

Evening Public Ledger

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cause of a lack of money. For other purposes funds can always be found. But for the precautionary measures necessary to insure a city like this against great events and great fires and the like, money is seldom available in adequate quantities...

THE TIME HAS COME TO GIVE UP OSTRICH POLITICS

Voters Must Take Their Heads Out of the Sand and Fight the Financial Incompetency in Harrisburg

IT IS about time that the men responsible for the government of this State stop their dithering about possible candidates for the governorship and devote their attention to the larger issues at stake.

Mr. Grady charged last spring that the reckless appropriations by the Legislature were bringing about demoralization in the State finances. He said that there would be a large deficit in a few months with no money in sight to pay it.

Auditor General Lewis has just told the Allegheny County branch of the League of Women Voters that this deficit is now about \$200,000,000 and that it is likely to be \$400,000,000 before the period for which appropriations were last made expires.

Mr. Lewis knows this condition from the inside. He knows the methods of the Legislature. The members find it easier to vote appropriations asked for by individual organizations than to refuse them.

There were no adequate data for any estimate when Mr. Lewis took charge of the Auditor General's office in May, and it was impossible to learn from the books what the financial condition of the State was.

Mr. Lewis is a member of the State Republican organization. He is making his disclosures in the interest of a sounder business method in State finance. The facts ought to have been disclosed years ago.

These unfavorable conditions will not be cured if the men who are preparing the State budget are not held to the principles by which they are guided. The State budget is a matter of life and death to the people of this State.

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LENINE TO TESTIFY

HOWEVER solemnly Communist might deny it, it is undeniable that the impression of the world is that there is no man in the world who is more capable of making a confession than Vladimir Lenin.

It is estimated that Lenin will be present at the conference which will require a statement for damages by the various religious counter-revolutionaries, and that he will answer foreign claims against the Russian Government by the presentation of a new and formidable bill.

is no need to suppose that the other delegates will be contaminated by the presence of the Soviet Commission which Lenin will lead. The Communist Party and the bourgeois will probably have a point of view to make, and there is no indication that they will be reluctant to justify themselves.

THE STORY OF NELLIE BLY

How She Became a Newspaper Writer—Her First Work in Pittsburgh Recalled—An Inmate Asylum Experience—Personal Recollections

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

NELLIE BLY was buried in New York on Sunday. She was laid away in a storm that was typical of her vivid, romantic life: a life full of tireless endeavor and journeys to strange lands.

Her name means little to the present generation of newspaper readers. Thirty-five years ago it was an everybody's tongue. Her achievement was celebrated in the most brilliant of lands.

With a commission from the New York World she circled the globe in something like seven days less than Phileas Fogg, the mythical traveler whom Jules Verne sent round the world in eighty days.

There are living today but two individuals familiar with the circumstances. Eugene M. O'Neil will not see the principal owners of the Pittsburgh Dispatch, is one. I happen to be the other.

Possibly Colonel Charles A. Book, president of the Dispatch, might recall some of the instances, though I think he was then away at college.

George A. Madden was managing editor of the Dispatch at the time. He was a kindly, lovable character, with certain peculiarities. He died a few years ago near New York.

George Madden discovered Nellie Bly. She had been a girl named Pink Elizabeth Cochrane. She was born in Armstrong County, but had been living for years in Pittsburgh with her widowed mother and an older brother, Jefferson Cochrane, a traveling salesman.

I was city editor of the paper when one day in 1885 Madden came to my desk with a letter in his hand. "There is a letter from a girl who wants to do reporting," it might well be written and I think I'll give her a chance," he said.

I recall that I protested against taking her on the local staff. With the prejudice of forty years ago, I thought newspaper work was not then regarded as a success.

Miss Cochrane came to work and was taken in charge by Madden himself. A few days later she was assigned to a position where she was to be of probation, were assigned and were "specials."

She developed so rapidly, however, that Madden decided to give her a non-descript position. There was no room for sentiment in his make-up, and he signed her copy "Nellie Bly."

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EPILOGUE



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks with Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

WILLIAM R. TUCKER On American Shipping

IT IS entirely possible for vessels of that great merchant fleet sailing under the Stars and Stripes to regain the dominant position which the flag once had on the high seas if methods of operation are established upon a practicable basis.

"Shipping must be based upon service," said Mr. Tucker. "You cannot legislate a nation into a high shipping position, and if the country wants a fine merchant marine it must support that marine."

"The proposed abrogation of the commercial treaties which have been signed by the President is an entirely dangerous and unwise step to take in the present state of international trade."

"Should the foreign Governments retaliate, it would result in conditions by which vessels would carry cargoes only one way. This would not only reduce the carrying capacity of the vessels, but the cost of the one-way cargo would have to be sufficient to pay the entire expenses of the vessel."

"If transoceanic freight in excess of such rates as come naturally from open competition is to be forced by legislation, the transportation costs will land up every producer of goods exported and every layer of goods imported."

"The American merchant marine is to obtain its share of the commerce of the world, it must make its rates as low as those of the foreign nations. Freight so earned must yield to the owner and not less than a percentage of profit to lower than that obtained by foreign owners."

"The Seaman's Law. There can be no disputing the fact that the Seaman's Law, followed by Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, at the demand of the sailors' unions, has done more to embarrass the American merchant marine than any other single influence."

SHORT CUTS

POEM SETTING FORTH THAT OCCASIONALLY PRAISE OR BLAME ACCURATELY ACCORD TO THOSE CULPABLE OR WORTHY.

Old Doc Wind whistles as he works. A wise book might be written of the journey of the harem performance from the circus to the ballroom.

We don't need a thing now for the fair but a director, a site, an appropriation and a few earnest workers.

Demosthenes Methinis wonders if it corn in the land of Egypt that causes John Bull to lift the heavy heel of oppression.

The cheerfulness with which the British are leaving Ireland is indicative of their belief that the Irish will settle their difficulties.

Senator Vane wants it distinctly understood that he does not object to women legislators so long as they wear the Vane ribbon.

Judging alone from the litterness being directed against it, one might be led to suppose that the Park site is as good as selected for the fair.

There is an air of righteousness about the man who has removed the snow from his sidewalk all by his little limousine that is only equalled by that of the man who breaks the ice to take his daily bath.

President Harding is said to believe that the Senate will ratify the treaties resulting from the Washington Conference promptly and without undue debate.

Dr. Lida Ogilvy says fresh air is a cure for "Dr. Lida Ogilvy's youth" afflicted with jazz. The doctor's idea is to blow out the jazz germ with the wind of out-of-dosers.

If the strike of waist and dress makers in New York continues and women are reduced to the painful necessity of making their own, we do not imagine husbands will be heard making any strenuous protest.

Chauffeur and guard of an autocrat are in a New York hospital as a result of a fight with bandits. They may die, but at least, they were successful in saving \$30,000 worth of silks and textiles consigned to Philadelphia. The day's work continues to produce heroes.

A hundred young men and women in the local Federal Building are being instructed in the interpretation of the new revenue law. There is possibility that the more they learn about it the more convinced they will be that the proposed sales tax is a robbery.

It has cost the city a lot of money to clean the snow off the streets, but the fact that the money was not put into the pockets that would otherwise have been empty. Where the unemployed are concerned worse things may blow into the city than a snowstorm.

The tugboat Arctique towed the submarine T-2 to safety after stranding by her for hours while the little craft struggled with the mountaintops seas with a snowstorm rapidly gathering around her. There's nothing more to be said about the tugboat's performance. It is a fact that it isn't a fact to judge from appearances.

Prose nearly every disaster is referred by some devil of heroism. The outstanding hero of the Washington Conference was G. B. Hooper, whose life might have been saved if he had not insisted upon others being helped. In the face of death some brave men always laughs at Nature's alleged first law.

The Keaton committee rightfully should have taken the Keaton committee's claim to the "fall" social value of their product. If one gives the somewhat obscure phrase the meaning commonly accepted, even though it be had already, it would be a matter to be decided at the polls, an issue before the whole people; it could never be merely a local question to be settled between employer and employee.

The H. C. of L. One day in the country, where every man knows. The earth of its plenty is giving. I stumbled from a conversation of some friends. The motion they made was one strikingly clear.

Whereas, we are fond of good eating. Recollected that more shall be planted each year. And that was the sense of the meeting.

NOW FOR THE BIG SHOW

MAYOR MOORE, apparently inspired by his Florida vacation, is returning home fired with enthusiasm for advancing the exposition project.

During his absence the site question has been carried to a stage from which it can be lifted only by an act of explicit decision. All the findings have been collected. The report of the Engineers' Club was filed with the Executive Committee of the Sesqui-Centennial Association.

A number of impractical recommendations have been eliminated. The choice is now narrowed down to four or five settings for the fair.

CLEAN YOUR SIDEWALK

THE city ordinances require every household to clean the snow from the sidewalk in front of his house. Most householders clean the snow off not because of the compulsion of the ordinances, but because they believe it ought to be done for their own comfort and for the comfort of those who use the walk.

The Director of Public Safety has announced that he intends to enforce the ordinance and to inflict the penalties on those who disregard it. He is justified in this course for clean sidewalks for pedestrians are almost as important as unobstructed streets for vehicles.

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON

IN ACCORD with a zealous personality was the death of Sir Ernest Shackleton in harness.

To this indomitable and ingenuitous scientist and explorer the conquest of the continent of Antarctica, and his achievements have contributed largely to the sum of human knowledge, especially in the realms of botany, zoology, geology and geography, he was in the whole more widely honored for what he was than for what he did.

As intrepid as either Richard Burton or General Gordon, as susceptible as either of these English romantics to the call of adventure, Shackleton was true superior in temperamental balance and to what he behind them in a kind of instinctive divinity.

His last voyage, ill-starred from the outset when the tiny Gue was almost wrecked off Lisbon, was designed without regard to spectacular effect and wholly in the interest of scientific accuracy. The charting of Australasia, the accumulation of oceanographic data and of facts concerning submerged islands or possible even "lost continents" were the only aims of the expedition.

LAXITY ON SAFETY LAWS

IN WASHINGTON there were bills to movement for a detailed examination of the building codes and inquiries to determine the efficiency of the system by which safety laws are enforced.