that they had successfully evaded a duty that ninety-nine out of every hundred were glad to perform.

Income-tax dodgers were relatively few. But the general total seems to have been pretty large. What the government asked of them was very little in a crisis that demanded life itself from many thousands of Americans.

THE GRAND OLD TOPIC

ANYBODY who happens to be familiar with the workings of the Washington mind will be willing to wager a week's salary that a fervid outburst of oratory dealing with the Mexican trouble will not be long delayed after today's rollcall for the regular session.

They do not deserve any. Mexico is like Russia. It is an international nuisance. We may have to intervene and certainly we shall intervene if justice and honor actually demand that troublesome alternative. We shall have to have an enlarged army if the job is to be properly done.

BULGARIA SIGNS

THE league of nations covenant is incorporated in the peace treaty which Bulgaria signed with the Allies and America at Neuilly. The Rumanian and Serbian delegates were not present at the ceremonies.

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Bulgar nation still exists. The \$445,000,000 indemnity is the penalty of her former policy of greed, selfishness and dishonor. Her eventual rehabilitation is not, however, inconceivable.

CONGRESS, FOR THIS CITY, CONSISTS OF NINE MEN

The Way to Get What We Want in Washington is to Persuade Them to Give it to Us

CONGRESSMEN are not in the habit of taking seriously any of the common talk about what the nation expects the national Legislature to do. It is too general. They are in the habit of delivering themselves of similar generalizations which mean nothing.

But when any one indulges in the argument ad hominem, as the Latin phrase has it, or comes down to cases, as the man in the street would say, and talks, not about what Congress is going to do but what a specific congressman is going to do and pins him down for an answer, then that congressman will sit up and take notice.

As a matter of fact, what Congress does is made up of what the individual congressmen do, and what they do is influenced, not by what "the nation expects of them" but by what the men to whom they owe their election wish them to do.

The Congress which meets in regular session today will be made up of men thinking earnestly of the primaries next summer and the election next November. If these men do not "play politics" for the next six months they will be an exception to a rule of more than a hundred years' standing.

A BRILLIANT APPOINTMENT

IN THE appointment of Dr. C. Lincoln Furbush as director of health, Mayor-elect Moore has risen to his opportunity.

The post is one of the most important in the municipal cabinet, and it is not enough merely to make a "respectable" selection. An experienced, scientifically well-equipped and energetic physician at the head of the Department of Health is capable of transforming living conditions in this city.

That Doctor Furbush will prove an official of this type is not to be questioned. His scholarly attainments have been seasoned by years of ripening value in the army and especially in association with General Gorgas in the war against yellow fever.

It is impossible that a physician, seasoned as Doctor Furbush has been, and endowed with a broad vision, should not or think in his new role otherwise than constructively.

When we think of what Congress will do this winter toward solving the problems growing out of the war, we should think first of what Vare, Graham, Edmonds, Costello, Darrow, Butler, Watson and Browning will do. They constitute Congress for us. They are within reach of our influence. In spite of the boss system, they are beholden to us (still speaking in terms of the plain people) for their political life. If we choose we can demand of them a certain course and retire them to private life if they disregard the demand.

with the present unsettlement of industry by continual labor troubles which no one seems able to prevent? Do we want a series of strikes growing out of disagreement over wages and hours of labor, strikes that threaten a tying up of all transportation lines and serious interruption in the production of the necessities of life?

TRIO OF TRIED JURISTS

Judges Swartz, McIlvaine and Brey Have Graced the Bench in Pennsylvania for More Than Thirty Years

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN
JUDGE AARON S. SWARTZ, president of the Common Pleas Courts of Montgomery county, enjoys the unique distinction of being the second one of three judges in the commonwealth who have graced the bench for a generation.

The other distinguished gentlemen are Judges John McIlvaine, of Washington county, and F. A. Brey, of Philadelphia. Judge McIlvaine is the senior of the trio, with Judge Swartz next.

Judge William F. Solly, of the Orphans' Court, has presided over its affairs since that court was established eighteen years ago. He is serving his second term, with a few years to spare, and a prospect of equaling the term of service of Judge Swartz.

Such honors are rare, even in a great state like Pennsylvania.
JOSEPH R. GRUNDY, widely known as president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, is authority for the statement that the gross output of the industry last year was \$200,000,000 with a payroll in excess of \$50,000,000.

The figures are a tribute to the efficiency of the association of which Mr. Grundy is president. They evidently are up-to-date, and compiled from records which are available to his statisticians. Unfortunately the state statisticians are just four years behind the time.

The latest available information from Harrisburg on the subject is for 1915, which shows a total output of but \$82,615,000. In the meantime the war had intervened, and industrial output not only of Montgomery county, but of the entire state, has increased to an unheard-of extent, yet there are no figures available, at least in print.

The lack of ready-to-hand information in all departments at Harrisburg has been notorious for a quarter of a century. The state's publications are never up to date. Department reports find their way into the hands of the public years after they have been compiled, with one exception—Smull's Legislative Handbook.

JOHN-B. "JACK" ROBINSON

Member of the state Senate, erstwhile congressman, and for years United States marshal and one of the political leaders of Delaware county, is an author. The general public is not aware of the fact, I believe, that the Mayor-elect is compelled to sacrifice even his meal hours to the work of extending an ear to those who would serve and save the city.

It is to be regretted that "Jack" did not put his work in the hands of a big publishing house where it would have gained the circulation which it deserves. There is scarcely a politician of note, either in the eastern or western end of the state, who does not figure somewhere in the 325 pages of the book.

As the old joke has it, in the midst of life we are in debt. Another delightful present has come our way, one that will last longer than the Booneville one. One day last spring we mentioned the quaint little Jung's of back gardens, old brick angles, dormer windows and tall chimneys to be seen along Orange street, the little alley that runs off Seventh just below Washington Square.

Thoughts in a Dining Car
A human characteristic we notice is that if you happen to be eating breakfast in the dining car and are slashing your way through sausages and griddle cakes, everybody else at the table will order carefully what you are eating and then order the same. And the odd part of it is that you then feel rather complimented, as though they had subtly flattered you.

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THE CHAFFING DISH

A Sub-Elevated Sonnet
WITH unresponsive rib and callous corn, With knees as adamant and elbows steel, The native rider of the "El" is born And never knows the wounds that others feel.

But, by fair stenographers inspired, By portly men and powder-serried round, We scratch ourselves upon our neighbor's beard While curses mix with corsets underground.

For thirty minutes dream we deep of ease, Of great armchairs, and meals, and good cigars, Of "Late-again!" and, in the stuffy cars, See Chestnut street a-flutter in the breeze.

In hopes of girls and heaven, fears of hell, We daily ride who take the morning "El." ALEC B. STEVENSON.

Our observant client, Wilson Jefferson, has sent us an interesting little essay about riding in street cars. We have not space to print all of it, but the following is too good to miss:

We start the Christmas season in a high good humor. All our most pleasant suspicions about the amount of latent kindness in the breasts of our clients is homologated by the arrival of a box of lady apples and a large jug of elderberry from our admirable friend, Charles C. Bell, of Booneville, Mo.

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General Approval gracefully decorates Colonel Furbush.

Here's wishing ye success, Nancy ashore!

What Do You Know?
1. What is the capital of Oklahoma?
2. Who was the first great American naturalist?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz
1. Puebla is the third largest city in Mexico. It is the largest of the state of Puebla and lies seventy-six miles southeast of Mexico City.

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SOMEHOW, THE TASK SEEMS EASIER



SHRINES

[Dedicated to the Church of All Nations, Boston.]
I'VE traveled far in many lands; The open road I've trod; And through the devious ways of men I've searched with them for God.

Wherever man has fought for right, Where man for man has died; Beside him stands, could we but see, One that was crucified.

And this I've learned in all my search Under the shining sun; The name and form are naught to God, To Him all shrines are one.

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