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Philadelphia, Thursday, January 13, 1921

WATCH THE LOBBYISTS

WHEN the legislative leaders who are at work here slating the personnel of the House and Senate committees for this year's session at Harrisburg decided to exclude lobbyists from their "deliberations" they did something worth while. Perhaps it was only a fine gesture, calculated to win public approval; what would be vulgarly described as a "gallery play." Or this move, rare in the history of organization politics in Pennsylvania, may have been prompted by the purely human desire of saving time and the annoyance of constantly receiving suggestions about the wisdom of appointing this man or that to an important chairmanship. Possibly the leaders were confident of their ability to take care of special interests without outside assistance. Indeed, there are those who urge that certain of the bosses have a peculiar genius for that sort of thing.

Irrespective of the subtleties of the situation, it is apparent that the lobby evil has been recognized in an illuminating fashion. It is one thing for citizens and business men to watch closely the course of legislation affecting their interests and to voice their views so that all may understand. It is quite another thing for agents of the "invisible government," able to maintain themselves in comparative luxury—with plenty of cash on hand for current expenses—to have their fingers on the very pulse of legislation. In the past such paid manipulators have been known to strangle vital legislation at birth by packing committees with the right kind of conservatives.

The bosses have a firm enough grip on the situation without being aided voluntarily by lobbyists. Even as it is, four or five men actually name the committees which are supposed to be the representatives of the 257 members of the General Assembly. As long as it seems to be impossible at this time to "democratize" the legislative committees—the select bodies which largely influence the character of legislation—it will help at least if the insidious lobbyists are kept at arm's length. Pennsylvania's lawmakers might profitably apply to Harrisburg United States Senator Kenyon's idea of a compulsory registration for lobbyists at Washington. Too much light cannot be thrown on the day and night activities of the silver-tongued ambassadors of sordid and swollen interests.

EMBERS

FROM the great conflagration of the war sparks and smoldering embers were flung to the farthest places of the world, where they still remain as red brands from which new fires may start at any minute. So it always has been and so it will continue to be.

Thus a Japanese soldier is reported to have shot and killed an officer of the United States cruiser Albany now at Vladivostok. It is at Vladivostok and in its general environment rather than in California or on the Pacific coast that friction between Tokio and Washington has been most apparent. The Japanese office is penetrate and hold Russian territory [illegible] against quiet but determined opposition from the United States, partly in [illegible] of the general defensive policy of this country and partly because we were involved to the point that culminated in that forward movement of the Japanese into Siberia which later grew from a movement of pacification to one of conquest.

The incident at Vladivostok will be explained away, of course. The diplomatists will endeavor it with phrases and find in it a new opportunity for warm expressions of mutual friendship. But it is worth remembering that the Albany would not have been at Vladivostok at all had it not been for the war, and that but for the war there would have been no Japanese there with a gun in his hands and hatred in his heart for a naval officer in American uniform.

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS

"LABOR unions," said Arthur C. Jackson, speaking from the manufacturer's point of view before the students of the Friends Central School, "were formed first exclusively in connection with industry." Mr. Jackson continued with an assertion that the union movement in America "has grown because it promises to recognize the need for individuality of effort and the value of initiative and tend to reduce labor to a dead level."

Here is an interesting approach to a very wide field of conjecture and debate. It must lead, if it concludes, to the inevitable conclusion that any organization formed of powerful groups for the attainment of special and exclusive right and privileges is fundamentally un-American, since it can grow only from the belief that one part of the population is justified in seeking advantages not generally available to others. And yet most people belong nowadays to strong and ambitious organizations which aim to operate in the exclusive interest of their members.

The habit of organization has spread to all sorts and conditions of people. We seem to drift farther daily from the hope of equality of opportunity, which is essential to honest recognition of equal rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

THE SENATE STANDS PAT

AT LAST there have been found some men who can see no danger in an unrestricted flood of desperate, impoverished and physically inferior immigrants to the United States. These men are in the Senate, which now is said to feel that the old immigration laws should stand and that there should be no closing of the open door at American ports even against the gathering flood that may further confuse the social and economic life of eastern centers of population and, what is worse, retard the efforts of all people who are now working against odds to improve political thinking as it is expressed at the polls in cities like Philadelphia.

The great and costly system of public education, [illegible] as it is in a general way, has [illegible] adequate to give to first and [illegible]-born groups an [illegible]nt [illegible] responsibilities as v[illegible]zens. Some of the most dangerous and sinister political machines in eastern cities depend chiefly for support on the votes of low-class foreigners admitted to the rights for which they are unprepared and often wholly unfit. The Senate, deliberately blind to the social and economic aspects of the general question of immigration, cannot be expected to think of the political aspect. Can it be that the professional politicians at Washington are willing to hinder rather than help a new immigration policy that would do much for general political enlightenment in this country? Do they actually dread political enlightenment?

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF; WHO CARES FOR OTHERS?

A Working Philosophy Which Breaks Down in War, but Seems to Be the Gospel of Certain Philadelphians

WAR differs from all other activities of governments in that it forces concentration of energies on the accomplishment of definite results and compels the scrapping of all men and instrumentalities which do not assist toward those ends.

The roster of the French and British commanders-in-chief during the world war is long. Man after man was used and discarded. No political or social influence could protect a general after he had failed to win. The attention of the nations was concentrated on victory. Everything else was subordinated to that.

What Philadelphia needs just now is a little more of what may be called the war spirit. By that we do not mean the spirit of conflict, but the concentration of the attention of the people on the accomplishment of certain definite and specific benefits.

What happens when attention is directed to something else is illustrated by the lamentable breakdown of the Board of Public Education. That body has been nominally trying for several months to elect a superintendent of schools. But what it has been trying to do is not to elect the best available man, but to find a man who would consent to submit his will to the will of the board. If the board had been a war council seeking to find a commanding general for its armies the enemy would have been victorious long ago.

But in a very real sense the board is a war council intrusted with the duty of selecting a fighting officer who will make war upon ignorance and upon outworn methods and upon favoritism and upon indifference to the proper training of the boys and girls who will be the citizens of Philadelphia when the men in charge of its industries are dead.

The board has lost sight of the end for which it is created and is lost in a maze of its own contriving. While it seeks to protect the influence of this man or that man among its members and regards this as more important than protecting the interests of the children in the schools, the whole school system suffers. And the city itself suffers from ill repute among people interested in education in all parts of the country.

We have exhibited the narrowness and pettiness of our vision from the Pacific to the Atlantic, for candidates for the vacant superintendency from both Massachusetts and California have withdrawn their names from consideration after they realized the state of affairs here. They were men interested in educational problems. They saw here an opportunity such as seldom comes to a school superintendent, but when they discovered that they were not expected to deal with educational problems, but to be tender with the susceptibilities of a group of men seeking to protect their power over the schools, they shook the dust of the fray from their feet and decided to remain where they were.

If the people of the city were fully awake to the prevailing conditions they would demand an instant reorganization of the "war council" and the creation of a body which would select a commander-in-chief for the school system who would be commissioned to remake it in accordance with the best modern theory and practice. They are not awake yet, but there is no telling when they will begin to sit up and take notice of what is going on.

It takes a crisis to wake them up. And that crisis is rapidly approaching.

The conditions prevailing in the school board are typical. The same sort of conditions rule in political management. The breakdown of government under the last Mayor aroused the voters and they put a different sort of man in the City Hall. But he finds himself embarrassed by the concentration of attention of some of his "friends" on the protection of their little political machines instead of on the great ends for which municipal government is established.

He is told that this ward leader must be taken care of and that that district boss must be allowed to look after the interests of his district and that nothing must be done to disturb the relations between the politicians and the managers of vicious resorts lest the political machines suffer from financial starvation.

Not a thought is given to the efficient conduct of public business. The party politicians do not care who they the men whose appointment they demand can perform the duties of an office or not. The men are friends of So-and-so and they must be taken care of. If they are told that the public business will suffer and that the cost of conducting it will be increased they look as if some one were talking to them in a strange tongue. They do not understand, for they have been brought up in the school of politics which places protection of the machine ahead of every other consideration, and the language of the conscientious public servant is like Greek to a Hottentot.

There have been conferences between Senator Penrose and the local leaders at odds with the Mayor, but it is dollars to doughnuts that the subject of the government of the city was not once mentioned. The talk was of how to prevent the Mayor from getting rid of the men who are obstructing his plans for economy and efficiency. That is, the end for which government exists was ignored completely and attention was concentrated on the selfish personal plans of men who wish to profit by their relation to government. These men are really like the sutlers that followed the armies in the Civil War and sought to get rich out of what they could extract from the men who did the fighting.

The Chamber of Commerce suffers in efficiency from the same concentration of attention on the protection of this or that business group, whereas its proper function lies in organizing the business men of the city for the greatest good of the greatest number. If competition is war, then this city is engaged in a commercial war with the other cities on the Atlantic seaboard. We cannot win if we divert our energies to protecting one or two favorites in industry while we refuse to put in command a group of the most alert business organizers that can be found.

There is nothing new in all this. It is manifest to every man who will do a little thinking for himself. It is pertinent, however, at the present time when there is talk of organizing a great celebration of the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. We cannot have a successful celebration if men seeking glory for themselves pull wires to secure appointment on the organizing committees and fight other men who are better qualified than they to do the work required. The men best fitted for the work are men who will not push themselves forward. They will have to be drafted. But if the little men out for transitory fame have their way the committees will be made up so as to further the political, business or social ambitions of the members and with consideration of the success of the celebration secondary.

It may be too much to expect men to be wholly disinterested, but when we see what happens when there is lack of disinterestedness one may be pardoned for expressing regret that things are as they are.

CUTTING THE TAX RATE

TOUCHING upon the only aspect of the taxation problem for which the public entertains the least enthusiasm, several members of the Council have cheerily intimated that by the year 1922 the rate at which Philadelphians pay for their municipal government may be appreciably lowered.

A twenty-five to forty cent decrease in the tax rate is foreshadowed. Richard Weglein, president of the Council, and Charles B. Hall and Joseph B. Gaffney, of the Vare group, suggest strict economy as the prime agent of reform.

The idea is as old as its execution is belated. The present excessive tax rate is only partly due to the decreased purchasing power of the dollar. Extravagance and mismanagement have played familiar and dominating roles. Financial wizardry is not necessary to reduce existing burdens.

A sensibly devised budget, reflective of the city's actual needs and chilling to the aspirations of chair-warmers, political pensioners and holders of soft snaps, can render the reform possible even without reference to the general economic conditions of the country. Honesty and common sense, not miracles, are in demand.

BRIDGE TOLLS IN DISFAVOR

IT IS unlikely that any measure passed by Congress authorizing the construction of the Delaware bridge will be mandatory on the subject of tolls. Representative Darrow's bill permitting charges to be made has inspired Councilman Cox with indignation, and Councilman Hall has declared that his friends will not vote a cent of city funds for a toll bridge.

The general principle is commendable enough provided the case is not complicated by mere obstructive tactics. The states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey will almost certainly be the responsible judges in the matter, and as modern commonwealths they should not favor a toll plan. Within the last three or four years the policy of toll abolition with respect to the interstate bridges across the Delaware has been consistently pursued.

BLISS' CLEAR-HEADEDNESS

GENERAL BLISS' frankness on the theme of disarmament is of a type which his fellow citizens might profitably emulate. Politics has lamentably confused an issue on which basically the great majority of Americans are heartily united.

While it is true that disarmament can be considered and perhaps some policy authorizing it carried out by the League of Nations, are there actually any insuperable obstacles to an approach to the question from some other direction? General Bliss believes that a conference of the principal powers could be called and public opinion would force the action that would be a convincing guarantee of enduring peace.

Secretary Daniels has in the main used the big-navy program as an alternative to joining the league. This is distinctly partisan strategy and is, in a way that the head of the Navy Department may not fully appreciate, a disservice to the cause of the existing society of nations.

It is not because of threats but by conviction that the United States will ever join the league, and it is honest convictions detached from political prejudices that will be the most effective aid to American disarmament.

CABINET-MAKING

SUCH difficulties as Mr. Harding has experienced in choosing members for his cabinet are caused for the most part by clamorous groups which, organized and functioning for their own rather than for the national good, seem to feel that they are entitled to special representation at Washington.

Farmer groups, labor groups, financial groups, industrial groups appear to be thinking more and more in exclusive terms and to be filled with a desire to establish themselves as favored nations within the United States.

Thus labor seeks not only to put a friend in the cabinet. It wants a friend who will be an enemy of all groups which oppose its more advanced and radical plans.

The farmers want a man who will not only agitate constantly in their behalf, but who will be willing to make aimless war on some of the banks and middlemen's associations.

So it goes all along the line, with all important groups in industry thinking chiefly of themselves and their own special interests. Yet members of a President's cabinet ought to be men of general sympathy and understanding, able to serve the whole country as associates and advisers of the President even while they make the best use of the special knowledge required in their various posts.

Such men are not numerous, but they can be found. And Mr. Harding seems to be trying to find them.

In New York city, District Attorney Swann, a Tammany man, is investigating Tammany. With the best intentions in the world he may fall down on his job, since of necessity a partisan invariably thinks all his geese are swans. To even matters up, it may be that time will prove Swann a goose.

Maxims for President-elect Harding: "By his own stick the prudent one is often beaten." "Be bold, be bold, and everywhere be bold!"

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. How long was England a republic, and when?
2. What was the Holy Alliance?
3. What is the middle name of Gilbert K. Chesterton?
4. When was the steam engine perfected by Watt?
5. What is the meaning of Alabama?
6. What city is called the Lyons of America, and why?
7. Who is the present secretary of commerce?
8. Who wrote the novel "Vivian Grey"?
9. For what title do the initials F. R. S. stand?
10. What is the highest mountain in the United States east of the Mississippi river?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Articles of virtu are those interesting because of their workmanship, antiquity or rarity.
2. St. Luke is accredited with the authorship of the gospel which bears his name and with the authorship of the Acts.
3. Teheran is the capital of Persia.
4. Thomas Hobbes was a noted English philosopher. His dates are 1588-1679.
5. A hydra was a mythological snake whose many heads grew again when cut off. A fresh-water polyp is also called a hydra.
6. The correct form is hiccup, not hiccough.
7. A trident is a three-pronged implement. In mythology it was wielded by Neptune, and hence became symbolical of dominion over the sea.
8. Robert Smith Surtees was an English novelist and sporting writer, whose humorous narrative of the sporting experiences of a cockney grocer, "Jorrock's Jaunts and Jollities," suggested the Pickwick Papers of Charles Dickens. Surtees was born in 1803 and died in 1864.
9. Topazes are yellow, white, green, blue or colorless.
10. Menage is household management; domestic establishment.

FOR OUR BIG SHOW

Pittsburgh People Getting Ready for the Sesquicentennial—Burd Patterson at Work—About Our Civil Service—Emil Albrecht's Views

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

BURD S. PATTERSON was in Philadelphia last week for the purpose of boosting our sesquicentennial in 1926.

Mr. Patterson is a Pittsburgher.

Philadelphia has only taken the initial step of a public meeting to forward this great international project, but Burd Patterson has seen us one better and is hard at work on one phase of the project.

He is the herald of the aroused interest of the commonwealth in the coming celebration.

It indicates how statewide is the enthusiasm over the movement, which will crystallize in the appointment by Mayor Moore on his return from Florida of a committee of one hundred prominent citizens to take charge of the work.

MR. PATTERSON is president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, with offices in Pittsburgh.

He is likewise the secretary of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

He is one of the public-spirited, enthusiastic Pennsylvanians who for forty years to my personal knowledge has been inaugurating and advocating movements to keep Pennsylvania at the front.

His present activities take the shape of arousing the various county historical societies to the necessity of preparing for the sesquicentennial of 1926.

He has sent out a communication to the secretary of every one of these organizations. Unfortunately, only about half of our sixty-seven counties have historical societies.

To these he is appealing for the preservation of valuable historical records and documents that may be of interest when all of Pennsylvania gathers in Philadelphia five years hence.

But he is going much further afield.

He is already in correspondence with citizens of a dozen counties who contemplate organizing such societies.

LAST week he met a number of prominent citizens of Mifflin county at Lewistown. He consulted with parties interested in Juniata, Clinton and adjacent counties.

He pointed out to them that the Legislature has encouraged the formation of county historical societies by providing that county commissioners may annually appropriate to them as much as $1000 and permit them to meet and store their documents in the courthouses.

Mr. Patterson insists that the part that Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians have played in the upbuilding of the nation has never yet been properly set forth in our histories.

The sesquicentennial celebration presents the opportunity for remedying this omission.

This is the inspiration of Mr. Patterson's present work.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER CHARLES W. NEELD in standing by his guns on the subject of removals of employes will not stand alone.

The city charter will be at his back, even though the other commissioners may assail his position from the front.

Mr. Neeld's contention is that when an employe under the civil service is removed from office for cause and a copy of the specification for such removal is furnished him and the civil service commissioners also by his superior, the Civil Service Commission has no right to go behind the returns and demand fuller proofs of incompetency and neglect or political activity.

The city charter provides that:

"No officer, clerk or employe shall be removed, discharged or reduced * * * until he shall have been furnished with a written statement of the reasons for such action and been allowed to give the removing officer such written answer as the person sought to be removed may desire."

In case of suspension the commission has authority to investigate and to approve or disapprove.

But outright dismissal is another thing.

CHARLES S. SHAUGHENNESY, chief examiner for the Civil Service Commission, tells me that last year the Civil Service Commission of Philadelphia held more examinations than any city in the country.

There were 546 examinations.

This does not mean that there were that number of individual examinations held for positions in the civil service.

The figures indicate that there were 546 different examinations of all kinds, ranging from the ordinary physical test up to the most involved and technical investigations along special lines.

The difference in the test of fitness for a biologist in the health department and the examination of a foreman of street cleaners will convey the idea of the variety of work undertaken by the commission.

More than half a thousand different classes of examinations involved the preparation of as many different papers, tests, oral and written proofs of efficiency.

Most of these include three parts—an experience paper, a written test on practical questions and a personal fitness test.

The latter is a general personality test.

More than 5000 persons participated in these examinations, Chief Shaughennesy says. They were applicants for all grades of employment.

EMIL P. ALBRECHT, president of the Bourse, has been named as chairman of the Pennsylvania delegation to the national rivers and harbors congress.

He was already a director in that organization.

At the last meeting it was suggested by resolution that Congress be asked to appropriate $100,000,000 a year for ten years for the improvement of our waterways.

Mr. Albrecht informs me that while he is in favor of doing everything possible for the improvement of our canals, coastal waterways and rivers, he regards it as a mistake to designate a fixed sum for the purpose.

"All projects for the improvement of our waterways should be examined and approved by the United States engineering corps and then the appropriation could follow," said Mr. Albrecht.

"I regard it as a mistake to fix a definite amount to be expended annually. Any contemplated improvement should be surveyed, approved, contracted for and then a sum appropriated sufficiently large to complete the project covering a period of years."

Mr. Albrecht cited as an instance the difficulties encountered in securing a thirty-five-foot channel for the Delaware river.

It is now a patchwork job. The work is done little by little and is inadequate to the demands of the port.

The proper way would be, according to his view, to have the approval of the United States engineer corps for the whole work, appropriate a sum adequate for its completion, but distribute it over the period of years necessary to finish the work.

This would insure not only the completion of the contract, but steady work and maintenance of the channel as well.

Unemployment is increasing in England. In Norwich the authorities decided not to increase relief works as "the taxpayers could not afford it." Whereupon the unemployed availed themselves of the existing "poor law" and demanded relief — which, incidentally, involves considerably more expense to the taxpayer. All of which goes to show that while the law of supply and demand is an excellent good thing that will eventually work out all problems, there are times when it gets gummed up and needs cleaning by a government engineer. The problem in England is the problem existing in varying degrees in every country in the world: Food producers are idle while people go hungry; clothing producers are idle while people go naked. The remedy appears to be in public works on a large scale—roads, bridges, aqueducts, reservoirs, dikes, deepened channels. The men who go to work will need clothes, food and amusements, and as their needs multiply occupations will multiply. The old flivver of trade needs cranking up once in a while. The world has not yet evolved a self-starter.

Comment by a noted educator on the Board of Education deadlock: "Off agen, on agen, gone agen Finegan."

THE STRENUOUS LIFE

NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

DR. SPENCER TROTTER
On Migrations of Animals

VEGETATION rather than climatic conditions has governed the migrations of animals, according to Dr. Spencer Trotter, professor of biology at Swarthmore College, who has made an exhaustive study of the fauna of North America.

"The fauna is the collective animal life of a region," said Dr. Trotter. "It may be quite restricted in area or it may embrace a large domain, as a continent.

"In the sum of its conditioning factors, character of vegetation is probably the most important determining influence. All species tend to spread wherever suitable habitats are accessible to them. Search for food is an impelling motive.

"The change that man has wrought upon the country by the development of agriculture and the clearing of forests has influenced the distribution of animal and bird life not a little.

"In order to understand the relationship of the North American fauna one must realize the close juxtaposition of the eastern and western continents about the north polar area. A glance at a polar projection will show this quite clearly. Further, one must be acquainted with the fact that this closely related land condition was even more closely related in a former geological period. For instance, where there is now a Bering Strait there was once a 'land bridge,' and still earlier the present reach of sea between Greenland and Scandinavia was the site of an ancient land area, so that in former times there was really a continuous circumpolar land that afforded a wide extent of country for migrating animals.

Climate Mild at That Time

"At that time, too, the climate was mild and there was a luxuriant vegetation, and consequently an abundant food supply. Doubtless there were wide stretches of meadow land and broad, grass-covered plains over which the herds grazed as they slowly spread around this northern circle of land.

"While the continent of North America was thus in close physical relation with the Eurasian land, especially in the Bering region, South America, on the other hand, has always been more or less isolated from the rest of the world, save along the narrow isthmian strip that connects it with Middle America and through this with North America.

"These geographical relations have a very important bearing on the origin of the present vertebrate life of the western continent. A large element has been derived from Eurasian types, mainly during the geological period immediately preceding the present. It was a time of great mammalian migrations and profound climatic variations.

"This Pleistocene period was characterized by four well-marked glacial periods, which spread a series of ice sheets over a large portion of the northern hemisphere. Between these glacial periods, however, were intervening lapses of rather genial climatic conditions, often of considerable duration, known as interglacial periods.

Strange Mammalian Fauna

"Prior to this Pleistocene time, during the several long periods of the Tertiary, a strange mammalian fauna inhabited North America.

"The camels originated here, of which the llamas of South America are modified survivals of the ancient type. There were horses, elephants and rhinoceroses as well as many other forms now extinct in the western land area, the living representatives of which are now mainly confined to the tropical regions of the Old World.

"The cats appear to have spread from some Eurasian center, and the same is true of the weasel group. The rodents and insectivores appear mainly to have been derived from Old World sources, though in some instances highly modified in America. Wolves and foxes are of late Eurasian origin, too.

"Of the existing bird life of North America we have little direct evidence as to origin from the scanty relics of a fossil nature. Bird skeletons are fragile and disappear before fossilization can be accomplished in the great majority of cases.

"True, there are marked contrasts between the animal or bird life of the tropic and temperate zones, and climatic conditions of heat and moisture cannot be ignored, but I feel that these factors are less important than vegetation.

Birds Have Advantage Over Animals

"Birds more than mammals have in their power of flight a greater ability in overcoming obstacles, and yet in regard to food conditions they are equally restricted.

"Conditions may necessitate limits to animal and plant life, but throughout the entire world the basic processes and relations of all life are the same. I look upon man in the same light as animal because of these fundamentals.

"Biology, zoology, anthropology so overlap each other that you cannot delve into one subject without touching the other. But all must be looked at broadly, with tolerance. We who have made these subjects our life study only begin to realize now how little we do actually know.

"The mystery of a future existence occupies the thoughts of many persons, but to me continuance is less mysterious than the beginning of life—the origin of man, of all this plant and animal life.

"Man, the highest form of animal, by his superior brain power, is the first, so far as we know, to recognize what I prefer to call a universal mind. Of course, we cannot say that the dog does not acknowledge it, too.

"I mention the dog because his brain is highly developed; the same may be said of the cat, although through the years of association with man the cat has remained independent.

"This same association has made the horse affectionate and domestic, but it has not developed his brain. The foot of the horse, though, is developed far in advance of man's, in whom it is most primitive.

"By evolution man has reached his present state. He is a part of a great scheme. How infinitesimal, then, is the individual man. He is but a unit.

"What a man does and thinks is not so much a product of his conscious being as it is of his relation to the whole mass of population, and population is drifting toward some end, undoubtedly, but nevertheless drifting.

"Not moving definitely from any collective sense of its own, with an end in view, but drifting in the vast ocean of the Infinite."

Officially we are not concerned in what will happen at the conference of the powers which will meet January 19 for the discussion of German disarmament and reparations; but unofficially we are intensely, vitally interested, as our only representatives, the members of the press, silent until their typewriters click, will abundantly testify. The Fourth Estate alone will represent Uncle Sam at a meeting that will decide just for what our boys fought and died.

Fifty Americans were arrested when a low restaurant, headquarters for drug venders, in the slums of Paris was raided by the police; which would seem to show that among our countrymen and countrywomen abroad there are some who have more money than morals, more spare time than common sense.

The Law of Adventure

In the manner, if not the spirit, of Robert W. Service

NOW this is the law of adventure and life
That is down to the bone—
When you're off on a battle with nature,
Be sure that you fight it alone;
For courage is futile and foolish and nothing
avails in your stint
Till you've stifled the foe, competition, and
issued your epic in print.
Be sure you have bottled the channels that
lead to a leak or a crack.
Be sure that the rubric "Exclusive" is registered ere you get back;
Be sure of your payment in figures that gag
the aspersion of "poor";
Remember the finish horrific of Hinton and
Farrell and Kloor!

Romance? Write it capitalization, and then
you're alive and awake;
Be warned by that booby Columbus, Magellan, how much did he make?
John Smith and the bold Coronado, Balboa
—a parcel of looms
Sold never a line for an "Extra," sing woe
for the vanished doubloons!
Marquette and La Salle, Ponce de Leon,
Hank Hudson and Lewis and Clark
And Zebulon Pike, notwithstanding his hike,
in check-books made rarely a mark.
What wonders they were to be driven by
specious romance and sham lure!
How childish they shine by the contrast with
Hinton and Farrell and Kloor!

What's death and what's valor and glory,
what proditeth knighthood and fire
If one cannot make of a "story" enough for
a knight to retire?
And then, be it never forgotten how sharing
shrinks up a reward,
Be careful when "selling" an exploit that
you and you only have scored.
Now this is the law of heroics, as all modern litanists know—
Monopolize all the adventure and let the
dramatic dope flow,
For if you're bereft of mazuma, what honor
is aught but unsure,
What laurels, for instance, are fitting for
Hinton and Farrell and Kloor?

H. T. C.

SHORT CUTS

"D'Annunzio Has Chill."—Heading. Feet?

Mayor Moore is not idling in Florida. He is digging bait.

"Upon what stuff does this our Senate feed that it has grown so great?"

Secretary Daniels may now assure himself that he gave the airmen good advice.

Tammany's intent to investigate itself shows symptoms of becoming half-hearted.

The Board of Public Education has a busy time knocking nails in its own coffin.

Though Tragedy always takes a back seat in a joy ride, she occasionally grabs the wheel.

By a curious oversight a state deficiency bill always refers exclusively to financial matters.

Wilkes-Barre steps forward to demonstrate that there is still kick enough in beef to floor a man.

The national census records having been burned, we shall now proceed to build a fire-proof building for them.

Fiddlesticks! The Leygues cabinet in France has been overthrown just when we learned how to pronounce the premier's name.

We have it by grapevine wireless from Mattice that a hero has a better chance of sticking on his pedestal when he doesn't talk too darned much.

A Pittsburgh clergyman declares that the backs of many evening gowns lack decorum. It has all along been evident that they lacked something.

While royal heads are falling elsewhere the Britisher points with pride to the fact that his sovereign has risen from $3.40 to $3.70 and is still going up.

The $50,000 Mr. Harding has saved the country is, it is the fervent hope of his countrymen, but the thin edge of the wedge of wise economies he has in mind.

The general opinion appears to be that a man should be permitted to swank for the benefit of his wife and that the Hinton letter should never have been published.

One handicap the woman legislator has is that she is "news," and the reporter consequently keeps her in the spotlight. She has to be level-headed beyond the average to stand the strain.

Secretary Daniels' report to the House naval affairs committee suggests the possibility that the world will continue to talk fight up until the last moment before concluding a peace pact.

The fact that six women were drawn for a local murder jury and were then exempted is appreciation of the fact that woman's rights include the continued possession of her privileges.

With those who declare Mayor Moore politically dead the wish, of course, is father to the thought; but they were, at least, indiscreet to hire a Hall for the obsequies, for he will rise to confound them.

The soap famine of central Europe is likely to be relieved by the discovery that paraffin extracted from brown coal may be converted by oxidation into fatty acids, but it will take more than that to make Germany come clean.

It is interesting to note that with the United States a member of the League of Nations there would be no likelihood of, because no necessity for, a renewal of the Anglo-Japanese alliance which expires by limitation next July.

The average man is still bemused by the activities of women. Though he has shown more willingness to deny her a right than to deny her a privilege, he is unable to do either very long; but his mental attitude becomes vocal in the statement and the query. A woman may lobby and a woman may smoke if she wants to—but why does she want to?

Yesterday's weather remained raw despite the roasting its victims gave it. The principal complaint against it is its inconstancy. No sooner do we have reason to suspect that Old Winter has arrived with bells on—sleigh bells—than Young Spring peers at us from a distance and we begin to wonder if, after all, the pussy willow is not going to unnow before the snow drops. Heaven knows what the weather will be or do between the present time of writing and the hour of going to press. The clerk of the weather, caring not a fig for the fruits of his inconsistency, continues to mix his c[illegible]