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 Philadelphia, Thursday, August 4, 1921

**A DESERVED TRIBUTE**

THE Mayor continues to display a nice facility in the art of nomination. His sitting revival of the name of Phillis Wheatley in connection with the new municipal playground at Tenth and Lombard streets is followed by an admirable tribute to Rudolph Blankenburg.  
 Mr. Moore has suggested that the name of Philadelphia's picturesque, high-spirited and tireless reform Mayor be accorded to the city's newest freboat. At the same time the present executive has rejected the proposal that the vessel be named after himself.  
 American municipalities are not always happy in their ventures. The Philadelphia, New York, however, has lately paid its respects to one of its most eminent champions of clean government and efficient administration in launching the freboat John Purroy Mitchell. The precedent is worth emulating in the fashion exemplified by Mr. Moore in a slater city.

**EVENTUALLY, WHY NOT NOW?**

WHEN the anthracite operators beg the people to buy coal, as they are now begging them, the consumers who have begged their coal in times past will be inclined to smile.  
 The operators are assuring the public that it can get all the coal it wants if it will only order it. And then, as if it were aware that the people are not ordering coal because they object to the price, it announces that there can be no coal in price until there is a reduction in wages.  
 Perhaps not. But there is a law of supply and demand which works in most business relations, and it may be that it will work in the coal business. If the people will not buy a commodity at one price, the producer usually reduces his price until it reaches a figure which the purchaser will pay. The price of coal must come down some time. Why not now?

**FREIGHT RATES AND BUSINESS**

IT IS notorious that many large building operations have been postponed because of the high cost of structural steel. Why the cost is high was explained by E. G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Company, the other day in a statement announcing a new price of \$44.80 a ton for such steel.  
 Mr. Grace said that the freight paid on the raw materials used in making a ton of steel is now \$7.85 more than before the war; that the cost of the raw materials has increased 10 per cent; that the labor cost of making a ton of steel is \$5.04 greater. This amounts to an increase in present-day costs of \$20.50 over the pre-war costs. The price at which the steel is offered now is equivalent to a pre-war price of \$24.21 a ton. The ten-year average price before the war was \$33.82.  
 But even at the new figure quoted steel is not moving rapidly. If freight rates could be reduced to a reasonable figure the railroads could move trains of cars loaded to capacity and the cost of the goods moved could be reduced to such a price as business can afford to pay.

**THE WHITEWASHED SOX**

IT IS almost useless to comment on the verdict rendered at Chicago in the case of former big-league baseball players who were indicted in the State of Illinois for conspiracy to defraud the public by winning or losing games at the dictation of gamblers.  
 Cicotte and others of the old White Sox dealt almost a deathblow to the national game. That they have been formally acquitted by a jury of admirers and worshippers doesn't matter in the least. Their own testimony given on the stand showed that they didn't play fair and that they were involved in deals by which, for money, they were to betray the millions of fans who believed implicitly in their honesty and sportsmanship.  
 It is fortunate for the big leagues that they have a dictator in the person of Judge Landis, who said, following the acquittal, that none of the accused players would ever again appear in the major leagues. Any one who would kill baseball as a professional sport could do no better than invite Cicotte and his group to again enter the cloud that no jury verdict can wholly dissipate.

**FOUR MILES FROM A TELEPHONE**

IT USED to be said that the extreme of isolation was when one was four miles from a lemon. But four miles from a telephone, where President Harding now is, might be described as the perfection of bliss for a man who has been encompassed by the cares of office for five months.  
 The telephone has intruded into so many places that it is surprising to discover that Secretary Weeks' cottage on the mountain near Lancaster, N. H., is not connected by wire with the outside world. Mr. Weeks evidently wanted complete relaxation when he went to Lancaster, and arranged to get it. If the truth were known, it would probably appear that the possibility of escaping from insistent calls of any kind was one of the reasons which led the President to accept the secretary's invitation.  
 The telephone is indispensable, but like any necessary instrument it has its many other uses. No matter how busy a man may be engaged in conference at his desk, he feels compelled to answer the telephone when the bell rings. If a man knocked at the door of his office the caller would be told to wait. But the same man can go outside and send in a telephone call to a business man to escape the cares of his office by going to sea. But the wireless has made that impossible. His business can follow him wherever he may be on the ocean, and the news of the world will follow him also. Few men have the moral courage to refrain from reading the wireless bulletins posted on shipboard, and no man knows when that bulletin will contain an announcement which will free his peace of mind. His bank may lose, his wife may destroy his place of business,

His wife may be killed in a railroad wreck, and a thousand and one different things may happen to prevent the rest to obtain which he set sail on the ocean.  
 The only recourse left seems to be that of Mr. Weeks, namely, to get so far away from the regular lines of communication that one cannot be reached. Thus can rest and recreation be secured.

**ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE**

ASSUME that years have passed. Never mind how many, since it is not easy to determine how far obstructionism in Philadelphia can go. Most things have an end, and it is safe to assume that some day the Frankford elevated will either be in ruins or else in operation under the management of the Rapid Transit Company.  
 The prospects are perhaps not the only ones that can be fancied, but they are all that can be materialized. While it may be shocking to interpret all the maneuvering, all the wrangling over the lease, all the long succession of dilatory tactics, in purely cynical terms, the problem must be viewed realistically or it recedes into hopeless fog.  
 In the history of public improvements throughout the globe there can be few, if any, parallels to the venacious tale of the Frankford L. negotiations. The road has been well planned and admirably constructed. It has tangible existence and not a spark of life.  
 Imagine the Panama Canal completed to within a few yards of the Pacific Ocean and the opening of the waterway postponed by politics and palavers, by lawyers and commissions, by politicians and financiers! That picture is inconceivable. It staggers the imagination.  
 Realization of the plight of the Frankford elevated, however, involves no strain upon the fancy. The sorry facts are all too palpable.  
 The road cannot be joined with the transit system of Philadelphia until a lease specifying the terms upon which that physical connection can be made is adopted by the interested parties.  
 Governor Tamm has announced that the high-speed line, duly linked with the Market street subway-elevated, can be put in operation within a year after the passage of the lease.  
 As the vital point is the adoption of a definite compact, that forecast is not far from the mark. The fact that the parking-chasing ship of Lewis Carroll sailed helplessly backward because the excellent rule "no one shall speak to the man at the wheel" was supplemented by the stern injunction "and the man at the wheel shall speak to no one" in Philadelphia continues to drift backward so long as the sham hypothesis of the operation of the Frankford elevated by the municipality is entertained. Such a feat might be desirable, but the formidable fact is that the P. R. T. maintains a strange hold upon the situation. Mr. Milton and his organization are not morally reprehensible. In a business world they are playing a business hand, and their present object is naturally to take over the operation of the road upon the very best terms available.  
 The city, as was also proper, has been endeavoring to safeguard its interests. Numerous valid objections have been found to the lease in its present form.  
 But there are limits to what the weaker party in a controversy can accomplish. The extreme improbability of the discovery by the city of any existing organization to which the line could be turned over reduces the case to its elements. Since the P. R. T. is virtually bound in the end to be the operator, why not now?

**BITTER-ENDING AT PARIS**

PARIS newspapers of the sort reputed to be "close to the Government" continue to say in unison that President Harding's conference for disarmament will end unsuccessfully and that the high hopes with which the world looks forward to it will be "smothered in its birth."  
 Let us assume for a moment that this cynicism is justifiable. If nothing but words come out of the Washington Conference it will not be many years before the forces of war and organized fury and desolation stalk again over Europe. If the hopes of the world are smothered in verbiage at Washington the people of the Continent will be confronted with prospects even more bleak than those which they had to face in the years immediately prior to the war. Why, then, should there be powerful newspapers in Paris intent upon smothering the hope of the conference in words even before that hope has been given an opportunity to try for its life?  
 The British are obviously sincere in their desire to end the nightmare of renewed military rivalries. They have accepted the President's invitation in a communication notable for its earnestness. Japan has entered with some reluctance into the scheme. She could not long bear the odium and suspicion that would have followed a rejection of the President's proposal. She looks to the conference for emancipation. All the smaller nations of Europe look to it for security and relief from intolerable anxiety.  
 In Paris alone—not in France, mind you, but in Paris—opposition to the President's plan is frankly and apparently well organized. It ought to be remembered now that the press in Paris is generally representative of official rather than of popular opinion.  
 It was natural to expect that certain clearly defined groups at Paris would look to limit greatly the material progress of international affairs. The French politicians now in power have at their command a very powerful army. The Government at Paris is naturally concerned about a debt of \$9,000,000,000 owed to French bankers by the Czar's Government and repudiated by the Soviet Government. It cannot be blamed if it still hopes to collect that money by direct or indirect pressure on Russia. Similarly, the French Government relies largely on the present potential strength of its armies to keep out of the hands of a suspected element in Germany the enormous quantities of Silurian, coal, iron, and other minerals, virtually all the means necessary for another onslaught in French territory. It is because the issues of Silesia and of Russia are still unsettled that the ruling politicians of the moment in Paris would prefer to see the discussion of international disarmament dead.  
 What do the French people think mean-while? Viscount Bryce is authority for the statement that "everywhere on the Continent the Versailles Treaty is regarded as a disaster." The terms of the Versailles Treaty are far from popular. Does Bryce read the Paris papers, but the mind of France itself? A Disarmament Conference that did not justly dispose of all legitimate French claims in preliminary discussions would get nowhere. But are not the French the last people who ought to be allowed to even a "take all" top side?  
 And he took it with a check for the full amount.

**COMMON-SENSE DIPLOMACY**

THE kind of diplomacy now employed by Secretary Hughes may not commend itself to champions of the treaty, but it unquestionably is productive of results.  
 Blazoned abroad, the recent interchange of correspondence between the United States and Great Britain on the theme of preliminary talks to the Disarmament Conference may possibly have created the aspect of tension between the two Governments. As it is, responsible parties have effectively disposed of the question.  
 According to official circles in Washington, Britain has dropped the idea of forestalling the meeting with prelates of her own and has agreed to follow the suggestion of Mr. Hughes according to the original plan suggested by President Harding.  
 The outcome is not in the least a triumph for secret diplomacy, the meaning of which has been so unwarrantably distorted in some quarters. The Treaty of London, whereby France and Italy in certain divisions of the war spoils, was indeed secret diplomacy. Mr. Wilson and the American Government consistently refused to acknowledge such a covert pact.  
 What Mr. Hughes and the British Foreign Office have accomplished is common sense, as legitimate as it is necessary to progress.

**A TEST OF BRYANISM**

THE police officials at Antioch, Ill., who refer to us whether the tall man with the broad black hat whom they arrested as the occupant of a speeding motorcar was or was not William Jennings Bryan, are withholding information of a particularly valuable and significant sort from the country.  
 The constable intimated broadly that the person in this instance was none other than the great Nebraska. What, then, did Mr. Bryan do when he was stopped, mauled verbally, hunted and subjected to the hardships which always await motorists caught in the toils of a country justice? From Chicago he had ridden in the Department of State. The Commoner always insisted that one subjected to pain or injury should invariably turn the other cheek. If on this occasion he lost his temper and spoke harshly to the constable we should know it. Here at last was provided an adequate test of a theory of action that has been loudly denigrated in recent years.  
 Gently and smilingly Mr. Bryan may have blessed the constable and begged to be arrested again. If he did that, the victory of his spirit ought to be proclaimed upon all the winds. If he did not, then Bryanism is nothing more than a meaningless and misleading word.  
 Bookshelves declare that the Fordney tariff on books of 20 per cent is a high protective tariff and virtually prohibitive, if you get what we mean. Which, of course, is not news. If somebody were to assert that some one item of the Fordney tariff bill was not so one item and he proceeded to prove it beyond peradventure, why, that would be a big news story. It would be in a sense dramatic, as it would contain the element of surprise.

about the rights of his ships in deep waters, and in the end the Government at Washington will make no effort to police the deep and it will not attempt to extend its authority beyond the bounds fixed by international law. It will have to enforce its laws by intensified police work in its own waters and by making examples of those of its citizens who enter systematically into the business of whisky smuggling.  
 So the prohibition question has suddenly become as extensive and as involved as the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines. It will be interesting to see what revenue agents who cannot dry the streets of an ordinary city will be able to do in the wilderness of harbors, beaches, rivers, coves and bays where the dry powder has unexpectedly presented itself in an acute form.

**LEM ACKLEY, REPORTER**

An Anecdote of the Lawyer Who Was Assassinated in Chicago—The Lost Washington Portrait—Ed Naulty's Proposed Flight Across the North Pole  
 By GEORGE NOX MCRAIN  
 LEM ACKLEY, a member of the Chicago bar, was assassinated in a courtroom in that city last week.  
 He had prosecuted a wealthy police sergeant so vigorously that, maddened by defeat, the culprit first tried to kill the Judge and then shot Attorney Ackley to death in the presence of his wife and daughter in open court.  
 Lem Ackley was one of the finest newspaper reporters I ever knew.  
 He was the most conscientious of his craft, in the matter of professional honor, it was ever my fortune to meet.  
 Born and reared in Pittsburgh, he read law during the years that he passed as a reporter.  
 Tall, slender, intensely active, he was so near-sighted that he was compelled to write with his eyes following his pencil at a distance of four or five inches.  
 The city room wits used to say that Lem Ackley would finish his nose what he wrote with his pencil.  
 HE WAS, if I recall aright, the support of a widowed mother.  
 About thirty-five years ago he left Pittsburgh, went to Chicago and entered on the practice of his profession.  
 One night in the early eighties Lem Ackley brought into the city room of the Pittsburgh Dispatch what was regarded, in those long gone days, as a big beat.  
 It was the sanguinary times when fine old John Barrett was president of the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers of the United States and strikes were frequent.  
 The iron and steel manufacturers met annually, or at the expiration of their contracts with the Amalgamated, and formulated a new tariff with respect to wages.  
 To secure a copy of this scale in advance of any other paper was, in the Iron City, a "scoop of first magnitude."  
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 There were no heroes about his manner. He was naturally cool, rigid and, in his way, stubborn.  
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 The manufacturers' scale was published. It raised the very devil. Amalgamated men stormed over the terms. The manufacturers, though, were the hottest.  
 The city editor of the man who had furnished it to the paper; not the reporter, but the one of their own number.  
 But it never leaked out.  
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 "When you consider that the children affected run from six to twelve years," said Mrs. Blithe, "which is conceded to be the most impressionable period of their life, and that they come from homes and environment where none of the above-mentioned desirable conditions exist, actually living such a life as we have described for a period of two weeks, the importance of that feature can be readily seen."  
 The Country Week Association, while independent of any other organization, nevertheless forms a connecting link and works in harmony with other social service associations of the city in tackling one important phase of the whole big problem.  
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 "We then not only give a large number of children each year an outing that improves their health and gives them a lot of pleasure, but we do an important work in giving them a good start at a critical period, and forming in them certain useful ideas and habits that will stand them in good stead later on."  
 The association, founded in 1875, started with annual outings for a dozen children. The number has since grown to about 100. The outings have been held in a number of places, but the one most successful was held at the Lake George Hotel, where the children were given a most interesting and profitable time.  
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 "Each one is shown his quarters, his bed and other things that will be most important to him during his stay. He is taught to make his bed and required to take care of it. He is introduced to the house mother, the counselors and other people about the camp with whom he is going to come in contact during his stay."  
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**NOW MY IDEA IS THIS**

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best  
 Mrs. WESLEY L. BLITHE  
 On Aiding Poor Children

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**HUMANISMS**

THE Hon. Richard Ballinger, who used to be Secretary of the Interior under President Taft, met an old friend on the street in Washington the other day and was so full of chuckles as to arouse that individual's curiosity.  
 Ballinger had just been looking in a bookstore window and there he had seen a letter exhibited and offered for sale for the modest price of \$25.  
 "The letter was written in the true hand of Mr. Taft, what President, and it roundly denounced the individual to whom it was addressed for selling to tourists facsimiles of the signature of the writer."  
 "And now the denunciation was being offered for sale."  
 Dr. Luther Pfahler Eisenhart, lecturer on mathematics at Princeton, is one of the twelve men said to have understood Einstein's relativity before the recent popular interest in it.  
 Dr. Allen Smith, professor of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, is a no less erudite individual.  
 Both these gentlemen went down to the College of Pennsylvania, at Gettysburg, not long ago to get degrees from that institution.  
 Between them on the platform, likewise being honored with a degree, stood William Joseph Showalter, one of the editors of the National Geographic Magazine. Mr. Showalter has acquired the learning that enabled him to be a newspaper reporter assigned to "cover" the scientific bureaus of the Government in Washington.

**What Do You Know?**

- QUIZ
1. What was the first name of Barium, the famous showman?
  2. Where is La-Haitia?
  3. What was Spain a republic?
  4. What is a play?
  5. Of what realm was Justinian the Great emperor?
  6. Why is a schooner so called?
  7. What is the meaning of the Scotch word "feckless"?
  8. What kind of an animal is an oryx?
  9. Why was Tutankhamun captured?
  10. What is a tortoise?

**Answers to Yesterday's Quiz**

1. Delaware is called the "Blue Hen State."
2. Capri (Capri) was a celebrated French revolutionist, statesman, pamphleteer and journalist. He was guillotined in 1793.
3. The city of Constantinople was the "Byzantine Empire" and in the Middle Ages the "Byzantine Empire" was the "Byzantine Empire."
4. Genghis Khan was a Mongolian conqueror. He completed the conquest of the Chinese revolution, capturing Peking in 1215 and conquering Central Asia in 1218-21.
5. The Articles of Confederation were finally adopted in 1781.
6. The Administration of Martin Van Buren was described by its opponents as "Andrew Jackson's Appendix."
7. The points of the United States are located at Philadelphia, New Orleans, Denver, San Francisco and Carson City. The United States is equipped with an army office.
8. Romanesque is the style of architecture prevalent in Roman times. It is between the classical and Gothic periods.
9. The word "lazo" is a corruption of the Spanish "lazo," a lasso.
10. Lanolin is extract from sheep's wool, as the basis of ointments.



**SHORT CUTS**

When Jupiter Pluvius talks the corn is all ears.  
 Frankford L. is sadly in need of an aspirate.  
 It was Caruso's fate to see Naples again and die.  
 Rum runners' speed boats prove that Old Hooch is running in fast lanes.  
 Hay-fever sufferers realize that weed-destroying week is not to be sneezed at.  
 Secretary Mellon's tax plans cannot be said to improve the chances of the Pennsylvanian.  
 Why is a polka dot? asks Lord Northcliffe. Why, to make the eyes toddle, old top.  
 The Greeks as yet have failed to get the Turks' Angora. Mustapha Kemal must have a camel.  
 Perhaps it will be time enough to worry about the treaty with Germany when we learn what it is.  
 Northcliffe got a rose and a kiss from a pretty girl in New York. That should take the curse of Caruso.  
 Russia seems ready to demonstrate that though Hunger may lack still as a revolt leader, it is terribly effective.  
 The baseball players left the court without a stain on their characters. It was only baseball that was smirched.  
 The fact that Maloney appears to have been released twelve days ahead of time is causing concern; but not to Maloney.  
 The new Commissioner of Welfare says he will conduct his department regardless of politics. He has a big job ahead of him.  
 Mayor Moore showed commendable moderation in waiving in favor of Rudolph Blankenburg the honor of having a fireboat bear his name.  
 Viscount Bryce denies the assertion that the hour brings the man, and that the Versailles Treaty is proof. But perhaps in this case the hour was postponed and the man is on his way.  
 The National Wearing Apparel Association, in convention in Chicago, has declared that women's style for next winter will call for straight lines. Hard lines for the plump.  
 Asbury Park life guards had to pommel a man on Monday before they could induce him to get into safe waters. It is in such position. Caregivers will best find the list of shore fatalities.  
 Great Britain has withdrawn her plea for a preliminary session to the Disarmament Conference. There is here a probable realization that informal conversations can accomplish everything possible to a set meeting.  
 The New York Citizens' Advisory Committee, appointed by Postmaster General Hays to aid him in improving postal facilities there, is in a position to register a kick in the quarter of three-cent postage.  
 An offer by the Rockefeller Institute of \$2,000 for the right to use a tuberculosis serum in the United States has been accepted by a Swiss biologist. Everybody will hope that this is where the white plague gets a black eye.  
 It is alleged that British ships have been chartered for use by the Egyptian post office to British and American troops in preference to American ships offering themselves at lower rates, and the Shipping Board's London agent is making a strong protest against the discrimination and, it is said, threatening retaliatory measures unless America gets half the trade. There appears to be room here for exact information. There is no use in playing a cut-throat game unless the player holds more trump than all his opponents or has a sure lead to rob them, and no one country in the world is in such position. Caregivers will best find the bottom through rates and service. Discrimination cuts both ways. A rate war is a war of attrition held by two persons, and all cuts is legitimate profits.