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Philadelphia, Saturday, February 19, 1921

GETTING BACK AT ROPER

IT IS explained in behalf of the councilmen who voted to override the Mayor's veto of the appropriation of $1,000,000 for the Municipal Court that there was "a gentlemen's agreement" to support every item in the appropriation bill.

But, if this be so, why was it that the Council which insisted that the Municipal Court should have $1,000,000 voted to withdraw from the ordinance the appropriation for the town hall in Germantown and refer it back to the committee?

Does the gentlemen's agreement hold only in the case of projects in which the Job Combine has a particular interest?

It has also been said that the appropriation for the court had the indorsement of the voters at the polls. This explanation begs the whole question. The loan ordinance was a general ordinance, containing a multitude of items. The voters had to accept it or reject it as a whole. They could not condemn a particular item, however much they might have been opposed to it. It was suggested before the matter was submitted that the loan proposition be so split up that the voters might express their preferences on each project, but this was rejected.

The Job Combine's utter insincerity is revealed by this attack on the pet project of Councilman Roper because he voted against the Municipal Court grab.

DEFINITENESS AT LAST

IT IS gratifying to learn something definite about the cabinet, even though it is negative.

Mr. Harding has formally announced that former Governor Lowden, of Illinois, will not be a member of his official family. His name was first connected with the Treasury Department and then with the Navy Department, and when Mr. Dawes said that he did not expect to hold public office it was said that Mr. Lowden would be chosen to represent Illinois.

If Mr. Harding will continue as he has begun and tell who of those talked about will not be appointed we may, by a process of elimination, arrive at the composition of his cabinet a few hours before he sends the nominations to the Senate.

WOMEN AS A PARTY

THE momentum of "cause," however admirable, is sometimes unchecked even by the interposition of substantial victory. The National Women's party furnishes a case in point. Suffrage, the goal of the organization, has been won. The convention now in session in Washington is considering worthy feminist programs to expose and specialize on the advisability of a national party devoted to women's interests.

Opponents of this latter plan, among whom the President's daughter, Margaret Wilson, is conspicuous, question political specialization of this sort. "The woman's party," asserts Miss Wilson, "is not in a broad sense nonpartisan but exclusive and organized for the purpose of holding up a woman's machine that would not be more honest and effective than a man's machine."

The dilemma undoubtedly touches the heart of American political philosophy, and there is a rather widespread impression that feminine detachment from the major organized political parties is under the new conditions, a dubious way of participating in the government of the nation. Practical recognition of the meaning of the nineteenth amendment should be helpful in establishing a sensible and constructive view of a somewhat unusual problem.

DETECTIVES WHO DON'T DETECT

MORE than five months after it happened a New York grand jury has filed a presentment declaring that the explosion of a bomb in Wall street last September was "a dastardly crime internationally committed."

This was the general impression the day after the explosion. It has been the opinion ever since.

What the authorities would like to know is who placed the fourth and most important into a safe place to force it to go off. There have been numerous theories, some plausible and some fantastic, but none of them has been established by any evidence. It has not even been discovered who owned the wagon in which the bomb was supposed to be.

Yet there was a time, close in point of time, when the light in the presence of hundreds of people in one of the most crowded districts of New York, a district in which detectives are supposed to be present at all times of the day and night.

Under the circumstances it is difficult to refrain from asking what is the matter with the detective force of the greatest city in the country. Do not the police of the country know enough about the dangerous characters disposed to resort to violence to be able to place their hands on them when they are wanted? It seems to a layman that the professional hunters down of criminals ought to be a little more exact than they have shown themselves in this notorious case.

CARUSO, THE UNIQUE

UNIQUE as his voice is the genuine affection in which the public held Enrico Caruso. To a cynical Frenchman it is attributed the remark that "a tenor is not a man; he is a disease." And indeed, with their absurd vanities, ridiculous oversensitiveness and preposterous egoism the race of "male prima donnas" does sometimes seem to have deserved this bitter criticism.

It is not recorded that the public ever regarded Jean de Reszke precisely in the light of a "prince of good fellows." At least he was an artistic aristocrat.

But it is Caruso the man, a hearty chap, frank, generous, hearty, with a keen sense of humor, unsparing of even his own foibles, that in the time of his dangerous illness stirs the popular sympathies poignantly and sincerely. It is no exaggeration to say that the entire nation, including many persons to whom opera is as alien as Sanskrit, hangs eagerly upon words hopeful of the great tenor's recovery.

Typical of Caruso's personality was the unannounced appearance, one night a few years ago in this city, of the most celebrated of living operatic artists in the obscure role of the waiter in the cafe scene of "La Boheme." On another occasion, in New York, Mr. Caruso diverted himself by singing the off-stage serenade in "I Pagliacci," a number usually assigned a minor performer. The critics generally agreed that the solo was badly executed, and Caruso's enjoyment of his prank was doubled.

Instances like these must not be overstressed, for Caruso in his art is as painstaking and conscientious as he is unaffectedly generous to alleged competitors and graced with a sense of fitness in his fun. Aloofness, however, is utterly foreign to his makeup, which is, among other reasons, why he seems so close to the American public in the hour of his gallant struggle for life.

WHO WILL MAKE THE VOTERS HALF SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY?

The Public, Not the Politicians, Will Be Responsible for a Return of Gang Rule in Philadelphia

IN THE final reckoning written laws alone cannot insure honor and decency in government or protect the people and the institutions of a community.

A time comes inevitably when you have to depend on the inner character of men appointed or elected to administer and interpret the rules.

As the integrity, understanding and morality of such men are limited, so the value of your laws is limited.

When voters understand this, when they are ready to remember it at far distant elections, and not until then, democracy will be safe for the United States.

The recent spectacle in City Council and the preparation for a wild slaying of fatted calves at Harrisburg show merely that the voters in this city and in the state have yet to realize the degree of their own responsibility for the waste, the folly, the awful ignorance and the brutal cynicism of gang politics.

The betrayal by the City Council of the trust imposed in it, rather than the million dollars which has just been given into the hands of the job merchants, is the thing that ought to arrest the attention of the community. Judge Brown's dream of a mosque or a palace or whatever it is to be brought about the first clear test of the new Council and provided the people with their first opportunity to assess the quality of its mind and its morals.

Nothing could have been dreamier than the result. Notice was served on the community that the machinery of public administration has changed in form but not in character. And it was made as plain as daylight that the Council cannot be wholly depended on in any future emergency.

It was supposed that the new charter accomplished something for municipal progress. By progress we do not mean merely plans for the conservation of the city's money.

Progress as it was considered by those who fought for the new charter means a better life for the community, a safer and cleaner life for children, an elimination of the forces organized to turn social vermin of all sorts loose upon the community and the permanent defeat of the sort of politicians who build up bank accounts by systematically debauching youth before it has even had a fair chance for health and happiness.

Mayor Moore's fight to frustrate all such forces of destruction is approaching a decisive crisis. There is no assurance now that he will not be overridden at every turn and forced at last into an attitude of surrender.

There are signs of an orgy ahead. The precious sort of political minds that inflicted City Hall on the community and tied all street railway franchises into a hopeless knot and launched the grand plan for the capitol put the scheme for Judge Brown's new palace through over Mr. Moore's veto. Any one who imagines that they will rest content with that achievement has much to learn.

With the million dollars given to the county commissioners in violation of the letter and intent of the city charter a porch may be built, a foundation may be laid, part of a tower may be erected. Nothing is specified in this ancient game. The need for other millions will become more pressing as the job proceeds and expands and becomes more complicated.

No law could have stemmed prevention this. A provision in the charter intended to prevent just such robbery was violated. It was been violated because a majority in the Council was without moral restraints or a regard for its obligations.

Yet men cannot be blamed because of deficiencies of character. A man born without a backbone or a right moral sense can not grow it and put these things in a shop. Experience and concealers are again a new proof of the enough. They bared themselves into the hands of the enemy. They surrendered.

An immaterial backdrop from the war zone showing what has been happening at City Hall and in Harrisburg, where the gangs are being consolidated under the old leadership with signs of rejoicing, will be tempted to feel that the voters in Philadelphia are now in a way to get what they deserve.

The purpose of the new charter was clear to them. It was a means by which a clean, imaginative and forward minded city government might have been established. The instrument was there. It was not used.

Good men were defeated in the election for the new Council and some of the gutter school of politics were in some instances elected in their stead.

If the gang is getting back into the saddle it is because it has been helped by all sorts of people who hate to think, all good people and bad, rich and poor.

It is because of these people that Judge Brown may now stud his court's facade with turquoises, if the wish occurs to him, and put velvet and gold buttons on all his constables. Taxpayers will have to dig, and dig deep, to provide a plush and marble paradise for the politically indigent. And this is in a city that cannot properly pave its streets or establish schools adequate to the needs of its children or make visible progress toward better housing, better general health, better water supplies and better police service!

Are voters in Philadelphia any lazier-minded than voters in New York or in Boston or Oshkosh? They are not. Voters everywhere are very much alike. And once you realize that much you will begin to understand just what is the matter with the country.

We were to have had a business administration at City Hall. What we seem to have is a Council with a huddle of lackeys as its majority. It will soon be possible for even the most absent-minded taxpayer to know whose lackeys they are. They will jump through the hoop in broad daylight before many months are passed. With such a majority, Develin, Patton, Roper, Von Tagen and the other really self-respecting councilmen whose courage and decency should shame their opponents, will be relatively powerless. If the signs about City Hall and in Harrisburg mean anything, this honorable minority will be gradually isolated from now on. They will have the power of protest and no more.

Old times have returned. And the members of the political tongs who are returning to power with them are in need. They have had a lean year. They need the money. Their clans hunger and thirst for loot. Criticism and outcries will mean to them just what criticism and outcries have meant in the past. That is—nothing.

"Those who made their beds," said Mayor Moore after the jazz palace vote in Council, "must now lie in them." If Mr. Moore were not accustomed to plain and explicit utterance he might be suspected of a double meaning. It might be supposed that he was speaking of the voting and taxpaying population of Philadelphia.

A deficient sense in these voters and taxpayers of their responsibilities and opportunities rather than any moral weakness apparent in the Council may be the direct cause of a complete nullification of all the promises of the new city charter.

Taxpayers' suits may yet defeat the scheme for the Brown temple of justice. But unless the majority in the Council can be shocked into a sense of its ugly position and its ugly example, unless it can be made to feel a sense of responsibility and shame, worse things than Judge Brown's plan are sure to threaten the welfare and the pocketbooks of the people before long.

The city charter provided definitely that all money used for public buildings should be expended under the supervision of the Department of Public Works. The first million for the justice palace has been turned over to the county commissioners. The commissioners do not say explicitly what they are going to do with it. It was hardly necessary to ask them. They will do with that million what was done with the first millions appropriated for City Hall. They will dig ditches through which a rising stream of public money may flow indefinitely.

Who cracked the whip and forced the councilmen to break their pledges at the first showdown? Wait and see. Cannot you hear the glad cries and the sounds of reunion and revelry at Harrisburg?

The hungry are about to feed.

The Maine has been recrossed again unless all rumors are misleading. In the dives and the dens are sounds of jubilation and praise.

The people didn't vote for all this. *But they didn't vote against it.*

So again it is apparent that any one who wants to make America safe for democracy must begin not in the high places but down among the easy-going multitudes. He must begin with the voters.

CAN'T BE ESCAPED

ONLY the incurably optimistic, such as the man who continues to pay his dues in the bartenders' union, have been congratulating themselves on the disappearance of winter. The balmy April days of the last week have been encouraging to such optimism, however, and have fostered hopes that after all we might escape a season of blustery storms.

The weather bureau does not encourage any such hopes. A special forecast from Washington for next week indicates that there will be real winter in a few days. Nothing is said about snow, but unless all precedents are broken it is too early to throw away snow shovels or pack galoshes in the storeroom.

CHEAPER FOOD

NEWS dispatches from York and Lancaster report that eggs are selling in rural Pennsylvania for from twenty-five to thirty-one cents a dozen, and a report from Mount Carmel was that potatoes which were offered last week at sixty cents a bushel are being sold this week for fifty cents.

Bacon in Philadelphia is selling for twenty-seven cents and shoulder of lamb for less by as fifteen cents. And sirloin steaks are from five to ten cents lower than they were a year ago.

These indications that the dollar is beginning to recover some of its old purchasing power are encouraging signs of the times.

VON TIRPITZ'S TRIALS

ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ is now of the opinion that submarines were overrated during the war, that they were given greater importance than was warranted by facts and that the strength and numbers of the English battleships determined the naval contest.

To an outsider these observations may bear the color of recantation. The former German naval minister seems undisturbed on that score. What obviously bothers him is all that fuss and feet over the undersea craft. As anybody with a German mind can see, this misplaced emphasis actually prevented the imperial U boats from going unchecked about their business.

The view was unprofessional to say the least and now look at the result. Is it any wonder that the grand admiral has felt right along that he was abused?

"FRIENDLY ENEMIES"

ONLY a few months ago the wires sizzled with fiery telegrams exchanged between Warren G. Harding and Woodrow Wilson.

Did the matter of these messages relate to a difference of opinion concerning the presence or absence of an alleged ambassador from France with a league of nations idea? Memory rather vaguely responds in the affirmative. Anyhow, the hazy recollection abides that the retiring President and the candidate destined to be elected were very cross with one another.

Would they ever be in the act of exchanging amenities? Perish the thought, perish political parties, perish lusty partisanship—bulwarks of American government!

A letter described by White House officials as "very nice and generous" has, however, just passed from the outgoing to the incoming President, inviting the latter to accept a luncheon prepared by order of Mr. Wilson in the executive mansion after the inauguration.

Mr. Harding has as graciously replied that he will accept the offer for himself and his immediate family. Mr. Wilson will not be present, but the last act of his administration will be effective.

In all this courtesy there is little that is surprising save when comparisons with campaign manners is invoked. Sometimes it seems as if heated political partisans were closely akin to mutually denunciatory lawyers who meet each other in the court corridors after the trial and exit arm in arm to play a game of billiards, see a "show" or play a game of golf.

The inability of foreigners to apply this picture to the American political scene is often responsible for some woeful misconceptions of the national character and the normal functioning of this republic.

A BRITISH BALANCING ACT

LLOYD GEORGE'S reply to Horatio Bottomley, the malign blatherskite of English politics and journalism, is thoroughly characteristic of the British premier. "I do not want to enter the coming reparations conference here," declares the prime minister, "except in the spirit of doing my best to get from Germany the last farthing she is capable of paying." Here is an echo of the most heedlessly jingoistic election ever held in the United Kingdom, the word "last" now being substituted for "uttermost."

But if Mr. Lloyd George spectacularly addresses Bottomley and his blusterers—particularly in his prelude his conclusion is of quite another complexion, since it contains the refusal to enter the conference save "in the spirit of advancing proposals, on the advice of the best experts," and the express declination to advocate "the utterly impossible, which would only raise false hopes in this country."

In the end, therefore, common sense outfaces grandiloquent verbiage. The latter must inevitably shrink to smaller and smaller proportions as the meeting to which the German financial delegates are invited proceeds. The German indemnity is a practical problem, and not all the pretensions and promises of politicians can oust its realities.

Meanwhile, it is decidedly interesting to witness Lloyd George in the Blondin act, balancing even in the same paragraph ideas of the most piquant disparity.

KENYON FOR STATE RIGHTS

IT IS too late in the session for any new bills to be passed by the present Congress, but the introduction by Senator Kenyon of a bill depriving the Interstate Commerce Commission of power to regulate railroad rates within the states marks the beginning of an effort to preserve some of the rights of local autonomy.

The commission is insisting on its power to make the rates within the states conform to the rates in interstate commerce. As has been pointed out on this page several times in the past, the exercise of such power by a national commission will seriously invade the jurisdiction of the state commissions. They may regulate water and gas rates and the rates of charge by street cars, but their power over the steam railroads will be taken from them.

The state utility commissions are aware of the situation and they have been fighting for the preservation of the rights of the states.

FRIENDLESS LAWS

MOST of the people who shouted wildly for new "sedition laws" and almost every man who helped in any way to put on the statute books of Pennsylvania a law that violated not only the federal constitution and the bill of rights, but the rules of common sense as well, are now ashamed of their work.

The "sedition law," which practically denied the rights of free speech, a free press and free assembly in this state after it had been put through in a fever of suspicion generated by rumors of radicalism and whispers of bomb plots, has never been revoked. Those who railroaded it through the Legislature in 1919 are likely to change the subject hurriedly when you mention it now. They have had time to grow calm again.

Still the law stands as an ugly smirch on the statute book. It is a thing that never could and never can do any good. It would not be sustained in any court of appeal. An effort is being made to have such laws repealed in the states that accepted them. The Legislature at Harrisburg might partly atone for some of the innumerable petty sins of the present session by wiping the so-called sedition law off the books at one stroke.

The seventh annual report of the Federal Reserve Board sets forth that the downward movement of commodity prices was due to "faulty or failing distribution, and this in turn was mainly the result of lessened ability or greater reluctance on the part of wage earners and those with fixed incomes to buy as freely as in the past." Another evidence that thrift is an individual virtue with a collective vicious kick and that a too sudden fall in prices may crush the unsuspecting. The statesmen who preached thrift at a time of threatened depression have had lots of time for sober second thought.

Following a nasty slur on America in London Punch, there appeared on this page January 1 a paragraph, written and published with whimsical intent but under a misapprehension, setting forth that the English publication had been purchased by Horatio W. Bottomley. It isn't so. Bradley, Agnew & Co., Ltd., are the proprietors. For the sake of the owners and the established British institution which Punch is we are glad to make this correction.

The frankness with which the councilmen agree that local legislation is a matter of "agreement" among members rather than concern for the public weal is appalling; and it never was more glaringly manifest than in the "punishment" visited upon William W. Roper for his temerity to vote with the Combine.

A Pittsburgh man who recently submitted to a surgical operation to cure him of the habit of theft has again been arrested for robbery. "A hardened criminal," the judge called him when sentence was imposed. The prisoner might retort that perhaps the surgeons did a poor job.

The Federal Reserve Board report recognizes the fact that "overproduction" is merely a loose term for badly adjusted production. There is no reason why a farm hand shouldn't whistle whistles after his chores are done. The world has been whistling whistles and neglecting the needful.

Councilman Roper should be careful about referring to "the unsavory mess, the Sears-Roebuck scandal." How does he know that he is not causing the cold chills to run up and down the spine of some gentlemen more or less active in politics?

Spite of expectations, remarked the Conscienceless Pinster, the Democratic national committee wasn't bled White and what was thought would turn out a wild and Wooley session turned out to be a Love feast.

Many applications for work on farms are being received by the state employment bureau. Slowly but surely industry will eventually readjust itself.

THE MAN ON HORSEBACK

NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

JUDGE J. WILLIS MARTIN

On the City's Welfare Work

THE recently formed Welfare Federation of Philadelphia, in co-ordinating and scientifically overseeing the work of a large number of charities, will supply a want that has been long needed, according to Judge J. Willis Martin, president judge of Common Pleas Court No. 5 and newly elected president of the federation.

Based in many respects on the model of the War Chest, which so successfully did its work during the war in combining and strengthening numerous scattered drives, the Welfare Federation will eliminate waste in effort and expenditure, according to Judge Martin, and will apply scientific principles to social problems and conditions.

"The long cherished project of those who are interested in affairs of charity," says Judge Martin, "has at last been realized by the successful organization of the 'Welfare Federation of Philadelphia,' the objects of which, as stated in the constitution, 'are the promotion, co-ordination and financial assistance of associations for civic and charitable work, the elimination of waste in effort and expenditure, and the scientific application to social conditions of principles, plans and methods approved by study and experience; to collect, receive and hold money and property, both real and personal, by gift or devise; to convert property so received into cash, and to disburse funds held by it in accordance with the specified objects of the organization.'

"With commendable conservatism Philadelphia has been watching the results of similar efforts in various large cities of this country, where it has met with uniform success.

Survey of Plans in Fifty-five Cities

"Encouraged by the good results accomplished by the Federation of Jewish Charities, the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce caused to be made a thorough survey of the plans in operation in fifty-five cities. Through the same body there was also published a list of social welfare agencies which the Chamber of Commerce, after careful investigation, indorsed as worthy of public support.

"A meeting was called at the instance of the Chamber of Commerce, attended by several hundred prominent citizens, and a federation organization committee was selected with authorization to appoint a subcommittee on organization to consist of seven members. At a meeting of the federation organization committee a subcommittee was appointed and given full powers to formulate plans to organize the proposed 'Welfare Federation of Philadelphia.'

"This committee proceeded at once to the formulation of plans, and at a meeting of the federation organization committee held in January reported a constitution containing a plan of organization, in which the federation shall consist of:

"First. Its financial contributors, who are empowered to elect representatives.

"Second. Of 100 representatives elected by the financial contributors, who shall consist of the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, the director of public welfare and the president of the Chamber of Commerce, ex officio, and 100 persons, twenty of whom are to serve for one, two, three, four and five years, and 20 per cent may be nominated by the council of social agencies.

"Third. A board of thirty persons elected by the representatives, one-third of whom shall serve for one, two and three years.

Exercises Executive Powers

"This board exercises the executive powers and conducts the business, holds and controls the property and disburses the funds of the federation, determines the qualifications of applicants for financial assistance and prescribes the condition on which the same shall be granted. It is vested with power to create such committees as may be needed for the business of the federation and to prescribe their duties in the bylaws.

"The officers of the federation are a president, three vice presidents, a treasurer and a secretary. Provision is made for an executive committee to be appointed by the trustees, of which the president and a vice president shall be members. This committee has power to manage the business of the board of trustees under direction of the board and report its actions to the board for approval; it is not authorized to distribute funds without having first obtained the approval of the board.

"The constitution was adopted as reported by the committee at a meeting of the representatives held for that purpose, and officers and a board of trustees were elected.

"The success of the undertaking seems assured by the character and enthusiasm of the citizens who are participating. The method of procedure with reference to collections will be patterned to a large extent upon the operation of the War Chest. Institutions desiring to participate will prepare their budgets and, the amount required to meet the demands being ascertained, application will then be made to contributors.

No Plea for Funds Until October

"In view of the time required to prepare for the complete working of the system, it has been decided that no application for funds will be made until early in October.

"It is the expectation that the number of contributors to charitable objects will be very largely increased and that the amount collected will be sufficient to meet the demands and eliminate the numerous calls now made upon subscribers. It is planned to permit donors to designate, when desired, the objects to which their contributions are to be applied. The plan is one which will undoubtedly enlist the interest and effort of every public-spirited citizen."

Foreigners in France

From the New York Times.

One American who was in France during the war did gain a realization of what the French had to endure from their friends as well as from their enemies, and to describe it he has found two illustrations. "Many of the British privates and not a few of the British officers," he says, "treated France as if they owned it, while many of the American soldiers and not a few of the American officers treated France as if they didn't care a damn who owned it."

Presumably there is something of exaggeration in these phrases, and yet their essential truth is more than possible, for they bring out national characteristics that neither Britons nor Americans would feel it necessary to deny. Which of the two forms of behavior described would be the more trying to any people that had to endure them both can be left to imagination, but it would depend on the temperament of those who had to do the enduring.

Of course, neither the Britons nor the Americans had other than the best of intentions, and they did not and could not lack appreciation for French valor. What too many of them did lack was appreciation of the fact that to be different is not necessarily to be inferior or even "queer." And, of course, very far from all Frenchmen have that particular form of wisdom, but during the war, at least, they proved themselves able, rather better than most people would have done, to conceal their opinion of allies whose habits and manners varied more or less widely from those held orthodox and therefore commendable in France.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. What was the first name of Coleridge, the English poet?
2. Name three European nations which controlled important parts of India.
3. Who was Antiope in classical mythology?
4. What is the circumference of the earth at the equator?
5. What is a mail?
6. What is a peroration?
7. What is a quincunx?
8. How many naval vessels were lost by the United States during the world war?
9. What was the name of the largest of these ships?
10. How long is a decade?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. In the course of the world war the Germans, or army troops associated with them, captured three capitals—Brussels, Belgrade and Bucharest—belonging to the allied nations.
2. An acrostic is a poem or other composition in which the initial, the initial and final or the initial, middle and final letters of the lines spell a word.
3. The Amazon river is so called because when Orellana, who made the first descent of the mighty artery from the Andes to the sea, was attacked by the Indians in 1541, the women of the Tapuya tribe of Indians fought alongside the men. The Amazons of classical mythology were women warriors described by Herodotus and Diodorus.
4. Mont Blanc rises more than 15,000 feet above sea level.
5. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was first published in 1852.
6. The phrase "Vanity Fair" originated in Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress."
7. William H. Taft served as the first civil governor of the Philippine Islands.
8. Gittern is another name for cithern, an antique type of lute or guitar.
9. A lateralo is the action of a horse when it throws itself on its haunches two or three times, heading in very quick curves.
10. A fiscal year is the year by or for which accounts are reckoned, or the year between annual time of settlement or balancing of accounts and another. In the United States Government the fiscal year ends on June 30.

SHORT CUTS

Any Berkshire hog will tell you that the pen is mightier than the sward.

The list of liquor license applicants seems to prove that optimism still thrives.

It is now the task of the Combine to shoot the buttons off the taxpayer's suit.

As an immigration restriction measure a typhus quarantine is costly but effective.

If Tobias gets a place in the cabinet the newspaper paragrapher may survive the loss of Josephus.

Congressional tariff builders apparently don't know whether they are building a fence or a tollgate.

Councilmen, remarked Demosthenes McGinnis, appear to think of nothing but the plums, the poor prunes.

Strange that no proponent of the jitney emergency tariff bill has yet urged that it will aid the merchant marine.

French preparations for enforcing German payments will have weight with Teuton envoys at the London conference.

Director Cortelyou wants it understood that though courtesy may be had for the asking, no man can "jimmy" it out of him.

It presumably never occurs to Vare men, Cunningham men and Brown men that their first duty is to the people they are supposed to represent.

Crops valued at $75,000 were raised on vacant lots in this city last year; which seems to be a pretty strong argument in favor of daylight saving.

"Kaffirs are flabby," read a financial dispatch from London. "Who would have thought it," remarked the Nice Old Lady, "with so much outdoor work?"

Lansdale has a siren to call citizens to arms when crime breaks loose in the borough. Lansdale is fortunate. It isn't always for law and order that the siren calls.

We have become so used to balmy weather that we quite refuse to believe the weatherman's forecast that cold weather is coming; and when it comes we'll probably abuse him.

Marcus Hook seeks recognition as a port of entry. More than a million tons of imports pass through the borough annually. That sounds like sufficient bait for a congressional catch.

What the country needs just now, said the Professor of Unconsidered Trifles, is either Jack Frost or Cock Robin. The bugs are busy, and they must be either frozen or eaten to preserve nature's balance.

Our desire to see some of the maritime trade of New York diverted to the port of Philadelphia does not include possible typhus carriers. The Naples ship cannot be too closely examined nor the delousing of passengers be made too thorough.

Nobody can blame the President if he should take a certain amount of pleasure in punching holes in the Fordney bill. On the other hand, as it is alleged that the bill was voted for by some members only after they had been convinced that the President would veto it, may be that he will fool them. Politics, as some one has aforetime remarked with more wisdom than originality, is a queer game.

A February Twilight

THERE is no change to touch the somber scene
Save barren boughs against a steel-gray sky;
As far as one may gaze the weary eye
Senses a white monotony of men.
As swiftly as a hawk's wing long and lean
The shadows gather and the cattle lie
Clover together, as a gust sweeps by
Seeking as though some crannied grain to glean.

The branches crackle 'neath the hand of frost,
And all the illimitable land is lost
In darkness, save where gleams a cotter's light:
Then desolation grips as does a spell,
Until the long susurrus of a bell
Makes a hiatus in the heart of night.
—Hilton Scollard, in the N. Y. Herald.

Spring in the Canal Zone

From the Panama Canal Record.

Among the sporting goods just arrived in the line stores are fishing tackle and baseball supplies.