

Evening Public Ledger
PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
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would not wish that the drama in which the Denman Thompson of American politics lives to play were actually reflective, in all its fine earnestness and simplicity, of contemporary life? How happy we should be to see bright and pleasant and sure the prospect would appear for all America, if there were no problems more painful and complex than those created in the past by the wicked Republicans of legend and the relatively naive maledactors of Wall street!

WANTED—A GENOA PROGRAM

EVEN Mr. Lloyd George, that conspicuous champion of the Genoa Conference, has refrained from outlining its possible procedure. Concerning general principles, the British Prime Minister has waxed enthusiastically. He has pictured a conclave engaged in the vital task of rehabilitating Europe. The entire world is in a mood to applaud this sketch. There is no argument about the need for recovery or the necessity of setting for dark suspicions and antagonisms a useful co-operation and friendly accord for dark suspicions and antagonisms. But the conference to be held here must be more than a pretentious mouthpiece for approved commonplace. The delegates at Genoa realized this need and were at work upon a definite program—agenda, in the diplomatic lingo—when the Poincare revolt turned back the currents of progress. But there are often limits to the most sensational obstructionism, and indications are not wanting that morning-after processes are already at work in France. Philippe Millet, foreign editor of the Petit Parisien, frankly asserts that "the greatest European democracy" must abandon its reckless career of self-delusion if it wishes to retain the good will of other nations. The Milan, this same discerning commentator emphatically informs his countrymen, scouts the fantastic idea of foreign plots against France, and attributes the attitude of other nations, particularly the United States, to misgivings, sincerely if reluctantly entertained. It is the best of signs that the French sense of realities, long regarded as a national characteristic, appears to be reawakened. As additional proof of this revival, there are the actions of M. Poincare, which, when analyzed, scarcely measure up to the pugnacity of his pronouncements. This clearing of the air, however, increases the responsibilities of the engineers of the Genoa meeting. The agenda-makers should resume their work, rudely interrupted a few weeks ago. While it is unreasonable to be violently skeptical of Lloyd George's pinnacled before it is even tried, there is nothing extravagant in the desire for an itemized list of subjects to be discussed at the conference and for some exact definition of the status of the guests. It may be presumed that Colonel Harvey was in quest of information on these lines in his interview with Premier Poincare. The frank participation of France in the parley would unquestionably go far to remove the fears of obscurity raised when the long-suffering Briand resigned. It is absurd to suggest that America is not interested in the Genoa project. But it would be equally unwise to take part in proceedings the character of which had not been clearly set forth in advance. A playbill of the drama which has been heralded as so momentous is essential. Much of the success of the Washington Conference can be ascribed to the diplomatic courtesy displayed in advance by Mr. Hughes to all the guests. The disposition of the Administration to wait for an authoritative summary of intentions is entirely justified.

THE THIRD DEGREE AGAIN

NOT long ago we took occasion to refer to the columns in an obvious disposition of policy in all American cities to curiously consist in its obscurity. Both the Government and the public seemed to have forgotten a fact of which the Cubans were only too well aware. The lost legion was serving no purpose save that of illustrating gaps in official machinery. Mr. Denby is to be congratulated for categorically authorizing the retreat. The marines will be moved to Guantanamo, the United States Naval Station in Cuba fully covered by the Platt amendment. The post-war policing of Camaguey had no such warranty. It is a curious, yet typical, manifestation of administrative inertia.

WAR NEUROSES

SENATOR BRANDEGEE'S suggestion that qualified neurologists be appointed to determine, by direct examination, whether much of the testimony given to a congressional committee by former soldiers who told of murder and official abuses in the army was not the result of war neurosis is not so irrational as it would seem to some people. It is apparent that at least a few former soldiers—notably one or two of those who have been writing books—have been permitting their hatred of war to turn into hatred of all the means by which ordinarily peaceful people had to save themselves from conquest. But why should the neurologists limit their attention to former soldiers? Half the people of the world are still loaded with war neuroses of one form or another. What else is the matter with the ruling group of French politicians? Why is nervous obsession and hate of neighboring countries prevalent in almost every land? Why do some members of Congress jump when you talk of anything like normal relationships with Europe? It is possible to sweep out of the collective mind of humanity three-quarters of the impressions created by manufactured war propaganda, all peoples would be able to view the world rationally and fewer professors would be writing gloomy volumes expressive of doubt of the ability of our present civilization to endure.

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TALK

BETTER times might be brought nearer if most of the people who are telling the country what is the matter with it could get down to useful work. There is an enormous array of men swelling the ranks of the unemployed. One of the first battles of the farmers who are behind the present hue was coined to express impatience with the talkers. "The country," said an angry spokesman for the farmers of the Middle West, "is filled with people who, though they never did a useful bit of work in their lives, are loudly demanding that the rest of us get busy." W. J. Bailey, former Governor of Kansas, recommended in a public address at St. Joseph, Mo., that the people of the United States look up their motors for a year in order to hasten the return of prosperity. Mr. Bailey is a genial talker. The motor industry is the second largest in the country. Many millions of people are engaged in it and other millions drive motors and keep them in order, and motorworks were established long ago as efficient means of transport. Presumably Mr. Bailey knows where jobs are to be had for the millions whom he would cast out of their present places.

COAL CONTROL

THE bill introduced into the New York Legislature by Assemblyman Cosgrove providing for the appointment of a State commission to control the production, transportation, distribution and sale of coal, wood and coal products is not likely to be passed, but it is symptomatic as the medical men would say. It will not be passed because Mr. Cosgrove is a Democrat and the Legislature is Republican. No important measure introduced by a member of the opposition ever becomes a law. The parts in power insist, and rightly, on framing all bills that receive their approval. But there is undoubted dissatisfaction with the method of distribution and selling of coal, not only in New York, but in every other State. About twenty years ago David B. Hill, then a United States Senator, proposed that the Federal Government take over all the coal mines. This was when mining had stopped because of a strike in the anthracite fields and coal was selling for the unprecedented price of \$10 a ton, and was difficult to get even then. The price of coal has been as high as it was in 1902 for many months without any strike to interrupt production. If the consumers can get relief in no other way the proposition of Mr. Hill, which was received at the time, may begin to receive serious consideration.

ALONE IN CUBA

THE action of the State and Navy Departments in ordering the evacuation by American marines of the town of Camaguey in Central Cuba, can scarcely be called prompt, but it has at least the virtue of decisiveness. The entire episode is a characteristic instance of the difficulty of moving the wheels of governmental machinery. The origin of the invasion was legitimate enough. A fleet of marines was ordered to Cuba in 1917 to protect that important railway junction from German raiders, and especially to effect their suspected in-

A WONDERFUL LAND

Abyssinia is Beautiful and Its Arables Have Never Been Bitten, Says Consul General Campbell—Its Capital a City of Mud Dwellings

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

General Campbell, British Consul General in Philadelphia, who leaves in a few days for his new post in San Francisco, has had a most interesting and varied career. There are few men of rank in Britain's diplomatic service who have not had similar experiences, however. Mr. Campbell has been schooled not only in European capitals, but in some of the most out-of-the-way places of the world on two hemispheres. There are few in the consular service, I fancy, who have experienced such rare opportunities for seeing humanity in the mass as he has had, and who have been so well schooled in the art of seeing the best in every man. His experience as British resident at the Court of Abyssinia was perhaps the most unusual, and he talks most entertainingly about it. Before quoting Mr. Campbell on the subject, the following facts about the little-known land are interesting: THE name Abyssinia is from the Arabic word Habesh, meaning mixture, and refers to the mixed character of the people. The country has an area of about 200,000 square miles poorly defined. It is supposed to contain a little more than 3,000,000 inhabitants. It is a mountainous country, many of the peaks being almost perpetually covered with snow. The climate is one of the most salubrious on the face of the globe. Abyssinia is one of the most ancient monarchies in the world. The legendary ancestress of its royal line is the Queen of Sheba. The prevailing religion is a very corrupt form of Christianity, professed by a possible majority of the people and the reigning family. Its language, religion and literature is the Amharic, with a mixture of Arabic and some Greek roots. LITERATURE in Abyssinia amounts to little. What there is deals with religion and history. Agriculture is the principal industry, although cotton cloth, leather and parchment are exported and iron and brass are manufactured in a primitive way. Its soldiers in Menelik's time, its greatest modern ruler, were recruited largely from the Galla race. They came from the South and are still fierce, turbulent and difficult of control. A railroad 500 miles long runs from Djibouti on the Gulf of Aden to the capital, Addis Ababa. DR. DONALDSON SMITH, of this city, who some years ago delivered a number of lectures on Africa, had some interesting experiences in Abyssinia. He was proceeding westward from the Gulf of Aden through Southern Abyssinia when he was halted by a native general and his guard. He was ordered to proceed no further without the permission of the Negus Menelik. A letter dispatched to the Emperor brought him to the Emperor's court in Addis Ababa. He was ordered to proceed no further without the permission of the Negus Menelik. As the result the explorer had to turn back and make a long detour southward before he could proceed west again. Rulers of that country have always, down to the present, endeavored to prevent travel by white men anywhere in their country. CONSUL GENERAL CAMPBELL, in a very entertaining talk about the little-known country, tells me that there is but one American in Abyssinia so far as he knows. It is a colored man, a blacksmith, and the United States has no consular representative at Addis Ababa. He is under British care. The capital, Addis Ababa, has a shifting population of about 20,000, said Mr. Campbell, "except when some of the big chiefs come in with their armies and camp on the outskirts for a week or so. Then the population rises to about 50,000. The capital itself is a collection of houses with mud walls and thatched roofs. The houses and donkeys are sheltered under the same roof. There are no streets to speak of, merely country roads. "In winter they are all right, but in summer, after a rain they are really impassable. "One or two of the thoroughfares are paved with stone. 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