

Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Saturday, April 3, 1920

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA
Things on which the people expect the new administration to concentrate its attention:

1. The Delaware river bridge.
2. A dredging big enough to accommodate the largest ships.
3. Development of the rapid transit system.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRT
DOCTOR FURBUSH'S indignation over the filth in the back alleys in which Philadelphia abounds reflects both upon the police who have failed to report deposits of trash and refuse, and upon the contractors whose delinquency seems to be chronic.

The Board of Public Education has been considering a survey for a year or two, but it has done nothing. The committee appointed to arrange for it has talked about the matter, but there was a strong feeling among the conservative members of the board that a survey was useless.

The three city departments concerned—Health, Public Works and Public Safety—should unite on some program in which their respective resources can be co-ordinated. The education of the public is an ideal easy of attainment, but it should be pursued ceaselessly and with as emphatic punitive agencies as are legal.

Corrupt government, unclean politics, insolent and greedy contractors have capitalized to the utmost some low public standards of sanitation. When we begin to understand that dirty back alleys are fully as dangerous to health and progress as dirty main streets we shall not be such easy victims.

SUFFRAGE HOPE STRAWS
THE depressing outlook in Delaware is a severe test of suffrage optimism. Crumbs of comfort are now discernible in Louisiana. They are not alluringly nutritious possibilities, but yet not wholly negligible.

John M. Parker, who has called the Legislature of his state to meet in May to consider the nineteenth amendment, is not a typical southern governor. His election last November marked the defeat of a notorious politician which had throttled the state for years.

There is a faint chance that the forces of liberalism with which he has been associated may exert in Louisiana a welcome influence on behalf of suffrage. In any event, it is slightly safer to entertain hopes of Louisiana than it was of Mississippi, where promise of relief was so swiftly extinguished this week.

COMMON SENSE IN GEORGIA
THE eleventh-hour withdrawal of Mr. Wilson's name from the Georgia presidential primary ballot is probably to be ascribed to mysterious influences that to the pressure of common sense. The White House is said to have accorded recognition to either the beginning or the finish of this fantastic move.

As almost everything in politics can be argued from contradictory standpoints, the President is indifferent to the entry of his name into the campaign or eager for it or opposed to it. But if the public is momentarily capable of nonpartisan thinking, it should realize that Mr. Wilson as a candidate belongs to history, not to prophecy.

The practical result of the clearing situation is that the Palmer forces in Georgia can now frankly go to the mat against the battalions of Hoke Smith, who has long been unsympathetic to the President's policy on the league and the treaty.

A DIPLOMATIC NOVELTY
THE charges of ingratitude lodged by our former allies against the United States because of our rejection of the peace treaty may soon have to be revised.

The declaration of peace framed in the foreign affairs committee of the House of Representatives expresses for the pact of Versailles none of the contempt to which the Senate gave such fluent utterance. In fact, the resolution places emphatic reliance upon all the German clauses of the treaty in which Germany makes submission to the United States.

It is true that in refusing to ratify the treaty we declined to accept all rights accruing to us under that instrument. But Germany signed up by that record the House resolution abides even though our part of the contract was repudiated.

formed that it must within forty-five days declare that it has ceased to be at war with the United States and that it waives and renounces on behalf of itself and its nationals any right or benefit against the United States or its nationals that it or they would not have the right to assert had the United States ratified the treaty of Versailles.

Who said the treaty was dead? The respect here paid to that document is unique. Indeed, in the history of diplomacy there is no parallel to a situation in which one principal which has turned down a contract daily insists that it be scrupulously carried out by the other party.

Unselfish admiration of the pact cannot be carried beyond that point, for we have not already surrendered those very rights which we are planning to summon Germany to yield?

PUBLIC EDUCATION A NATIONAL PROBLEM

The Local School Survey Will Be Good as Far as It Goes, but It Cannot Comprehend the Whole Issue of Illiteracy

FOUR reasons growing out of the fact that serious attention is being given to the problem of education by the general public which will be confined to professional educators. The war disclosed two disconcerting facts. One was that hundreds of thousands of American youth of the draft age were virtually illiterate.

Thoughtful persons were disturbed as they considered the dangers that lay in this mass of ignorance and in this large group of unassimilated foreigners. Revolutionary agitators were at work among the unlettered and the alien. They were sowing the seeds of discontent in the hope that they could reap a harvest of violence which would enable them to set up institutions here which had been conceived in the tyrannies of the Old World.

This movement is making progress. Right here in Philadelphia we see evidence of it in the agreement of a group of private citizens to provide the money to pay for a school survey.

The Board of Public Education has been considering a survey for a year or two, but it has done nothing. The committee appointed to arrange for it has talked about the matter, but there was a strong feeling among the conservative members of the board that a survey was useless.

Those who knew better, however, have persisted. The schools were not doing what they should do, and they were determined that something should be done to disclose to the public both the merits and the shortcomings of the school system and to call attention to the evils that needed to be corrected.

As a result, private citizens have agreed to finance the survey, and a committee of six members of the school board and six citizens interested in education has been appointed to make it. The project has the endorsement of Doctor Finigan, state superintendent of public instruction, and he has offered to conduct the survey himself and pay for it out of funds at his disposal.

The expert, whoever he may be, will be asked to study five specific problems. The first will be the educational needs of the city based upon its population, its varied industries and its commercial centers. It is unfortunate that the notorious cut-misbehavior and had to be chastised by blasting, but even this incident was not without its illuminating aspects.

The trouble that is being met in Philadelphia is not a new one. It is a result of the physical equipment of the schools and an examination into the care of that equipment. These two problems are connected with financial and business administration rather than with the technical side of teaching.

The fourth problem will be an inquiry into the professional organization and administration of the schools; that is, with the system of teaching and superintendence. And the fifth will be an inquiry into the things which the schools are consciously trying to do and the success which attends their efforts.

When the report is made the public will know just where the defects in the schools are and what can be done to remove them. Then it will be up to the taxpayers to decide whether to allow the present condition to continue or to pay the money needed to give the city a school system fitted to the demands of a community of 2,000,000 people with a varied industry and a population made up of a score of different races.

But we shall fall in our duty if we continue our thinking to the educational problem of Philadelphia. As our population is recruited from the rural districts, we are vitally interested in the kind of schools which those districts maintain. We may give to all our children all the education of which they are capable, but so long as uneducated young people come here from the rural districts and have the problem of illiteracy to struggle with.

Education is a national issue, and the opinion is spreading that we must cease to regard it as a purely local question. Those rural districts where good schools are most needed are least able to provide them. Yet under our present system the cities in those districts run their own schools, keeping them open fifty or twenty weeks in charge of ill-paid and poorly equipped teachers.

A plan for improving conditions is set forth in the Atlantic Monthly for April by Dr. Frank E. Spaulding, one of the best-equipped educational experts in the country. Doctor Spaulding was called to the superintendency of schools in Cleveland after a school survey had disclosed the defects of the local system, and he set about putting into effect the recommendations of the committee which made the survey. He is about to take charge of the department of school administration in Yale University.

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ANYHOW, WE KNOW WHAT HELL'LL DISCARD



HOW DOES IT STRIKE YOU?

Vigorous Gestures Made at Profiteers Have Soporific Effect on Their Victims and All is Right as It Can Be

ATTORNEY GENERAL PALMER is sending out a "flying squadron" against the profiteers.

The war upon the profiteers is one in which all the victories are with the profiteers and all the honors are with the profiteers.

Mr. Attorney General Palmer fixes the top price of sugar at fourteen cents. It is a magnificent service to the nation.

Sugar at once goes to twenty cents. Palmer gets the glory, the sugar-makers take the profits and the public pays the bill.

After this telling blow to the sugar profiteers, Palmer goes after the other profiteers with a "flying squadron" of the newspapers.

Nothing ever happens from Palmer's efforts except a higher price.

It likes to see its officials stirring in its interests, though it knows they will do nothing.

It likes to feel that it is not powerless. The profiteer gets a deep sense of the safety of the nation depends upon three P's.

The lives of devotion led by—but why go on? Another problem is solved!

We feel easier in our minds now that some one has said that it is to pay its teachers well.

Life is not so difficult after all. But what would it be without our Attorney General Palmer, our New York Legislatures and our General Woods?

"D'D beer save the Briton?" asks a headline over a special article in a newspaper.

The argument of the writer is that the British lived for generations on a poor diet, yet lived.

Why, by reason of the vitamins in their beer, is the triumphant reply that the special report of the necessary food factors committee (English), the authority on vitamins, says there are no vitamins in beer.

Careful tests were made and none was found. Says the report: "Bottled ale and stout and beer as bought on the market are lacking in both the anti-neuritic and anti-scurbic accessory factors."

That is, it cures neither scurvy nor beriberi.

Vitamin is trying to get into our national campaign, which might become an issue, not of wet and dry, but of vitamins and anti-vitamins.

If the Anti-Saloon League is wise it will procure the special report and confound those who wish to give any other reason for beer than that they like it.

Those who like it will vote for it, vitamins or no vitamins, and whether it saved the Briton or not.

What are these vitamins which are trying to get into the campaign and into common speech? They are the latest proof that your stomach was right when it rejected the chemist's conclusions that all you needed were "calories" of food, and it did not make much difference in what form they were offered.

Your stomach was right and the chemists were wrong.

Your stomach liked butter, and did not like butter substitutes.

Both were grease. But butter is rich in vitamins and butter substitutes are not.

You liked fresh food better than preserved food. And you were right. Fresh food