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Philadelphia, Tuesday, February 24, 1920

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA

Things on which the people expect the new administration to concentrate its attention:
The Delaware river bridge
A drydock big enough to accommodate the largest ships
Development of the rapid transit system
A convention hall
A building for the Free Library
An Art Museum
Enlargement of the water supply
Homes to accommodate the population.

PENROSE AND HOOVER

SENATOR PENROSE has dismissed Hoover from among presidential possibilities acceptable to those leaders in the Republican party who, for want of a better term, are called conservatives.
Mr. Penrose, departing for Florida yesterday, spoke in measured terms, by the book. He was explicit, uncompromising, final. It is not to be supposed that he spoke only for himself. He was, for the moment, a mirror in which you could read the mature opinion of all his associates in the dominant wing of the G. O. P.

There will be outcries now, especially from certain Democrats. But it is already plain that Hoover is no more acceptable to many old guard leaders of the Democratic party than he is to the elder statesmen of the opposition. Senator Reed shouted abuse at the food administrator and pooh-poohed his candidacy even before any Republican had time to speak.

It becomes more apparent every day that the Hoover boom, if it is to make any progress at all, will have to go without assistance from standpatners in either party. It must become the nucleus of a progressive movement in one camp or the other or go, before long, to oblivion.

AS OTHERS HEAR YOU

THE country is full of college graduates who would be appalled if they could hear their own daily speech reproduced distinctly through a phonograph. They would hear not English but a clipped, slurred dialect that often seems to have only a distant relationship to the tongue of our inheritance.

It is of these Americans that Prof. Felix E. Schelling, of the University of Pennsylvania, was thinking when he raised his own voice in a demand for better language training in colleges and a stricter regard for English speech as a test of scholarship.

Carelessness in speech is a national habit. It is true that in the United States the percentage of actual illiteracy is low. Educational facilities are more general in this country than anywhere else in the world. Yet as a people we show little regard for the rules which make English a various and beautiful language. Haste is largely to blame for this.

The masses of unlettered aliens whose children fill the public schools contribute indirectly to the defects of commonplace speech in America. It is not difficult to find school teachers and faculty men who are not beyond reproach. Any one who has to listen to public speakers knows that many people who really know better drop regularly into slovenly English from force of habit.

Education begins in schools and colleges. It is finished in the outer world. The reforms that Doctor Schelling has in mind should begin in the public schools. The colleges would raise their standards as a matter of course.

ONE MAN

ELIAS TAYLOR, who has just died in Kensington, was ninety-two years old. He worked all his life and founded a family, a church and a good name. His was a cheerful life. He never paraded with the disconsolate. He would have been amazed if any one called him oppressed, because he wasn't oppressed. He seems to have been happier than any boss he ever had.

Such men are fewer than they used to be. It is hard to convince any man that decent work offers the surest way not only to health, but to happiness. What has become of the native traits of industry and ambition? And what has become of the old-fashioned type of foreigner who, after a few years in America, could acquire a house and a silk shirt, hopes and aspirations and perhaps a flivver, and tilt his hat and bawl out the unruly politicians with the rest of us—even if he did it with an accent that tended swiftly to disappear?

OLD TIMES RETURN IN JERSEY

IT IS said that old times never return. Yet any one in New Jersey who stops to listen to the uproar from the State Legislature might suppose, with good reason, that he was back in the terrible old days that Jim Nugent made famous before he ceased to be the boss of all bosses at the Capitol. The habit of party leaders to think of themselves first and

of the people afterward is again being vividly illustrated at Trenton.

One party has the governor. The other has a majority in the Assembly. The balance is pretty even and no one can agree with any one else. Legislation of the most important sort is deadlocked as solidly as the treaty of peace is deadlocked in the Senate.

An intensive survey of the state's utilities and a reorganization of the State Utilities Commission are imperatively necessary if the Public Service Corporation and the people are ever to reach decent working agreements based upon fair schedules of rates for street-car, gas and electric service. Every move made by one faction to these ends is blocked by the opposition. This state of affairs may continue far into the spring, while the party leaders fight for position.

RAILROAD BILL'S EFFECT ON LABOR AND THE PUBLIC

Capital is Protected, While a Plan is Provided to Safeguard Wages and Prevent Strikes

THE bill transferring the railroads from government control back to their owners has passed both houses of Congress.

In spite of the objections of the labor leaders, it received 260 affirmative votes in the House and 150 negative votes. Only forty-five of the affirmative votes were cast by Democrats, while 125 Democrats voted against the bill. The explanation for this will doubtless be found in the fact that the two Democratic members of the House conference committee refused to sign the majority report and opposed the passage of the bill as it came from the conference. The Democrats in the House supported the action of their representatives on the committee.

It passed the Senate by a vote of 47 to 17, with more Democrats supporting it than opposing it.

The bill is the result of a serious and honest effort to agree on a plan for returning the railroads to their owners while protecting the rights of the public, of the employees and of the shareholders. It provides that there shall be no reduction in wages and no reduction in rates prior to September 1. This guarantees to the workers a continuance of at least the scale of wages which the government fixed and a continuance of the rate of income for the railroads on which the scale of wages was based for a period long enough to permit a careful study of the situation before any reductions are made.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, however, may increase the rates during this period if circumstances warrant and the wages also may be increased. The point to be noted is that it is reductions alone that are forbidden for six months. The powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission over rates are increased and the commission itself is enlarged to eleven members in order to enable it to exercise its new functions.

Provision is made for a railroad labor board to adjust all disputes between the railroads and their employees regarding wages or conditions of work. The board is to consist of nine members, three representing employees and subordinate officials of the railroads, three representing the railroads' managers and three representing the public. The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, is to make the appointments. In the case of the group representing labor and the group representing management he is to select three men for each from six nominated by each group; but in the case of the public representatives he is to make his own selections directly without official suggestion from any one.

As soon as a representative of the employees or the managers is appointed he must sever all active connection with the body which he represents and devote himself wholly to his new duties. A salary of \$10,000 a year is provided for each member of the board and the term is fixed at five years, save for the first appointees. They serve one, two and three years, so that when the board is firmly established one-third of it will go out of office every year. This arrangement provides for a continuing body.

Subordinate to this railroad labor board, the bill authorizes the railroads by agreement with their employees to establish boards of labor adjustment to consider all grievances which threaten to interrupt the operation of the roads, and to remove them so far as possible. If the adjustment boards are unable to agree on a plan for removing grievances the matter is to be referred to the railroad labor board, which shall consider the questions at issue on their merits and make and publish its findings.

No provision is made for compelling either the employers or the employees to accept the decisions of the labor board. It is hoped that those decisions will be so fair and just that the pressure of public sentiment will be sufficient to compel the parties to the disputes to respect the decisions and to refrain from interrupting commerce either by strikes or by lockouts.

The financial provisions of the measure are intended to protect railroad investments. An income of 5 1/2 per cent on the value of the property is guaranteed. If the income earned by any railroad under this guarantee is in excess of its minimum operating expenses the excess must be forthwith paid into the United States Treasury, but each railroad may retain enough to pay its fixed charges. A period of ten years is allowed for repayment to the government of the sums invested by it in permanent betterments, and arrangements are made for paying to the roads \$636,000,000, which is the net deficit that has accumulated under government operation.

An appropriation of \$300,000,000 is made to serve as a revolving fund, out of which the secretary of the treasury is authorized to make loans to the roads at any time within two years to enable them properly to serve the public. The need for the loan, however, must first be certified by the Interstate Commerce Commission. If the commission approves, then the secretary of the treasury

may lend the money on proper security. As already said, the present freight and passenger rates are protected for six months against reduction, but not against increase. If it should be found necessary to increase the wages of the employees the way is open for enabling the railroads to pay the increase at the expense of the public which uses the roads.

The labor unions are dissatisfied with the labor provisions of the bill and certain groups of capital are also displeased with it, but the general feeling among the railroad managers is that it is a much better and fairer measure than seemed possible to get through Congress a few months ago. They prefer to accept it and get their property back on March 1 rather than endure uncertainty for a longer period. This, after all, is the most important thing accomplished. Future legislation can be depended upon, backed by public opinion, to protect the tripartite interests recognized by the bill.

NOISES FROM THE GRAVE

THERE was no "whisky rebellion" in Michigan. There was no thought or shadow of one. What you heard yesterday was merely the shade of J. Barleycorn giving still another vicious rattle to the gate of Gehenna to which all demons go when they die.

In Michigan there were federal agents and county officials whose personal egotism temporarily unbalanced them. P. A. McDonough, the county prosecutor, who was said to have flouted the federal authority, loudly disclaimed any desire to question the authority of federal prohibition agents.

FUME WHYS AND WHYNOTS

At Present Neither Italy Nor "Jugo-Slavia" Seems Likely to Retain It, and the Row is Being Fought Over "Influences"

THE Fiume wrangle has given rise to three widely prevalent delusions. These are: First, That Jugo-Slavia is the name of a nation. Second, That the secret treaty of London accords Fiume to Italy. Third, That Italy is prolonging a diplomatic crisis in order to secure absolute possession of Fiume as an integral part of the Italian kingdom.

For this last misconception, Gabriele D'Annunzio and his hectic adventure are partly to blame. Moreover, it still sticks in the popular consciousness that Baron Somino at the Peace Conference, from which he ultimately withdrew, clamored for the annexation of Fiume to Italy. But compromises of all sorts have been suggested since that sensational day. The complete absorption of Fiume by the Italian monarchy has ceased to be a subject for dramatic dispute. The point at issue now is the status of an "independent" Fiume, not to be actually in the possession of either Italy or the country erroneously labeled Jugo-Slavia.

THE proximate causes of the war of 1914-18 are often overlooked. It is evident that William Hohenzollern and the "Potsdam gang" developed a great army with a view to making it an invulnerable instrument of depredation and conquest. But the great war did not begin on either the Franco-German or the Russo-German frontiers. It started in Serbia. The spark which ignited the inflammable Balkan tinder was given by the development of racial rights in southeastern Europe. The crime goes back to the insolent treaty of Berlin, when in 1878 the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, carved out of the shrinking Turkish empire, were placed under the suzerainty of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. But title to them did not, however, pass in the infamous deed. Nominally the regions were still Turkish under Austrian wardship. On October 5, 1908, Austria cynically annexed these territories. The act was wholly unjustifiable on ethnological grounds. For Bosnia and Herzegovina were peopled mainly by races included in the comprehensive term, "Serbo-Croat-Slovene." The neighboring kingdom of Serbia was indignant, but powerless.

The ill feeling took more formidable form when King Peter's troops emerged as victors in the two Balkan wars of 1912-13 and 1913, and culminated tragically in the assassination of the Austrian archduke at Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. How Austria capitalized this deed as an excuse for her plans to seize Serbia and carry out on a grand scale her traditional policy of racial oppression is now a commonplace of history.

BUT not the least of the novelties connected with the overthrow of the Hapsburgs was the opportunity for the first time in centuries of a union of the Serbo-Croat-Slovene peoples of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Carniola, Dalmatia and Serbia. This fusion created the Serbo-Croat-Slovene state. Its capital is Belgrade, on the Danube. It is at present governed by Prince Alexander Karageorgevitch, son of the old King Peter, who has been deposed. Strictly speaking, there is no "Jugo-Slavia" nation.

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ELEMENTS OF THE TREATY CASE

HERBERT HOOVER regards the peace treaty quite from the angle of the average rational American. Before the students of Johns Hopkins University yesterday he expressed his conviction that the majority of the people realize "the necessity of the league with reservations." Brushing aside obfuscating quibbles, he read a warning to the "lesser reservationists," who are in this instance the Democratic minority in the Senate, urging them to agree with the "mild reservationists" and pointing out to them that by such concession they will secure "all the major functions of the league."

The great mass of Americans are unquestionably in accord with these sentiments. Opposing views are to be found among those senators who wish an uninterpreted treaty and the obstinate high-handed group of irremediables who seek to destroy the pact. Only a little more compromising is needed to clip the wings of these obstructionists.

The folly of carrying the treaty into the campaign is obvious. Mr. Hoover sees it as an agitated performance over a subject about which "the public has already made up its mind." This is a simple statement of fact, but one which cannot be repeated too often so long as such a danger impends.

OUR LUXURY POWER

IF THE appetite for luxuries is, as has sometimes been held, an index of civilization, the development of the United States since the pre-war days has been prodigious. The Bureau of the Mint has estimated that in 1915 our consumption of gold for use in the arts amounted to more than \$37,000,000 worth. In 1919 the total soared to \$65,000,000 and for the first time since the auriferous year of '49 we made use of more gold in this country than the nation itself could supply from its mines.

Very few of the arts in which gold is a factor can be regarded as absolutely indispensable to the well-being of man. Populations in want of food or unable to pay high prices for necessities do not clamor insistently for jewelry and, even though it would minister to their esthetic sense, they refrain from buying such expensive trinkets.

Doubts have been entertained concerning what the war taught us. There can be no question, however, that after the victory we imposingly realized our luxury power and were under no marked restraint in exercising it.

A Bryn Mawr professor suggests that Mars be signaled with a snooker screen the size of Pennsylvania, and that old war material be used for the purpose. The supposition is, of course, that War and his namesake talk the same language.

Time and hard necessity will eventually bring about an equalization of hours of labor in town and country, an equalization without which we may eventually go hungry; what is needed is a genius who can spur the economic law into "getting a move on."

Incidentally it may be noted that the foreign exchange slump is indirectly a boost for bolshevism. If by their money won't buy what they can neither borrow nor get as gift Europeans are going perforce to be had neighbors.

Gloucester road bonds are going begging. It is possible that Doctor Foster has forgotten the puddle he fell into?

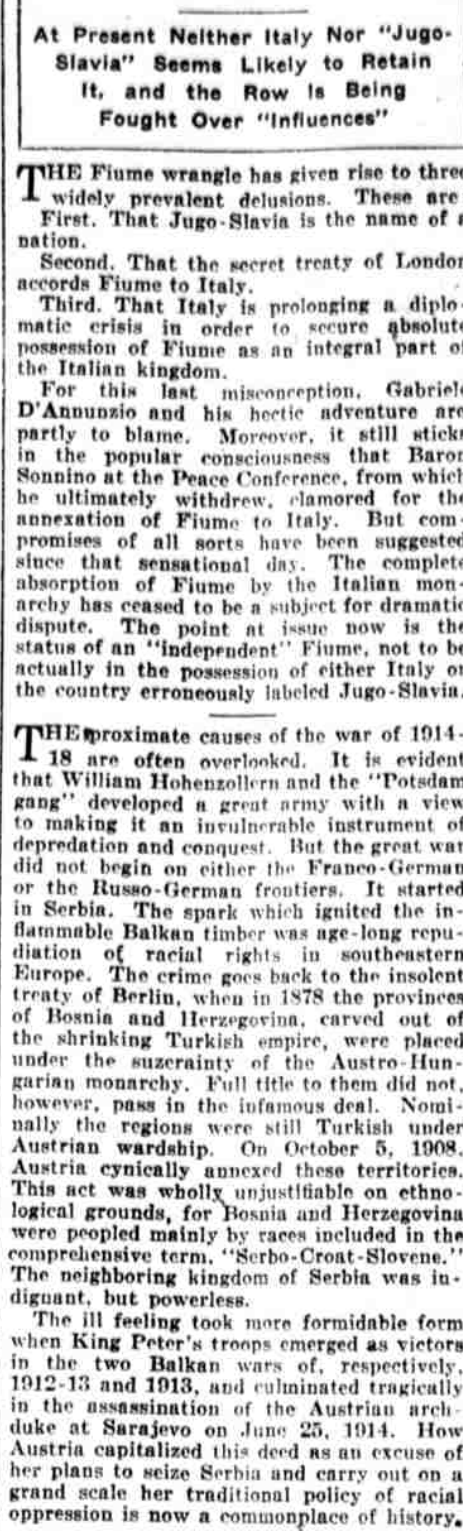
Police men and firemen now know that Finance is a fickle jade who does not always let good Council control her.

Young America made it Children's Day at Independence Hall yesterday.

A fearful public now sees a possible blizzard in every snow flurry.

Organization men are now realizing which is the organization.

"LUMBER'S SCARCE AN' WE DRAPE THE FLAG OVER THE WHOLE THING. ANYHOW."



FROM DAY TO DAY

THE President set an example of "conciliatory" correspondence in his letter to Secretary Lansing which the Allies might have followed, at a distance, in their "conciliatory" letter to him.

They might have written to him something like this: "My dear Mr. President—It was a long time since we had heard from you when we received your charming letter of the other day. It took us back to those delightful and never-to-be-forgotten days at Paris when you would send at intervals for your George Washington to Brest, but would always find it impossible to tear yourself away. We are sorry to hear of your ill health and of your troubles with your Senate. Our mutual friend Nitti was threatened with trouble with his Senate. So we felt compelled to do a little something for him. He held a couple of notes of ours in the shape of treaties and we offered him a little on account. Don't think we were moved by any desire to ignore you. Oh, dear, no, Mr. Wilson! When it comes to settling we shall never ignore you. And in this case, why if you insist, Mr. Nitti is waiting just outside with his fountain pen ready to sign the receipt. And how is your old Uncle Jim? And how is the dear Colonel House? With all our love to your old Uncle Jim? Woodrow Wilson."

There are some who cannot see the amenity of the presidential style in correspondence. For instance, Europe took the President's letter, the one before the last, for an ultimatum.

Mr. Lansing probably thought it was an ultimatum when he got a letter which read, however it that: "My dear Mr. Secretary—You're fired. But remember that my tart goes with you to the end of your days. How is your old Uncle Jim? Woodrow Wilson."

But it wasn't an ultimatum. To regard it as such was too sweeping a view. For instance, an Irish Democratic congressman was nearer the right idea when he said, "I admire the President more than ever since I read his letters to Mr. Lansing."

"Why?" he was asked. "Well, do you know, I think the President meant to be nasty and he was nasty. And when a man wants to be nasty I admire him for succeeding in being nasty. They were the blindest nastiest letters I ever saw."

Only the Irish congressman didn't say "nasty," but used a word too pungent to be printed here.

The difference between being — and writing an ultimatum—well, it is a real difference.

THERE is a congressman from a border State who knows well the weakness of the American attitude towards Italy. He found among his perquisites a lot of old government reports which his predecessors had found no use for.

Now every clerk in his district is receiving a book from his congressman. Samba opens his package bearing the frank and finds as evidence of how his congressman always bears him in mind a copy of the "Interstate Commerce Commission Report 1897" or "Report of the War Department 1873."

Complete Letter Writer

President as Instructor Congressional Literature Why Keep Best Sellers? Books and "Front" Those Read and Thrown Away

Literary standpoint must be capable of being furnished. Mr. Veblen probably says or would say that a library, a private library, is one of the evidences of "conspicuous waste," by which we demonstrate to the world that we belong to the leisure class.

HAVING most of us a certain prudence even in our "conspicuous waste" we will not pay more than a certain price, say \$2, for something to read once, stick on our shelves and ever after sit to ourselves. "Why, in the world did I ever buy that thing?"

Hence the British publishers cry that with increasing costs the novel, especially the novel published at a venture, is becoming impossible.

There is a limit to what the public will pay for the latest fiction. And within that limit there is not profit enough to permit the publisher to take chances.

THE answer is as the French have found it—in books made to read and throw away. The French pay a higher compliment to books than we do by recognizing frankly that most of them are not worth keeping.

There is no such idea as "books is books" in France.

A novel, or a treatise, for that matter, has to win its way into the company of books wearing covers just as its author has to win his way into the Academie Francaise.

Primarily, a book is made to read over there; not to stand on shelves as one of many imposing themselves upon the uninitiated as culture in mass formation.

IF YOU want a book in permanent form you may buy it bound over there. Or if you buy a book in yellow paper covers and subsequently decide that it is worth keeping you may have it bound to suit your own taste or to conform to the style of your library.

In a Frenchman's library you do not find last year's best sellers any more than you find last week's newspapers.

Mercifully your literary indiscretions of a few weeks ago disappear. In their yellow paper covers they cost three francs fifty centimes, with a "temporary majoration" of price during the war.

You do not feel that you must keep them because they cost you \$1.75 or \$2. Nor do you feel that their mere presence in rows about a room will subdue any one into the belief that you are a person of wide reading and much culture any more than would the presence of all the all-fiction magazines upon your library table do so.

The theory that "books is books" helps only congressmen with government reports to give away, sectional bookmen men with additional sections to sell, and bookies who have themselves to sell.

If it is true, as reported by a member of the American board of the Congressional Church and commissioner from Albania to America, that France is arming Jugo-Slavs to combat Italy's expansion policy, there is additional reason for the immediate functioning of the League of Nations.

Senator Penrose says Herbert Hoover is a Wilson Democrat. Probably an error. If Hoover is a Democrat at all he is a Hoover Democrat.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. Who was American ambassador to Turkey immediately preceding our severance of diplomatic relations with that country?
2. What is an eponym?
3. What British general captured Jerusalem in the world war?
4. What was the Whisky Rebellion in American history and when did it occur?
5. How many times did William Jennings Bryan run for the presidency?
6. Which is the higher title in Great Britain, knight or baronet?
7. What is the plural of the word dwarf?
8. What is the difference between the flag of Switzerland and the Red Cross flag?
9. What is the Court of Tywald?
10. What are the seven virtues in contrast to the seven deadly sins?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. The calumet pipe was the symbol of peace among the American Indians.
2. The Easter rebellion in Ireland occurred in 1916.
3. The thermometer registered as high as 12 degrees below zero and as low as 33 degrees below while Peary remained at the North Pole.
4. In case of the death of both King George V and the present Prince of Wales, the British crown would be inherited by Prince Albert Frederick. He was born in 1866.
5. A chantry is an endowment for priests to sing masses for a founder's soul, or a priests' chapel or altar so endowed.
6. Mt. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. Its summit is about 20,000 feet above sea level. The mountain is in the northern part of the former colony of East Africa.
7. John Jay was the first chief justice of the United States.
8. The total number of men called by President Lincoln for service in the civil war was 2,653,062.
9. A meter is equal to 39.37 inches.
10. Signatures in lead pencil are good in law.

MONTANA

FAIR away in old Montana, where the mountains reach the sky. Where the rivers roar through canyons, and the eagles soar on high: In a gulch beside a waterfall that tumbles down in foam: There's a little old log cabin that I've learned to call my home.

When the snow-capped mountain tops first catch the gleam of dawn so pale, And the sunrise clears the mists away, then out my little vale: Then I rise and mount a boulder, there by reckless Nature hurled, And I drink a breath of God's pure air—and feel I own the world!

Far away in old Montana, when the sun is on the wane; When the shadows fill the valleys with a purple mist again: In a gulch beneath a pine tree, 'mid the silence all alone, I've a little old log cabin that I'm pleased to call my own.

Oh! and when the sun has vanished, sunk beneath the western range; And the wild night creatures fill the air with savage cries and strange: Then I gaze into the heavens, and my mind is purged of scars— For although my body's in the gulch, my soul is with the stars! ROBERT LESLIE BELEM.

The fall of foreign exchange which brings a fall in the price of commodities to the domestic consumer may, alas! also bring about a slowing up of production and a consequent fall in wages. Favoring breezes are sometimes as fickle as ill winds.

When the Allies demand the German war criminals the presumption is that they are able and ready to enforce their demands. Otherwise the seeming gesture of strength becomes a sign of dangerous weakness.