Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Saturday, October 9, 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.

GOOD AS FAR AS IT GOES

DIRECTOR CAVEN announces that he has made arrangements to buy fifty-six pieces of street-cleaning apparatus and 150 horses as soon as the City Council appropriates the necessary money.

The apparatus will be used for cleaning the streets between South street and Columbia avenue and the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers.

The director estimates that it will cost the city $380,000 less to do the work in this district than the lowest bidder offered to do it for. And he also estimates that $400,000 will pay for the equipment needed. At the end of the year the city will have the equipment, so that next year it will begin to profit by the great economies in doing its own street cleaning.

These figures justify the estimates made by those who have been asking that the city clean all the streets and collect the garbage and ashes and all other rubbish instead of letting out the work on contract. And it makes it difficult to understand the reasons which have led the administration to postpone carrying out the plain intent of the charter. No adequate explanation has been offered. We have neither been told that it was administratively inexpedient nor have we been assured that it was financially impossible.

Director Caven's estimate of the saving in the central part of the city seems to indicate that the financial part of it would have been most profitable to the city. Under the arrangement the contractors are to get the profits in other parts of the city and the date when the city itself will take over all the work is to be left indefinite.

Meantime, City Council, which must act positively in favor of the contract system to permit Director Caven to carry out these piecemeal plans, is still debating whether or not to take the step allowed under the charter.

A TRIBUTE TO PHILADELPHIA

THE approaching transfer from New York to Philadelphia of the headquarters of the Railway Business Association is a tribute to the strategic position which this city occupies.

The association, composed of manufacturers, merchants and engineers selling goods or services to the railroads, finds it convenient to have its chief office within easy reach of Washington and also in a great city in touch with the railroad headquarters. Philadelphia is two hours nearer to Washington than is New York. Two great railroad systems have their main offices here and we are only two hours from the offices of other national railroad systems in New York.

The national shipping board discovered the advantages of this city before they were discovered by the Railway Business Association. Its offices were first in Washington. But although it was building ships in various parts of the country, it removed its offices to Philadelphia because it could be in more direct contact with all the shipyards and because the chief shipyard in which its work was going on was here.

When all the great manufacturers here follow the example of some of the most enterprising and have their chief selling offices in their home city the whole community will begin to reap all the advantages that can accrue to it from the industries in which the working people earn their living.

NEWEST WHISKY FRAUDS

HOW many trustful people have paid fabulous prices for alcohol-and-water mixtures flavored with pepper, sugar, shoe polish, prunes and a lot of other queer substances because the bottles bore what seemed to be government labels with the comforting legend "bottled in bond"?

The experiences and observations of the federal prohibition agents make it apparent that millions of dollars are given up every week for such concoctions deftly cased and neatly labeled. Only the most ingenuous buyers—and they seem to be countless—have been deceived. When the federal agents arrested counterfeiters of government warehouse labels in this city they were only beginning to break up a new sort of swindling game that has become nation-wide since the prohibition act was made effective.

Whisky that bootleggers offer as stuff "brought in from Canada" or "released for medicinal purposes" is in all probability mixed to order in some alley dive by the wholesale peddlers. The illicit liquor business has made really brilliant liars of most of the men who engage in it.

TAXI REGULATION

REGULATION of the cabs called taxi, now proposed by the Public Service Commission after a long survey in Philadelphia, will not be so easy a matter as it may appear. That part of the public which, because of necessity, choice or good luck, rides in taxicabs has been squeezed in the past by monopolies on one hand and independent taxicabbies on the other.

There is ground for the belief that there is need for reforms at the top of the business as well as at the bottom. And it is hard to see how the mere restriction of licenses will do any good. Rates for taxi service have always been high in this city. What is needed is more competition and not less of it.

Motorcars operated as common carriers ought always to be so regulated as to provide the sort of protection which the public expects and receives from other utilities of a similar nature. Thus it is necessary that those who own and operate taxis be bonded in order that their patrons may be safeguarded against the results of negligence or other faults in the service. The larger taxi companies provide this protection. Many independent operators do not. It is the duty of the police and the Service Commission to see that provision is made to compensate users of taxis in cases of accident and that no part of the business in question is left in the hands of privateers of doubtful character.

But if it is the intention to lessen competition by withholding licenses from responsible companies and to exclude from the city those who might improve taxi service through wholesome competition with existing companies that now monopolize most of the traffic, the commissioners will be in the midst of an unpleasant uproar before many days.

WAGE-SCALE INEQUALITIES PLAY SOME QUEER PRANKS

Reflections on a Physician's Bewilderment Over the Contrasting Bank Accounts of Philosophers and Hodcarriers

THE difficulty of standardizing the unit of human deserts has always given philosophers a lot of trouble and cynics a disproportionate amount of sour satisfaction.

Into the hands of the latter class Dr. J. Chalmers Da Costa played directly the other day when, at the dedication of a memorial tablet to the war heroes of Jefferson Medical College, he deplored conditions under which "drivers of milk wagons are paid more than doctors of philosophy and hodcarriers receive more than psychiatrists."

Expressed thus vividly, the truth undoubtedly has its unpalatable qualities. It would seem, save to some who materially profit thereby, that the scale of prices for achievement is in a state of considerable confusion. The passion for reforming it is easily aroused and has ever been so. Just now in Russia a particularly grandiose attempt is being made. That it is failing is one proof of the folly of seeking too swiftly to reduce subjects inherently complex to sweepingly simple terms.

Where permissible by the nature of the case, the process cannot, of course, be too rapidly worked out. But the Russian Communists were enmeshed in a problem which has baffled mankind for ages. Naturally, the alleged panacea has not been convincing.

The theory of the Third Internationale involves the premise that material gain is the summation of reward for labor. Upon this basis a system of graded recompense was evolved to the complete elimination of spiritual considerations. Assuming even that all the intricate economic factors had functioned efficiently, the result would still have been questionable.

A community in which labor hours are short, in which living is made easy, in which comfort is "scientifically" apportioned may present a superficially pleasing picture, but it by no means represents the end of the pursuit of happiness. "I could be bounded in a nutshell," said Hamlet, "and count myself a king of infinite space were it not that I have bad dreams."

In what are called worldly goods, the prince of Elsinore, as is well known, was comfortably fixed. It was deficiency of service, not insufficiency of material reward, which distressed him. His poverty, whether hypersensitively or not, was measured in spiritual terms.

It is fashionable in a good many quarters to reject these just now; in other words, to take a leaf from the Bolshevist Doomsday Book, if not for its principles of communism, at least for its glorification of the materialistic code. Interpreting that strictly it can be proved that the milk-wagon driver is indeed superior to some physicians, skilled in their profession though they may be. The former is richer in a peculiarly elusive medium of exchange.

Money, declared a nineteenth century philosopher the stores of whose mind were ever in inverse ratio to those of his purse, is the most desirable thing in life.

The delicious inconsistency of Samuel Butler, whose masterpiece, "The Way of All Flesh," was not even printed until after his death, here reaches the climax. Butler, if ever a man did, invited his soul, and the paths through which it led him are among the most luxuriant in English letters.

Was his material poverty justified? Emphatically no. It is a shame not that milk-wagon drivers, hodcarriers, workers in what are called necessities, should be well paid, but that intellectual service should be conducted so precariously. The gifted philosophers, statesmen, scientists who may not happen to have amassed fortunes, cannot, however, warrantably be called poor. In their cases the unit of wealth has altered. Failure to recognize this is at the root of Butler's error.

Is the name of Anton Fugger familiar? In Germany—the prime example of materialism carried to the ultimate—perhaps it is. But elsewhere few persons would think of ranking it with Galileo, with Newton, with Harvey, with Lavoisier, with Socrates, with Pasteur, with William James. Yet Herr Fugger, of a family of Augsburg millionaires, once staggered the Emperor Charles V by burning in his presence an imperial bond for money due that powerful fifteenth century banking firm. The incident is depicted by Carl Becker in the Berlin National Gallery. Such immortality of fame as it possesses is here.

That Croesus is better known than the shrewd traders and financiers of the Fugger family is probably the result more of the adversity which overwhelmed him than of the material prosperity which was transiently his.

Herodotus reads the moral—a bit cruel, perhaps, for the enormously wealthy king of Lydia seems on the whole to have been a good sort—but none the less it is significant to note how philosophy rather than pecuniary aggrandizement is the heart of the tale. It was Solon, the intellectual, the Athenian lawgiver, who told the opulent monarch of the workings of divine nemesis.

From the ethical viewpoint it is not clear just why the imperially acquisitive Cyrus should have been the instrument of the Lydian downfall, but the fact remains that Croesus is one of the few extremely wealthy men whose names are inscribed in history.

Ruskin, it is true, might pedantically be cited, but certainly his affluence is quite the least of his inheritance of fame. Persons who may recall that he was well-to-do are doubtless also acquainted with the more interesting fact that nearly all of his fortune was expended on plans for the welfare and enlightenment, artistically and socially, of his fellow countrymen.

Anecdotal instances of the obscurity of wealth could be multiplied. It must be confessed that in a civilization in which the struggle is severe and the rewards puzzling they might make vexatious reading. Doctor Da Costa's pertinent reflections inspire provoking queries. Workers in every field of human endeavor, from quarternions to quicklime, can prove voluminously that the wage scale is out of joint.

The chaos is partly the consequence of a revolution in the payment schedule that began when mediævalism, with its aristocracy of birth, was overthrown in favor of materialistic, industrial and commercial competition. That there was a gain there, in spite of injustices and in many instances the lack of rational adjustment, is not to be denied.

But all discussion of the subject is bound to grow clouded when money is made the exclusive standard of reward. Trite as it may seem to insist on the vitality of spiritual recompense, its significance has not altered in the city-states of Greece, under the imperial authority of Rome, the pyramidal economic structure of the middle ages or the diamond-cut-diamond individualism of the present.

The sweets of service, of sincere idealism, of lofty understanding are not to be measured in terms of a coinage system. Until they are, doctors who realize the best that is in them, philosophers, savants, workers with the brain or with the hands, whether high or low in the so-called social scale, need not feel that there is the least inequity of soul reward.

Where an attempt of stifling is made, as in schemes which fail to recognize the indestructibility of the spirit, even the externals of tyranny cannot be lasting.

THE TRANSIT EMERGENCY

MEMBERS of Council should keep in mind during their special session today that they are not asked to reach any decision on a permanent transit policy.

The P. R. T. is confronted by an emergency. It has asked for a straight five-cent fare and the abolition of all transfers and exchange tickets until such time as a definite agreement can be reached on a permanent policy.

Such an agreement cannot be reached until the status of the contracts with the underlying companies is settled. The Public Service Commission has been asked to review those contracts, but its jurisdiction is disputed. The courts are now considering the point.

In the meantime, City Solicitor Smyth has advised the City Council that it has no power definitely to fix the rate of fare, and that any decision which it may reach will be regarded merely as advisory by the Public Service Commission, in which the final power over fares rests.

The significance of this legal opinion lies in its virtual admission that the law creating the Public Service Commission invalidated that part of the contract between the city and the P. R. T. under which it is provided that there shall be no change in the rates of fare without the consent of the city.

Now if the Legislature can give to a public body powers which enable it to override the specific terms of a contract between a public service corporation and the city, what becomes of the contention that there is no power anywhere in the state which can bring the contracts between two public service corporations under review for the purpose of deciding on their equity and sound public policy?

The whole transit situation hinges on the underlying contracts. No way out can be found until we know what the courts have to say about them or until they shall be readjusted by a compromise on a fair basis.

As to Councilman Develin's propositions, they are made in response to the request of the Public Service Commission for an alternative suggestion. Mr. Mitten asks for a straight five-cent fare and no transfer or exchange privileges. Mr. Develin proposes a straight six-cent fare and free transfers at all points where exchanges or transfers are now issued.

A six-cent fare would reduce the number of short riders from whom Mr. Mitten has derived a large and profitable revenue. It is doubtful whether it would produce much more than a straight five-cent fare. Its suggestion at this time may only complicate an issue which is in need of clarification. Mr. Develin is undoubtedly right, however, when he argues in favor of free transfers as necessary if the city's high-speed lines are to be made to pay. But the high-speed lines remain to be built. It is not likely that they will be built until the dispute about the underlying contracts is settled.

Whatever Council may do this afternoon, the Public Service Commission will have the final say. We are dependent on its fair-mindedness and on its understanding of all the ramifications of a most complicated question. But if it acts on the theory that it is merely meeting a temporary emergency its decision, whatever it may be, will be accepted with such philosophy as the citizens can muster while they are struggling to find the way out of a hard situation.

A CHOCOLATE SOLDIER

A NET of some sort has closed suddenly on young Felix Diaz, and so another firebrand that might have inflamed Mexico and troubled the United States seems to have been permanently extinguished.

The arrest of Felix, nephew of Porfirio the Terrible, announced recently by the federal generals at Vera Cruz, is a culminating incident in one of the wild melodramas that crowd each other on every page of Mexican history. And it ought to draw attention again to the manner in which revolutions are made and continued south of the border. The wars you hear so much about seldom begin on Mexican territory. They are hatched in Paris, as a rule, or in Buenos Aires, in London or in downtown New York.

Felix Diaz was taking his ease in Europe and he enjoyed some fame as a boulevardier in Paris when Huerta's government fell upon evil days. Until then Felix had no intention of returning to the land which his uncle once ruled with an iron rod. He was neither a good soldier nor a good statesman. But he had his name, and it was a name that frightened and fascinated every Mexican. It was reminiscent of power and cruelty, of immeasurable strength ruthlessly applied in the old days. Say "Diaz" to any Mexican and you move him to something like superstitious reverence and awe.

When Huerta seemed about to fall it was announced that Felix Diaz was on his way from Europe and that he would land in state to greet a powerful group of partisans. The government at Mexico City took extraordinary pains to keep him out of the country. But Felix got to Cuba and one day he landed suddenly on the west coast of Mexico. He wore a uniform and he was met by a good many of Huerta's enemies, and in a day he became the hope of all the opportunists of various climes who sit in political anterooms waiting like buzzards for what they can snatch out of one national disaster or another.

Who brought Diaz from Europe, who paid for the ship that took him to Mexico from Cuba, who put up the money that bought arms and uniforms for his aides and his followers no one seemed to know. But the adventure led to nothing. Felix got nowhere with his war. He lived in state with a clan. Successive cabinets hesitated to order his arrest, and since it became apparent that he could not seize the government he has been trying to sell his name and his good will to the new regime.

Villa was a brute of sorts, but he was a consistent bandit. He was not afraid of a fight. When it seemed to him that the new government was willing and able to do half right by the peons he retired with a flourish like a stage villain. Between Villa and Felix Diaz there was an immense difference. Villa's followers were the ragged and illiterate hordes.

THE STATE'S POOH-BAH

He Is the Busiest Official in the Commonwealth—What the New Census Will Reveal—Some Tiny Townships

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

JAMES N. MOORE is the pooh-bah of Pennsylvania officialdom.

His name appears on the roster of state officials as director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. His title conveys no inkling of the varied character of his duties.

As director of the reference bureau Mr. Moore is an encyclopedic authority upon legislation past and present.

Before any bills are presented in House or Senate they are supposed to have passed under the rod of the director's criticism.

If they are plugged full of grammatical errors, "Jim" Moore putties up the holes. If they are obscure in phraseology, he brushes away the cobwebs of confusion by simplifying the sentences.

He is an official godsend to the dull, hesitant, unsophisticated or ignorant legislators.

If they desire to introduce a bill and cannot frame it, they give James N. Moore the idea and he drafts it for them. He sees that it conflicts with no other bill along similar lines; that it is fool-proof and perfect.

After which the legislator inflates his chest, wags his head and boasts to his constituents about "his" bill.

ALL this is the least of Mr. Moore's duties.

During legislative sessions he is the parliamentarian of the House. If he has any title it is speaker to the speaker.

More than half the session James N. Moore is the real speaker of the House. He is the power behind the throne.

And that is no idle assertion, as hundreds of gentlemen over the state who have sat in the legislative halls can bear witness.

As parliamentarian, standing hour after hour at the speaker's side, he tells the speaker what to say in parliamentary mix-ups or delicate points of order. And the speaker says it, because he knows that Moore knows.

James N. Moore is the highest authority on parliamentary usage in Pennsylvania.

The strain upon him, both physical and mental, is tremendous. When I saw him on the closing day of the last session of the House he was on the ragged edge of physical prostration. He is a slight man in physique, with a low voice and gentle manner.

He has other duties.

IN THE twenty months that intervene between sessions of the House and Senate at Harrisburg he is metamorphosed.

He becomes an editor and compiler.

He specializes in classification, or codification, of special laws, which are subsequently bound and sent forth to grace the law libraries of the state.

His latest publication is a volume of 700 pages recently issued from the press. He modestly refers to it as a "Bulletin." It is a pudgy, cloth-bound book bearing the title, "A Compilation of the Laws Relating to Counties and County Officers."

Being a member of the bar himself, Mr. Moore knows just what lawyers require in the way of reference books. His last contribution shows this.

But there is more to tell.

If a lawyer in Clearfield county, or a county commissioner in Lebanon, or a former member of the House in Allegheny, or a justice of the peace in Lehigh wishes to know about a particular law passed in a certain year, or if some statute of forty years ago has been repealed, the inquiry ultimately finds its way to Mr. Moore's bureau. He is expected to and does look up the matter and forward the correct answer.

All the above is separate and apart from the daily routine of the bureau. A good many state and city officials would coddle themselves with the idea they were being killed if they had Mr. Moore's job.

And for $5000 per annum, at that.

THE fact that Pennsylvania's population has increased only 13 per cent in the last decade is the least disappointing feature of the census.

The drift of population from the country to the city is the danger suggested in the report of the state census made public this week.

The average citizen fails to grasp the extent or meaning of this shift of population.

The census of 1910 revealed the start of the movement. The world war accelerated it.

The census of 1910 showed that nearly every township in strictly rural counties was decreasing in population. Not a county in Pennsylvania, barring Philadelphia, Allegheny and Dauphin, but showed a decline in township population.

The census of 1920 will reveal more startling figures.

Monroe county is a fair sample. Out of fifteen townships, ten showed a decrease in population from the preceding census of 1900. In McKean county twelve townships out of fourteen showed a decline, some amounting to more than 40 per cent.

OCCASIONALLY a newspaper paragraph from out the West or South tells how such or such a county hasn't sufficient population to furnish election officers.

Pennsylvania has been dangerously near to that condition. Some of its townships run a mighty good second to the western story.

Of course, equal suffrage will change all this. There will be at least enough to officer one polling place in a township, with sufficient citizens over to cast a few votes.

Up in Tioga county, Nelson township has only fifty-nine inhabitants.

In Pike county, Palmyra township has a population of only fifty. Counting five persons to a family, there would be just enough male voters to man one polling place.

Pine township, in Clearfield county, has only thirty-two people resident within its borders. The neighboring township of Pike comes to the front with a population of 1671.

The prize for the smallest population goes to an almost neighboring county, Lebanon. In Cold Spring township, according to the census of 1910, its population totaled twenty-nine souls. It was an increase of eleven from the census of 1890, when it had a population of eighteen.

After all, this does not mean a great deal when one considers that hunters can shoot quail within fifteen miles of City Hall and trappers every winter clean up a nice sum from the pelts of fur-bearing animals taken within an hour's auto ride of the city limits.

A Florida Warning

Fort McCoy Correspondence Ocala Banner.

The subject of "Hell Bound Church Member" was ably discussed last night at the Ballier series of meetings by the Rev. C. H. Roeh. It was very convincing that the devil with his long-handle shovel of deception is shoveling mortal souls into outer darkness by the million. Everybody stop and think.

Sympathy Due

From the New York Tribune.

The world is full of soft-hearted folk, so there doubtless is sympathy for the mail-truck driver whose truck hurt three children and killed one last Saturday.

Opinions Differ

From the Ohio State Journal.

It's impossible to please everybody, and if a girl has what we in our ignorance consider a good figure, the neighbor women say she is bunchy.

A Perpetual Hope

From the Baltimore Sun.

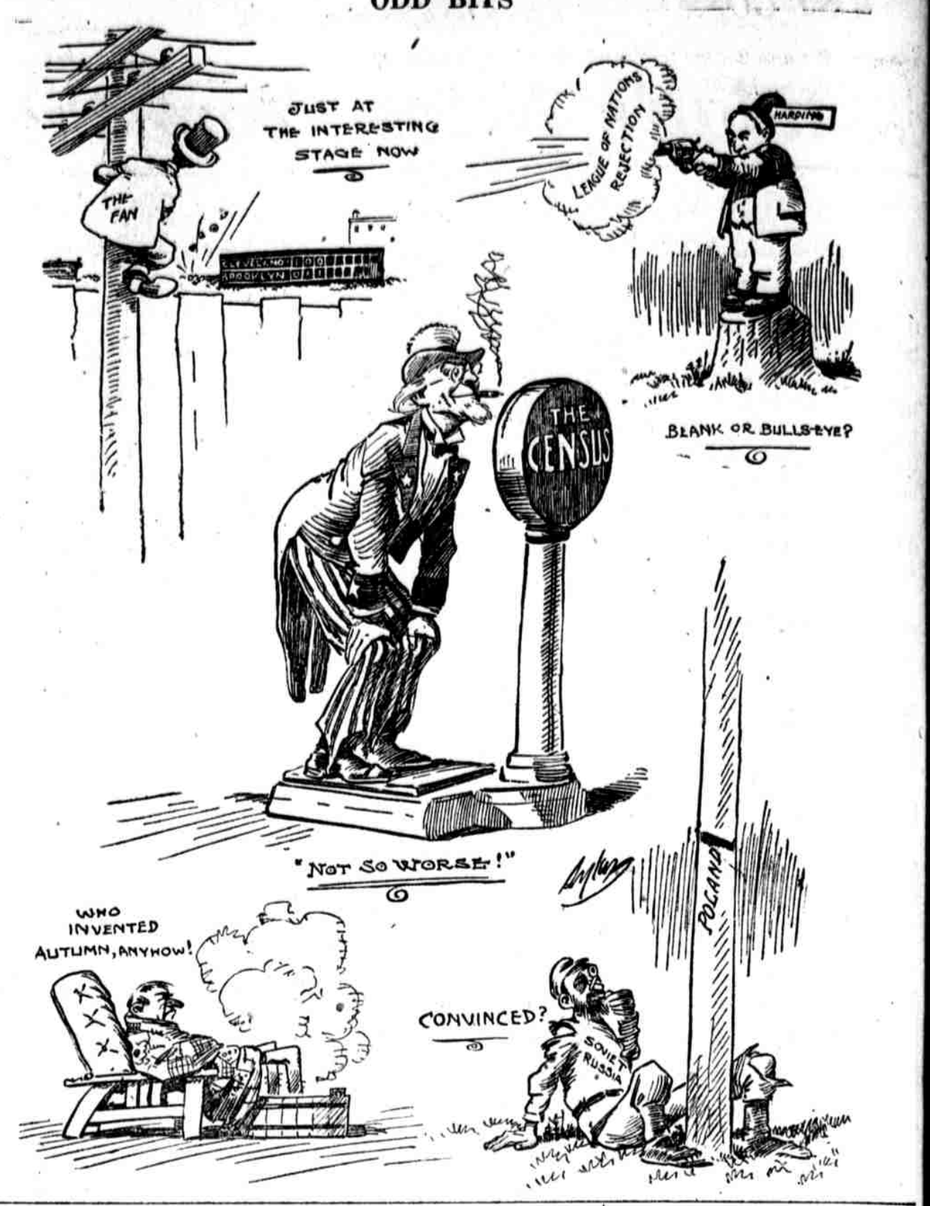
Communism is merely the age-old dream of suckers that something may be got for nothing.

Look Into This

From the Boston Transcript.

If things don't come your way, perhaps it's because you are not in the right place.

ODD BITS



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

MISS EVALYN T. CAVIN
On Keeping Children at Home

THE influenza epidemic of 1918 may be a rapidly dimming memory to the average Philadelphian, but it has left an impression in charitable fields which will not wear out for many years, according to Miss Evalyn T. Cavin, executive secretary of the Mothers' Assistance Fund, a local organization affiliated with the State Board of Education.

The Mothers' Assistance Fund, as Miss Cavin explained, is supported by both state and county appropriations. It was started in 1914 and has grown every year, always maintaining its motto, "Keep the Children at Home."

"The organization," Miss Cavin said, "does its campaigning among the mothers for the assistance of the children. We are interested in all cases where the mother, as the sole support of a family of children, is compelled to work all day away from home. The result with the children is bound to be disastrous. The truancy cases, the accidents, the fires in homes caused by children playing with matches—a great many of these things arise from just such a situation as this.

"We have on our payroll now 700 mothers with an average of nearly four children each. The cost of these 700 cases is $22,686, or nearly $33 to a family. This is an increase of $10 over the cost per family when we started. Our largest appropriation to mothers is $80 and the lowest $12. Our rates are $30 for every two dependent minors, with $10 for every additional child. But these figures are not rigid, as our pensions are based on the difference between the family income and the family need.

1400 Mothers Need Help

"It has been estimated that there are about 1000 widowed mothers in need with two or more minor children in the city of Philadelphia, but this number does not include the great influx which came in because of the influenza epidemic. I would say that there are about 1400 such mothers at the present time. We have 1176 on our waiting list, and we were only able to handle the 700 cases that we did this year because of a special appropriation which we finally won from the county after a fight in Council.

"Fifty per cent of the cases which have come under my observation are American-born women, with Irish and Italian coming next in the order named. Of the children, 90 per cent are American born. It seems amazing to say that 688 of the mothers have from three to ten children under sixteen, and yet this is an actual fact. Peculiarly enough, the American-born women seem to be more generally represented on this list than foreign born. We had one widow of twenty-eight years who had seven children, and thereby won our largest pension of $80.

"Philadelphia is lagging behind other big cities in the work of this character done among women, although we have improved materially in this respect during the last few years. New York appropriates $2,000,000; Boston, $500,000; Buffalo, $145,000; Chicago, $320,000; Detroit, $364,000, and Cleveland, $52,000. Philadelphia with $237,000, including state and county appropriations, does not rank with any of these cities except Cleveland, considering the population item.

"In Europe they are looking to the United States as a leader along these lines and are just beginning to take it up themselves. If the municipal governments here and elsewhere could only realize the fact that money spent in this way is a saving, since it cuts out such very definite items as probation officers, the overhead institutions, and the loss entailed in various legal avenues through which many fatherless children drift when deprived of the mother's care, they might be more willing to push such work as this.

Housing a Serious Problem

"We are faced, of course, with nearly all the problems which confront the individual. Housing is a very serious one at the present time. Houses that used to rent for $10 or $12 now rent for $16, and go as high as $28. And the houses are not worth such sums, especially since few landlords ever consent to make repairs in this day and generation.

"Coal at its present high cost presents another big problem to us. All such things have to be taken into consideration when applications are presented to us for one of our pensions. We also work in close cooperation with the schools, finding out just how much schooling each child has had, and, after we accept the care of the mother, just what marks are made by her children.

"We tell the latter that their schooling is their 'job,' and that it is up to them to pass their work, just as it would be to do satisfactory work in a position. We try to impress them with the fact that the state is not giving them charity, but is being repaid by the work they do in their classes. As a result we find that the marks of such children are higher in proportion than those of the city as a whole.

"There are forty-eight boards such as this one in the state, and there are thirty states out of the forty-eight which have similar work among mothers supporting large families. We want to keep those mothers home, or at least not let them work outside all day. Part work is very often necessary unless there are older children who can help keep the family."

WISE MAN

OLD Adam tried in early days
With circumstance to grapple,
He looked around in quick amaze
And blamed Eve with the apple.

Then after that his dull wit slept
Throughout the endless ages,
And governmental onus kept
On history's blazoned pages.

Now comes relief from all such woe,
His own gift will forbid it—
Whichever way elections go,
'Twill be the women did it.

—McLandburgh Wilson, in N. Y. Herald.

A Bit Confusing

From the Passing Show, London.

We read without surprise that "leading Serbian politicians, including Messrs. Jankovitch, Davidovitch, Draschkovitch and Pribitchovitch, have failed to reach a mutual understanding." It's a wonder they could even distinguish "vitch" was "vitch"!

Florida or ——?

From the New York Herald.

The 10,000 coal miners who have decided to take a vacation furnish a happy precedent for others. Next winter, when folks are shivering because they have no coal to burn, they can take a vacation and go where coal is not essential.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Who was the father of Absalom in the Bible?
2. Distinguish between an ibex and ibis.
3. What was the first name of Mother Goose?
4. What are "hors d'oeuvres" and how should the words be pronounced?
5. Who wrote "Don Quixote"?
6. In what century did the author live?
7. What is regarded as the most terrible of the world's deserts?
8. Who was premier of Great Britain immediately preceding Lloyd George?
9. In what war was the son of Napoleon III and Eugenie killed?
10. Where is Bessarabia?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. The population of the island possessions of the United States is about 12,500,000.
2. Gustave V is the present king of Sweden.
3. The word falcon should be pronounced as though it were spelled fawcon.
4. A brochure is a pamphlet or stitched booklet.
5. Don Jaime de Bourbon is the pretender to the Spanish throne. He is the head of the Carlist party.
6. The British fleet under Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleets under Villeneuve and Gravina, respectively, at the battle of Trafalgar.
7. The word "fiat" is originally Latin, and means let it be done or made.
8. Beau Nash (Richard Nash), the famous English dandy, was born in the seventeenth century and died in the eighteenth. His dates are 1674-1762. He was called the "King of Bath," in reference to the English resort, in which he was a leader of fashion.
9. "A poor thing, but mine own," is from Shakespeare's comedy, "As You Like It."
10. The middle name of James G. Blaine was Gillespie.

SHORT CUTS

A tumble always invites laughter. Look at sugar, for instance.

The reduction of telephone tolls may yet justify the declaration that talk is cheap.

As a sob sister Norman Hapgood does not have to take a back seat to any of them.

There is lively expectation that French aid for Wrangel may mean French leave for Trotzky.

"Sad sea waves is right," said the 300 saloonkeepers and bartenders arrested in Atlantic City.

In the political campaign there appears to be a guarantee of a new issue every twenty-four hours.

Who says the profiteer doesn't feel ashamed of himself? Why, everything that once cost a dime now feels like thirty cents.

Presumably Lenine and Trotzky have read understandingly Franklin's remarks concerning hanging together or hanging separately.

Any honest man may tell the truth and nothing but the truth; but a man must needs be very brave or very foolhardy to tell the whole truth.

Doubtless the reason a doctor of philosophy does not get all the money he deserves is that if he had the money he would not need the philosophy.

Tests of Delaware and Schuylkill water show 20,000 bacteria to the cubic centimeter, affording another proof that overcrowding is dangerous to health.

Councilman Develin's suggestion for a six-cent fare adds further confirmation to the fact that now that a penny buys next to nothing it never was more needed.

Speaking in a local church, a visiting clergyman declared that women's dresses "are little short of scandalous." Meaning, of course, that they are a little short.

It may, of course, have been purely an accident, but the burning of Bismark before it was turned over to the Allies by the Germans suggests bad blood and iron nerve.

A Wilmington, Del., jury in a recent liquor case sampled two quarts of the evidence. With increase of prohibition violation cases one may see objection to jury duty gradually disappear.

The housing problem is not wholly modern. Rosalind had it in her mind when vexed with Orlando, she said she'd as lief be wooed of a snail, "for though he comes slowly he carries his house on his back."

Chicago is in a fair way to solve its housing problem. Material dealers have cut prices, labor unions have promised peace and bankers will provide the $5,000,000 necessary. It's easy when everybody gets together.

All that Chauncey M. Depew talked about to newspaper reporters the other evening was Russia, sovietism, socialism, the housing problem, women's clothes, political pipe dreams, Cox, Harding, woman suffrage, capital and labor, wages and the high cost of living, prohibition, the Civil War and the baseball scandal. The old gentleman is growing reticent with the years.

A Los Angeles man with bitter irony suggests swapping his six-year-old son for a dog, preferably an airedale. Because of the baby, he says, he and his wife have been forced to move twenty-six times in six weeks, though in one apartment there were two airedales. We venture the guess that the fault lies less with the landlords than with selfish tenants. Instead of the landlord being the hard-hearted brute he is depicted, he is a spineless individual who dare not call his soul his own. Just because some of his tenants object to a crying baby, he puts a ban on the little treasures. He has it in his power, now that houses are scarce, to defy the kickers and provide asylum for the kiddies until they are big enough to demand a house with a worth-while out-of-door attachment.