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Philadelphia, Wednesday, November 10, 1920

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA
 Things on which the people expect the new administration to make its attention:
 1. The Delaware river bridge.
 2. A bridge big enough to accommodate the largest ship.
 3. Development of the rapid transit system.
 4. A convention hall.
 5. A building for the Free Library.
 6. The improvement of the water supply.
 7. Homes to accommodate the population.

WHY?
 IN TABLING the P. R. T. report for a copy of Engineer Snow's report on the fare situation, the Public Service Commission took absolutely untenable ground when it decided that it is not a matter of public record because it was never offered in evidence.

If it was never offered in evidence, it was certainly before at least one of the commissioners, since Commissioner Clement in his decision referred to its conclusions in support of the position he took.
 The rules of law and fair play require that every litigant or complainant shall have the right of cross-examination on the production of every fact entering into the conclusion upon which a decision is based. Clearly this was not done in the case of the Snow report. Therefore the commission by its refusal to accept the report, if not its membership, at least Mr. Clement of having his opinion on facts to which the most vitally concerned parties—the P. R. T. and the public—have been officially denied access.
 What is the object of guarding this report so jealously? Is it possible its publication would make somebody in high place uncomfortable?

RELIEVING THE SIDEWALK JAM
 INTRODUCING into the Council an ordinance ordering the transit company to remove the Market street subway exits and entrances from the sidewalks, Councilman Hall has reopened a subject to which insufficient consideration was originally given.
 In many instances the passageways to the underground line were not well planned. Near Broad Street Station, for example, there is an impassable wall, a narrow and a shortage of entrances, especially realized in the afternoon rush hours. A passageway beneath the street would be serviceable at Fifteenth street.

Some of the mistakes are not remediable without costly and elaborate reconstruction work. The removal of the kiosks, which constitute a serious obstruction to dense pedestrian traffic in Market street, is, however, well worth consideration.
 Nearly all Philadelphia pavements are too narrow. The installation of the subway approaches so that they will not project beyond the building line would bring some relief. That the plan is practicable has been proved at Fifth street and several other stations.

NATURE'S OPULENCE
 IN A country so prodigiously rich as the United States no autumn would be complete without record-breaking crops. This year's preliminary estimates announced by the Department of Agriculture are, however, unusually stately.
 Corn, as is customary, takes first place with the enormous total production of 3,109,128,000 bushels, representing more than 70 per cent of the world's total output. Tobacco is another conventional record-crusher, the amount being 1,476,414,000 pounds.
 The other three banner performances by rice, sweet potatoes and peaches, significantly the immense diversity of soil resources and climate in the empire of states. In the contiguous territory of almost any other nation such contrasting achievements would be impossible.
 It is not boastfulness which these wonders should inspire in the mind of the thinking American, but rather a sense of profound responsibility. The more interest payments to be paid by man for the capital so lavishly furnished by nature.

A CHIEF FOR THE SCHOOLS
 THERE are many conflicting ideals of education. And there are as many dubious substitutes for true education as there are for virtue, for truth and for good complexions. The business of a superintendent of schools in this city is to differentiate between the true and the false and to search for the best mind the writer of good and bad practices and beliefs that have crept into the public educational system. He must be the final arbiter in a matter that deeply concerns the whole public.
 There are people who sincerely believe that all cultural training favored by teachers, wrongly called highbrow, represents a waste of time and effort in the schools, and that the only system worth while is one that trains boys and girls to work with their hands or exercise their minds with a view to the practical labor that brings dollars. Overemphasis on the value of vocational training is the result of a shortsightedness. Vocational training is valuable in many ways. It tends definitely to give boys and girls a good start as co-operative units in a society that honors work and gives itself up largely to productive effort. But vocational training alone will not cause a boy or a girl to hate wrong or to be a power on the side of the things that are right and therefore enduring. It will not provide, as some sorts of education can provide, the kind of richness that cannot be lost or taken away. It is not comforting as true knowledge is comforting.
 The public schools have been trying for years to strike a fair balance between the two sorts of education that are essential to those that broaden and give the spirit.

live. They have not succeeded. The tendency has been steadily toward a materialistic concept of education and a sense that has aroused misgivings in critical minds. Life nowadays is filled with influences that confuse and distract youthful minds and obscure for them the need of allegiance to the simple and unchanging virtues without which only base imitations of happiness and success are attainable. To be cultured is to know a system of values and a way to success with which money has little to do. It is to be a good citizen and a most useful member of the community.
 It will not be easy for any scholar to serve both ideals in the public schools. That is why much of the discussion that has been going on in the Board of Education in relation to the choice of a man for the office of superintendent sounds infinitely futile. What is needed in this instance is a mind. What that mind comes from does not greatly matter. For once a row in the Board of Education may serve a useful purpose. The deadlock which will delay the appointment of a school superintendent until December gives the public time to make its own opinions count for something.

A LEGISLATIVE SNICKERSNEE NEEDED FOR JUDGE BROWN
 Use of the Municipal Court as a Part of a Political Machine Can Be Stopped Only by Changing the Law

IF THE people do not like the way President Judge Brown is distributing rewards and punishments among the employees of the Municipal Court they have their remedy.
 Judge Brown is acting within his powers. The Municipal Court is in law a county court. The power of appointment and dismissal is concentrated in the hands of the president judge, and the number of employees is limited only by his discretion.
 As the court is a county institution, it is exempt from the rules which govern the appointment and conduct of employees of the city. Candidates for appointment do not need to pass any examination to test their fitness. The probation officers, for example, who in theory are supposed to exercise a supervisory and disciplinary care over delinquents, especially children, released on parole, may be appointed on the recommendation of ward leaders wishing to take care of some of their hangers-on who have been active in getting out the vote on election day. And if the political activities of the appointees do not please the president judge of the court he can dismiss them or suspend them as he sees fit.
 He has just exercised his discretion by dismissing George J. McElwee, Jr., of the Forty-eighth ward, and by suspending Joseph J. Costello, of the Forty-third ward, of the Third ward. The two men worked for the election of Mr. Gallagher to Council in the First district in opposition to Mr. Pommer, whose election Judge Brown said to have desired. The reasons assigned for the discipline are neglect of duty. This is supposed to be neglect of duty in the court, but every political worker is convinced that it was "neglect of duty" in being politically active in opposition to the president judge.

If the two men had worked for the election of Pommer it is generally believed that they would have been undisturbed. This is because the impression is abroad that the Municipal Court is being used as a political machine in the interest of its president judge.
 Although the law creating it was drafted by reformers, the politicians got in their time before it was finally passed.
 They first made it a county court, so that the appointing power in it might be unhampered by the Civil Service Commission and so that the laws against the political activity of municipal employees might not apply to its staff.
 And then they concentrated the power of appointment in the hands of one man.
 Judge Brown is doing only what the politicians expected the president judge to do when they consented to the creation of the court.
 He has become one of the most powerful ward leaders in the city through the distribution of the patronage at his disposal. He can name as many attaches as he pleases, and if the money is not appropriated to pay their salaries he can go into court and mandamus the city to provide the money. He can reward men who take his political orders and he can punish the men who disregard those orders.
 The law ought to do so is an entirely different question. Opinions on it will differ. Those who object to having a judge act as a political boss and do not like the use of the patronage of a court to build up a political machine regard the existing conditions as scandalous. But the politicians who believe in the use of patronage of all kinds are bursting with admiration for the skill which Judge Brown has displayed in developing the possibilities of his position.

CHOOSE!
 "THESE people," writes an aroused citizen, "make me tired;
 "The man who swings his umbrella horizontally in a crowd.
 "The lady who stops on her way across the street through traffic to talk about millinery.
 "The man who, every time he rides on a trolley car, asks me to talk as if he were a conductor rather than the Public Service Commission and the financiers of the P. R. T., was solely responsible for the seven-cent fare."
 That is all well enough. But there is another citizen who nowadays makes fatigue even more general among his friends. He is the man who believes that Mr. Cox was cheated out of victory at the polls.
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WOMAN'S NEW PLACE
 POLITICAL workers there are two roles which women can play with no loss of practical efficiency. One is to affiliate completely with the various party organizations to the views of which they may happen to subscribe. The other is to erect and maintain a nonpartisan machinery.
 Of a third arrangement, which won considerable distinction in the late campaign, the best that can be said of it was that it worked successfully in an emergency. The women's committees, Republican and Democratic organizations. But for the future it is evident that the most solid practical results with a minimum of wastage can be secured by a merger of partisan interests regardless of sex.
 This is clearly the opinion held by the women's Republican committee which is co-operating with the Republican state committee in the formation of plans looking toward a fusion of procedure. As a consequence of the reorganization the state committee will probably include a male chairman and a female vice chairman.
 By the status of women and men as election workers seems destined to be identical. As enfranchised citizens, such women as seek to hold aloof from the established political movements are simply fostering an unjust tradition which the nineteenth amendment was designed to obliterate.
 And the obligation to fuse political activities rests as well upon the dependents as upon the professed Republicans or Democrats. The special circumstances in which special women's committees were needful have passed.

A Commonplace Here
 Three pieces of old Brussels lace, worth \$20,000, have been lost or stolen in London, and the fact is believed. Why, our enterprising crooks frequently steal \$20,000 worth of lace in the midtown neighborhood and the news barely gets on the first page.

Fattening
 The Turkey which they would try an economic harvest on.

are filled with political workers whose main business is politics and who serve the county on that side.
 Until the sort of thing will continue, the remedy lies in a change in the law. If there is opposition to a complete merger at this time, there can be no valid objection to an amendment of the Municipal Court law putting that court under the control of the first place.
 It is a city court in fact. It should be made a city court in law by making it specially dependent on the City Council, so that there could be adequate control over its expenditures.
 The moment it is made a city court the right of its president judge to mandamus the city for the payment of his bills would automatically disappear, and at the same time his power of making appointments without the supervision of the City Council Commission would be taken from him, for the Civil Service Commission has jurisdiction over the qualifications of all appointees under the city government.
 If the administration wishes to put an end to the Municipal Court scandal it will send to Harrisburg early this winter a bill amending the law creating it so as to make it an integral part of the city government. Then those who want the present conditions to continue would have to come out in the open and fight for them if they dared.

ROOT STANDS FAST
 DISCLOSURE of the partial contents of a cablegram written in August by Elihu Root on request of Will Hays sheds no new light upon the opinion of the former secretary of state concerning the League of Nations. No additional illumination was actually needed. Mr. Root's actions speak for themselves.
 His presence in the committee of jurists appointed to draw up plans for the permanent court of arbitration in pursuance of Article XIV was in itself positive proof of his belief in the general principles of the league and in his desire to see them put into execution. Mr. Root's single campaign speech further emphasized the consistency of his position.
 Altogether in line with such a keen and sincere analysis of the case is the cabled declaration that the United States, from the beginning by abandoning the Versailles treaty is impossible. To attempt it would bring chaos, an entire loss of the results of the war and general disaster involving the United States. "It would be very unwise," also wired Mr. Root, "to declare the league dead. It would not be true."
 Conjecture is now busy, perhaps busier than Mr. Root himself, with possible candidates for the cabinet. The situation differs from those usually resulting after presidential elections in the fact that it is not merely men but policies that are to be chosen.
 The new secretary of state will take office with a foreign policy of the first magnitude upon his hands. The first act of that issue Mr. Root's methods would undoubtedly differ widely from those of Philander C. Knox or David Jayne Hill, whose names have also been mentioned for the highest cabinet office.
 Mr. Harding's discretion, which preserved at least pre-election harmony in his party, is embarrassing to the gossip-mongers. There are numerous utterances of the President-elect, however, which can be clearly construed in favor of retaining the league and treaty structure with carefully considered amendments. Mr. Root's warnings against utter rejection by no means imply that there is any unbridgeable gulf between him and Mr. Harding regarding the league.
 It has been said that they interpret the question of the Panama canal to differ. Certainly Mr. Root's objection to the exemption of American coastwise vessels from duties is no secret. He has argued the point with skill, basing his opinion directly upon the obligations of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty.
 But the exemption problem is subordinate to many other foreign relations issues. If the former is all that divides Senator Harding's views from those of Mr. Root, it is not worth while to insist that they have gone separate ways.

AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT
 The Unusual and Stirring Histories of Three Flags Taken Abroad by Philadelphian
 By SARAH D. LOWRIE
 I WAS standing at the gate of a country place on Old York road the last Sunday in October, when a little band of men and women marched swiftly and silently by carrying the green and orange and white flag of the Sinn Feiners. I was silent, but by that I only mean there was no music; they were talking among themselves as they walked in an informal, almost chatty manner, but they were not forming or seeking any rhythm. There must have been a hundred of them.
 That night at dinner we were exchanging notes as to the day's experiences, and it turned out that most of those present had seen similar bands marching along the roads of the suburbs on the way to join the main parade in town.
 The first flag of quick industry must have been expended on the making of the hundreds of little flags—for each marcher carried a flag of green, white and orange with a little black cross attached—and the large banners the size of regimental flags were even more astonishing; for even now flags are not easily come by.
 PROBABLY those who used them that Sunday had shown the same kind of foresight that Barclay Warburton did when he was ordered to England during the war as second military attaché to the American embassy. He took with him, such as another man might provide himself with extra heavy underwear for his war kit, three large and beautiful American flags, to have on hand "just in case" they might be needed.
 The history up to date of those flags is a very spirited tale.
 The following copy of a letter sent eventually to one of the flags to the President gives part of its history:
 March 28, 1918.
 The President, the White House, Washington, D. C.
 I have the liberty of presenting you with this American flag on account of the special glory which it is wrapped around it, and for that reason I feel that it should be in your possession.
 This particular flag was carried in London by the Seventeenth Regiment of railway engineers, U. S. N. A., on the 15th of August, 1917, when the four regiments of railway engineers of the United States national army paraded and were reviewed before their majesties, King George and the Queen Dowager Alexandra, in front of Buckingham Palace.
 When the review was decided upon it was discovered that the regimental flag of the Seventeenth railway engineers had been sent to France with their heavy equipment, and happily this one which I possessed became available. I am informed that this was the first foreign body of armed troops that marched through London since the death of King William of Orange, and therefore this was one of the first four American flags ever saluted by a reigning monarch of the British empire under such circumstances.
 The secretary of war, Mr. Newton D. Baker, has kindly consented to present it to you on my behalf. Very sincerely,
 BARCLAY WARBURTON,
 Major, Assistant Military Attaché.

The person who told Barclay Warburton that the marching of the American troops through London was a great event in English history was the king's uncle, the Duke of Connaught. He happened to be passing through the Green Park as Major Warburton was delivering a message to Mr. Page, the American ambassador, at the time. He stopped and stared at the soldiers and then, returning Warburton's salute, he said to him what was going on. He was immediately and characteristically interested in the occurrence, and characteristically remembered not only his history but also that of a Major Warburton in New York during a brief but eventful stay in the city of border a year or two before.
 He was in London that morning and that to have witnessed this sight would have been deplorable.
 "For," said he, "these are the first armed troops that have marched through London since the death of King William of Orange. I am quite sure I am entitled to a statement, but if I am not I will let you know."
 So much for the first of the three flags!

FROM FRANCE
 (To a Girl)
 THE world is still hot and smoking.
 The world is still full of pain;
 If war comes again in a decade,
 Where is my blood-guilt gain?
 The girl is sweet in my nostrils,
 The girl is sweet in my nostrils,
 For dreaming, dreaming shyly,
 Of a girl with dew in her hair.
 I was young—life lay before me.
 A procession in purple haze
 Of nights, all yearnings and longings.
 And a lot of get-there days.
 Had sprung a leak, somehow,
 And I was sent out to mend it—
 So I am a ghost, just now!
 For me there is no more star-breeze,
 No foothill, no mad over prairie,
 I shall never see the old home,
 I shall never sail back over seas.
 But I fought with an old commander
 Who worked out a fighting plan
 To bring the nations closer.
 To make things surer for man.
 My chief lies broken in battle,
 Shot up in a party's strife,
 Who he believed in all fellows,
 He'd trust them a little with life.
 He'd trust them a little with life.
 (Surely mother's Christ did not lie!)
 It is only to love your neighbor—
 O girl of mine, give it a try!
 I'm loving you, out here in Silence.
 Some day God may give you a son,
 And I would get there days four man-child
 The things that to me were none.
 The world is still hot and smoking,
 The world is still shot with pain.
 Where, woman, who'll vote, is the gain?
 —Guy Howard, in the New York Times.

SHORT CUTS
 Just seven weeks from 'mums to mums.
 The drive against draft dodgers seems to be delayed by a bulky team somewhere.
 Francis Wilson has revived "Ernie," but, ah, who can revive young Francis Wilson?
 The motto of the taleman seems to be like unto the catchword of the telephone operator: Excuse it, please.
 Of all the maxims that point a moral and adorn a tale, that of a fool and his money receives most frequent illustration.
 There are now thousands of men unemployed in the United States. The falling of prices is having its usual running mate.
 Tobacco pipemakers are on strike in New York. But it may not be serious. They may be merely laying off to take a smoke.
 Every time we see a pretty young girl with her face smudged with paint we get a good reason for the existence of the Girl Scout movement.
 Frank A. Vanderbilt's efforts to rebuild and reclaim a physically and morally rundown village has already excited interest and may incite emulation.
 Clothiers in convention in Chicago say dealers are overstocked and prices must come down. Cutting prices according to their cloth, as it were.
 Because bills must be paid, any reduction of taxes must be the direct result of economy of administration. This is going to be hard on sinners holders.
 Chicago's health commissioner says a curfew law would save the lives and morals of 5000 children annually. Joybells that have no gladstone edge on the curfew bell.
 Director Cortelyou says he can stop auto banditry with a motorcycle force (though therefore has a chance to give the thug his deathblow by hitting him with an appropriation).
 A Norristown hat manufacturer was excused from jury duty because he was busy scaling down the price of hats, and the judge was inclined to let the good work go on. Most noble judge!
 A Westmoreland county firebug has burned three schoolhouses in two weeks. It would suggest that the authorities look for a juvenile pirate band in a lonesome cove in the neighborhood of a barn.
 Tacfulness is a quality stressed as being necessary in the breeding of skunk so that the depressed fur market may be stabilized. If farmers shy at the job, why not turn it over to diplomatists?
 A woman juror was excused in Wilkes-Barre because she could not appear at afternoon in court. That doesn't sound like a reason, but it is at least as femininely explanatory as merely "Because."
 There is excellence in the suggestion of City Controller Hadley that the city be insured against loss by highway robbery, but superior efficacy in the plan of Director Cortelyou to make highway robbery impossible.
 Buffalo has established a patrol to stop the flow of liquor into the city from Canada and Pennsylvania. The claim of Pennsylvania as a wet area is no great compliment to Attorney General Palmer's home state.
 The Red Cross needs help promptly because it gives help promptly. It is a Red-footed angel of mercy. It gives first aid possibility in court. That doesn't sound like a reason, but it is at least as femininely explanatory as merely "Because."
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