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Philadelphia, Tuesday, June 28, 1921

A BLUFF AND ITS SEQUEL

NOTHING, unless it were his eagerness to have the \$1,000,000 Municipal Court payroll jammed through in the conneilmant budget, could have exceeded the candon of Judge Brown in welcoming investigation of the sphere of his activities a few months

In the very heartlest and most compliant spirit of "Why certainly, my dear sirs, trot out your macroscopes, stethoscopes and dictagraphs, we have absolutely nothing to conceal," the President Judge solicited searching inquiry, appealing most affectingly to the City Club to hear the splendid truth that the greater glories of the Municipal Court administration might be realized at last by a somewhat unsympathetic public.

Anxious to oblige to the best of its sincere and disinterested abilities, the Bureau of Municipal Research, delegated by the City Club to conduct an exhaustive survey, diligently set to work and was on the verge of recommending technical changes in the accounting methods and of beginning a study of personnel, when Judge Brown significantly proposed to Mr. Gruenberg postponing the consideration of the survey until the Naturally, the director of the Bureau of Municipal Research was forced to abandon operations, since the door of the court was slammed in his face.

Judge Brown has weakly disclaimed intention of blocking the proceedings and has attempted to advance flimsy arguments in support of his position, but the facts are against him. As it served his purposes to assume a virtue when the fate of a major political deal hung in the balance, the call to cease play-acting is now equally persuggive.

Even at the risk of exposing the emptiness of his bluff, the President Judge is now constrained to maintain and safeguard the secrets of his organization.

The spectacle is only a shade less ludicrous than disgusting.

WHERE WOMEN CAN HELP

T DOES not appear whether Mrs. Barclay Warburton, vice chairman of the State Republican Committee, consulted the chairman before she prepared her address to the women voters urging them to indorse the sition for a convention to revise the

Some of the members of the committee are satisfied with the Constitution as it stands. Senator Penrose has been quoted as objecting to any changes at the present

The objectors have raised the point that there is danger of too radical a revision if anything is done at this time. But as they have raised the same objection for a great many years and as the radicals are likely to continue their activities indefinitely, the objection is one which would force us to

live under the Constitution of 1874 forever Mrs. Warburton's appeal to the women voters cites the well-known arguments for revision. They seem to appeal to her judgment. They certainly appeal to the judgment of every citizen who is not bound up in some way with interests which will be disturbed by any changes.

If she and the other women active in politics will co-operate with the men who are seeking to bring the Constitution up to date, the voters who go to the September primaries will both order the holding of a Constitutional Convention and nominate

THE BUNGLED BELT LINE

TF THOMAS A. EDISON and seen fit to devise a local quiz and had sought likewise to "floor" his classes, "What is the Belt Line?" might have been appropriately displayed upon his examination list. It is bardly an exaggeration to declare that many Philadelphians know little of this railway and that those more intimately acquainted with its purposes are sunk in depressing mlence.

The truth is that a transportation system designed to simplify and cheapen freight shipment within this city is put to the clumsiest use and is operated in the most cumbersome and convention-ridden fashion

The fact was lately revealed that produce on the co-operative railroad at Delaware avenue and Noble street and intended for distribution at Thirtieth and Market street. must be shipped to its destination by way of Wilmington, Det. To reach the Vine street terminal on the Schuylkill from Delaware avenue and Noble street goods are carted out to the Belmont station and then by easy stages to the end of their circuitous journey.

These and other evidences of superanmated administration are brought out by Director Sproule in a significant report upon the condition of the Belt Line. The Di rector of Wharves, Docks and Ferries does inject a gleam of hope into the situation in forecasting a conference of a committee of the Belt Line directors with Vice President Lee, of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

It would be proper to rejoice fervently in this prospect were not the whole history of the Belt Line darkened by futtle meetings. gorgeous promises and precious little per-

There is this to be said for its present status: the functioning of the line has reached the depths of old fogyism and costly bungling. All revision must inevi-

WILL HAYS, HUMANIZER

WHEN Will Hays took charge of the Postoffice Department he said that one of his first tasks would be to put its management on a human basis. There are sev eral bundred thousand men and women under him. They can be treated as machines or as human beings. His predecessor leaned toward the machine theory and sought to get as much work as possible out of the employes for the least possible This policy created considerable

disentisfaction. Mr. Hays has now appointed Dr. Lee K.

Pennsylvania, to take charge of a Welfare Bureau in the department. The business of Dr. Frankel will be to study the conditions under which the employes work and to arrange for making them as comfortable as may be. In brief, he will attempt to introduce into the conduct of public business the intelligent and humane treatment of the workers, which has been found profitable in

many great private enterprises. Out of the greater satisfaction with their employment which is expected to come from the work of the Welfare Bureau, Mr. Hays anticipates better service for the Government. He is not likely to be disappointed.

QUIBBLE AFTER QUIBBLE JOB COMBINE'S ONLY HOPE

Facts and Logic Unite to Expose the Bold Attempt to Play Into the Hands of the Street-Cleaning Contractors

THE course of the Job combine members of City Council on the street-cleaning issue has been marked by retreat from one impossible position to another.

It was first argued that the existing contenets for cleaning streets and removing rubbish and garbage could not be terminated on October 1 on the ground that such ermination would be illegal. They demanded an opinion from the City Solicitor.

City Solicitor Smyth straightway gave his opinion that the contracts could legally be terminated on October 1, for there was a provision to this effect in the conditions of the contracts themselves. Here is the exact wording of that provision :

The bidders agree that any contract awarded to them may be terminated on incoher 1, 1921, if they are given three wanths' notice by the Director that the city desires to exercise such option, and that they will accept as full payment for all laims against the city nine-twelfths of the price bid in this proposal.

Then when Councilman Roper offered a formal resolution in Council that the contracts be terminated on October 1 it was objected that as the contracts had been awarded by ordinance they could not be terminated by resolution.

But no action of Council is necessary to terminate the contracts. They may be brought to an end by notice from the Director of Public Works. Councilmanic action is needed to get appropriations for equipment. This is why the Mayor has called a special meeting of Council for tomorrow night.

Now Councilman Weglein, the president of Council, is arguing that the city cannot get ready to do the work on October 1 and that the contracts must be allowed to continue until January . He is asking for more information about

the plans of Director Caven to guide him in reaching a conclusion, as though his conduct from the beginning did not indicate that it was not information which he was seeking but obstruction.

Director Caven says he is ready to take over the work on October 1. He has been making his plans for it for months. His success in cleaning the streets in the two central districts at a saving of \$200,000 under the lowest bid of the contractors ought to convince the most skeptical that if he says he can do the work in the whole city on October 1 he can be trusted to keep his word.

But it is not fear of Director Caven's nability to make good on October 1 that is at the back of the obstructive tactics

It is evidently a determination to force the Administration to take over the who work in the middle of the winter when no one knows what the weather conditions will be, in the hope that the cold and the snow will interfere so seriously with the work as to create dissatisfaction and make it easy for the contractors to incite their friends to demand that the contract system be re-

The fight is for a profit of \$1,000,000 a year for the political contractors, and for the delivery of the city once more into the hands of the men who have grown fat by exploiting the public business.

POLITICS WITH BAYONETS

CCORDING to the note formally re-A jecting the Allies' offer of mediation in the reminant war between Turkey and Greece, the Government of the latter country "will be ready to hear proposals from the Entente during every phase of the perations."

It is needless to look further to demontrate the dynastic character of this pestiferous conflict. King Constantine, infatuated with dreams of Byzantine dominion, is playing the ancient and dangerous game of olities with bayonets.

His campaign in the Near East has been ostly, and substantial victory has not yet perched upon the Hellenic banners. Could be point to military success, his political prestige, now none too secure, might be ma-

Were the conflict to end today Greece would have little but new debts to justify is restoration of the ex-Kniser's nephew The Constantinists are palpably in search of t home as well as to impress the Allies in order to wring from them pro-Greek conessions in the Levent.

The entire situation would be shabby nough were it merely exhibited in diplonatic maneuverings. But human lives are "thlessly staked in this tragically discredit-

It would be interesting to learn of Veniseles' rengtions to such a policy of selfish and cruel cynicism, the antithesis of the glory of Greece as he envisaged it.

A SUMMER JOURNEY

'T for the intervention of Governor B Sproul with a last-minute reprieve vesterday there would have been at the State Penitentlary near Bellefonte a demontration of the method of capital punishnent by electrocution more gruesome than inv ever recorded since the gallows was egislated out of existence in this State.

In the execution building at the penientiary-a beautiful white building remiiscent of a modern bank or a modern hossital, set upon a green bill among rolling green fields- a man afflicted with paralysis nd without any life in the lower part of his edy, a man already dying, would have been arried to the electric chair, bound and

This man. Sidney Rhyne, was actually arried from the Media jail to an automoile on Saturday. He was carried to a train and carried again up the winding steel staircase that leads to the cells built for the condemned in the new State prison. At Bellefonte he was carried from the train and transferred to the "local" which runs o Rock View, the penitentiary station

Previously the Governor and the State Pardon Board had good reasons for refusing elemency to Rhyne, who was stricken by paralysis while in jail. The murder of which the man was convicted was particularly cold-blooded and cruel. But the peculiarly agonizing circumstances of his long journey through open country to the place of execution were the same that serve to Frankel, a graduate of the University of | make capital punishment peculiarly terrible

for every one who must endure it in Penn-

Condemned prisoners are removed at regular intervals from jails in all parts of the State and transported informally to Rock View. Other passengers on the trains are soon made aware of the tragedy being enacted under their eyes. They display sympathy or curiosity. They tender cigars and money to the man who goes to his death. The prisoner looking at the free world for the last time, seeing its full beauty in the flying fields, can feel under the pitying scrutiny of the day coach a sense of isolation more complete than the isolation of the

Ordinarily, there is only one answer to the usual question of the penitentiary officials put to the guards, "How did your man take the trip?" "Oh, well enough. He cried all the way up." The law provides that all executions ordained in Pennsylvania must take place at Rock View. That is one of the reasons why a preliminary torment not provided for in the statutes, is visited by necessity upon every man sentenced to death in the Pennsylvania courts.

A SENATE GAS ATTACK

TNCREDIBLY and bleakly stupid is the A campaign of opposition started by the amalgamated coal combines in opposition to Senator Frelinghuysen and his "Coal Stabilization" Bill. "We do not have to inquire about the effects of bolshevism." rumbles the propaganda machine of the exploit-"We have only to look at Rusers' bund.

Mr. Frelinghuysen is neither a Russian nor a Bolshevist. He is not deluded by any random desire to be idealistic. He is a very practical man who pleads in the interest and at the suggestion of other practical men. There is no tinge of radicalism or of even the mildest socialism in his makeup.

In this instance the Senator is expressing, with a great deal of courage and ability, the disgust and resentment of business men in the great industrial area of Northern Jersey who are tired of being robbed by the agencies upon which they must depend for fuel.

If the coal barons want to convict Mr. Frelinghuysen of bolshevism they will have to include the business men of Newark, Trenton, Jersey City, Hoboken, Elizabeth, Bayonne and like communities in the indictment. Having done that they will have to put President Harding and Secretary ver in the Red company, for it is very evident that both the President and the Secretary of Commerce are giving their support to the Senator from New Jersey. It ought to be remembered that the Fre-

linghuysen bill is not a step toward nationalization. It is, if anything, a step away from it. The bill, if it were passed, would not put anybody in jail. It would not take away any operators' rights or profits. It is intended merely to let the people know why the price of coal continues to-

ward the moon. The people of New Jersey have demanded that Mr. Frelinghuysen solve the mystery And if business men, large and small, in

other parts of the country were not so willing to be exploited, if they were less ready to pay whatever is asked for coal and to pass the losses on to the people who buy their goods, a return to normal industrial conditions would be quickened and Mr. Frelinghuysen would receive far greater support from his colleagues in the Senate.

OUR NATIONAL SONGS

ONCE in every little while, as regularly as the movements of a clock or the visitations of comets, this broad land is swept by a newspaper debate expressive of general dissatisfaction with the national anthem. The phenomenon is being repeated again.

Poets are being implored to write a new song to voice the spirit of the Republic Composers seclude themselves and grope madly for a great tune. Critics of the "Star Spangled Banner" are again reminding the country that the words of that anthem are neither impressive nor really significant and that the musical air to which they are set is of foreign origin, and of debatable quality.

Meanwhile, ready at hand, there is another song of majestic beauty, marvelously eloquent of the rarer and nobler moods of the American people, created out of our own experience, which surely would have been formally designated as the national anthem long before this if there had been in Congress a better understanding of musical values and anything like adequate appreciation of the poetry of language. That is

The Russians have-or had before the day of the Soviet Government-the stateliest and most beautiful of national anthems-a slow infinitely moving chant suggestive of strength and pride and profound spiritual feeling. The Marseillaise is a song of fire. a song of defiance, written originally to express the spirit of civil revolution. The Briton's "God Save the King" is well

enough in its way. None of these great songs, not even the stupendous hymn of the Russians, is so thrilling in sound and color, so charged with emotion or so worthy to be a sort of na tional litany, as the song of prophecy and resolution which Mrs. Howe wrote to an air created somewhere in obscurity to fit the thundering rhythm of the murch of Union

It is doubtful whether such another song ever could be written again in the United States. You heed more than talent to do that sort of thing. It is out of crisis, out of passion and faith and danger that such work comes; out of times in which the hearts and spirits of a people rule over their collective mind. In these intervals there is usually some one about with an almost divine interpretative talent to render forth the whole meaning and significance of the mood or the event in matchless words or matchless music.

Who, hearing the Battle Hymn of the Republic chanted by multitudes in the years of the recent war, could be unconscious of the note of authentic prophecy that genius had put into it or doubt its immortality among songs? It was the product of the noblest and most trying years of our history. It gave voice to the best that is in us.

Musicians profess to believe that the quality by which music lives is indefinable. But it is always noticeable that songs that strike beyond the mind to the emotions of a nation or a race do not die young. The Civil War period left to us the best songs we have, songs written in the heat of valor. in moods of sorrow or timed to the best of innumerable drums. These songs are simple in their terms, but universal in their appeal and their implications. They are of Some of the Negro songs, so called, heard

owndays and destined to live as long as a singing voice is left in America, reflect more than love of country. They reflect love of the actual soil, the pain of absence from familiar places, the terrible lonesomeness of age. You have to be very old or very wise to know that a path once loved, or a tree or even a familiar field or an empty doorway can be a source of living comfort after all else is gone. The place where I was born" is a blessed place always to old peo-About it some of the levellest songs have been written, as well as some of the greatest poetry.

Add Report of the Philadelphia Hous-ing Association: And the inhabitants of the blind alleys are the blind allies of municipal

SHIPS OF MYSTERY

Is a Pirate Responsible for the Missing Craft?-Some Stories of Philadelphia's Mysteriously Missing Vessels-Warships Never Heard Of

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN DHILADELPHIA Marine Underwriters

are greatly interested in the present discussion over the mysterious disappearance of a number of ships in the last six months. Particularly so as British marine insurance companies are talking of raising their premium rates on this class of risks. Our home marine insurance companies on

sidered an increase in premiums solely be-Cause of serious losses at sea.

Very many of these, as in the present instance, were so-called mystery ships.

Vessels that sailed away and were never heard of again among the haunts of sea-

several occasions also seriously have con-

DHILADELPHIA underwriters were hard hit in the year 1899. That was the ban-per year for bad luck in the last quarter of the last century.

In that year it was estimated that Philadelphia companies alone lost from ship-

wrecks and vessels that disappeared, leaving no trace behind, over \$2,000,000. It was a terrible toll of the sea. When the year 1900 opened the marine underwriters seriously considered the ad-visability of increasing their premium rates. The supposed kidnapping last January of the crew of the American schooner Carroll A. Deering off the coast of South Carolina has started all the talk of a pirate undersea

boat working off these coasts.

But the disappearance of other vessels is no means conclusive evidence, or cumuative proof, of piracy. Philadelphia port alone has furnished more mystery ships than have been uncarthed in the last six months to sustain the piracy theory.

MENTIONED particularly the fateful year of 1899 as being especially prolific Four steamships left this port during the twelve months of that year that were never afterward heard of.

Two of them cleared for ports in the United Kingdom and two were for the nearer destination of Caba.

destination of Cuba.

Over 100 lives and cargo and property approximating Talf a million dollars were

Two Philadelphia sailing vessels in that year were never sighted or heard of after they passed the Delaware Capes. One was the bark Anita Berwind and the other was the schooner Charles M. Pat-Captain Fowler, of the latter vessel, car-

ried with him his wife and two little chil-

dren. EVEN were the supposed, or real, pirates to operate against our own naval vessels, there would be ample precedent to prove that other naval vessels were part of

the great mystery fleet. Strange disappearances of our warships characterized the early history of our navy. In spite of all the efforts of the Navy Department to clear up the causes of these disasters, they are as absolute mysteries today as when they happened.

The recent strange disappearances of

ocean craft have reawakened the ever-fasci-nating story of the ship that never returns. It was a Philadelphia-manned warship that has for over a century now hended the list of missing ships in the Seven Seas. It is the prototype of all the others that followed; just as Robinson Crusoe is the daddy of all fiction of shipwrecked sailors and uninhabited isles.

OUR first naval sea mystery is that of the man-of-war Saratoga.
She was the vessel after whom one of our training ships was named a century and more later; the Pennsylvania school ship

"Never heard from" is the legend written opposite her name. No shred of sail, no battered boat, no splinter of wreck was ever She sailed from Philadelphia in October, 1780, under the command of Captain James Young.

She was an eighteen gun frigate, and after cruising around a while she captured three British vessels in quick succession.
Convoying her prizes she started for Philadelphia. Then a seventy-four-gun British ship of the line hove into view. Her eighteen guns were as nothing to the battery

power of her enemy.

The Saratoga considered it safer to run Her enemy did not pursue her, but was content to recapture her prizes.

So the Saratoga sailed down the horizon

THE American warship Constellation L Captain Truxtun, captured the thirty six-gun frigate Insurgent off the Island of She was retained as part of our navy and

and was never heard of again.

1800, sailed out between the Chesapeake Capes. That was the last, so far as known, that was ever heard of her. Whether she foundered in a storm or was

destroyed by her magazines exploding has never been known. No wreckage was ever discovered to prove the fact of her loss. CIVE years after the mysterious disap

pearance of the Insurgent, Gunboat No. as she was known, joined the phantom ficet of the strangely missing. At that time this Government was waging a little six-by-ten war with Tripoli. A nest of real pirates had to be cleaned out over there, and we started out to act as official scavenger of North Africa. We began building ships somewhat after

Only we didn't wait to name them. Only we didn't wait to name them. As fast as they were completed they were given a number, manned and put into commission.

Number 7 sailed from New York on June 20, 1905, under command of Lieutenant

Ogilvie.
She signaled and cleared Sandy Hook-

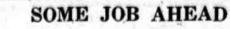
TOSIAH TATNALL, who for a time com-J manded the famous Confederate ram Merrimae in the Civil War, was snatched com the very deck of one of these strangely disappearing ships.

It was the Epervier, a brig of war which carried important papers to the President. When Commodore Decatur, in 1815, dic-tated to the Bey of Algiers the terms of a reaty with the United States, Lieutenant ohn Subrick was dispatched to Washington its approval. was a watch officer on the Eperer, which was one of Decatur's war ves-ds designated to carry Subrick back home.

He induced an officer on another ship to Algiers, where there were prospects of some fighting. When the Epervier passed Gibraltar omeward bound, she signaled "All well on bonrd. She sailed out through the Pillars of Hercules to a fate that has never been dis-

covered to this day.

There is one angle to Keeping the Faith the proposed reduction in the size of the army, a reduction which will mean adding 50,000 men to the army of the unemployed which has not been sufficiently stressed. A man who enlists makes a definite contracwith the Government, a contract he is bound to keep. Can the Government afford to break faith by discharging him before it has provided him with the things promised? These things, according to recruiting posters include a certain rate of pay and a chance to receive an education, learn a trade and see the world. Would it not be wiser and more honorable to reduce the size of the army gradually by stopping recruiting and allowing the men to go as their terms expire?





of houses are seriously needed, such a pro-

gram would have been of material help.
"Not only has this activity failed to ma-

terialize, but on May 1 the instability of the

building situation was magnified by a long drawn out disagreement between builders

and their labor, which took the form of

union labor in the building trades going on

progress the construction of buildings will be

long as it continues, irrespective of the

Strike Adds to Difficulty

"If the strike is not ended very shortly, the result will be the killing of any con-siderable amount of construction for the en-

tire season, resulting in lack of work for

business for contractors and builders.

sential co-ordinate move to revive the

have been completed before the winter.

labor in the building trades and lack of

within the next couple of weeks, and at the same time bankers, contractors and ma-

terials men will join in the absolutely es

ing industry upon a reasonably definted basis

along all lines, experienced builders ony that

and a material amount of construction wi

for more money to become available for real estate purposes—largely by reason of the safety of the investments and the ad-

vantage gained by promoting local activity-

What Do You Know?

Name two athletic games of American

What river is sometimes called "the Dar-danelles of the New World"?

Who succeeded Martin Van Buren as President of the United States?

7. Distinguish between an apiary and an

What is the literal meaning of the ex-clamation "brave"?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1 Goethe coined the word superman "Faust"

2. The Aland Islands are situated in the Gulf of Bothnia, an arm of the Baitic Sea. They have been awarded to Fin-land by the League of Nations.

Guglielmq Ferreio is a noted Italian his torian especially celebrated for his works upon the Roman Empire.

Georgia was the last of the thirteen colo-nies to be settled permanently by Eu-ropeans. Georgia was founded by a chartered company of English colonists

The famous Dreyfus case in France may be said to have begun when Captain Dreyfus was degraded on December 23, 1894, and ended when he was restored to rank as an army officer on July 12, 1906.

6. Louisiana, Texas, Wyoming and Nevada

are the chief sulphur-producing States of the United States. Charles Beecher Warren has been named

Harding

8. The "L" roads have been in operation in New York City since 1878

9. Charles W. Paddock, of the University of Southern California, is rated as the

wor'd's records. Father Damien (Joseph de Veuster Dam

While We Swank Philadelphia.

we. It is like an old-in it. This may excite the thoughtless amusement of jazz artists in other munic-ipalities, but it is really high praise. Madame Curic is progressive enough for any city. Here in Philadelphia we have every-thing worth while possessed by any other city in the country; and we have something

city in the country; and we have something more which people of culture are sometimes

quicker to appreciate than to define.

bassador to Japan by President

Southern California, is rated as the world's fastest runner. He holds four

ien) was a missionary priest who de-voted his life to the welfare of the lepers in the teland of Molokai in the hiswaiian group. He feli a victim to the disease in 1889. He was born in Belgium in 1849.

Madame Curie is sorry she didn't see more of

we. It is like an

10. What is humidity in the atmosphere?

4. Who was Patroclus in Greek legend?

gives some reason to believe that the

operation of the latter elements will

"Recent construction bids and a tendency

"If, on the other hand, the strike is ended

eld up. This situation will dominate

So long as this strike remains

NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

business.

orthcoming."

origin.

aviary.

2. Who was Lazare Hoche?

6. What are Odonata?

8. What is worsted?

Harding.

JOHN PRICE JACKSON On Overcoming High Rents

THE only way to head off the tendency for a greater rise of rents and to start them on the downward course is to actually start building, according to John Price Jackson, committee of the Chamber of Commerce Mr. Jackson was formerly Commissioner of Labor and Industry in Pennsylvania, and during the war served abroad, making special studies of people and

"There is a reasonably uniform consensus of opinion that the dominant influence upon rents is the law of supply and demand, the actual intrinsic cost of building construction, high taxes and the like being con-tributing factors," Mr. Jackson said.

"It is quite certain, therefore, that rents will not return to their pre-war relation-ships with other costs of living until the pre-war ratio of buildings and people has been reached by the construction of new

210,000 Renters in Philadelphia

"High rents mean a charge not only upor the employers or workers in building con-struction, but upon the renters, and, in a reflected way, upon all people of the city Recent statistics show a total of about 385. 009 buildings in Philadelphia, of which about 210,000 are occupied by renters. These renters are from all industries, vocations and businesses, from the common laborer to the professional man, and all join in pay ing the burden of high rents.

"The building-materials man, the con-tractor, the building-trades mechanic and thers who have a hand in building construction thus owe a heavy responsibility all of these renters and to the public to se their best efforts to overcome the present building stagnation and to at once get under way as big a program of building as is possible during the remainder of this season. "Investigations indicate that rents are the

one important element of living costs which have not materially receded in Philadelphia and that the tendency under present con-ditions is upward rather than downward The results of this inquiry are supported by governmental information. Though rents id not inflate during the last year to such nigh points as did most materials and labor. should gradually recede with the marked drop in general commodity prices. "Rentals are estimated by various au-thorities to be in the neighborhood of 20

per cent of the average wage-carner's in-come, under normal conditions. Food, which is materially deflated, is much the argest element of living costs; nevertheless rentals take an important portion of monthly "It is asserted by those having experionce with real estate in the city that there

can be no expectation of any reduction in rentals until the acute housing shortage is ended by the supply of thousands of new dwellings. These high rents, as indicated, not only form a tax upon the building trades workers, but upon all people, including workers in other industries of the city who rent. Therefore it is distinctly a public interest that construction be begun at once.

Building Has Fallen Off

"The public is affected by the effect on business of the idleness of labor caused by the building stagnation and strike. "Previous to the war new dwelling houses constructed in Philadelphia cach year are timated to have numbered over 7000. This nnual addition in houses was sufficient to are for the growth of the city. As is well known, from the time this country entered the war to this year, there has been a deficit of from 2000 to 3000 in the new houses erceted in this city annually, while this year building is largely at a standstill. "During this period the growing popula-tion has been cared for largely by dividing f buildings already erected, and many peo-

ple have been greatly crowded.
- Prominent builders, architects and en-gineers of the city agree that had there been casenably deflated and stabilized costs of naterials, labor, money and other elements ntering into construction at the beginning f the construction season this spring, much vork would have been started. It has been estimated by those whose opinions carry weight that more than 5000 dwelling house

and comparative amounts of other structures

would have been erected during the season.

Though many more than double this number

Quebec should read up on Boston.

Like Tony Weller, Volstead and Wheeler spell it with a "We." Pittsburgh appears to be getting the water allowance of the whole State.

coal operators have already achieved the one It is presumably coal dust that Fre-

If Senator Frelinghuysen is right the

ing into the eyes of the public Jupiter Pluvius arrived but to tess. What's the good of bringing a watering per when it is only a quarter full?

Perhaps it wouldn't be a bad idea if the State Constitution called for a Constitu-tional Convention, say, every twenty-five

The ashcart men are hoping that the Weather Man will help them if municipal street cleaning can be held over until Jan-

At a Fourth of July celebration down-

town the losers in a tug-of-war are to be ducked under a fireplug. If the presst warm weather continues the ducking will be a luxury rather than a punishment. Congresswoman Robertson says Con-

gress could save money for the country by talking less and thus reducing the size of the Congressional Record. More than ever Cousin Alice justifies the presence of women in political in politics. Some hope Carpentier will win; some

have their money on Dempsey; and the laternational Reform Bureau, not to be behindhand when conjectures are rife, to presses the hope that Chancellor Walker will put both contestants to sleep with one well-directed blow.

Publicity appears to be what the cell operators fear most. But without wise publicity no business can live. And, by the same token, without wise publicity enapresent competitive system, as opposed to present competitive system, as public ownership, cannot live. For the sale of present gain the operators are working against their own best interests.

Congressman Paul Johnson, who seeks to prevent women from smoking in public places in the District of Columbia, will be places in the District of Columbia, will see interested to learn that the Pasteur Institute of Paris has issued a bulletin declaring that tobacco smoke is antiseptic and kills in a fer minutes the primary bacteria of cholera, diphtheria and cerebro-spinal meningitis.

After President Harding had shake the hands of 1500 persons attending a re-ception to delegates to the convention of the American Institute of Homeopathists the doctors at their closing session considered a resolution that homeoforth the President is resolution that henceforth the President relieved of the custom, and turned it down.
It was decided that the President should be permitted to attend to his own business. Which, declares Demosthenes McGinnis, is a revolutionary declaration. Nobody des that nowadays. It isn't allowed.

There has been some excitement at the Socialist National Convention in Detroit. Resolutions asserting the rights of the working classes to set up a dictatorally were turned down. Victor Berger thus put his respects to the men who offered the rese. his respects to the men who offered the resolutions: "Engdahl and Kruse, the exemple to the men who offered the resolutions: "Engdahl and Kruse, the exemple to the ments of communism, do not belong to the proletariat. They are in the 'salariat' light off the money received from the Socialist Party." Or, as the poet would put it:

"The poor steer, proletariat, Was roped by the salariat."

Was roped by the salariat.

There is pathos and sentiment in the story of the Texas spinster who, returned from Ireland, brought with her a bit of the 'ould sod' with shanneeks on it, a interest tree, a hemlock, a hawthorn, a serior is and a few ferns only to have the denied her when she reached New York, it being them ashore would have been to the denied her when she reached New York, bring them ashore would have been to relate a law recently enacted to prevent dregerous plant fungi from entering the one try. It seems to be a good law, too; latery. It seems to be a good law, too; latery what about the tons of earth breughts what about the tons of earth breughts ballast which have caused New Jersey to bloom with the poppies of Flaster Doesn't it seem, on the face of it.