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Philadelphia, Sunday, May 7, 1921

**THE WILD EAST**

FOR almost a generation the West has been able to boast about its standards of law and order. Cowboys ride in Pards. What is known as "the villa class" has taken possession of areas where, in an older day, horse thieves were hanged almost daily. Tourists go in blissful peace over highways where not so very long ago stage coaches moved cautiously and heavily armed.

It is in the East that guns bark in the streets and that highwaymen venture out and come to end as astonishing as that which a gunman met at the hands of an astonishing taxicab at Ridley Park. The Wild East is a reality likely to avert the thunderfoot from the plains.

There was nothing in the dime novels more thrilling than thefeat of the taxi driver who opened the throttle of his machine as wide as it would go, chased the men who had stolen his girl, finally plunged from his seat and turned a gun which had been leveled at him so that the man holding it received a bullet in his brain. It is significant that even the Ridley Park policemen "hesitated" for a few seconds while young Minster fought the issue to its terrible finish. Yet men with iron nerve are like poets. They are born. They cannot be made. There are few people who would not "hesitate" for an instant at the knowledge that a forty-five automatic pistol was leveled at them out of darkness.

**SAFE AND SANE PATRIOTISM**

IN OUR suburban communities preparations for the celebration of the Fourth of July are already pretty well advanced. Within a week or two we shall hear from various quarters the usual appeals for a safe and sane Fourth. The usual advice will be directed against fireworks and there it will end.

We shall have a long way to go toward safe and sane fourths even after dangerous fireworks have been eliminated altogether. Safety and sanity will not have been achieved in any patriotic celebration until any man who lives by crooked politics or betrays the people who elect him to office or deliberately makes a got-rich-quick game out of public service is forever forbidden by law or public opinion to sport pretentious pageants or called patriotic oration.

That sort of thing, say the Americans, is the darkest kind of treachery. The men who one day pervert and frustrate the system of free government and on the next paw the national colors and shout about love of country afront the popular intelligence, and they must be classed, in any final analysis, among actual enemies of the state. Yet they thrive and they multiply. When they are eliminated finally we shall be able to talk without blushing about safe and sane fourths of July.

**RIVER CALLANTRY**

"NO CALLANTY has been assigned as yet for the students," he said. "But persons were badly hurt. There are callantries and courtesy in this regard on the performance of the strong fortifications, which failed to establish the perfect correspondence between herself and the Canadian fortify ship yesterday morning."

In her girlhood, as some of the oldest inhabitants could recall affectionately, if dimly, the responsiveness of the Beverley was unsurpassed on the river. A quiet with sensitiveness, along with pulsing life, the landings of the Beverley were poems, dainty as a violet.

It is elusive and just to keep this vanished technique in mind. Age and senilities do not always command respect, but they deserve it. Dodging between two great commandments to the very best of her wretched abilities, the Beverley is a spectacle not for criticism, but sympathy.

It is not facts but ideas that have changed the course of history.

The idea of human brotherhood emphasized in Syria two thousand years ago has done more to affect the relations of men with one another than all the facts about electricity or steam or coal that have accumulated by patient and persistent investigation.

The application of the facts has changed externals of human society, but the idea has put a new motive into human action.

The idea of democracy—an outgrowth of the idea of human brotherhood—was applied in this country in 1776, and the demonstration of what that idea could do started political movements in the rest of the world which have not yet stopped.

It is much more important for a boy to understand what that idea was and how it was developed than for him to know the names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence or the date of every battle in the Revolutionary war or the size of the armies or the names of the opposing commanders. These things are in the books and can be readily learned if one has need for them. They are a mere matter of detail.

Mr. Edison's experiments are an incident into what a man needs to know. It may be undertaken in a qualified investigation some day.

It may be said that he should know enough to do the work in which he is engaged.

If he knows more than is surpising, contributing to his enjoyment of life and to his preparation for an old age of leisure, that is not facts but ideas that have changed the course of history.

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