

Evening Public Ledger

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THE MAYOR AND THE FAIR

SUGGESTIONS, wise and foolish, regarding the sequententials are certain to arise from a diversity of sources. It has been proposed that the fair should rehabilitate a somewhat shabby section of the town...

THE PRESIDENT DID RIGHT

PRESIDENT WILSON'S refusal to interfere in the railroad situation at this time does credit to his judgment. There are three theories prevailing as to the express purpose of dealing with just such conditions as now exist. It is the business of the Railroad Labor Board to settle disputes about wages, it is the business of the railroad adjustment boards to settle disputes about conditions of labor...

SMALL-ARMY RESPONSIBILITIES

THE overwhelming adoption in the House of Representatives of a bill for a reorganization of the Army is a striking index of the rapid growth of anti-militaristic sentiment. Disarmament proposals, naval or military, fall upon sympathetic public ears nowadays. Less than a year ago a complete military training was hopelessly advocated by its proponents. As anything like a political issue, the subject has by this time vanished.

REAPPORTIONMENT A DUTY

THE sensible view of the reapportionment problem taken by Congress may be recommended to the Pennsylvania Assembly in its own handling of a situation that is a familiar case of unfairness in the reapportionment of the House of Representatives. The Federal House of Representatives faced the alternatives of enlarging its membership to an unwieldy size or of maintaining the present total at the cost of reduced delegations from several states. In the interests of harmony and legislative speed the sacrifice was accepted.

WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES

LAWYERS for the city are examining the latest bills to discover whether they contain anything that would put the control over the erection of the building for the Municipal Court in the Department of Public Works and the supervision of the House of Detention in the Department of Public Safety. They may find something which sustains the contention that the charter provisions repeal the earlier laws under which the court is acting. But if they do it will be because the men who drafted the earlier laws did not accomplish what they were after.

court free from the civil-service regulations which apply in city departments and to concentrate the distribution of patronage and to enable the court to mandamus the city for all the money that it chose to spend. The simplest way out of this and many other complications is to abolish the dual form of government which exists within the city and county, so far as that is constitutionally possible. There is no reason whatever why the Municipal Court should not be made a city court subject to all the supervisions and regulations to which other city departments must submit. If the time is not ripe for abolishing entirely the fiction of a county government a beginning could be made in this way.

THE "LET-US-ALONE" LOBBY AGAIN CHARGES WASHINGTON

How the Edge-Calder Coal-Control Bill Got Tangled Up With Plans for the Nationalization of Crops. THE Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce has been put on record during the last week as one of the organizations that have "fired the gage of battle at Congress" in the rising war to prevent such federal regulation in the coal industry as has been demanded by Senator Edge, Senator Calder and a majority of their colleagues. Mr. Trigg was on the ground "to express the opposition of the business men of Philadelphia."

It happens that the business men in Philadelphia, like business men everywhere else in the country, have been systematically plundered by the exclusive group of opportunists who rule in the bituminous and anthracite fields and markets. One of the spokesmen for the lords and barons of the coal industry virtually admitted that \$300,000,000 was extorted from coal users within the last year. Mr. Calder told the Senate that the loot was not less than a billion and a half.

Did that money come out of the pockets of business men or did it come out of the pockets of the workers? He does not say. Or shall we believe that it was assumed that it was taken from household consumers? What Mr. Edge and Mr. Calder propose and what Mr. Hoover proposed before them is a system which, operating after the manner of the Interstate Commerce Commission, might be depended on to facilitate the production and distribution of fuel and at the same time eliminate intolerable pressure which, exerted by a few men for their own profit, has tended to induce something like paralysis in some industries by the strain of public patience to the breaking point.

The invisible government of the coal fields and all the apostles of the let-us-alone school of economics were confronted with a wholly new and disturbing set of conditions when the Senate passed the bill to provide for limited federal control of fuel. They couldn't make even Senator Edger a Red. They couldn't call Senator Mr. Palmer believe that Senator Calder was acting under secret instructions from Moscow and furtherly endeavoring to overthrow the government. There could be no dark suggestions of meddling in high places.

Calder and Edger, who formulated the coal bill, are of and for the conservatives. In the money-madness of controlling cliques in some of the basic industries they recognize a danger to the peace and prosperity of the whole country and a direct menace to the right of private initiative in legitimate industrial organization. They see small cliques growing more powerful, not as friends of business, but as its enemies.

It was difficult to understand why far-sighted business men should object to bringing order out of the chaos in the coal business or why there should be an organized movement of any sort against a plan devised for justice and increased efficiency in an industry that is essentially public in character. It was difficult until Joseph H. Deffrees entered on the scene. Then the light broke brightly through the haze.

Mr. Deffrees does not have to buy fuel for his factory. His overhead has not mounted steadily. Indeed, it is seriously to be questioned whether he is in the least concerned about the price of coal or the fate of the coal barons, though he is the man who wrote the brief which opens with a scathing attack on the coal barons and their allies. Mr. Deffrees is a vice president of the United States Chamber of Commerce and a corporation lawyer. His headquarters are in Chicago. In Chicago the meat packers have their headquarters. And it appears that he has a high opinion of the meat supply, which in spirit and intention is much like the Edge-Calder coal bill, is now under consideration in Congress.

Meat packing is highly organized and highly technical. No one who isn't taken a long time to study it, or who isn't whether it needs regulation or whether it doesn't. In some aspects it seems efficient and useful. But why it should need to carry on its fight for independence behind a screen created out of the Edge-Calder coal bill will be a mystery for a while yet.

From Chicago Mr. Deffrees journeyed to Washington with the tablets of the moral and economic law as it is written and believed in by good corporation lawyers intimately associated with the biggest sort of business. He said:

"The war inevitably led to a vast increase in federal jurisdiction and control not only of the freedom of business but of the freedom of individual citizens. We have seen the Federal Government take over the business but also the popular sentiment in this country in favor of the quickest possible liquidation of this overhead control, so representative to American institutions."

The sentiment is a far-sighted and prolonged action to a system of legislation that, as it appears to the spokesman for the United States Chamber of Commerce, tends to establish not only the power of federal control over industry but a right of the government not only to regulate industry as a competitor with private interests.

The government doesn't want to go into the coal business or the meat business. The people do not want it to go in. And of course, it will never go in so long as any other means is left to it for the preservation of industrial order and the elimination of destructive, dangerous and unjust economic practices.

Mr. Deffrees seems to know this. He talks without much enthusiasm about coal in the brief that will be presented to Congress today. He deplores the Edge-Calder bill and draws attention solemnly to what he regards as a most dangerous principle, that is, when the government is the subject of what he is eloquent. There plainly is the question nearest his heart.

the way of a coal regulation system that would be stranger or in any way more revolutionary than the Interstate Commerce Commission. The principle objected to by those who believe that the government should keep its hands off industries is operating in the tariff Commission and other boards having to do with trade and business. The Senate isn't in a revolutionary frame of mind. It merely has sanctioned an extension of the good influences of the government to a last and unexplored territory, by violating many of the rules of commercial ethics and most of the laws of common decency. If the people cannot be protected in one way they will be protected in another.

WILL THEY RISE TO IT?

THE school board is to make another attempt this afternoon to elect a superintendent. No one, in or out of the board, is confident that any decision will be reached. Unless the members agree on some one today, they are likely to adjourn until tomorrow until after the meeting of schoolmen in Atlantic City, to be attended by superintendents from all parts of the country, in the hope that some one may be found there who will be willing to come to Philadelphia.

The situation, however, is not encouraging to friends of education, that have been an opportunity to co-operate in solving one of the most pressing educational problems—that is, the problem of the management of the schools in a large city—but it does not seem to be aware of it. Some effort has been made to bring the opportunity to the attention of the members, but with what success has not been disclosed.

New York cannot solve the problem because of its borough system, a system that fosters local pride and interferes with the organization of a unified and homogeneous school system in which the opportunity of the members, but with what success has not been disclosed.

Philadelphia, however, is a distinctive American city with a homogeneous population in which the opportunity of developing a school system in which there is hearty co-operation between the teachers and the public and the teachers and the superintending force and the superintending force and the school board, it is a matter of course.

SQUABBLING OVER THE WRECK

ABOUT fifty members of the Democratic national committee have offered his hat to Chairman White and told him that they are sorry he must go soon. They wish him to call a meeting of the committee, so that he may take his leave with proper ceremony. But Mr. Cox, on the eve of his departure for Europe, assumed that he was the leader of the party and that Mr. White was to continue as the chairman.

A TALE OF TWO MUSIC-MAKERS

THE disruption of an ambitious musical organization in New York, the National Symphony Orchestra, under Arturo Roda, is announced almost simultaneously with the billing of three additional concerts to be given by our own orchestra in Philadelphia in a hall that is hardly deserving of the name. The same factor in all fields of high artistic endeavor.

Of good music the public in most well-developed cultural communities experiences no surplus. Comparative mediocrity seems to be the order of the day. The National Symphony and the merger of this band with the New York Philharmonic appears to have constituted as graceful an exit as was possible.

The contention that labor troubles were at the root of the disaster is hardly convincing. That the appetite of New Yorkers for high-grade musical fare is keen is evidenced in enthusiastic patronage of Mr. Stokowski's organization in the metropolis. There is a marked demand there for an increase in the now limited number of Philadelphia Orchestra concerts.

At one time the fact that fifty concerts are given in the regular series and that time must be had for recitals and road tours. The three extra concerts here were some vast central museum dedicated against fire and pillage there is no doubt that there is a demand for high-grade musical fare for the people of the entire country.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

An Anniversary That Was Overlooked—Mayor Moore as an International Figure—Dr. Keely Returns—A Relic of Washington

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN. THE anniversary of a memorable event in the life of Edwin Sydney Stuart was permitted to pass without recognition a few days ago. It was, at the same time, the anniversary of an unusual episode in local politics. Particularly, when local partisanships in subsequent years are considered.

Just thirty years ago on the 10th of January last Edwin R. Stuart was nominated for Mayor of Philadelphia by a Republican convention in old Horticultural Hall. Everything was about different then from similar events in the following years. The late lamented Mayor William H. Lambert nominated Mr. Stuart for Mayor and made one of his characteristic able speeches.

Then Henry F. Walton climbed up on a chair, no rostrum for him, and seconded the nomination in a short, lively speech. After that the spectators at the convention witnessed a most unusual sight. Instead of calling the names of the delegates, the secretary simply called the number of the ward. There were only thirty-five wards then and the chairman of each delegation arose and cast every ballot for Edwin R. Stuart.

There was no committee to slip into an adjoining room and escort the successful candidate to the platform. It would have been the proper thing had the candidate been made to bring the platform to the door. But he was at home. His mother was seriously ill and he was at her bedside. Her condition was of more importance to him than a nomination for Mayor of Philadelphia.

He didn't receive official notification of one of the great events in his life until the morning when he awoke to find that he had been elected Mayor of Philadelphia by the late Samuel R. Innes, of the Twenty-seventh ward, notified him of the fact. With all these unusual events clustered around a step which really was the beginning of an exceptionally brilliant career, it is a matter of regret that its thirtieth anniversary was not marked by some demonstration.

And yet it is dollars to pennies that the president of the Union League is as well satisfied that the anniversary was permitted to pass unremembered. Like as not he had forgotten all about it himself. If there is any citizen of Philadelphia who imagines that Philadelphia's fight against bossism is not a matter of national interest, then he or she needs to overhaul that faculty.

To go further, Philadelphia's politics are really a matter of international curiosity and comment because of the character of the fight. As for Mayor Moore, his retirement from Congress to assume the position of Mayor of Philadelphia has not remained in any measure from his position as an American official whose doings and sayings are of interest, to a certain extent, on the other side of the Atlantic sea as well as here.

Dr. Robert N. Keely has just returned from one of his semi-occasional trips abroad. He brings with him evidence at first hand of the public safety and during the time that it was in effect. He was a member of the City Council in Philadelphia and in attending meetings of City Council and familiarizing themselves with the workings of city government are only performing a civic duty which too many men neglect, in the opinion of Robert D. Dripps, former director of public safety and during the time connected with the Philadelphia Council for National Defense.

The Women's League for Good Government, which played a prominent part in bringing about the smaller and single councilmanic body and which has been a helpful force in recent municipal politics, according to Mr. Dripps, now has a platform for 1921 which is just as vital and just as important to the city's welfare.

"We are women attending the meetings of the City Council," asks Mr. Dripps. "It is easier to answer this question than to explain why so few of the male voters of Philadelphia take any interest in the councilmanic proceedings. The great thing for the councilmanic body is to get into the City Council are like lodge meetings, serving some useful purpose no doubt to those who have to attend, but how or why a man is patriotic enough to go to the polls and vote for some councilmanic candidate, he is so pleased with himself as to brook none of the laurels until the next election comes around."

"Even in the days when Philadelphia had a Common Council with so many members that it was almost a town meeting in itself, seats in the galleries were rarely at a premium, and still more rarely were they occupied by representative citizens. In those days, as in these, a councilman might vote right on every question that came before him for months at a time without receiving a word of commendation from a single citizen."

It really seems as though it is worth while now and then for a councilman to vote on the wrong side of a question in order to wake up his constituents to the fact that he still represents them. With such a lively interest in public affairs, it is small wonder that our councilman and other government officials sometimes to degenerate into mere automatons—if they do not become actually crooked.

"AW, JUST LET'S FORGET IT!"



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

ROBERT D. DRIPPS On Women and the City Council. THE women of Philadelphia in attending meetings of City Council and familiarizing themselves with the workings of city government are only performing a civic duty which too many men neglect, in the opinion of Robert D. Dripps, former director of public safety and during the time connected with the Philadelphia Council for National Defense.

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"All out to keep eye on Council. At all events, every man and woman in Philadelphia ought to keep an eye on the City Council. This should be done either dull or uninteresting, and incidentally, it is just barely possible that by intelligent watchfulness a real service may be rendered both to oneself and one's city fathers. This should be done either dull or uninteresting, and incidentally, it is just barely possible that by intelligent watchfulness a real service may be rendered both to oneself and one's city fathers."

SHORT CUTS

For a short month February has won out from its share of red-letter days. Anti-tobacco shriekers should get after Lassen peak. It's smoking again.

It is as we feared. Some person has discovered that General Daves was vulgar. The question of hard and soft terms is simply, "Who shall pay for the war, Germany or France?"

So far as smoking is concerned, Senator Smith would have women employes of Uncle Sam un-trammelled. The German manager is always noisy. First Berlin roared like an angry lion; now she squeals like a stuck pig.

Careful dietitians and moralists will tomorrow begin, for a stated period, to do without the things they will least miss. Our own combination of Art Critic and Fend Parent assures us that the original Dadaist was a four-year-old with a piece of chalk.

Two Atlantic City cows have been on a jamboree. By eating fermented ensilage they have been responsible for a staggering amount of publicity. Trade with Portugal has recently fallen off. Portugal's chief export is cork. Thus we see how the hip-pocket flask has deposed the bottle on the seaboard.

A man must needs be an optimist to the point of folly to believe that the sale of the stockpiles by the big powers is going to bring down the price of meat. There is a shortage in the country of 1,250,000 bushels of wheat. Shortage overcome it will be an easy matter to cure the rent hog and bring home the bacon.

United States lemons, says the Department of Agriculture, are threatened with aurocathus wogulmi. With such a affliction the only effective lemon aid is a dictionary. Mr. Harding's mental processes have the unburied quality of the houseboat Victoria. It will be noted in this connection that the Victoria invariably reaches the point she sails for.

No sooner do women avail themselves of the privilege of smoking than along comes Senator Smead and Senator Trammell with the thin end of the wedge ready to abolish smoking altogether. A Towanda man arrested for wife-beating has announced his intention to run for president judge on a platform "upholding manhood." But somebody has been talking to him of the feminist movement.

The Chinese New Year celebration this year lacks something of the enthusiasm noticeable in other years; which may be due, as alleged, to the Americanization of Chinese residents; but may also be not entirely unconnected with the absence this year of the customary rice wine. The Federal Government has \$200,000,000 available for road improvements in the United States—provided the several states appropriate \$300,000,000 for the same purpose. If every state does its share a worthwhile start will have been made toward permanently settling the present state of unemployment.

"I see in the paper," said Demosthenes McGintins, as he rolled a quid in his cheek, "an anti-tobacco shark in New York is wondering if the assassin of President McKinley was guilty of a greater crime than the President himself. Coolidge merely killed a man, but McKinley, by smoking, set a horrible example to humanity. All of which naturally moves a man to throw away his pipe and—hit the anti-tobacco shark in the eye with it."

We grieve not at all at the reduction in the size of the army as indicated by the action of the House of Representatives in reducing the size of the army. Appropriation; nor at the defeat of the amendment of Representative Jones, which would have meant a reduction in the number of officers. Disarmament is an excellent thing when international agreement is made to disarm, but equally excellent is adequate preparation in the absence of such agreement. Such unreadiness does not necessarily mean a large army, but it assuredly does mean a large number of officers, experts, men trained to lead.