

Evening Public Ledger

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CYRUS H. K. CURTIS, President
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AMATEUR TRAFFIC LAWS

WHY should the members of the Traffic Committee of the City Council feel that they will be able to solve the traffic problem and eliminate the glare and injurious of the recently promulgated non-parking rules without expert aid of one sort or another?

HALL AND THE FREUDIANS

WHEN a Congressman gets an appropriation of \$100,000 for improving a recreation center in his ward he begins to think about extravagance. The Freudiands would say that his subconscious mind, schooled by his education, would immediately begin to protest, and that the extra result would appear in bitter opposition to the expenditure of even adequate sums for improving recreation centers in other parts of the city.

A GRIP WARNING

NEWS of the recurrence of influenza in London does not constitute cheerful winter reading. If it serves, however, as a warning, the American attitude may reasonably be one of sympathy rather than fear.

WHY JAZZ REMAINS

MEMBERS of the Massachusetts Legislature trained in the political atmosphere of Boston are not noted for a delicacy of ethical perception. They are, as a matter of fact, a rather hard lot. Yet Representative Samuel W. Mendham, a member of a legislative commission appointed to report upon the situation in Boston, admitted that he granted for himself, during the course of his studies, the view of the dancers of some of the more fashionable hotels. "The worst dance," said Mendham bitterly, "was danced in the best place."

THE FAVORED BRIDGE MAKERS

THE foresight and efficiency of the Bridge Commission are consistently displayed in the scrupulous care taken in the appraisal of all the properties in the path of the Philadelphia end of the structure. Extraneous claims for damages have sometimes in the past, unfortunately, increased the cost of public improvements.

SELFISH SOPHISTRIES

IT IS astonishing how selfish interests can blind men to the truth and lead them to make, in the most sophisticated forms of special pleading, the most grotesque and unjust proposals.

PEPPER AND AVIATION

CONGRESS, bewildered by the extent of the growth of the aviation industry, is endeavoring to bring about a national aviation act. The aviation industry is one of the most important of our national affairs with the possible consequences in approaching operations, is in no need to give time to the careful consideration of means necessary to the development of Federal support for aviation.

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key-wrench into public progress reached its climax when the construction of the Free Library on the Parkway was held up for several years by an offended rate-payer. The Delaware bridge-makers are not, of course, out of the woods, but it must be admitted that the whole enterprise up to date seems singularly favored by circumstances.

POPE BENEDICT XV

SORROW for the loss of Pope Benedict XV extends far beyond the sphere of his pontificate. Elevated to the Roman See at the beginning of one of the darkest epochs of world history, a prelate especially distinguished for somewhat aristocratic scholarship speedily displayed the deepest sensibilities for stricken humanity, and throughout the cataclysm of war labored unceasingly to arouse that spiritual consciousness necessary to an enduring peace.

That his efforts in the objective sense were fruitless detracts not at all from his consistent sincerity in a position beset with difficulties. At only three other periods of the modern mundane chronicle—the Thirty Years' War, 1618-1648; the Napoleonic era and the Italian Risorgimento—have the political difficulties of the Pontiff been so trying as during the twentieth-century recurrence of barbarism.

Despite the fact that the outward principles of neutrality were scrupulously observed, even to the insensate outrages of Rheims Cathedral, the submarine depredations and cruelty to civilian populations—was vigorously expressed in the Holy Office. As is not uncommon in the annals of the Papacy, Benedict XV, erudite, philosophical, subjective, furnished a striking temperamental contrast to the somewhat bureaucratic and more naive virtues of his predecessor.

That such a character as Giacomo della Chiesa was raised to Peter's seat at a time when Christianity gave the appearance of a shambles may be deemed an instance of the wantonness of destiny. Yet Benedict XV bore his heavy responsibilities bravely and in the end his reign was not devoid of compensations.

He was privileged to witness the re-conquest of Jerusalem by a Christian power in the Allied expedition that has been historically named as the Last Crusade. He beheld the restoration of peace to a dazed world and was enabled to sympathize keenly with efforts to repair its wreckage.

It has been frequently noted since the armistice that Benedict XV was inclined toward a better understanding with the temporal power in Italy. If that is a fact, there was comparatively recent precedent in the alleged ambitions of Pius X. The problem, however, is one of Italian rather than of universal import.

Spiritual leadership was unquestionably Benedict's primary ideal, and it may be said that he pursued that goal with conspicuous ability. Not the least of the fruits of this policy was the restoration of friendly relations with France, leading to some extent the wound caused by the breach of the Comorin. Hundreds of millions of communitarians of his faith will mourn the premature passing of their earthly vicar. The rest of the world will respect their sentiments and join with their aspirations for a worthy successor.

NEW USE FOR WARSHIPS

THE American Minister to Liberia may have unwittingly suggested a fitting use for the warships which are to be scrapped under the limitation of armaments program. He was entertaining the Liberian Cabinet in his house in Monrovia when he was invited to dine at a table in a room on the floor. The door gave way and the Secretary fell into the cellar. Thereupon the American Minister called to Washington for a warship loaded with lumber and carpenters to make repairs.

Although there was a splendid opportunity made, the warships could be converted into ships of rescue, the State Department in Washington has declined to embrace it. Instead, it has ordered the Minister to make the repairs with native workmen, assuming, of course, that there are carpenters in Monrovia able to lay a floor suitable to support the official residence of a diplomatic representative of this great country.

The possibilities in the Minister's suggestion are limitless. Suppose, for example, that the Consul in Samoa longed for a rustic of pumpkin pie, such as another used to make, and they would be able to export that a warship be sent to him with a cook on board and the necessary makings of the pie. Or the Ambassador Harvey might be homesick for the sight of a game of baseball. He could then ask that the Giants and the Yankees be sent over to London on a special train, with a supply of balls and bats, and orders to play the game in Hyde Park in the interest of international unity. The warships inched in the Thames opposite the Houses of Parliament, or as far as the river as they could get, would be regarded as ambassadors of peace, and they would be able to report of the future in case the crowd leaving the game noted in the manner customary to American crowds.

Too bad that the State Department has not a little more imagination.

DOES A RESIGNATION RESIGN?

THE legal authorities of this State will have to decide pretty soon whether a man can withdraw his resignation of his seat in the Senate after he has presented it. William A. McConnell, a Senator from the Twenty-seventh District when he was appointed Federal Probation Enforcement Officer, The State Constitution provides that "no member of Congress or any other person holding any office under the United States or this Commonwealth shall be a member of either branch of the Legislature in a month after the expiration of his term of office." Mr. McConnell assumed a few months ago that this provision prevented him from being both a State Senator and a Federal official at the same time. He resigned the senatorship.

Now he has resigned the Federal office and his friends are asking that he be allowed to hold a State and Federal office at the same time. The first question to be decided is whether a man who has resigned from an office can change his mind and withdraw his resignation. If this is decided in the negative, then the status of McConnell is settled. But if for any reason there is haggardness over the actual letter of resignation in order to permit the man to claim his seat next January, the constitutional question will have to be considered.

The purpose of the disqualification clause in the Constitution was to prevent a man holding a State or Federal office from having a seat in the Legislature. If elected to the Legislature, he had to resign the other office before he took a seat. But McConnell was eligible to his seat when he took it. It was not until he resigned the Federal office that the question of his right to hold a State and Federal office at the same time arose.

No layman has any doubt about the intent of the Constitution, but there is no knowing what the courts will say about it if they are called upon to interpret it.

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The whole question is so simple and elementary that even a small boy can understand it. It is whether the people shall give themselves for the benefit of private corporations.

There is the additional point that a grant of power to the Federal Government to tax State and municipal bonds would be a grant of power to the Federal Government to control all the financing operations of the independent and sovereign States, and in such an emergency as the late war to put so heavy a tax on State and municipal bonds as to make it impossible to float them, and to do it in order to provide a market for Federal bonds to be used in prosecuting a war. This to many minds is vital.

The real source of the trouble of the public utility corporations lies a great deal deeper than the successful competition of the States and the municipalities in the money market.

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ONE of the reasons that building has been so slow in starting up is that it is very difficult for the builders themselves to figure with any degree of certainty on the outside—not to mention the inside—cost of construction. If they figure on a maximum of cost and on a maximum of time over which the operation is to extend, they are probably insuring themselves a substantial net profit, but they are aware as the next man that the price, by not taking into account the man with the money to spend, if they have the thing down to meet the capital hand they really take great risks of coming out with a profit.

I have been interested in an experiment of building a house without a contract that has been going on this winter. The builder for the owner agreed on the builder's part to do the work for a fixed price, and as the cost of all the materials was a guess—as to the probable cost of the construction and material, and they made another guess, being rough estimates, and the builder's mind, as to the probable cost of the work to complete the job. An arrangement was made for monthly payments on the part of the owner up to half the value of the house, and whenever the cost of any particular part of the construction or for any specific material went over the calculated price it was agreed that the owner should be notified. The first payment was to be after the final inspection of the house by the owner.

THIRTY years ago a house on this same under these terms and turned out to be less than the builder's estimate. The man who took over the builder's business is the one who is now constructing the second house. He will not be able to match that one's good fortune, for he already has run over his estimates by a good deal, and he is not here or there, but his constant letters and reports and his calculations have come faithfully to hand so far, and the house is being partitioned and being partitioned and plastered and finished.

What made the owner suggest this way of meeting the uncertainty was that in case the contract agreed upon had failed to cover the actual price of the construction, the builder would have had no pleasure in owning a house which had cost a workman his legitimate profit. And since he had to trust the man to make the house as good as was possible for as little cost as was possible, and as the specifications stipulated just in what that "as good as possible" was to consist, it seemed that to trust him just one stretch further to keep down the cost, a reasonable limit the actual cost incurred by labor was not inconsistent with other trusts men show each other.

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The people of New Jersey who have been led to believe that the dominant party leaders of the Legislature were actually desirous of ending the prohibition laws, tried out in all sincerity any wonder now that they have not done so? The Van Ness State Government and the Van Ness Congress and an array of active prohibition enforcement officers. The case of Nugent certainly is mysterious. But for an answer to the people the voters of the State will have to wait. The fact remains, however, Governor Edwards will not desert Nugent, neither will the Republican leaders.

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Senator Pepper is in a way to do a great service to the country by his attempts to bring congressional interest in flying and planes. The national system provided the only means for Federal encouragement for those who are trying to keep aviation safe in this country almost of the times. Mr. Pepper is seeking to have the service rendered between New York and Washington. He might get so far as to get a bill passed, but it is not likely that he will get it passed. He is not likely to get it passed. He is not likely to get it passed.

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NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

GEORGE F. SPROULE Of the Port of Philadelphia

THE most important need of the port of Philadelphia is the crystallization of sentiment among the business men of the city in favor of using the port and its splendid facilities, according to George F. Sproule, Director of Wharves, Docks and Ferries.

"No matter how fine the equipment of a port may be," said Director Sproule, "it will not solve the problem, it is necessary for the merchants of the city to have enough civic pride to use the port. Facilities alone will not attract business. There are many vessels which are in the most remote parts of the earth, where they load and discharge their cargoes in open roadways. If the business is there the masters of these vessels will find a way to get their cargoes in and out."

"Consider the business of the port of Philadelphia in the last two years. In 1921 there arrived and cleared 28,077 foreign vessels, with 12,746,721 registered tonnage, and 5286 domestic vessels with an aggregate of 10,640,748 registered tons, a total for the year of 38,724 vessels of 23,357,463 registered tons. In 1922 there were 32,211 vessels of 14,911,736 registered tons and 4817 domestic vessels of 10,105,068 registered tons, a total of 37,028 vessels of 25,016,804 registered tons.

"It is fair to assume that every vessel arriving or departing leaves from \$7500 to \$25,000 in the port, this sum including stevedoring, wharfage, provisions, repairs and many other items for which they make disbursements. Therefore it is easy to see that the actual cash business of the port reaches large proportions in the course of a year, and as business well worth not only maintaining but fostering as much as possible.

"During 1921 the foreign commerce of the port of Philadelphia fell off as compared with 1920, but still maintained a substantial lead over the average pre-war year. This decrease is not peculiar to this port, but is keeping with the reductions in the volume of merchandise and commodities moving into and out of other ports of the country and the world.

Import and Export Totals Lower

"The value of imports for the year shows a decrease of \$101,791,274 as compared with 1920 and the export values, a decrease of \$224,458,021. It is difficult to estimate what proportion of this falling off can be attributed to price reductions. Despite cut in the prices of raw materials doubtless there has been a large part of smaller volume of business as measured in dollars.

"Import gains were shown in some lines, among them being sugar, bananas, cork, wool, leather, and other goods, while crude oil, ore, molasses, nitrate of soda and logwood show a decrease. A feature of the export trade was the large quantity of grain shipped to foreign ports, there were decreases in wheat, coal and oil.

"In the goods trade there were shown in the receipts of oil, lumber, rice and hosiery. Pulwood, cinders and rosin increased, and sulphur, pig iron, phosphate rock and cotton decreased. In shipments out of the port oil, merchandise and steel were among the commodities showing increases, while coal, acid and asphalt decreased in volume.

What Is Needed Here

"This is the situation. What the port of Philadelphia needs is a crystallization of sentiment among the merchants in favor of using the facilities which we have. At present there is a large part of smaller volume of business which have ever been made upon them, but this is a condition in which all ports should be kept.

A NOBLE EFFORT

Oh, Zone, cry opponents of the system, take the ozone.

Life to William McConnell is just as darned resignation after another.

Irish of the world are holding a congress in Paris. What's the matter with Dublin? Poincare may find it is easier to arouse a nation's pride than to fill it with content.

The future arms conference suggested by Elihu Root will have its fill of unadvised business. Mr. Snyder apparently sees no essential difference between "made to order" and "born to command."

First thing you know somebody will be insisting that at least one "dirt" farm shall be included in the agricultural bloc.

Those who hopefully look forward to world peace believe that Poincare and his sharp edges of his policy.

It is expected that part of the program of the farm conference, which meets today in Washington, will be accepted "in principle" by the Administration.

America is now supplying Japan with rice, says Raymond S. Curtis, former American Consul at Nagasaki. Strictly modern case of carrying coals to Newcastle.

Among the things to be considered by a future Arms Conference will be revision of the rules of warfare. But the first rule of warfare appears to be to disregard the rules.

If some efficiency expert could utilize the energy of all the knackers in the country and direct the work of their hammer they would be able to scrap the doomed capital ships.

A college course in hotel-keeping is the latest suggestion. To the youngster who is earning his living while acquiring an education a hotel course in college-keeping would have great interest.

No conference has to be unanimous in order to be successful. "The peace of the world largely depends upon good understanding," says Lloyd George, and such understanding is begotten by sensible discussion.

If China accepts the advice of the Powers and reduces "the large military force within her borders" the world will, of course, have a large sign of relief. Meanwhile, we seem to hear an unwarmed chuck from Dr. Sun.

In Brookville, Pa., a bullhog has been heard croaking in the woods. A bluebird has been heard chirping, and a Fairmount Park Reading Railroad engineer found a flying catbird on a spring and a "but" It pleases us to note, in Independence Square to prove that spring is really on the way.

The United States Geological Survey says while it is not impossible that a process has not yet been found, and when it is the product will probably be far more positive than the natural metal. Any encouragement advocates of Ford's money-energy-currency may have left at startling reports of German inventions may, therefore, be permitted to abate.

Senators Lodge and Underwood clearly fully vouchsafe all information available concerning the Shantung controversy; what is precisely nothing at all. The controversy, however, is not a matter of "Shantung" but of "Shantung" without getting anywhere. At my rate, it is a safe bet to conclude that any arrangement arrived at will be tugged with a "but" and a "but" It pleases us to note, in connection, that Senator Lodge, with his customary clarity, says, "We only hope for what we all earnestly desire, a mutually satisfactory arrangement, and that that for which we all earnestly hope."

In the miners' strike, if the miners' strike, some investigating committee of doubtless discover and present to the public the answer to an interesting question. Miners say that coal is sold at the rate of Central Pennsylvania at \$1.70 a ton. Operators put the figure at \$2.15 a ton. \$2.25 for freight rates, and there still is a large sum unaccounted for before the coal is sold to the Philadelphia consumer at \$14.70 a ton. Who gets the difference? When the committee finds and answers the question it may go far toward settling the strike; but it is a costly method of procedure. Doesn't it seem that an impartial court could find the answer and settle the matter more expeditiously, cheaply and sensibly?

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. What is the difference in time between 2. Who was Savorinoff and what was his first name? 3. Who wrote the music of the opera "Roméo and Juliet"? 4. Who said "I suffered clothes small veins in my sleep; robes and furred gowns hide all"? 5. What is the chief town of the Samoan Islands? 6. What artist is especially famous for his portraits of George Washington? 7. What is the most northern parallel of latitude? 8. Which is the Hawkeye State? 9. Who was Louis Agassiz? 10. In what month was the first election for President of the United States held? Answers to Saturday's Quiz 1. The Pope is elected by the College of Cardinals. 2. There was one English Pope, Adrian IV, who reigned from 1154 to 1159. His name was originally Nicholas Breakspear. 3. The title of the opera is "Roméo and Juliet." The word is from the Latin "sedulo" to sit. 4. A triforium is a gallery or balcony built above the arches of the nave and below the triforium. 5. In the ancient theatre the proscenium was the stage. In the modern playhouse the proscenium is the space between the curtains or drop-scene and the orchestra. 6. James Buchanan was elected President of the United States in 1856 on the Democratic ticket. 7. The Emperor Joseph was born in the island of Mljet, in the West Indies. 8. Ulysses makes the statement "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin" in Shakespeare's play, "Troilus and Cressida." 9. Borneo is the largest island in the East Indies. 10. The French expression "en passant" means by the way, literally, in passing.