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Philadelphia, Saturday, December 24, 1921

HALE SNYDER INTO COURT

GOVERNOR SPROUL, in speaking of Colonel McCain's revelations of irregularities in Charles A. Snyder's conduct of the Auditor General's office, remarks that the Auditor General is elected by the people and that he has no jurisdiction over him.

But the Governor is elected by the people to enforce the laws. Mr. Snyder apparently evaded the law of 1915, which provides that all the legal business of the State shall be "under the supervision, direction and control of the Attorney General," and that "whenever any taxes or other accounts of any kind whatever due the Commonwealth remain overdue and unpaid" it shall be the duty of the department charged with the collection of these moneys to refer the matter to the Attorney General, "whose duty it shall be * * * to take charge of such litigation and collection."

Mr. Snyder employed Lieutenant Governor Beidleman to collect taxes due from the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and paid him $5000 out of a fund appropriated for advertising. So far as the records show, the Attorney General was not consulted. Mr. Snyder also employed John H. Fertig to do legal work, and paid him $10,000 for it within a period of two years. And the records do not show that the Attorney General knew anything about Mr. Fertig's activities.

Unless the law of 1915 is to be regarded as meaning nothing, it is the duty of the Governor to direct Attorney General Alter to bring suit against Mr. Snyder or his bondsmen to obtain a refunding to the State of the funds paid out for legal services in apparent violation of the law. No other form of official notification should be necessary to qualify the Attorney General to act. Indeed, his desire that his own legal prerogatives should not be invaded should be enough to induce him to take action. If he winks at the usurpation of his powers by other State officials in violation of the law, he is not the proper man to be intrusted with the legal business of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Snyder's calm assumption that he can do as he pleases and his defense of his course are what those who know him would expect. He is even so bold as to say that Lieutenant Governor Beidleman served the State so well that if he had the fee to fix over again he would pay him $10,000 instead of $5000.

The thing for which Mr. Snyder thinks that Mr. Beidleman should have been paid $10,000 was the compromising of a claim against the Westinghouse Company for $13,000 less than the amount assessed against it. With the fee paid to Beidleman included, the State got $18,000 less than was its due, and if the fee had been $10,000, as Mr. Snyder now wishes, it would have received $23,000 less.

But the point at issue is the disregard of the law of 1915, which denied to Mr. Snyder the right to hire counsel without consultation with the Attorney General.

SEASONABLE COURTESIES

LORD RIDDELL, the British journalist, lately distinguished for the helpful accuracy of his tips on the Conference, has sailed for home entertaining a highly favorable opinion of American courtesy. It was his expressed belief that the people of this country are in the way of becoming the politest on earth.

This complimentary commentator should have extended his visit. Had he remained over the holiday season he could have taken back with him a Christmas tale unmatched on several counts by anything in Dickens.

The peaceful penetration of the yuletide spirit into the very cardiac recesses—once held fabulous—of corporate bodies has begun.

The distribution of gladsome Christmas cards to commuters upon the Philadelphia and Reading Railway pertinently suggests that the railroads have been maligned. They, too, have hearts which throb in sympathy with mankind as the sweet season of generosity and good will draws near.

The Pennsylvania System exudes kindliness and cheer in bright posters and placards graciously phrased. Signs pointing to the establishment of an entente cordiale between transportation providers and their customers are unmistakable.

With the benignity of Santa Claus thus in the ascendant, who shall say that corporations are soulless and insensible? And if the next step in after years should be the award of presents tidings of great joy will abound.

To cap the climax of endearments, it may be said that there are gifts within reach of the railways which would be accepted with profound public gratitude. The sadness of satiety is not yet in prospect and Christmas will never lose its zest while the railways are in their present mood.

FRENCH ECONOMY AGAIN

THOUGH francs are down, they have not fallen sufficiently to strip the economy effected by daylight saving in Paris of its impressivness. The City Counselor of the French capital has announced that the advanced-hour system, operative from March 15 to October 25 of this year, represented a saving of 200,000 tons of fuel, worth 100,000,000 francs.

At the present rate of exchange this is equal to $7,000,000, which would be a goodly sum struck from the budget of any American metropolis.

Fortunately Philadelphians no longer need to be convinced on the subject of the summer-time schedule. But the Nation as a whole is not yet enlightened. The French accomplishment may come in handy in contentions on behalf of a Federal Daylight-Saving Law, providing its opponents are not too much vexed over the ubiquity of unassailable facts.

MERRY CHRISTMAS WISHES, WITH SOME EXPLANATIONS

The World Knows How It Feels to Be Tipped Into a Snowbank on the Way to a Holiday Festival

THERE are times now and then when it seems impossible to express a wish for a Merry Christmas generally for all people in a city like ours without feeling somehow guilty of graceless audacity and thoughtless utterance. This is one of them.

The whole world has had the normal course of holiday journeyings twisted, obstructed and diverted in strange ways. It has been tipped into a snowbank, lost in a storm, shunted into an inhospitable wilderness, and all the words in all the languages would not be adequate alone to make Christmas merry for many of the people who have had to bear the continuing hurts of the disaster.

Now, one of the best liked of all legends, and one that takes many forms, is of people who went forth in lordly fashion for the conventional Christmas of lights and giving and receiving and, after losing their way, found the real happiness and the true meaning of the season in a lowly and unfamiliar place. It would be pleasant to say and believe that humanity is sure to find some such ending to its present troubles. Perhaps it may. Certainly it is right to hope that it may, and a sporting view of a bad spill is the better and more helpful one.

Yet it isn't easy to wish Merry Christmas to all people, high and humble, good and bad, deserving and undeserving—as we set out to do—without misgivings, without a troubling sense of places in which there will be no rejoicing and a memory of little lonesome faces glimpsed on the edges of crowds and a thought of multitudes to whom Christmas must be as any other day—not merry and not bright at all.

If we were all very old and wise and packed with the knowledge that comes only with experience at the end of life, it might be possible to find comfort in the thought that faith and patience and courage are, after all, the best of the virtues, and that all ought to be well in a country that has been giving a fine display of these rare qualities of mind and heart. It might be enough to remember that we are far better off even in material ways than any other country.

That is true, but it isn't enough. Most people are young and eager for the happiness that is their right. If, for reasons outside themselves, people are unhappy at this season, something is wrong somewhere.

Yet even though the words sometimes sound idle, one must go on wishing Merry Christmases at all hazards. For the simple thought itself seems to carry a power not altogether of this world. There are chests upon which the ice is normally almost thick enough for skating that actually warm to it. Too many of the processes of business and government and ordinary human relations move in an atmosphere below zero.

If we let go of Christmas we should abandon the mood that, if it were extended over all the year, would create for mankind a new heaven and a new earth. For it is at this season, and in this season only, that the hardest-headed people learn to look at existence from the other fellow's point of view, to experience the luxury of doing generous and unselfish things and know that it is actually better to give than to receive. So, even in the deeps of the snowbank, with the vehicle damaged and the horses tangled in the harness, it is not useless to talk of Merry Christmases and even hope for them.

This, then, is Saturday. There remains plenty of time for every one assured of a conventionally Merry Christmas to remember the unusual number of people who have no such comforting prospect, to resolve that no child shall have reason to feel so lonesome and forlorn as many of them look in the midst of homeward crowds and to drop in on the little family in the little house that you have been trying unsuccessfully to forget.

It is when you come to the little houses that it is hard to say "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" in the right tone of airy assurance. Winds of misfortune have been blowing upon many of them without rest. And yet they are weathering through. The mothers of some of those same shy and wistful and empty-handed children have been holding them together—women who, without at all suspecting it, are the true heroines of these times.

To know the sort of Merry Christmas that no upward jump of the stock market could provide it is only necessary to go about among the least of these and take the look of disheartenment out of their eyes. Everybody would benefit—you, yourself, most of all. Then we, for our part, could do more comfortably what we set out to do higher up in this column. We could wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all people; to the good and the bad, the high and the humble, the rich and the poor; to every one who reads this and to every one who doesn't, without discrimination.

TRAFFIC COUNCILMEN?

THE educational value of experience doesn't lessen with time. The people at City Hall who do most of the talking and who would like to issue most of the orders relative to problems of motor-traffic regulation are obviously and lamentably without experience to guide them in their special activities.

It might be altogether proper, therefore, to suggest that Mr. Weglein, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Hall and some of the other moving spirits in the City Council exchange places for a week with the policemen who have to stand in a twenty-mile gale on Broad street when the temperature is about 10 degrees above zero or work a Market street semaphore for a whole day when the air is filled with snow or sleet. That sort of experience might be good even for some of the drivers of motorcars who assert that traffic men are not so polite in winter as they might be.

If there is any good reason why shelters of some sort should not be provided for policemen who have to hold down fixed posts in winter weather it is beyond ordinary understanding. In New York and other cities where serious efforts are being made toward the efficient and intelligent regulation of motor traffic the traffic policeman is not exposed to rain, snow, wind and weather during the roughest months of the year. It has been found that small shelters are not only practical. They increase the general efficiency of the men.

But to the politician type of mind a policeman is not a human being. He is a voter and a holder of a minor political job, and is as such supposed to be content with whatever treatment is handed out to him. It is doubtful whether the average member of Council, seeing a half-frozen policeman swinging his arms, ever thinks of the needlessness of the hardship which the city inflicts on the members of its hardest-worked department.

HOME LESSONS FOR CONGRESS

THIS is not the first time the holiday recess of Congress has been a matter of public appreciation. The timeliness of the suspension this year is especially marked.

It is hardly debatable that indorsement of the achievements thus far of the Washington Conference is hearty and widespread. Not even the bungling over exact interpretations of the Four-Power Treaty has disabused the public of the idea that it should prove a solvent of some of the most delicate problems in international annals.

Whether or not the homeland of Japan is included within the protective meaning of the compact, the terms unquestionably promise new guarantees of peace and a humane and civilized remedy for such controversies as may arise.

The reluctance of the noisier elements in Congress to view the situation in a broad, constructive light has already been revealed in absurd quibbles, in warped academic argument and in obstructionary tactics recalling the dismal days of the Versailles Treaty contest. It is a good thing that a temporary halt has been called upon these preposterous exhibits, which are unduly dignified with the ascription of "reasoning."

The marplots are now provided with the opportunity of learning something at home.

Apart from all other considerations, it is never good politics to misrepresent constituencies. Opposition Senators are conceivably in a position to learn something before their return to Washington.

THE NEXT SENATOR

THE continued illness of Senator Crow suggests the inadvisability of running him as a candidate for election next fall.

Senator Crow has been in his place in Washington but twice since he took the oath as successor to the late Philander C. Knox.

This is unfortunate. Congress is considering legislation of the first importance. It will affect the industries of this State. Consequently it is desirable that the State should be represented in the Senate by two men vigorous enough to make their influence on legislation felt.

At present the Pennsylvania senatorial delegation is weak. Senator Penrose has not recovered his health and he has to husband his strength. And Senator Crow is so ill that he has been able to do nothing. He was ill when he was appointed and his health has shown no improvement since that time.

It is presumed that he will serve until his successor is elected. Under the circumstances, it is important that the Republican leaders begin to give serious attention to the selection of the man to succeed him. The new Senator should be a man so clean as to give no occasion to whisperings about his undisclosed connections, and he should be so able that when his name is mentioned there will be general agreement that he measures up to the requirements.

PUTTING DRIVE INTO THE FAIR

WHEN Mayor Moore demanded more action from the Sesqui-Centennial Committee he merely did what this newspaper has been doing for several weeks.

The general committee and the sub-committees have done little but talk. A certain amount of discussion is necessary, in order that different minds may find a common meeting ground. But they had a meeting ground in the first place, and that was on the proposition that the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence should be celebrated by an international fair.

No considerable sum of money has been raised, and no real vigorous effort has been made to raise any. No site has been agreed upon and no director general has been appointed.

Right here lies all the trouble. The lack of a director general means the lack of a driving and co-ordinating force back of the enterprise. Until he is selected the project will lag.

It is good to talk about a city appropriation of $2,500,000 and a State appropriation of a similar amount, and an appropriation of $5,000,000 by Congress. But neither the State nor Congress will make any appropriation for an enterprise that is still in the air. Some definite and concrete plan must be prepared, and prepared without delay. Then the foundation will have been laid for appropriations.

SCORE TWO FOR COUNCIL

EVEN Council appears to have caught something of the mood of amenability characteristic of these genial days. Two ordinances passed by the Municipal Legislature this week denote a constructive public spirit worthy of perpetuation.

From the outset the Franklin Field proposal, involving the arcading of several city streets for the new stadium, has been exempt from nagging. Sympathy with an interesting project is substantiated by the unanimous vote upon the enabling measure.

The University will now be unhampered by right-of-way technicalities and can advance whole-heartedly to the work of raising funds for an ambitious and wholly desirable undertaking.

The adoption of the ordinance transferring the Roosevelt boulevard to the jurisdiction of the Park Commission constitutes another good mark upon the councilmanic record. A confusing divided authority is thus effaced.

The success of the Fairmount Park administrators with the public squares is ample proof of their fitness for the extended responsibility. There can be little doubt that the boulevard will be well guarded and maintained in excellent condition under its new auspices.

Wind It Up And Let's Go

The offense of the delegates to the Washington Conference was not in including Japan in the territory covered by the Four-Power Treaty, but in hiding the fact. Apart from the seeming deception the incident is unimportant. The one big thing in the Conference is the effort to still war's alarm clock and substitute a timepiece that will tick peacefully.

Say, Santa! Listen! The hardest worked of all your assistants is without doubt the postman and this year his work is greater than ever before; 20 per cent greater, in fact, according to reports from the Post-office Department. We know you're darned near broke, Old Top, but perhaps if you dig down in your jeans you may find a bill a little bit frayed or a coin a little worn on one side and—Get the idea, Old Sport? Slip it to him.

COLONEL PRINTZ'S PARK

The First Seat of Government in Pennsylvania Should Be Perpetuated—Tinicum Island the Site. Thomas Willing Balch's Work

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

THOMAS WILLING BALCH, vice president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, is greatly interested in the preservation of Tinicum Island as a park in honor of Governor Johan Printz, who established there the first seat of European Government in Pennsylvania.

The 300th anniversary of that event will be celebrated twenty-one years from now.

It was in 1638 that Queen Christina of Sweden sent out a colonial expedition which effected a settlement at a point within the bounds of the present City of Wilmington.

Christina Creek was named in honor of their Queen, as well as the fort at this place.

Four years later Colonel Johan Printz was sent out with new colonists and additional supplies to re-enforce the infant Swedish settlement.

Printz was not satisfied with the site of Fort Christina, a few miles up a narrow creek, a tributary of the broad Delaware River.

What the hardy soldier, who had served in thirty years of war, desired was a convenient place to control the passage of the Delaware with his cannon.

SHORTLY after his arrival Printz started on a voyage of exploration up the river.

He got as far as San Kikan, the site of the Trenton of today.

He decided that the lower end of the Great Tenekongh, or Tinicum Island, should be the site of the capital of the New Sweden.

So it came about that he removed his people from Fort Christina to the island.

In honor of the Swedish port from which he had sailed with his expedition he named the new site Fort Nya Goteborg.

He built houses for the settlers and held Swedish Protestant religious services in a chapel built near the fort.

It was the first church of any religion built within the bounds of Pennsylvania.

As Mr. Balch points out, the lower end of Great Tinicum Island, through the activities of Colonel Johan Printz, became the cradle of what is today the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It was the first permanent white colony settled within the area of this State.

MR. BALCH tells an interesting story about a portrait that hangs on the wall of the Executive Mansion in Harrisburg.

Twelve years ago he mentioned to M. de Lagercrantz, the Swedish Minister to the United States, that no picture of Printz could be found in this country, and asked him to use his efforts to discover one in Sweden.

No matter how small, it could be copied and enlarged as a valuable contribution to the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

The investigation was started and resulted in the finding of a portrait of Colonel Printz in the Church of Jonkoping.

A copy of it was made and sent over as a gift from King Gustavus to the Swedish Colonial Society, of this city.

IN MARCH of last year Mr. Balch called Governor Sproul's attention to the above facts. The Governor instantly became interested and employed Madame Van Helden to copy Printz's portrait in oil. It now hangs in the Governor's mansion in Harrisburg.

It carries this inscription:

"Johan Printz, Governor of New Sweden, 1643-1653, who established at Tinicum Island, on the Delaware River, the first permanent seat of government in Pennsylvania."

Among other things which Mr. Balch thoughtfully suggests to perpetuate this event in our history is the naming of the highway between Wilmington and Philadelphia the "Governor Printz Highway."

Trees could be planted to Printz's memory in Fairmount Park, at Essington and elsewhere.

He should be visualized in bronze in Philadelphia and the ground on Tinicum Island should be purchased and restored exactly as it stood originally if any plan or drawing of it remains.

APART from the surprise occasioned by Secretary Hughes' address at the opening of the Armament Conference in Washington, I think the next greatest was that of hearing the various delegates, and particularly the Orientals, express themselves in correct and fluent English.

Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese and Italian representatives rivaled the English and Americans in the correctness of their diction and the range of their vocabulary.

And yet, particularly so far as the Japanese were concerned, there was little occasion for surprise of any thinking spectator.

Those of us who recall Wu Ting-fang, the eminent and scholarly Chinaman twenty years ago, will recall that he had command of perfect English; one of the most gifted Chinamen that ever visited this country.

Practically every Oriental in the last thirty years who has visited this country in a diplomatic capacity has been a master of English.

THE Japanese Minister to the United States thirty-one years ago, G. Tateno, was an English scholar of high attainments who had already discarded native dress.

His wife and child also followed Occidental fashion in the matter of their attire.

Mr. Tateno had been a member of the commission appointed by the Imperial Government to receive General Grant in 1879 on his tour around the world.

He accompanied the general and his party during their stay in Japan.

About the same time that this distinguished Japanese was being received in Washington the French Government was arranging to receive the Chinese Minister then recently accredited to its Government.

Yshing-Tshang was a Tartar by birth and a Roman Catholic in religion.

He was proficient both in English and in French. This was due to his having been educated at the school of languages in Pekin, which is a kind of diplomatic college for the training of young men designed for foreign service.

The wife of Yshing-Tshang was also a Tartar and of the same religious persuasion as her illustrious husband.

In striking contrast to these examples is the fact that the United States is compelled to employ interpreters for our diplomats at practically every foreign court. Often these are neither citizens of this country nor united to it by any bond but that of salary.

Today's Anniversaries

1745—Benjamin Rush, a physician general of the American Army in the Revolution, born at Byberry, Pa. Died in Philadelphia, April 19, 1813.

1800—An attempt was made to assassinate Napoleon Bonaparte with an infernal machine.

1810—The valuable service of church plate was stolen from St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

1837—Empress Elizabeth, of Austria, born in Bavaria. Assassinated at Geneva, Switzerland, September 10, 1898.

1847—Lewis Cass, of Michigan, wrote a letter which was the first embodiment of the doctrine of "squatter sovereignty."

1863—William Makepeace Thackeray, famous novelist, died in London. Born in Calcutta, July 18, 1811.

1891—Fourteen lives lost in a collision on the Hudson River Railroad at Hastings, N. Y.

1897—The Pope issued an encyclical on the Manitoba school question.

1920—Japanese Foreign Minister told the Tokio Diet that the new American-Japanese Treaty would nullify the California Anti-Alien Land Law.

IN FULL POSSESSION

NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

DR. JEAN B. BECK
Talks on Elemental Education

ELEMENTARY training in all things is the first essential of a success which is founded upon a firm superstructure and is not superficial, according to Dr. Jean B. Beck, professor of French literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Genuine originality," said Dr. Beck, "does not consist merely in doing things differently from others. This we usually call queerness. The real thing consists in doing things by a method which is based upon sound reasoning and the application of principles which have been shown to be correct. What happens from the other system was shown to me during a recent walk.

Auto as Educative Symbol

"I was strolling aimlessly when I heard the furious tooting of an automobile horn. Before I got to the place the trouble had been righted and a man told me that a lady in the machine found her engine had 'gone dead' and was tooting the horn to start it again. Now it takes about an hour to learn the mechanical operations necessary to run a car—that is, if everything goes right. But let anything go the other way and the standard manipulations only result in putting the operator in the position of the lady mentioned.

"Apply the same thing to education. A child is taught a certain mechanical way of studying, as the teacher generally aims at quick results. Consequently, as soon as there occurs an instance where initiative is required the student shares the fate of the lady. Individual initiative is a good thing, but it needs guidance if one does not want to lose time by letting the student find out by himself what has been discovered and definitely established by others.

The Self-Made Men

"I am afraid that we over-emphasize the value of self-made men in high positions. At best they are the exception and for every one of them there are hundreds and thousands of mediocrities who, if properly trained, would have reached a higher level.

"There are many so-called artists, painters, musicians and professional men who have acquired a thorough mastery of the mechanical manipulations of their business. But let an indiscreet pupil ask a theoretical question or demand an explanation of something really fundamental and our hero will act like the tooting lady. If their education had emphasized the theory of their business as well as the practical, none of them would ever have to fear being placed in the humiliating position of being intellectually stalled.

"Take, for another example, a mechanic in a saw mill. If he understands the principles of the machines he operates he will stand out among the average handlers of these machines almost as a genius. A violinist who can not only play well, but who can illustrate and explain what he plays is a phenomenon.

Improper Elemental Training

"What is the reason for this lack of fundamental knowledge in so many workers and craftsmen? Improper training at the outset.

"How wonderfully inquisitive and enthusiastic are most children! And how amazingly dull and apathetic we find most of them when they leave the school benches. Who killed that fundamental human trait of inquisitiveness—the bud of creative enthusiasm and the live cell of progress?

"If an individual possesses this inestimable gift, the talent or genius to create, it should be carefully fostered. Feed it with the essence of what is best, the noblest of its kind in history, and you will bring up an artist worthy of the name; give it the wrong intellectual diet and you will get a freak.

"This consideration leads to a question of greater portent. Is it not possible that the traditional way of teaching history may be responsible for perpetuating some of the horrors and the greatest woes of mankind?

Teach Good, Not Evil

"Instead of piling up in the innocent minds tales of tyrants, of assassination and murderous wars; in a word, instead of dwelling upon that side which humanity has in common with the brute, would it not be better to instill into the youthful mind the knowledge and love of that one quality which distinguishes us exclusively from brute creation, namely, the faculty of enjoying beauty in all its forms, in nature, in art, in literature, in music and all the fine arts?

"Let us not stop at scrapping ships and reducing armies. Let us banish also the hideous figure of Mars from the history classes and replace it with the radiant figures of Pallas and the Muses. Let us feed the imagination of the young with the treasures of the great writers, musicians and artists of all lands and of all times and make them understand the implied teachings of the progress and the ethics which are hidden behind the legends of mythology and of folklore. Our own land is rich in folklore, but aside from the pitifully small number of members of the learned societies, who knows anything about it? And yet it is full of the essence of the customs, stories, songs and beliefs which this soil produced.

Learning Made Too Easy

"It might be helpful to inquire, even superficially, into the causes of this apathy toward elemental education. The present system apparently fails to arouse the interest and co-operation of the student. High-sounding courses are taught, while the most fundamental of all subjects, genuineness, thoroughness and merciless accuracy, are neglected.

"The teacher of standardized methods usually acquires his proficiency in the classroom at the expense of his pupils, who often, in some ways, play the role of the guinea-pig at a clinic. This is a thought which should stir the parents and the education boards.

"But within the last few years conditions have taken a turn for the better largely through the endowment drives, which have awakened the public to the conviction that the teaching profession needs and deserves improvement. Better salaries would mean that teachers would no longer have to take teaching positions before they are prepared to teach. It would also justify the raising of requirements and standards. Better teachers will produce better results in education, and that would be a boon to the Nation as a whole and one greatly to be desired."

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. How many square miles are contained in the contiguous territory of the United States?
2. What was the national song of the Southern Confederacy?
3. How many times since its organization has the Council of the League of Nations been in session?
4. When and what was Fries' Rebellion?
5. What name of a mollusk is also the name of a flower?
6. What were phaetons and why were they so called?
7. Where are the Falkland Islands?
8. What Greek god wore winged sandals?
9. Why is the letter "d" an abbreviation for penny?
10. What amphibious animals are bred in rookeries?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. St. George is the patron saint of England.
2. An aeolian harp is a stringed instrument played by the wind.
3. Alexandria, in Egypt, was the city of ancient times most famous for its library.
4. Fra Angelico (Giovanni da Fiesole) was a celebrated Italian painter. His dates are 1387-1455.
5. Henry C. Wallace is the present Secretary of Agriculture.
6. Argentina is so called from the Latin "argentum," silver, in reference to the Plata River, which forms part of its boundaries. "Plata" is the Spanish word for silver.
7. An aerolite is a solid body reaching the earth from unknown parts beyond the earth's atmosphere. When seen at night, aerolites usually consist of a luminous head or fire-ball, followed by a bright train of incandescent matter.
8. An abacus in architecture is a square or oblong level tablet on the capital of a column.
9. The story of the Wise Men of the East is narrated in the Gospel of St. Matthew.
10. The names ascribed to them are Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior.

SHORT CUTS

Merry Christmas!

Perhaps the Harrisburg grabbers were saving up for Christmas.

The jingle of Santa Claus' sleigh bells is not being heard in Russia.

John Bull fears that he may find a submarine in his Christmas stocking.

A joy crowd; a bliss mass;
Busy streets mean Merry Christmas.

Late Christmas sloppers are now considering the saddest words of tongue or pen.

Summon your philosophy and make it snappy;
Tomorrow you'll be broke but happy.

For the political Santa Claus who disposes of ginger snaps the average politician hangs up his stocking the whole year long.

After having felt the goulash of adversity, her agreement with Czecho-Slovakia should enable Austria to return for at least a taste of her salad days.

Conference delegates may profit by noting that whenever Congress decides to take a recess there is never any doubt as to the meaning of the motion.

On this joyous Christmas Russians are dying of starvation by the thousands. This will make interesting reading for Watson, of Georgia, who is staging opposition to congressional relief.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth glad tidings." Last night Christmas stockings worn by the assistants of Santa Claus were filled with tired but beautiful feet.

If the people of Pennsylvania are sufficiently shocked at the thought of a Lieutenant Governor accepting State money for extra legal services there is little likelihood that the next Governor will have so little delicacy.

Santa Claus is always for the open shop. There is no limit to the hours of employment he demands of his assistants. Instead of paying wages he exacts pay. And his slaves think themselves well paid if a child smiles on them.

Santa Claus is the dearest old bromide in the world. He illustrates delightfully the shopworn platitude that it is more blessed to give than to receive. If he could make all the virtues commonplace the millennium would be with us.

In Washington next month there will be a general meeting of the business organization of the Government to discuss administrative economy. Harrisburg should send delegates to pick up a few crumbs of necessary knowledge.

We gather from the weather reports that if it doesn't rain or snow Christmas may be cloudy and unsettled with skating a possibility. The only thing that seems certain is that there is little likelihood of Santa Claus being overcome by the heat.

It may be that when Mr. Snyder read the act of 1915 prohibiting the heads of State departments from hiring lawyers without express authorization from the Attorney General he suspected that the framers meant to "include Japan," which, in current legal jargon, means that the words may, under easy interpretation, mean the opposite of what they say.

As it is manifest that no dictionary is equal to the task, what is needed in all international conferences is a committee of grammarians to set forth in simple language just what the words of any given treaty mean. Having, for instance, in the Four-Power Treaty explained that "insular possessions and insular dominions" include (or do not include) Japan, it will proceed to "conference" which may either be (a) for an interchange of opinions or (b) for the reaching of a decision to be considered binding on all the participants. After which a sub-committee may be appointed to supply the correctness of their definition. There is nothing in the world so pleasingly uncertain as words, just words.