

Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Thursday, March 17, 1921

COLONEL HARVEY'S NEW ROLE

THIS country is filled with good Republicans who will not loudly rejoice or burn red fire or toll gong bells if President Harding really decides to send Colonel George B. McClellan Harvey as ambassador to the Court of Great Britain.

The colonel is not ideally fitted for a job that requires above all things patience, bearing, a guarded tongue and broad human vision.

A Democrat who wanted to be and actually was, until he broke with Mr. Wilson, a major prophet of his party sailing away on the most important of all diplomatic missions as the representative of a Republican administration and the Republican tradition would be a spectacle likely to inspire something more than curiosity in the United States.

PATRICK'S DAY

AMERICANS abroad do not go to endless pains to find goldenrod or violets or any other native plant on their great holidays.

Ireland is little and it has been poor and it has had a hard time for centuries—a time that has not been forgotten.

ANOTHER HARD-WON VICTORY

THE theory of equal rights for citizens, established formally by the suffrage amendment to the constitution, was not recognized by the members of the state and city Republican committees, who could see no reason why representatives of the women's vote should have any voice in their deliberations.

As every one knows, it is in committees of leaders rather than on the floor of the Legislature or in the open sessions of the City Council that state and municipal policies of government are initiated, defined and forced to a final vote.

BEHIND THE SCENES

YESTERDAY British trade organizations signed an agreement with the Russian Soviet Government which, the day before was said to be ready for a terrific collapse.

HEALTH AT THE SOURCE

IN SEEKING to have the authority of the Department of Health extended by legislation to permit a more supervision of food markets and food manufacturers in the crowded areas where all common laws of sanitation are openly violated.

colored with mineral dye and flavored with coltar by-products, is sold freely to the thirsty and called soda water.

BOOSTING INTEREST RATE IS A DANGEROUS BUSINESS

IT Would Be Followed by the Calling of Every Second-Mortgage Loan and the Burdening of Every Borrower With Heavier Charges.

THE evident disposition in Harrisburg to meddle with the interest laws threatens every household whose real estate is mortgaged.

Something can be said in defense of the Stadlander bill, which keeps the lawful rate of interest at 6 per cent, but permits an agreement in writing between the borrower and the lender for a rate not in excess of 8 per cent.

There are two bills in the House unaccountably increasing the legal rate of interest to 8 per cent which not a good word can be said.

William Mather Lewis, director of the savings department of the Federal Reserve Bank, addressing a local fraternal group, said: "America is the worst nation of spenders in the world."

But the man who owns the house he lives in is not the only man who would suffer. Every man who pays rent for a house or an apartment or an office would feel the pinch of the increased price of money.

The housing shortage cannot be relieved in any such way. Normal conditions are bound to return in the course of time.

Other directors have tried with little success to deal with the problem of open streets and the unclean and even poisonous beverages fed to thirsty children from sidewalk fountains.

1723. It has served well for nearly two hundred years in every financial crisis through which the country has passed.

FROM TRENCHES AT HOME

BETTER, perhaps, than any other man now competing for the nomination of Samuel Gompers, chief of the American Federation of Labor, knows how it feels when a feller needs a friend.

It would be foolish to deny that the strategists directing the campaign for the open shop are concentrating on individual federation leaders and that the advantages of the situation are, temporarily at least, on their side.

For the moment they are on the defensive. And it is at this juncture of affairs that new and unexpected troubles come to the federation leaders.

What they mean—and what they do not mean—is that the Federation of Labor should have thrown all its energy into the movement for international labor and for the thinly veiled dictatorship of the proletariat suggested in some of the recent programs of radical labor conventions.

These "seven books" is a collection of apocryphal literature of both the Old and New Testaments, and a lot of other pseudo sacred writings.

There are thousands in Philadelphia who believe in the same sort of rubbish. Old records according to which may yet recall the case of George W. Kelpin, a well-known painter of this city, who died in the full belief that he had been bewitched.

It was a quarter of a century ago. He lived at the time at 523 North Fifth street. His wife consulted a Negress, a Mrs. Weeks, in Camden, Oodoo doctress, who prescribed with much solemnity his feet and an onion poultice for his head.

Germans' plea to the League of Nations that mediation proceedings be initiated to see that the forcible measures taken by the Allies are immediately stopped should be accompanied by proof that she knows all the obligations of the treaty of Versailles and that she is extremely anxious to begin paying the balance of what she owes.

WITCHCRAFT AT HOME

Where and How Witch Doctors Flourish in Pennsylvania—Charms, Incantations and Quer Ceremonies of the Craft—More Education Needed

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

A MAN and his wife, Moyer by name, were shot near Allentown a few days ago because the wife believed that her husband had bewitched him.

There was a fine flutter among some of the best people of Berks county, because they feared the "doctor" would betray their family secrets.

Last week Charles Walter, of Chambersburg, one of the leading lawyers of Franklin county, told me that he had just obtained judgment in the Supreme Court in excess of \$13,000 for damages for a client in a so-called witchcraft case.

It was more properly voodooism. The testimony presented today widespread in Pennsylvania in this twentieth century.

It is all the more reason why the efforts of the Pennsylvania State Board of Public Instruction, to increase the influence of the country school should meet with the hearty co-operation of the present Legislature.

A BELIEF in witches and in the efficacy of which or "hex" doctors is the faith of tens of thousands of people in Pennsylvania.

The "hex" doctor is a regular institution in certain communities. Certain counties are more infested with these collectors of the individual unions.

It never was able to discover what he did with the jug and what he did with the hair and a few feathers from the bed in which he slept.

He looked several hairs from the head of the boy and a few feathers from the bed in which he slept. These were tied in a bit of the muslin together with a slip of paper on which some figures or characters were written.

When he bored a hole in a tree with a brace and bit, put the hair, together with a bit of paper, into the hole and plugged it with his fingers.

Then he made the sign of the cross, mumbled some words in an inaudible tone, and the work was complete.

He was doing powwow in this case for a sick child and some colicky hogs.

Another bit of the cross on the forehead and the children with his thumb, all in the name muttering to himself.

When put on the stand he confessed he did not know what it was that he did say.

A GENTLEMAN familiar with the ways of the "hexers" informs me that their shibboleth is "the seven books of Moses."

Once they announce or let it be known, that they have the "seven books," their importance is increased in the neighborhood; likewise the fear of them and their alleged powers.

These "seven books" is a collection of apocryphal literature of both the Old and New Testaments, and a lot of other pseudo sacred writings.

They contain also a mass of gibberish, with hieroglyphics, pentagrams, stars, magical formula and incantations.



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

MRS. R. R. PORTER BRADFORD

On Woman's Power in Church Affairs

THE church is the loser in refusing to grant women representation at the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, where they could have a voice in the policies, according to Mrs. R. R. Porter Bradford, a welfare worker and actively interested in the churchwomen's and other clubs throughout the city.

Need for Co-operation

"We need co-operation of churchmen and churchwomen. A number of clergy and laymen have said that they recognize the justice of our demand, but to far nothing else has come of it."

What Do You Know?

By WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY

HUMANISMS

By WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY

I WOULD ask you if, under the following circumstances, you would consider Gilbert K. Chesterton in earnest or merely indulging in a bit of his own brand of humor.

He had been in Baltimore the day before and was now meeting Washington correspondents at the National Press Club.

"I tried to get to your reception yesterday in Baltimore," this individual explained, "but circumstances made it impossible."

"Wasn't that fortunate?" replied Chesterton warmly.

When William Warfield Wilson, M. C., from Chicago, was teaching school in the little mining town of Nampa, Idaho, twenty-five years ago, a restaurateur served a tough piece of steak to a girl named Minnie.

SHORT CUTS

Stay-at-home lovers of balmy airs continue to ask, "Why is Palm Beach?"

It must be admitted that the March lion hasn't had a ghost of a show so far.

Not even a home run by Babe Ruth has more value than a home run by Delaware.

The second easiest thing a man does is to make excuses for a woman. The first is to blame her.

Laddie Boy has it "all over" Brigadier-General Sawyer in one respect: He doesn't have to dig up money for a uniform.

A day's work seldom shows definite progression toward ideals. Duty usually takes on the aspect of a belt or a shuttle.

A chicken's heart is to be seen beating in a bottle in New York. We are not surprised when they begin to show their ears we kind of felt they wouldn't know when to stop.

When the passing of the fleet to the Pacific has made barren the social center of the Atlantic coast, mayhap society will revive the habits of Colonial times and make much of the captains of our merchant marine.

So long as it is safeguarded by precedent and common sense, there can be no objection to a short-term loan; but there may be room for serious objection in the way it is to be spent and to the men who are to do the spending.

There is a young man in this town, a college graduate, a former athlete and a war veteran, who has on five separate occasions given his blood for transfusion to save the lives of others. Clean blood, clean living and a life of service! Philadelphia may be proud of such sons!

The fact that a Hasleton, Pa., man, seventy-four years old, began to dig his grave two days before his death is noteworthy but not particularly startling. Nature is kindly in that as old age creeps on a man she makes the thought of death a commonplace to him.

A dispatch from Quebec says that a radio message from the schooner Viking, one of 4000 seals being killed in three hours. This, however, will not bring down the price of sealskins; the prices will probably go higher. With little reduced to science, seals are bound to get scarce, d'ye see?

A Mississippi farmer has notified the President that he is at present scientific feeding the White House Thanksgiving Turkey. Anybody who has ever raised turkeys will know that guy is an optimist. Careful every bird's certificate will be stuffed out of the bird before the summer is over.

President Loeb, of the Reichstag, fears that if a customs frontier diverts Rhinecland commerce from Germany to France, Rhinecland sympathy will eventually run in the same channel. President Loeb shares the opinion of some other economists that the business man is your only true internationalist.

The admission by Dr. Simons that the Allies are not being attacked by the intoxicating lure of victory or lust for power, and his realization that the opinion of the world is that Germany is in the wrong and has not done enough to require that wrong, encourages hope that sooner or later Germany will see a light and will truly repent.

A recent case in Boston has demonstrated that it is not only very useful in bringing about the conviction of the guilty, but that they are invaluable in the matter of freeing the innocent. Some courts require that a person be accompanied by a finger print and a man's identity will be assured for all time.

The cheerful chronicler of unimportant happenings in Washington has cumbered the wires with the story that President Harding, desiring a book containing information concerning White House procedure, went into the cellar to look for it. And there isn't a line in the yarn to indicate the finish of the episode.

The president of the Women's Democratic Club of New York is suing for separation from her husband, who she alleges has been forcing her to keep her room keeping her engagements. The lady is also president of the Society for the Aid of Mental Defectives. Who shall say that the contention that woman's place is the home is not well made?