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Philadelphia, Thursday, January 15, 1920

NO TRUCE

RECRIMINATION, photographs of dirty streets and other exposures," said Freeland Kendrick, in discussing his effort to establish harmony between the administration and the Vares, "do not body any good."

Mr. Kendrick's approach, in this instance, was manly. It had the rare quality of complete frankness. It is hard to criticize a man who sticks to his friends through thick and thin. But exposure of wrong is the first step toward right.

The streets are being cleaned. The health of the community is of greater importance than the fortunes or misfortunes of a political faction.

Mr. Moore, therefore, was justified in refusing a truce if a truce meant compromise.

A man who insists on being loyal to his political friends does no mean thing.

But a man who insists on being loyal to the community that he represents does something that is at once more difficult and more admirable.

WESCOTT'S APPOINTMENT

IN APPOINTING Harry D. Wescott to fill a vacancy on the Board of Registration Commissioners, Governor Sproul recognizes the very much minority party in this city.

Mr. Wescott is an able young man and should occupy his not exceedingly arduous new post with credit. Fortunately, his political affiliations have not personally entangled him with that wing of alleged Democrats here who regularly played the game of the Republican organization.

To identify Mr. Wescott further, it may be recalled that he enjoyed the honor of running against J. Hampton Moore for Mayor, conducting his campaign with clean, manly methods, both on the stump and off.

POLICE MOTORS NEEDED

THIEVES have been quicker than the police to understand the possibilities of the automobile. That simple fact explains the ease with which raids such as that at Sixtieth and Master streets are carried out.

To deal with the newest of complications the police have only the method and system of twenty years ago. The audacity of the yeggmen in recent instances suggests that the business of touch-and-go robbery is not casual, but highly organized. What the police need is means to meet the modern thief on even terms. Somebody will have to find a way to apply motors more extensively to the uses of the department. Meanwhile, better marksmanship in the service, the enforcement of motor regulations devised to make the identification of automobiles easy and the merciless treatment of the first bandit caught will tend to keep motor thieves in check.

NEW NEED FOR UPLIFT

IN ITS current appeal to the business interests of the state the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce deplores the fact that many aliens in American industry have no time to learn the English language. There is wisdom in the suggestion that employers do all that is possible to aid their foreign-born workers toward a better understanding of our aims and our government.

The appeal is timely. In the steel industry the majority of workers are foreign-born. Many of them work twelve hours a day. Naturally they continue us strangers in a strange land, since they have neither the time nor the inclination to attend night schools. Americanization thus is a pretty difficult business.

Yet Americanization is necessary. And while we are about it, and in the light of recent experience, it may be proper to ask whether it isn't needed at the top occasionally, as well as at the bottom.

Who, for example, will volunteer to Americanize men like Mr. Burleson, Mr. Palmer and the majority in the New York Assembly?

OUT OF THE SCAPA FLOW SNARL

WITH the worst and most dishonorable of intentions, the Germans sunk a prickly international problem when they scuttled their fleet at Scapa Flow. Although heartily contemptuous of the Teutonic treachery, there were unquestionably many Americans who hailed the disappearance of the warships with relief.

The parceling out of the vessels among the allied nations would almost certainly have occasioned jealousies and would have spurred interest in increased naval armaments. It is an open secret that this government favored the sinking of the ships by order of the supreme council. Had the fleet continued in existence, however, the chances of a ruling to that effect would have been slim.

Our late allies have demanded compensation for the destruction in the form of \$60,000 tons of German floating docks, cranes and other material. The 2 per cent share of the spoils proffered to the

United States has been rejected by the government.

This renunciation is a high-minded and thoroughly commendable act. It is an index of what our best sentiments would have been if the fleet had remained intact. But an assumption of such an attitude under those conditions might have been difficult and open to misconstruction.

Today we are enabled to put our principles in force without offending our former partners in the war, and they themselves are unable to augment their naval strength by a take-off from Scapa Flow.

It is seldom that idealism can be so concretely practiced without provoking the imputation of hypocrisy. Americans who remember the lofty reasons alleged for our entry into the war have occasion in this instance to be proud of the consistency of their nation.

EVILS THAT ALL ADMIT BUT NO ONE HAS YET CURED

Scandals of the State Charity Fund Ad-

ministration Considered by the Constitutional Revisers

BEFORE the constitutional revision commission finishes its work the present system of state aid for private charities will have a wholesome and needed airing.

About one-fifth of the revenues of the state are appropriated to public, semi-public and private charities. It has been charged that there are private charities organized and maintained for the sole purpose of getting state money. If the treasury could not be tapped in their behalf it is said that they would not exist at all.

Various members of the General Assembly have their pet charities. Every two years they seek an appropriation.

The passage of the appropriation bill is uniformly held up till the end of the session and each member with a pet charity carries himself circumstantially lest the powers in control should deny to him the money that he seeks.

The appropriation bill is a club held over the heads of the legislators. Their complicity is bought by the prospect of a share in the public funds for their local institutions.

This is the political side of the matter.

An incidental and subsidiary abuse arises out of the habit of the legislators, after it has been decided what institutions are to be taken care of, toicker with one another about the amount to be set apart for each institution. The appropriations are not made on any recognized system, though there may be some pretense of an equitable apportionment. In practice the most expert log-roller gets the most money.

This is the efficiency side of the matter.

Two propositions are before the revision commission, each of which is intended to cure the abuses.

George Wharton Pepper has suggested that the charitable appropriation be made in a lump sum instead of in specific amounts to specific institutions and that a standard of service be fixed by which the desert of the different institutions is to be measured. Then an administrative authority would apportion the fund among the institutions qualifying according to the standard in proportion to the service rendered. Every institution in the state which did not confine its benefits to adherents of a particular sect would be eligible to participate in the fund according to the Pepper plan.

Senator Thomas, of Colorado, has indicated broadly that such men exist and, according to the dispatches, evidence indicating an organized propaganda in their behalf will be laid before an investigating committee within a few days. Such evidence, if convincing, would touch national consciousness in a sensitive place, and all that would be needed to pillory such base profiteers would be the publication of their names.

The War Department has encouraged the transfer of soldiers' bodies only in exceptional instances.

Remains disseminated in French war cemeteries cannot always be certainly identified—a fact which unscrupulous agitators have ignored or hidden in the course of their campaign.

The government has held that it is more seemly to leave these men of ours in the land for which they died, where their graves will be honored and tended by a grateful people for all time.

It has been suggested, too, that all the bodies of the American dead be brought to this country and interred in a national cemetery. If they are left in France they will be assembled in ground set apart under the joint care of the French and American governments.

Judge James Gay Gordon, however, is opposed to the appropriation of state funds to private institutions, and he has proposed that the constitution be so amended that after 1927 no money shall be appropriated save to institutions under the complete control of the state. Then an administrative authority would apportion the fund among the institutions qualifying according to the standard in proportion to the service rendered. Every institution in the state which did not confine its benefits to adherents of a particular sect would be eligible to participate in the fund according to the Pepper plan.

Judge James Gay Gordon, however, is opposed to the appropriation of state funds to private institutions, and he has proposed that the constitution be so amended that after 1927 no money shall be appropriated save to institutions under the complete control of the state. Then an administrative authority would apportion the fund among the institutions qualifying according to the standard in proportion to the service rendered. Every institution in the state which did not confine its benefits to adherents of a particular sect would be eligible to participate in the fund according to the Pepper plan.

Whatever is done should be done honorably and cleanly. The final decisions should be inspired solely by honor for these soldiers and by pride and gratitude.

To good parents in a search for lost sons who cannot be identified and to involve the general question in a get-rich-quick scheme is to affront the nation and debase the sentiment of patriotism as it has never before been debased and tattered.

He is persuaded that the legitimate charities would not suffer for the reason that those who now contribute to their support would continue their contributions and would enlarge them. In fact, he is inclined to the belief that the rich would become more generous than they have been in the past for the reason that every dollar given to charity reduces the amount of their income subject to taxation. But if the private charities had to go out of business when state funds were cut off they would be proved really not private charities, in the opinion of Judge Gordon, but public charities, supported by public funds and managed by private individuals under no public control.

No conclusion has yet been reached by the revision commission. It has thus far done nothing more than develop the anomalies in the present practice and admit that there are grave abuses. But this was admitted long ago. For various well-understood reasons no serious attempt has been made to better the conditions. They can be bettered under the present constitution whenever the General Assembly is so disposed.

Certain members of the revision commission, however, seem to wish to lay down hard and fast rules in the constitution itself, which shall bind the Legislature. They do not seem to be able to get away from the theory that the constitution should contain a large body of bylaws framed in distrust of the honesty and efficiency of the legislators. It must be admitted that there is some justification for their position, in view of the way the Legislature has exercised its discretion in the past.

There are merits in both the Pepper and the Gordon plans. Theoretically, the Gordon plan is admirable. There can be no disputing the soundness of the general proposition that public money should be spent only by public officials and for public purposes only. Grants to purely private institutions are indefensible.

The so-called private charities, however, insist that they are engaged in supplementing the proper work of the state in caring for the sick and the indigent. The state does not provide adequate facilities and private charity intervenes in the interest of humanity. It is argued, and plausibly, too, that these private institutions which do the work which the state neglects should be compensated by the state.

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but no better case than can be made for the Gordon plan.

The question cannot be argued in vacuo, however. The state is confronted by existing conditions. They must be considered and some way must be found to end the scandals that biennially accompany the passage of the charity appropriation bill without destroying the efficiency of the work of caring for the sick and indigent wherever they may be.

MANHATTAN IN SECOND PLACE

THIS report from the new census-takers and other sources that Brooklyn has outstripped insular New York in population tell a familiar story of municipal development.

The "city" of London is today almost without permanent inhabitants. It is a business center, deserted at nightfall. Some of the large towns of France lie immediately contiguous to the fortifications of the official civic entity of Paris.

The drive toward the suburbs is irresistible in Philadelphia, although the magnitude of our city-county area renders it unlikely any outlying town in the vicinity of London in the irrelevancy of some of the chateaux which border on the western frontier against the Russians; and, wounded, having been ridden down by a Cossack, had been honorably discharged from the Austrian service.

Nevertheless the prospect of the Delaware bridge inspires curious thoughts. Brooklyn, butt of the musical-comedy clown and conventional jokeshift, grew prodigiously when the great work of Roebling and his followers obviated the necessity of ferry transit. Residents of Camden are perhaps pondering the demotion of Manhattan with a peculiar interest.

BARTERS IN THE TEMPLE?

PROPAGANDA and the mysterious thing known as "pressure" organized by paid lobbyists at Washington often assume disagreeable and even odious forms. But no news from congressional committee rooms could be so certain to inspire general disgust and loathing for the whole scheme of subterranean intrigue at Washington as the report that cliques representing undertakers are furiously agitating for the wholesale transfer of the bodies of American soldiers from France to the United States.

It is conceivable that there are in America business men so hard up or so driven by a lust for easy money that they are willing to exploit the grief of parents who contributed so heavily to the cause of patriotism, and actually traffic in the bodies of young men whose very memory is a sacred thing?

Senator Thomas, of Colorado, has indicated broadly that such men exist and, according to the dispatches, evidence indicating an organized propaganda in their behalf would be like reading a scandal above the mud-slinging and perhaps better in this case, about one's country cousins; and in the face of the world and its needs our paltering party-playing politicians are giving honest Americans a great deal to be ashamed of at this moment.

The Gowman has not the volume by him, but he remembers, for he read it, that it contains nothing about the murder at Sarajevo nor of the machinations of Vienna or Berlin. The trained musician's ear was interested in the quality of tone produced by projectile in the air, and through the air with a curiously impersonal detachment. But there is one episode that remains vividly in memory. If approximately recalled as to detail, it runs somewhat thus: The Austrian and Russian trenches lay quite close in one of those long periods of deadlock. And, to the amazement of all, a handkerchief on a stick was reared over the Russian trenches. A parley was arranged and the Russians were asked if they wanted to surrender. "No, we won't surrender, but—the fact is that this detachment of us is starving." Then a very unwarlike proceeding ensued. The Austrians, in much the same plight themselves, went over the top and divided their own scanty stock of rations with their perishing enemies, fraternizing with them in a manner scandalous and most reprehensible.

THE Gowman has not followed circumstantially the difficulties which he understands that Mr. Kreisler has had to encounter in the provincial parts of patriotic America. A sense of shame deterred him. To turn over the soothsome particulars would be like reading a scandal above the mud-slinging and perhaps better in this case, about one's country cousins; and in the face of the world and its needs our paltering party-playing politicians are giving honest Americans a great deal to be ashamed of at this moment.

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