

Evening Public Ledger

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A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA
Things on which the people expect the new administration to concentrate its attention:
The Delaware river bridge.
A dredged big enough to accommodate the largest ships.

THE FIVE-DOLLAR WAGE
Injustice to the men has continued too long. Responsibility lies with those higher up.
This statement was printed in this column on June 20, 1918, in support of an appeal for a standard \$5-a-day wage for policemen.

WHITE HOUSE CENSORSHIP
HAS the public any interest in the momentous questions of peace now being juggled perilously between Mr. Wilson and the premiers of England, France and Italy or in the fate of the League of Nations a matter of private concern to a handful of high officials?

SMITH AS PROVOST EMERITUS
NO ONE need be surprised if the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania respect the sentiment of the alumni expressed at the Wilmington meeting and make Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith provost emeritus with a salary when his resignation takes effect in June.

DELAY THAT IS NOT DANGEROUS
SENATOR PENROSE'S telephoned message to Washington that "there will be no changes in the tariff and revenue laws at this session" is a repetition of what he has said before.

HOVER'S CONCENTRATION ON VITAL ISSUES
HERBERT C. HOOVER pricks the bubble of partisanship with the skill and authority of an honest man.
That view of his acts and utterances is at least exceedingly easy to entertain. Neither Democrats nor Republicans have yet officially formulated any definite programs for the future.

FROM DAY TO DAY
WHY should the women, led by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, resolve so hard that in politics, when they have the vote, they will not be the "ladies' auxiliary" to a male organization?

EMBARCKING FOR JERSEY
THE captain cocks his eagle eye.
The deck hands lock the gate.
Commuters pinch in every inch—
Their suppers wait in vain.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
NAME a play by Shakespeare in which the scenes are laid in the now much discussed region of Dalmatia along the Adriatic?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUIZ
1. The Septuagint is the Greek version of the Old Testament, including the Apocrypha, said to have been made about 270 B. C. by seventy translators.

Europe must begin before we can have the data necessary to guide us in framing new tariff laws.
It is not understood that Senator Penrose objects to proper tariff on dyestuffs to encourage the development of a new industry here, and it is hoped that he is not opposed to the removal of the most glaring defects in the internal tax laws.

NONPARTISAN MR. HOOVER
SERVES TIPS TO BOTH SIDES
His Concentration of Interest on Vital Issues Points the Way to the Restoration of Health in Our Political System

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That view of his acts and utterances is at least exceedingly easy to entertain. Neither Democrats nor Republicans have yet officially formulated any definite programs for the future.

THE UNPLEGGED RECONSTRUCTIONIST who spoke at length before the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers in New York the other night has reiterated his faith in the republic and the practical efficacy of our institutions.

WITH the most genuine respect for the mentality of the former food commissioner, it cannot be reasonably maintained that he is entitled to that unique distinction. Furthermore, Mr. Hoover himself has never presumed so vaingloriously. He has, none the less, pondered deeply and scientifically the perplexities of the aftermath of a world war.

THE NEW YORK address is oloquent in campaign keys. Those which will not actually unlock baffling doors will open at least antechambers into which we must enter before probing the hearts of the mysteries.

NO scheme of political appointment has ever yet been devised, declares Mr. Hoover, "that will replace competition in its selection of ability and character."

IT is no wonder that the speaker's eyes twinkled when he proclaimed his aversion "to say anything about political matters." If Mr. Hoover is disinclined to play politics himself, he is under no illusions concerning certain indefensible features of the political game.

"Sectional interests" is a suggestive phrase after seven years of the political domination emanating both the Mason and Dixon line. The "Solid South" has capitalized its imperviousness to healthy disparages of political opinion with traditional illiberality. This familiar situation has made for narrow vision in the Democratic ranks at the very moment when the party was prone to surrender some of its archaic principles in order to accommodate itself to an unprecedented international drama.

MR. Wilson has been one of the victims of this inconsistency. When he has revolted, as in the case of the military training bill, his party reverted to the old sectional attitude. In appointments, in legislation, in a score of ways, the South restored to power under a Democratic administration has not been fair to the nation.

HOOPER is courageously candid in aligning sectionalism among the drawbacks of government control of quasi-public utilities.
His railway program, in its emphasis on the need of a "greatly increased transport equipment," strikes at the core of the problem of inflated prices and also sheds a clarifying light on the coal strike,

WHICH he says had "a minor root in our inadequate transportation facilities and their responsibility for intermittent operation of the mines."
Equally perspicacious and more explicit are the suggestions for taking the government out of the shipping business and at the same time preserving and fostering the magical revival of the merchant marine due to the war. The pressure on the government now attempting to manage 1900 ships "to take refuge in rigid regulations and fixed rates" is naturally detrimental to underbidding by much smaller private concerns.

HOOPER reasons and it is hard to dispute his logic—that the maintenance of the high rates will increase the number of government-owned idle ships, while the private fleet grows. The vicious circle may be visualized in the forecast that "if we reduce rates we shall be underbid until the governmental margin of larger operation causes us to lose money."

THE means of stabilizing the marvelously stimulated industry of American shipbuilding is outlined in an appeal to our shipyards to employ their excess resources in filling foreign orders for vessels and for the government during this transition period to sell sets of three or four of the standardized fabricated cargo steamships and to devote the proceeds to the construction of single ships of a better and faster type.

THE mere summary of Mr. Hoover's reconstruction plan fails to do justice to either its intensely practical values or to the hopeful spirit of self-analytical Americanism which pervades it. His warnings against socialistic radicalism are informed by a sound sense of economics and a fervent respect for our peculiarly national social philosophy, which is as inimical to extravagant repressive measures as it is to hysterical panaceas for conditions which occasion no alarm among clear-headed persons.

MR. Hoover significantly points to the only contingency which could ever possibly subvert the social structure of a land safeguarded by the anti-radical solvent of an overwhelmingly large farmer population. This extremity is defined as "a reflex of continued attempt to control this country by the 'interests' and other forms of our domestic reactionaries."

NEITHER Toryism, radicalism, windy optimism nor fettering despair cures Hoover's survey of our affairs. Common sense is his heartening quality.
Political parties, unless they are planning to summon a squad of undertakers, can hardly refrain from accepting some of his well-defined tips.

WHETHER he is of presidential timber or not, he has designed a platform which should bring new life to any party which is bold enough and clever enough to speak up.

WE NAME A CANDIDATE
TO FORGIVE is human. After yesterday afternoon, therefore, we are moved to nominate the weatherman for the presidency of the United States. The honor is one wisely reserved for men whose blunders and mistakes are all behind them, and for that reason alone the weatherman should appeal powerfully to voters of discernment.

WILL the weather gentleman accept the nomination?
We have a conviction that he would flee from it.

WHAT bitter things the opposition press would say about the ruthlessness of his temper! What grinding denunciation would be uttered upon every hand because of the harshness of his general disposition lately revealed! It would be said of him with justice that he got the nation into difficulties from which it was hard to escape, that he refused to listen to appeals for advice. He went his own way and let the storms rage. Because of him transportation was paralyzed, traffic was impeded everywhere, and there was a shortage of coal and a shortage of food.

EVERY now we can hear Henry Wise Wood lifting his voice to indict the weatherman as the inspirer of bolshevism and all forms of social unrest.

THE friends of our candidate would turn sadly away from him. They would talk about his growing irritability and mourn his habit of vacillation. They would say that the wretched confusion and uncertainty of his later policies is in tragic contrast with an earlier idealism expressed in happy Aprils and the lush, green days of remembered June.

YES, the weatherman doubtless would refuse to run. He already knows something of forces that prevail in the universe and defy human will and human efforts to tame and order them. And he may have a sneaking suspicion that such forces rage in the world of international politics just as they rage about the heads of the multitude to make life hard in the streets, on the railroads and wherever work is to be done. The solitude of the Weather Bureau is to be preferred to the solitude of the White House. The world in general knows too little of the elements that rule in both places. But a weatherman knows what to expect and a President, in these days, doesn't.

Even if the Kelly bill, for Goose or Gander which makes it a penal offense for any employer engaged in interstate commerce to refuse to bargain collectively with a laborer had common sense to back it, there would still be some room for criticism. Collective bargaining is desirable, but it is not desirable to clutter up the statute books with unnecessary laws. If such a law were enacted it ought to be backed up with enforceable declaration that decisions arrived at should be binding on both parties; and that the abrogation of any agreement should be sufficient cause for a civil action for damages to be against either a business corporation or a labor organization, and for a criminal action against each and every individual responsible, with a term of imprisonment as a penalty. If a law is to be made, let it have plenty of teeth.

IN the matter of preparedness for war, the army bill is only a shade more effective than Bryan's million men against the war, if there is one, will be at the gas house. Literally. No reference here made to legislative halls.

Nowhere, capital of Dreamland, is the space wages go up and prices come down. It is one and the same thing. The price of commodities goes up and the price of commodities goes down in their hunt for profits.

HONEST FARMER CREASY

Death of Legislator Recalls Many Interesting Stories of a Picturesque Figure in State Politics

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN
WILLIAM T. CREASY'S death has caused more widespread regret, I venture to say, over Pennsylvania than the death of any public man in recent years.

WILLIAM TRENTON CREASY was of Colonial ancestry. His forebears fought in the Revolution. He lived and died in the township in which he was born.

HE first came to Harrisburg in 1835 as the representative from Columbia county. He brought with him certain views, prejudices, among them a dislike for and distrust of newspaper correspondents. They were individuals to be shunned and never to be trusted with political secrets.

FROM an unpolished but forceful advocate of legislative measures he developed in the course of years into a clever if not accomplished debater. He was direct in his utterances and re-enforced his statements with concrete facts and figures.

IN 1906, when William T. Creasy was the nominee for auditor general on the Democratic ticket, Lincoln, Prohibition and Union-Labor tickets, and the late Jeremiah H. Black was candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the same coalition ticket, I traveled with them over a good part of the state on their campaigning tour.

WITH the exception of ex-Governor Edwin S. Stuart and Lewis Emery, Jr., all of the leading candidates, successful and unsuccessful, in that campaign of 1906 had passed away. Robert S. Murphy and Jeremiah S. Black, rival candidates for Lieutenant Governor, are both dead.

WHY "fight your way up," Mrs. Catt?
The thing is easier.
You know the saying that the business world is crying out for \$50,000 a year men? It cries so loudly that few of them go into politics.

THE business of government is in the hands of second-raters, whether it is in the parties or in the public offices.
At the top is a cabinet of nobodies and a Congress with only a dozen men of reasonable capacity in all its more than 500 members.

WHY should the women, led by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, resolve so hard that in politics, when they have the vote, they will not be the "ladies' auxiliary" to a male organization?
They have the time.
Or put it another way: They have a better order of brains disposable for politics than the men have.

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"HOW ABOUT A CHANGE OF DIET?"



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