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Philadelphia, Saturday, December 20, 1919

MOORE'S COALITION CABINET

MAYOR-TO-BE MOORE'S appointment of John C. Winston as Director of Public Works confirms the impression that he has striven to form what might be termed a coalition cabinet, or in other words a cabinet representing all the forces in municipal politics, whether they be groups, factions or wings, which are and have been against the Vare organization

Mr. Winston, as the chairman of the committee of seventy and a conspicuous figure in local reform movements for fourteen years, represents the element which has heretofore refused to mix with the so-called "practical" factions, meaning those "what-are-we-here-for?" politicians to whom the getting of offices is one

of the primary functions of government. The appointment is a proper recognition of the efforts made by the Reformers to revise the city charter and bring about a clean administration in City Hall. With the Director of Public Safety, the head of the Public Works Department has always been regarded as one of the two most important offices in the gift of a Mayor. Perhaps, judged by permanent impressions on the community, it is more important than any other, and Mr. Winston and the citizens he is picked to represent can look at Mr. Moore's action as highly significant of the better standards of administration he expects to establish during the next four years.

BELSHAZZAR BAIZLEY

THOSE members of Councils who, spurred madly on by Mr. Baizley, are ready to dip \$3000 out of the city treasury and spend it in feasting to show how greatly they appreciate themselves, are running true to form.

If there is any overwhelming desire among the people to dine the councilmen at \$15 a plate, Mr. Baizley has been the first to perceive it. Frankly, we doubt the existence of any such desire. Haven't the members heard enough of their own oratory? Must they assemble in a last grand rally for a culminating tempest of speeches? And why should Mr. Baizley want to do the Belshazzar thing? Sitting comfortably in his own office he known. They have proclaimed far and ought to be able to read the handwriting | wide in the advertising columns of the

There are poor folk in this city who will not demand \$15 for Christmas dinners. The \$3000 ought to be appropriated, and when it is appropriated the members of Mr. Baizley's raiding party should turn it over to one of the charitable organizations. Thus fifteen poor men, women or children could have a pretty noble sort of Christmas dinner the price of every one that Mr. Baixley has planned. There would be very real virtue in that arrangement. And the members of city Councils would show that they are not, as we have supposed them to be, altogether without imagination.

REALITY IN REALTY

A LTHOUGH Simon Gratz has dashed cold water upon the enticing forecast that the reassessment of Philadel phia real estate would bring results tantamount to a reduction of the new tax rate, the essential merit of the plan is untouched. A scientific, impartial and comprehensive assessment of realty values here is needed. The services of the 210 members of the real estate board will mean expert advice for the assessors.

What the city needs is not so much any novel or sensational survey, undertaken with preconceived notions, as a fair readjustment of taxable property values. It is not reasonably to be expected that all the assessments will go

down or that all will rise. Perhaps, with the new standards, the tax burdens on many citizens will prove less onerous. Property owners who fail to hope so would be scarcely human.

But the first goal sought after'is justice, based on a reasonable and thorough study of realty conditions and such changes as have taken place since the last complete inspection. It is a good sign that responsible opinion is to be considered. The pity is that unofficial aid should be deemed necessary for an official organization comprising a large and high-salaried staff of assessors, who are paid to make the assessments equi-

ANOTHER HOLD-UP

TN COMMON decency Recorder Hazlett should order the immediate return of money collected from the underpaid emplayes of his office who were asked to stribute to a fund to buy their chief a Christmas gift.

In almost every department at City Hall there is a Man Friday ready and corer to do things that the boss of the ee wouldn't or couldn't do. Solicitor am P. Siegert seems to fill the part in the office of the recorder of deeds. It | and grain to fatten beef cattle. |And |

requires an iron nerve to extract Christmas contributions out of men and women who struggle along through these expensive days on \$1200 salaries. Solicitor Siegert appears to have the nerve. We shall see whether Mr. Hazlett is similarly

endowed. For his boss Solicitor Siegert wanted to get a \$500 present. Now it is to be a bouquet. Hazlett is the recorder of deeds. He isn't an opera singer and he isn't making a stage debut or getting married or dead. He doesn't need flowers. The workers in his office need their money and they have a right to it.

PALMER'S "TRIUMPH" OVER THE PACKERS

Whether It is More Than an Empty Victory Will Appear if the Price of Meat and Groceries Comes Down

WHETHER the enthusiastic delight of Attorney General Palmer over the settlement of the suits against the five big packing companies is justified will not appear for a year or two.

The packers, while insisting that they have violated no law, have consented to confine their activity as corporations to the slaughtering of sheep and beef cattle and to the handling of eggs, poultry and cheese and the byproducts made from the parts of the meat carcasses not suitable for food. They will dispose of their interests in the stockyards, in the railroads, in the retail meat business and in the handling of cereals and other substitutes for meat." The so-called packers' trust is to be disorganized, much as the oil trust was disorganized a few years ago.

Mr. Palmer, as a result of the compromise, says that "the price of meat is within the control of the people themselves." It does not appear exactly what he means by this or how the people will have greater control over the price of meat than they always have had.

Assuming that the men interested in the packing industry do not retain a financial interest in the stockyards and that those yards are controlled and managed by men more interested in getting good price for livestock for the benefit of the stockraisers than in forcing down the price in the interest of the packers, the chief beneficiaries will be the stockraisers and not the consuming public.

The stockraisers have complained for years that they were at the mercy of the packers and that they had to sell their stock at less than a fair market price. Now, if the freeing of the stockyards from the control of the packers is to satisfy the stockraisers, they will get better prices than in the past and the packers who have to pay that price will hand it on to the consuming public. It is difficult to understand how if meat on the hoof is to cost more meat in the retail store is to cost less.

Perhaps Mr. Palmer can tell us.

The packers, who have in the past successfully defended the legality of their ousiness and who still insist that they have violated no law, admit that they have agreed to the compromise in response to public opinion. They are business men and not sentimentalists. Some other business men may be cynical enough to assume that there are sound commercial reasons back of the compromise and that the packers know just what they are doing and why they are doing it. If they have not handed Mr. Palmer a large and bitter lemon, many hard-headed observers will miss their guess.

The defense of the packers is well newspapers that their net profits on the meat they handled was one-half of 1 per cent. They have even gone so far as to say that they sold the meat for less than they paid for the whole carcass and that this small percentage of profit was made on the byproducts. So far as is known these assertions have never been disproved.

Vet Mr. Palmer is calling attention to the enormous increase in the assets of the five big packing companies as though that were proof that they were making illegitimate profits. He says that the net worth of the companies has grown from \$92,000,000 in 1904 to \$479,000,000 in 1919, and that, in the same period, \$105,000,000 has been paid in cash dividends. He says further that only \$89,000,000 of their net worth at the present time is represented in increased capitalization. .

These figures, however, prove nothing more than that the packers have been conducting a large and growing business. The size of the business is indicated by Mr. Palmer's statement that the sales for 1918 amounted to \$3,200,000,000. A net profit of 5 per cent on this sum would not be unreasonable. This would amount to \$160,000,000. A profit of 1 per cent would be \$32,000,000.

No retail merchant could continue in business on so narrow a margin. Yet the demagogues who for years have been trying to convince the public that it is a crime to do a large amount of business cite the gross profits of the packers as proof that something is wrong. They say that there is profiteering in any business which earns \$50,000,000 or \$100,-000,000 in a year, especially if that business is in any way connected with the necessities of life.

We are not defending the packers. They are able to attend to that for themselves. But those thinking persons who wish to understand the situation will do well to refrain from condemning big business merely because it is big and to analyze the figures before deciding that a corporation which has an annual turnover of billions is robbing the public merely because there are millions of profit in its annual turnover.

It will be wise to suspend judgment in this case until the effect of the attorney general's compromise on the high cost of living is manifest. If the packers have been robbing the public, including both the producers and consumers of ment, the unscrambling of the packing omelet may bring about lower prices. But it will not decrease the number of bushels of grain required to produce 100 pounds of pork nor the amount of hay

is not likely that it will decrease the price of grain or hay on the farm. The high price of meat goes right back to the high cost of producing it, when it is not due to the profiteering of the

retail dealer. If the charge be well founded that the packers were conspiring to monopolize the sale of all food products, there will be considerable satisfaction at the breaking up of this monopoly regardless of the effect on prices. On the surface the packers were competing with the wholesale grocers in the distribution of meat substitutes, but the wholesale grocers and the attorney general apparently feared that this competition was undertaken for the sole purpose of driving the wholesale grocers out of business.

The result of the agreement with the packers leaves the wholesale grocers in control of the field. They were competing with one another before and the public was not suffering. This competition in the trade is likely to continue.

In the meantime the Democratic party is planning to enter the presidential campaign with the boast that its attorney general has brought the packing trust to its knees.

But unless the price of meat comes down the long-suffering public will want to know what good has come of this glittering triumph heralded by spangled rhetoric in the dispatches from Wash-

McKENTY'S TURBULENT GUESTS WHAT is going on behind the walls of the Eastern Penitentiary? General curiosity and resentment will increase until Governor Sproul appoints an impartial commission to look into the present administration of the prison and nake a report fuller than those submitted by the grand jury or the board of prison inspectors.

The violent death of a convict, coming amid rumors of mismanagement and brutality, revives a question that will trouble the warden, the prison board and the Governor until it is disposed of finally.

Previously in these columns it has been suggested that much of Mr. McKenty's trouble is due to the nature of the institution which he has to direct. Quarters are narrow. A large body of men live in confinement and in enforced idleness. The city proper is no place for a great prison. At Bellefonte a site was obtained by the state in a sparsely settled region where the eastern and western penitentiaries are some day to be combined. There long-term prisoners could obtain in the fields the one sort of normal exercise possible to them under the law. When that plan is carried out we shall hear less about incipient revolutions among convicts.

SNOW AND SMILES

THE weatherman refused to identify yesterday's snow as a blizzard. There was a general disposition to regard the white mantle as the reverse of a calamity. It was beautiful, seasonable and quickening to the Christmas spirit.

Some years have passed since snowstorms could be really enjoyed. Last winter the southern isotherms were pushed north and Philadelphia's weather was almost as mild as the low average in Charleston.

The year before nobody had a good word for snow. The wartimes were black. It was unbelievable that the end of the conflict was so comparatively near at hand. Coal was short, transportation altogether too long. Streets were lightless. Theatres were dark and icy. Army camps were crowded. Submarines raged. Not since Valley Forge had an America winter been so dismal.

Pollyanna is often an annoying imp. But she would be justified in pointing out to us that the picturesque winter aspect of the town ought not to have been unwelcome, nor a genial contrast with drear days of the past inapt.

If you can't think of anything else for Christmas present, send your friend a copy of the peace treaty, with the package beautifully decorated with Red Cross stamps.

The Atlantic is rougher just now than

t has been for forty years, navigators say.

Presumably a kind o' compromise on the end Since it is a case of peace on earth and good will to men, why wouldn't a copy of the peace treaty make a good Christmas present

Now that Patriotism has taken Business for a partner in urging the passage of the treaty, perhaps the Senate dawdlers will quit dawdling.

to send to anybody?

Why should Philadelphia object to paying \$3000 for a farewell dinner to departing councilmen? As a farewell, isn't it worth the money?

The best that may be said of the New York wets who threaten to sue the govern-ment for \$300,000,000 is that they wish they may get it.

United States District Attorney Kane always speaks convincingly when he tells of what won't be done.

There is a suggestion of restiveness in Hitchcock's declaration that the President's position is a puzzle to him. The presidential potency of no candi-

The straws that show the way the wind blows have deserted the julep for the soda.

date appears to point to more than a 2.75

The weatherman has done his bit to bake the season Christmasy.

There will be no dove of peace in the Soviet Ark. Perhaps New Jersey needs the lightning to kill the skeeters.

After the draft questionnaire the census man has no terrors.

Pershing's candidacy puts a nail into

Third-term talk is still a term of re-

Turkeys are flying higher than ever this

MAYOR-ELECT MOORE'S LETTER

Railroad Problem Only One Angle of the Wide Emergency Powers Granted to the Presi-

dent

Washington, Dec. 20. WHEN will the United States get out of the war? This is one of the most perplexing questions in Washington as it is to business men generally. James B. Bonner, who has been a believther of the iron and steel trade in Washington during the war and who will soon close up his office there and return to Philadelphia, is one of those who have been looking up this important matter with a view of ascertaining when and where we get off. Most of the war legislation giving extraordinary powers to the President carried the provision that these powers should continue until peace was declared "by proclamation of the President." The comptroller of the treas-ury some time ago had correspondence with the secretary of war with regard to "the termination of the present emergency," leaving the matter more or less unsettled.

Meanwhile, it seems to be up to the President, who, in one of his messages to Congress with regard to the very important matter of federal control of railroads, indicated that he would turn the railroads back to their owners on or before January I next, unless certain things were done by Congress. The President has the power to return the railroads at any time he shall deem such action needful and desirable, although the act of March 21, 1918, provided for federal control for a period not exceeding twenty-one months following the date of the proclamation by the President of the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace. Showing how widespread is the effect of the grant of emergency power to the President, it may be noted that the emergency provision holding up everything until peace should be declared was carried in the food and fuel administration laws, in the shipping board law and with respect to the emergency shipping fund; in the bill to stimulate the production of agricultural products, that to encourage the production of ores, metals and minerals, and the law known as the "Overman Act" to consolidate executive bureaus and other agencies.

The latter law has, to a certain extent, been regarded as political, since it has given the President power, of which in some instances he has not failed to avail himself, to consolidate bureaus and hold over in the permanent service agencies that Congress intended should be but temporary. The war finance corporation act, the act creating the capital issues committee, the trading with the enemy act, which gave A. Mitchell Palmer great power as alien property custodian, and the naval commandeering act, were all dependent upon the emergency clause as to the President's peace procla-mation. It is a wonderful power the President still exercises under all these war acts and there is much restlessness with regard to their continuance.

COLONEL JOHN P. WOOD, of Philadel-phia, and many others interested in the textile industry are not at all friendly to the proposition to keep war power in the hands of the President while foreign nations are closing up their war affairs and proceed-ing to capture the world's trade. The news from abroad that the British textile manufacturers have more orders for hosiery than they can fill, coupled with information that silk hose may go to \$12 or \$15 retail per pair in the United States, is not cheering to those who are seeking the dyestuffs in the United States so essential to manufacturing here in competition with foreign producers. The Senate finance committee has been plugging away at the Longworth dyestuffs bill, which was fought in the House on the ground that it proposed to further bettle up American manufactures against the use of German vat dyes which were readily obtainable in France and England. This is an old story now, in which the duPonts and other American manufacturers of dyes figure. but it is extremely important to the hosiery and other textile manufacturers in Philadelphia and elsewhere who have large orders, but who are sometimes at their wita' comply with war board to obtain the necessary raw materials which they must have to keep the wheels running. Joseph S. Rambo, of Norristown, has been conferring with Colonel Wood and others in Washirwton about this situation.

ALTHOUGH he has made a great success of it in the advertising world, nothing so appeals to F. W. Aver as the work of the Young Men's Christian Association. For many years Mr. Ayer has been president of this organization in Camden and he has done much to build it up and make it a solid institution. For more than fifty years Ayer has maintained his business in Philadelphia and a residence in New Jersey He may be counted one of the pioneers those old time Camdenites found that city a good place to live in while they engaged in business on this side of the river. In some instances, as with Brother Van Sciver, of the big furniture establishment, and Brother Johnson, of the Victor Talking Machine Co., the order is reversed, Camden being the business place and Philadelphia or its suburbs the place

WHEN James Pollock, the inimitable after-dinner speaker who helped make the Five o'Clock Club famous, was running one end of the Philadelphia bicentennia celebration, in 1882, Secretary Charles W. Alexander, who has been a specialist on entennial celebrations, arranged for the minting through Jim Kerns, then superintendent of the United States Mint, of 200 000 William Penn medals, which were tossed out to spectators during the great civic parade. Of the whole number Mr. Alexander laid by just two of these interesting souvenirs, which have been so well-preserved as to look as if they had just come from What has become of the remainder?

ROBERT LAMBERTON, the sheriff-He is also an orator and story teller. And the Lamberton children, "who are the brightest ever," figure in some of these stories. One of the best of the sheriff's yarns is that which deals with the young sport in the back of the crowded hall, who when square-jawed Bob appeared upon the platform, inquired of a bystander, "what the — is Philadelphia Jack O'Brien doing up on the stage?" Sheriff Bob is of the robust type, once a football player at the university, something like Harry A. Mackey, who also grew up that way, and still keeps up his exercise, walking long distances and when necessary, taking it out on it

The Rotary Club will play Santa Claus in an abandoned saloon. And the dryest of the wets will have to admit that the new business is the better one.

D'Annunzio, baving deserted two snot he picked for his grave, perhaps believes that 'the third time is the charm.'

Palmer's "Don't Buy Now" does not altogether "gee" with "Do your Christmus shopping early."

JES' YESSIR, SOME PRACTICAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATION WITH DEPARTED SPIRITS" WOULD COME IN MIGHTY HANDY JUST

THE CHAFFING DISH

AFTER DANNY DEAVER

One proof of the degeneracy of the present age is that every little snowsterm is called

Dear Red

Cross, in reply to

peals, we are heart.

a blizzard. H. C. L. Couplets That our butcher bills with some case we may view.

Au lieu de filet, we employ kidney stew.

Where to Eat After Meals A Greek restaurant, Eleventh below Wal-

M. V. N. S.

nut, lures the eating public thus: Ladies & Gentlemen: I beg to state that to my long experiences in the business of this kind I absolutely found the greatest difficulties to have the good people to come steady to a mentioned business, because in most places nothing can be had but sur ace attraction otherwise it will cost you a fortune and by that reason we want you to tell your friends about this place to give us a trial, after you have finished eating

We have been asked what we consider the best poem ever contributed to the Dish. It is not fair to single out one above all others, as our clients' verses express many different moods; but as a specimen of neat wit, the following is our favorite. It came to us in August, 1918, with no name attached. We have never learned who wrote it, and reprint it here in the hope of finding out.

"Street Closed"

BARBARA'S heart, like a busy street, Teems with a throng of little loves; Each holds onward with stubborn feet, Jostles his neighbor, pushes, shoves,

BUT all congestion would swiftly stop— If only I, like a traffic cop, Could be forever on fixed post there!

A Christmas Dialogue AJAX-Hullo, Socrates! Bless me, when saw a stout gentleman tumble with such mphasis I had no idea it was you. have you in that package? Nothing break-

SOCRATES-Some little glass balls for he Christmas tree. I fear they have gone AJAX-Well, it is quite a while since I

saw you last. What do you say to an oyster stew? SOCRATES-A very meritorious idea.

AJAX—It is cheery to see all this snow, I think. It seems to bring one closer to the real Christmas spirit. SOCRATES—It also brings one closer to the pavement, sometimes. As I thought, these nice little globes I got at the ten-cent

store are irremediably fractured. AJAX-Somehow, something seems lacking in the season nowadays. Christmas isn' as jolly as it used to be. I miss the old fashioned blazing fires, the great joints of roast beef, the mealy boiled potatoes. There sn't an inn anywhere in the city where you can drop in and watch an open fire while you eat. There used to be those sleighing parties up the Wissahickon. Dear me, some-thing seems to have vanished since the good old days. I don't know just what it is—

SOCRATES-You know perfectly well what it is.

AJAX—No, no; I don't mean that. Some thing of that large and genial simplicity has gone. I always read Dickens and Washington Irving at Christmas time, and it esick for the old ways. makes me homesick for the old way often wish I had been my grandfather—

SOCRATES—Why do you hold such a rudge against your posterity?

Add har AJAX—Yesterday the ashman called and mas present.

said he positively must have something for Christmas. I offered him a cigar, which I had intended to give to my father-in-law,

SEASONABLE STUFF

and he was furious. SOCRATES-I hope you don't think the Christmas hold-up is only a recent custom. When the Wise Men got to Bethlehem, probably the first person they met was the stable-boy, demanding a hand-out.

AJAX-But it is always the people who have scamped their work most during the year who are most vociferous toward Christ-mas time. I am really surprised that the people who sew the little buttons on soft collars haven't sent in an appeal. And those who work hardest of all, folks like trolley car conductors and bank cashiers and poets, do they stand around asking for a tip the public? What would be thought if you Socrates, should stand at the corner of Broad and Chestnut with a little box and a placard

saying "Don't Forget Socrates's Christ-SOCRATES-The other poets would b y they had not thought of it first. AJAX-Everybody nowadays wants to be happy without earning their happiness There's no fun-in giving people things when they expect them beforehand. That's one of says the Senate ought to ratify the treaty, Christmas present to the world.

the troubles the Senate is up against. France that the whole world is waiting for the Senate to do this, it takes away all the fun of doing it. The organ-grinder on our street has sent in an appeal asking us to save our old clothes for him. What would your clients think of you if you asked them not to throw old jokes away, but send them in to the Dish?

SOCRATES-They do it already. But look here, Ajax, you are forgetting the thing that gives Christmas its real charm.

AJAX-Tell me. SOCRATES-The beauty of it is that hatever the trials and absurdities of the Christmas season, it is the one feature of human life that we approach with perennial and happy illusion. We imagine, with cheerful idealism, that buying a purple sateen waist for the cook is going to make her a more docile and efficient kitchener imagine that overwhelming the children with woolly rabbits and clockwork boats to sail in the bathtub will make them go to bed with less uproar and outcry. We imagine that Rhode Island will be able to bluff the Supreme Court into declaring the eighteenti amendment unconstitutional. The joy of Christmas does not lie so much in the Day itself as in the happy simplicity of heart is which we approach it. Everything that is is for the best. If Scotch has gone, we can

AJAX-Look here, I know a man up the street who says he has a friend who can

SOCRATES-Hush! AJAX-It's a fact. SOCRATES-Just let me make a note of that address.

Exile

WE'VE eucalyptus and bamboo Grows in our garden; palm trees, too, Where sweet, wild thrushes sing.

California bills are gold. I'd like to see again All laughing in their autumn dress The little hills of Maine.

TROM here we see the ocean throw I Great balls of flying foam; I wonder if the sumach's out Along the roads back home? BEATRICE WASHBURN.

Santa Barbara, Calif.

political party that they have learned nothing and forgotten nothing. As we survey our education thus far, we feel that our case is worse still. We have learned nothing and SOCRATES. forgotten everything.

Add hard jobs-Choosing Her Christ.

BEGINNING

TO HATCH

0

('WAY AFTER) WHAT makes the janitor so nice? "A son of touch; a son of touch," the Older Tenant said.

"What makes, the hall-boy so polite and what's 'is little list?"
"A bit of graft, a bit of graft," the Older

"What makes the milkman grin that grin?"
said Tenant-newly-come. "He wants some coin and you are it," said

Tenant-very-glum.
"What makes the 'phone girl speak so sweet?" said Tenant-on-parade; "She's got you down for two or three, that

surely must be paid." For they're macing every tenant, you can hear the old bunk ring, The regiment's in hollow square all ready

And you must be their victim before the Christmas morn, Or spend a year with heinous hate, and grouch, and silent scorn

-Anon (With apologies to R. K.)

The humorist who was went to put a piece of coal in the toe of a Christmas stockng is not indulging in any such extravagance

The motto of the Reds who will parade in manacles on Christmas Day in New York "But we anticipate."

City employes will find old Uncle Bonus

a valuable assistant to Santa Claus.

What Do You Know? QUIZ

What common domestic animal was unknown to the Indians in America until the advent of the white man?

2. What is the correct pronunciation of the word prestige?

3. Who are the Doukhobors? 4. What is a duniwassal?

5. Name four notable novels left unfinished by their authors.

6. What is a doublet? 7/ What is chrysoprase? 8. What part of American territory was

the first to be discovered by the white

9. What is a coatee?

10. What does the Latin phrase "Deus ex machina" mean and how should the "ch" of "machina" be pronounced? Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. It was popularly believed in Europe that the year 1000 A. D. would mark the end of the world.

2. Lima is the largest city in Peru. 3. Andrew Jackson virtually named Martin Van Buren as his successor in the

presidency. 4. Rudyard Kipling's "The Light That Failed" has both a tragic and a happy

ending. The latter version was the first one published in America. 5. Daniel O'Connell was a noted Irish statesman and orator. He was a leader of the movement in favor of

Catholic emancipation. He became a member of Parliament in 1828. 1843 he was convicted of conspirace and sedition, but his sentence was reversed the following year.

6. Oberon was king of the fairies in medieval mythology.

7. A hereditament is property that can be inherited. 8 Heterodoxy is the opposite of orthodoxy.

9. Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic are Scandinavian languages.

10. Washington, for his second term, and John Adams were inaugurated Presi-dent in Philadelphia.