

HE WALKED RIGHT IN AND TURNED AROUND AND WALKED RIGHT OUT AGAIN!

Evening Public Ledger

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ACCIDENT SCAPEGOATS

CHARLES L. EVANS, conductor, and Walter Yeakel, engineer, sentenced respectively to nine and six months for criminal negligence in the Reading Railway wreck, near Bryn Athyn, are pitifully condemned.

MODERNIZING THE FERRIES

ANNOUNCEMENT that work will be started in less than a fortnight upon the pretentious new train terminal and ferryhouse for the Reading Railway in Camden is reassuring evidence that the bridge project has not been permitted to obstruct necessary development of other features of interstate communication.

TO A PHILADELPHIA HERO

PENNSYLVANIANS in general and Philadelphians in particular may take pride in the memorial tributes to George Gordon Meade, for which ground will be broken in Washington on March 28.

WHY THE BOYS COME HOME

AMERICANS who have been worrying over the presence of a small force of our regulars in the Rhineland can take satisfaction in Secretary Weeks' announcement that evacuation will be completed by July 1.

THE LADY IN ART

ADAM, in the hours of his loneliness, doubtless made little pictures in the sand. It is conceivable that he even tried his hand at little clay images of a sort likely to suggest the ache in his heart or the poignance of his assorted woes.

CONGRESS SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN LEAVE OF ITS SENSES

President Harding's Cool Sanity over the Bonus Business is All That Stands in the Way of Financial Chaos

PRESIDENT HARDING refuses to be stampeded from the position he has taken on the bonus question. He made his views clear many weeks ago and in setting them forth he assumed responsibility for protecting the solvency of the Treasury.

If a bonus is to be paid the money must be raised by taxation, and he suggested a sales tax as a way to raise it. He would not consent to a bond issue, for the reason that the borrowing capacities of the Government will be stretched to the utmost to take care of more than \$6,000,000,000 of obligations that must be refinanced within the next thirteen or fourteen months.

An attempt to float a new loan and increase the national debt would depreciate the value of every Liberty bond now outstanding. Assuming that the loan could be floated, a large amount of capital that is imperatively needed to finance enterprises which have been waiting a return to normal conditions. It would check business recovery and delay the return to profitable employment of the men now idle.

This is the hard and inescapable fact which confronts those responsible for national solvency. That the President has insisted on its recognition, graciously, but nevertheless with firmness, is to his credit. He could do no less without dodging his obligations.

The tax which he proposed is offensive to the farmers' bloc. But it is the tax that would raise the money with the least possible disturbance to business. There is no other tax which could be levied without overcoming the strenuous opposition of all the substantial interests of the country.

Every one save a few Western and Southern demagogues are aware of this. The bill which the Ways and Means Committee has drafted does the whole financial question by merely providing a plan on which bonuses shall be paid. It does not appropriate a dollar and it does not set forth any plan by which the money shall be raised. And the plan of the bill does not contemplate the payment of cash to the ex-service men. They are to get an insurance certificate redeemable in twenty years on which they can borrow a part of its face value.

The rich man who does not need cash can allow the certificate to mature, when he will get 25 per cent more than its face value and compound interest on it for twenty years, making a total of about three times the amount which the poor man who needs the cash can raise on his certificate, provided he can get any bank to lend him the money.

It is astounding that full-grown men can pretend to themselves that this gold brick certificate bonus plan will satisfy any one. Yet it apparently is to be jammed through the House this week by the votes of Representatives who are afraid that if they do not do something for the soldiers they will lose their seats in the November election.

Congress is aware of the financial condition of the Treasury. It has been made clear to it by Secretary Mellon and by the President. But the House does not seem to care a tinker's dam about anything but the approaching election.

The President yesterday, after hearing Fordney and Mondell and the rest of the House leaders, said in effect: "I have made my position clear to you by my previous statements. It is not necessary to restate it. Whether you accept my views or not is up to you. You are the legislative branch of the Government. You must accept the responsibilities of your powers. I will accept mine."

By any chance the bill, after passing the House, will be approved by the Senate. It is morally certain that the President would veto it. He can take no other course without betrayal of the larger interests of the Nation. For it is much more important that the Federal Government do everything in its power to assist in the restoration of normal business conditions than that it make a cowardly surrender to the fear of political reprisals from the former service men.

What is called the soldier vote is a bugaboo. President Harding knows that it is not a political solid. Men of all parties and none were the uniform. They are not substantially all Republicans as the Northern soldiers of the Civil War became. There were no domestic politics involved in the World War. When the soldiers came home they voted for Republicans and Democratic Congressmen and Governors just as they did before they went abroad or before they went to the training camps. Why, right here in Philadelphia, when an attempt was made to nominate a war veteran for a local office last year in opposition to a politician who stayed at home the war veteran was defeated. But if all the other veterans had voted for him at the primaries he would have been nominated and elected.

But the members of the House are afraid of going through the motions of passing a bonus bill. Some of them are even going so far as to berate the former service men who write them that they do not want any bonus. This has happened in this neighborhood, where a Congressman actually wrote to a young man of a well-to-do family that he ought to work for the bonus for the benefit of the poor young men who need the money.

The members of the House, with few exceptions, seem to have taken leave of their reason and to be acting like hysterical cowards. The President alone retains his poise and his mental balance.

HARDWARE AND WHITE MULE

How a Southern Merchant Solved the Problem of Attracting Ladies to His Hardware Store—"White Mule," Alias Moonshine, in Its Native Lair

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

IT WAS in the smoking compartment of a Pullman that brought up the rear of an express train headed for the Southwest. He was slender, smooth-shaven and soft of voice, with a tendency to slur the final "g" as most Southerners do.

The combination of peripatetic humanity had been exchanging experiences, as the male human usually does when in repose and in the company of a woman.

"Did any 'o' gentlemen evah notice that it's the rarest thing in the world to see a lady in a hardware store?"

"I've seen 'em in the store, but I never seen 'em in the store," replied the other.

"I was bought for a big Southern establishment. He had just made his first venture into a new field. His experiences were interesting.

"I suppose you 'all know about th' Toy Fair," he went on.

"I didn't know a soul in that trade, but when I got to New York I hitched up to a clever gentleman, representative of a foreign house. I told him honestly I didn't know a thing about toys, as such, an' do you know he took me in an' treated me like a brotha."

"This Toy Market runs for about two months. There are representatives of American, French, Swiss and other foreign manufacturers."

"All under one roof?" asked the traveling salesman.

"No, sir. Scattered about right generally over the town."

"They have three prices, one to jobbers, one to wholesalers an' another to retailers," he continued.

"Each has his specialty. One will handle electrical toys, another mechanical, a third velocipedes and tricycles, another blocks and block puzzles. Then there are dolls, bisque figures, jointed animals, toy houses and furniture."

"While I was looking around one Western buyer gave an order for \$70,000 worth of dolls alone. Think of that, huh?"

"I got to thinking how we could attract the ladies to our place, an' I hit on two plans."

"First was to add something to our stock, which was hardware, that would appeal to them."

"House furnishings for the ladies and toys for the children was the idea."

"One day at bank I saw the name of the paying teller above his window; an' the receiving teller the same."

"I argued, 'I'd like to see a talk with my principal. He didn't take to the idea at first, but I convinced him finally.'"

THE CASE OF MCCOACH

WHEN you sit down to consider the possible general effect of the State Supreme Court decision giving power to the Director of Public Safety to demote an officer of Captain McCoach's rank, and to demote him without making his reasons public, you will realize again the hopelessness of the efforts commonly made to improve the administration of public affairs by special laws. In the right hands the authority granted to police directors by this decision would operate for great good. In the hands of unprincipled or corrupt men it could be a force for disintegration and evil.

Thus the Director of Public Safety who for one reason or another wished to be a terrorist could now work without danger or fear of exposure. If he wished to protect privileged vice he could do so merely making his wishes known to his subordinates and holding over them the threat of official discipline of a most effective kind. He could restrict the whole background and into places of obscurity police officials who refused to do his bidding, and he would not have to make any explanation to the men so eliminated or to the public. He could be a Czar of sorts and a Court from which there would be no appeal.

Each day he has the power of an honest Director to deal directly and efficiently for the good of the service and the community at large with police captains and lieutenants who, under the protection of Civil Service rules, have continued to take orders from irresponsible officers instead of from their superiors. Everything depends upon the personal equation.

It appears in the final analysis that centralized authority is, after all, the only guarantee of an honest and efficient police service. With centralized authority goes centralized responsibility. Under the new ruling it will be proper for the public to demand of the minor police officials and full-time blame for the failure or the misuse of police power flatly upon the shoulders of the Director of Public Safety and the Mayor. These officials will not be able to blame "meddling politicians" for such inefficiency or crookedness as may be revealed in the mechanism of the Department of Public Safety. From now on they will have a right to choose their own men for important official posts.

Captain McCoach was suspected of divided allegiance. He was charged with a desire to serve his political friends by the misuse of his office as Director of Public Safety. And he had a bad habit of a good many police officials and one which has been fostered upon them in the past by the powers higher up. It used to be fashionable to blame "the bosses" for anything that went wrong in the Police Department. Now it will be necessary to blame the Mayor and the Director of the Department of Public Safety. And, in course of time, if crooked politicians get into office they will not mind being blamed or criticized. They never do, so long as the public refrains from making its resentment apparent at the polls.

DISCOVERERS OF HUMANITY

YOUNG MR. DODGE, one of the sons of the millionaire motor manufacturer, went joyriding in the environs of Detroit. He speeded. He contributed to circumstances which caused the injury of a girl who rode in his machine. He was arrested and he was liberated after he spent five days in jail.

Reading of all this, one would be led to suppose that young Mr. Dodge is merely another of the gilded set. But he seems to be a little more than that. He has written an article for the prison paper in Detroit, and it is no ordinary article. It is not an expiation for his crime, but a revelation of his humanity. He is eager to tell the world of it. Thus he reports that it is wrong for people to believe that all jailers are brutes, that Courts are cruel places where tyrants preside and watch for unfortunates whom they can make miserable, and that all policemen are brutal and brutalized by their jobs. The jails are filled with devoted criminals. Jailers, says Mr. Dodge, are humane and kind, and Judges seem sorry rather than glad when they have to visit punishment on an offender against the law. Policemen aren't ugly-tempered and intent merely on showing their authority. Most wonderful of all, he says, is the discovery that the people who are in jail are not different essentially from other people. Most of them, he believes, are unfortunate or luckless, rather than bad at heart.

A few days in a cell seem to have done more for young Mr. Dodge than years in college. He has learned many things of his age and generation. Of course, young men are good-humored and tolerant, and even kind to their prisoners, when the prisoners are half decent. A great deal of unadverted charity is dispensed in police stations. Judges don't like to send people to jail. And most of the people who go to jail are in no way different at heart from those who don't.

Young Mr. Dodge is a typical representative of that part of the world which is discovering the Other Half. Everywhere all sorts of fortunate people are beginning to realize with some indignation that the poor are not rich, and that the rich are not poor, and that the rich are not different essentially from other people. Most of them, he believes, are unfortunate or luckless, rather than bad at heart.

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MISS SUSAN C. FRANCIS

On Caring for Sick and Ailing Children

PHILADELPHIA is well ahead of the other great cities of the country and far ahead of most of them in the matter of the care which is given to its sick, undernourished and ailing children, as well as in a general campaign of education in these matters carried on alike among the children and the parents, says Miss Susan C. Francis, superintendent of the Children's Hospital.

"Most children who require medical attention," said Miss Francis, "show great evidence of malnutrition. This is largely due to the lack of knowledge on the part of the parents as to the proper methods of feeding the child, and we are trying to remedy this state of affairs by teaching the mothers the right way."

"The fact that at our own institution we have about 2000 children a month as dispensary cases shows how widespread are the conditions which create these cases. The Department for the Prevention of Disease keeps a careful and systematic tabulation of each case, the child being weighed, measured, put into the proper classification and looked after generally."

"The Associated Medical Clinic cares for dependent and often neglected children. It is different in some ways from the usual hospital clinic, as the children rarely present cases of acute illness. The chief physical defects of the eye, ear, nose, throat, skin, etc., and the cases are often associated with mental defects, or present serious problems of physical, mental and moral character. Special attention is paid to the eyes, lungs, nutrition and posture."

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"We have found that the individual instruction of the mothers to give in their homes from the nurses has brought about the greatest results in the improved conditions of the home as well as in the actual health of the children. The effects of home visits by the nurses have been remarkable in the saving of infant life."

"In the Thirtieth Ward of the city we have been trying to make provision for the care of expectant mothers, the supervision of the children from the time of their birth and the education of the citizens generally in all matters pertaining to healthful living and the prevention of disease. A survey of this territory shows that the Department for the Prevention of Disease must continue its work simply to the sick children who come to the hospital for treatment, as many of the children living in that neighborhood are very much better off than those who are in the hospital when the department is prepared to give them care."

"We plan that the department shall act as a community center for the reception of parents and children alike on all matters pertaining to the health of children. The infant mortality of the Thirtieth Ward is considerably higher than the average of the city as a whole, and we hope, through the teaching of the cardinal principles of health to the citizens, to be able to improve conditions there materially."

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"The keynote of our work and the foundation upon which all the instruction is based is a thorough physical examination of the children. The children who come to the clinics are supposed to be well, but the examination shows that nearly every child is in some condition which, if not attended to at once, is likely later to develop into something serious, if not an actual defect. A continuous record is kept on file and the child is later subjected to a re-examination."

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EXECUTIVE MANSION

Spring rains—and rains and rains. The frozen-loan feature chills bonus enthusiasts. Spring cometh. Cuckoo loud stings. Crow caweth bokum. In the matter of Goetz, Walnut was very evidently off his game. Resolved—That presidential golf shall include putting the bonus bill into a hole. "Well, well," remarked Foad to Rameses, "it's a long time between kings, isn't it?" Those responsible for the firing of Walnut ought to get together and agree upon a reason. Cherries are selling in Paris at \$1.10 apiece. They'd bring that here in the proper setting. Detroit millionaire shoveling coal in jail. One may soon have to be a millionaire to do it. Trenton woman says women are not fitted for jury duty. Only a woman would dare say it. Suspicious ears are to the ground expecting to hear a bell tinkle like a coin in a contribution plate. Things are so mixed up in the political pottery yard that a candidate doesn't know whether to crow or to cackle. We gather from his interview concerning the movie and the baby that Mr. Hays had his own rattle with him. Let the taxpayer temper his indignation against the Ways and Means Committee. It has at least made the Bonus Bill ridiculous. Pennsylvania politicians have not yet accurately placed this Reed bird. They don't know whether he's an oboc or a heeb-clophone. Girl students who resent being prevented from wearing knickers in college please consider what would happen to boys who insisted on wearing skirts. The thought that Russia may come back and play hob with present-day agreements is disturbing. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof" is a poor substitute for "Be ready." Francisco Villa has a 200,000-acre farm and has petitioned the Mexican Government for more land. The Government probably knows what to expect in case of a refusal. "The farm, the factory and the mine are calling for men of vision," German university students adjure high school graduates. "Then hearken to their call," the graduates may retort. F. E. Scooby has succeeded Raymond T. Baker as director of the United States Mint and assumed charge of \$3,600,000,000 in gold. That's an awful lot of mint said to one poor lamb, says Mrs. Arabella Mising. Madame Zenaida Semenov says her husband, Ataman Semenov, was divorced from her when he married Agnes. If this be true the Bigamist's Bonus Bill absolutely will probably cable this taunt at a woman: "Attaboy, Ataman!" We learn from a Harrisburg dispatch that Finchot and McCasparan met on a train and chatted amicably. We gather that the correspondent considers this a much better story than if they had merely had a fist fight and blackened each other's eyes. Senator Reed talked for three hours against the four-Power and Naval Treaties. His speech will be printed at some expense in the Congressional Record where nobody will read it. And his remarks will have absolutely no bearing on the vote. What's the use of it all? The President's determination to help disabled veterans gives joy to all good citizens, but only solid comfort to those who are seeking a bonus. Sunday's conference was a delicate way of letting the bonus men know that their cake is dough, but not the end of dough they expected.

Now My Idea Is This!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best.

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