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Philadelphia, Wednesday, September 14, 1921

LAST CHANCE TO ENROLL

THE patience which the election laws of Pennsylvania accord to prospective citizens will be withdrawn after tomorrow. It cannot be reasonably argued that this final limit on leniency is inconsiderate.

WARNINGS FOR PHILADELPHIA

THE margin by which Philadelphia has escaped disasters similar in origin to the Chesapeake bridge catastrophe is not so deep as it would seem. The margin is, in fact, a narrow one.

RUSSIA'S NEW TRADE POLICY

THE failure of communism in Russia has forced the Soviet Government to modify its economic policy. It will be recalled that the Soviets attempted to run the country on everything.

WHY EDWIN WOLF SHOULD BE MADE CITY CONTROLLER

He Would End Abuses in the Management of the Sinking Fund and Thus Bring About a Reduction in Taxation

THE insistence of Controller Will B. Hadley and his fellow Commissioners, E. T. Stotesbury, as majority members of the Sinking Fund Commission, in holding all meetings of that body behind closed doors is not the only reason for public distrust of Mr. Hadley's administration of the office of City Controller.

He has flagrantly disregarded the provisions of the new City Charter governing the conduct of his office. From its inception he has persistently opposed the Charter. He was its active antagonist in all the preliminary conferences before the instrument was submitted to the State Legislature for action.

His influence has been consistently directed toward continuing the obsolete and secretive system of departmental reports and the management of the sinking fund.

Article XII, Section 3 of the Charter explicitly declares: The City Controller shall prescribe the form of reports and accounts to be rendered to his department, and shall have entire charge and supervision of the accounts of all other departments and trusts.

How many of the great city departments have accounting systems, modern and up-to-date, prescribed by Controller Hadley? With one or two exceptions the various departments have no adequate system of accounts other than mere memoranda.

This fact alone, affecting his sincerity to serve the public and obey the fundamental law, has been sufficient at least to awaken the doubt as to his official fitness for the place and a further bestowal of confidence in him on the part of the voters.

Mr. Hadley has no personal strength in politics. He is recognized as the candidate of a select group of financiers and the leaders of the Contractor Combine, who alone are demanding his re-election.

E. T. Stotesbury, the representative of large fiscal interests, the personal and financial adviser to and fellow member with Mr. Hadley on the Sinking Fund Commission, solicited influential members of the Voters' League to endorse Mr. Hadley until his insistence became a matter of course.

In view of the Controller's open alliance with the Contractor Combine, his well-remembered opposition to the Charter in its inception and his refusal or neglect to obey its mandate since its adoption, the Voters' League decided, very properly, to refuse him recognition as its candidate.

AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT

Story Told in Vindication of Belgians Gives Interesting Sidelight on Americans in the Making

I WAS asking Mrs. Henry Collins the other evening when we were dining together how her sister, Mrs. Bayard Henry, was enjoying her visit to 'potentates' in Belgium. She then told me the following story about her own experience with Belgians in this country, apropos not so much of my question about Mrs. Henry's visit, but of the Belgians in general.

THERE lived, she said, at a small town called Aliot, a few miles from Brussels, the proprietor of a lace-making industry and his wife and their general factotum and servant, Hortense. On the approach of the Germans there was nothing for it but to move and to move quickly.

They had scarcely landed there before the man died of pneumonia. The two women had some money—not much, however—and no friends. They went to London and applied to the Consulate of the Belgians for relief that was already established for work. As they had no children dependent upon them they could not be classed as needy applicants and they were told they must wait indefinitely for aid in the district.

IT is estimated that if of the \$48,000,000, approximately, now in the hands of the Sinking Fund Commission the excess beyond the amount needed to retire the city's bonds were turned into the general fund, thus reducing appropriations by that amount, the tax rate would be materially reduced.

EVERY man of science, every student in a school and every politician who is worth his salt will sit down, before accepting a theory, to inquire into its ultimate consequences and its possible effects in realistic application to life.

She remained with her until the end of the war made a return to Belgium and her home possible. He and Hortense went together back to Belgium and with many sad memories crowding on them made their way to the old house they had fled from three years before.

THE policy of obstructing Administration progress, regardless of the merits as is common in the American political scene as it is short-sighted. The history of the League of Nations controversy is typical.

Mr. Underwood's interpretation of the responsibilities of his new role has a special virtue of timeliness. The behavior of Mr. Lathrop, publicity man for the Democratic National Committee, and of certain indefatigable partisan newspapers has been an attempt to discredit the disarmament meeting before it attains reality.

It is not too late, however, to prove that these repellent efforts were abortive and not fairly representative of the Democratic Party, one of whose unquestioned spokesmen is Mr. Underwood. This leader of the Senate minority, if he persists in his present commendable course, can set his party right.

UNDERWOOD POINTS TRUE

OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD'S TRUE comment that he will accept the invitation to serve as one of the four American delegates in the Disarmament Conference is accompanied by the wholesome observation that there should not be and cannot be any party politics at the party.

THE money was available, or at least would have been in a short time, whereby the Controller might have retired the securities. He elected, however, to ignore the opportunity. Drexel & Co., of which banking firm Commissioner Stotesbury is the head, purchased them instead.

It was necessary under the law that Controller Hadley join in the appeal. He refused to join in the request for a judicial settlement in a matter that involved the possible saving of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers.

His refusal was fatal to the contemplated action on behalf of the people. Ultimately the Court ordered the Controller to pay the full amount demanded by the owners of the property, which he accordingly did.

When charged with failure to protect the city's interest he took refuge in the specious plea that he was not at fault; that the Court had ordered him to complete the transaction and he would have been held in contempt had he refused to do so.

No public official has the right to withhold from Council any necessary information concerning the city's affairs, particularly concerning the balances of money in connection with the transaction of public business.

Will B. Hadley is chargeable with this dereliction, to call it by no other name. On July 27 of last year Council adopted a resolution calling upon the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to furnish its members with a statement of its transactions, with full information concerning sinking fund affairs. A time limit was fixed at September 7.

Published statements had been to the effect that such a report had been prepared and signed by two of the three Sinking Fund Commissioners. But Council in the report received gained no clear information as to balances and unnecessary surpluses in the sinking fund.

The reports of the Commission, as prepared by Controller Hadley at intervals of months, are indefinite and unsatisfactory. Enough can be gleaned from them, however, and it is the unceasing boast of the Commissioners, too, that there have been at times 20 per cent more money in the sinking fund than was required to meet the city's accruing debts.

Do the taxpayers of Philadelphia understand just what this means? The money thus segregated—and for what purpose has never been disclosed—means that the taxpayer is being taxed annually for more money than the city requires.

THE RETURNED VACATIONIST

THEY were met at the final station by a very fine motor and a sedate and important-looking chauffeur, and were escorted down them that their hosts must also be very important persons indeed.

THE Side of the Parents While history is full of instances in which scholarship conferred unfortunates physical and living conditions, still these men who have risen by sheer force of character over their physical weaknesses are those who came to the line of genius and are at the close of a brilliant career.

THE Sixes Separated It is therefore a part of the plan adopted by us and which we have found to work out exceedingly well to have as complete a separation of the sexes as possible in their college homes.

WHAT Do You Know? 1. Who was the discoverer of oxygen? 2. In what part of China is the Shantung Peninsula?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Whales are the first animals specifically mentioned in the Bible. The creation of the moving creature that hath life and soul is recorded first.

Now My Idea Is This Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

GEORGE E. NITZSCHE On the Beneficial Influences of a Great University THE beneficial influences of a great university are in the modern life of the institution no longer confined to the classroom alone, but with all the power which the guiding spirit can summon are at the service of the student.

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YEAH, EV'RYTHING LOOKS KLUXY NOW-A-DAYS!



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SHORT CUTS
Koin is what the K. K. K. ain't got nothin' else but.
There is no danger of the spirit of liberty casting a phantom vote.
New York has an epidemic of flea. Well, New York ought to be able to keep 'em on the jump.
The Alien Property Custodian is the last to fall for that pot-of-gold story. Is he a rainbow chaser?
New York has 128,586 part-time pupils in its public schools. Only part-time citizens would continue such a condition.
There is a healthy public sentiment back of the cancellation of Arbuckle comedies at the present stage of the proceedings.
Women "out-registered" the men in Harrisburg. That's what comes of making them feel at home at the polling places.
Peace is surely coming, because all the world is ready to welcome her. But she is a very sensitive visitor and rarely overstays her welcome.
Shipping booze abroad strongly suggests the woman who said she felt that her jewelry was dragging her down morally, so she gave it to her sister.
There ought to be a special button for the officers of the Ku Klux Klan—not KOTOP, but KOTIP: Not Knight of the Open, but the Itching Palm.
Since every man living knows some one thing that his neighbor does not know (some one thing and some another), the putting out of a questionnaire will continue to be easier than answering it.
Just because his work on the Versaille Treaty has been criticized, Clemenceau will return to politics. When he pines for action any kind of an excuse is good enough for an energetic youngster.
Liverpool boiler-makers are striking because they want twenty-five men for each oxyacetylene burner and employers are asking for twenty men. But perhaps the men imagine they are working on a Government job.
A speaker at a meeting of ministers in this city said as many in England would throw their cigarettes away as they entered church. Thus, we are led to remark, religion occasionally lends itself to extravagance.
There is, of course, likelihood that the wealthy Americans who have just concluded the purchase of a job lot of Austrian palaces and castles may have bought a lot of trouble. But perhaps they expect Uncle Sam to shoulder it.
In presenting its difference with Chile on Tarras and Arica, Bolivia has given the League of Nations a nut to crack. This, however, may not be nearly so serious as it seems. The League of Nations may decline to crack it.
The amount of cotton left unsaleable last year (about 9,000,000 bales) is greater than the entire crop this year (estimated at 7,037,000 bales), and the fact does not, with any possible exception—save, perhaps, for price-fixing purposes.
There is possibility that the fact that 900,000 little children are starving to death in Russia is of more world importance than that a fat movie comedian is in jail on a murder charge; but there is also possibility that the fact has been overlooked by most newspaper readers.
When a Negro in clerical attire was accused of picking pockets at the Colored Baptists' Convention in Chicago he stoutly maintained that he was a delegate. "Yes, the Lord's Prayer," said the Court. "Give us this day, our daily bread." "That's all there is to it," said the accused. "Hold the Grand Jury," said the Court. The line the unfortunate one should have drawn was, of course, "Forgive us our trespasses."
Electricians in Berlin are striking for increased wages to meet the high cost of living. In view of the exchange cost of the mark, adjustment will have to come from the other direction—prices will have to lead the way.
Wages can be advanced course—before a wage can be advanced. Under the existing conditions Germany can't underbid the world. The dumping of goods in foreign lands will continue as long as her workmen consent to remain underpaid—however fat their pockets may seem.