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Philadelphia, Wednesday, October 4, 1922

CONFUSED TRAFFIC LIGHTS

IF ALL motor drivers were reckless and violent in their attitude of mind toward people about—and they aren't—the present form and arrangement of the new traffic signals on Broad street would please them greatly, for the new devices, admirable as they are in principle, are so placed that an automobile driver who wishes to be always safe within the narrowing lines of police rules will seldom dare to look at the road directly in front of him. His attention must be concentrated to the task of picking out the red, green or yellow signals from the maze of street lights and decorative illuminations against which they are displayed.

The trouble with the new signals is that they are kept at too low a level. Their elevation is similar to that of the street lights and most of the existing advertising signs. Properly they should be displayed at a greater height, not only in order that they might be more clearly visible at a distance, but to make it unnecessary for any operator of a motorcar to take his eye from the road for more than an instant to know whether the way is open or closed. As it is, any one not familiar with the system will often have to look sharply to pick the signal light out from the thousands of other lights in the immediate vicinity.

Now, a very large part of the population is still in the habit of stepping abseminately from curbs, of dodging into moving traffic, of jaywalking between signal points. Motorists who occasionally make wrong turns or dart out of side streets where no traffic signs are located, do it for the business of motor drivers to worry about these things. They shouldn't have to divert their attention constantly to look for overhead lights that ought to require no more than a second's glance.

No one at City Hall is yet prepared to say whether the present form of signal standard is the accepted one or whether, when the synchronized traffic control system passes the experimental stage, the lights will be lifted off the maze of street lamps and display signs as they ought to be. The police have had to solve some troublesome mechanical problems in adapting the automatic signaling system to Broad street. This probably means on the right to left. These powers ought to be at least thirty feet higher.

The part that traffic men have to play at intermediate street intersections is far from both difficult and dangerous. When there are enough towers and when the lights are properly displayed the traffic man should have nothing to do but see that the rules are obeyed.

YERKES GETS BY

MHILLBOURNE'S own Square Yerkes, Yerkes the Terrible, seems without a scratch from his first scuffle with the essenes he has made in this city.

When the living square was arrested yesterday at Fifty-third and Walnut streets for driving a motor without a proper license, the fact that he had committed offenses, probably punished in his own country didn't weigh against him. Had a Yerkes been trying Yerkes there would have been a brutal beating and a fine.

"A contemptible trick," said Magistrate Stevenson in describing the arrest.

When magistrate meets magistrate—what is the use of talking about it?

THE ETERNAL QUEST

ONE of the first things that the Bolsheviks attempted when they got control in Russia was to abolish religions beliefs and religious forms. The Bolshevik propagandists in the Lenin-Trotzky organization were based against the Church. They turned furiously on the whole ecclesiastic order, and so thoroughly was this work that cartoons made to turn unchristian persons into free thinkers and unchristian persons into simple, direct, terrible art.

The Church suffered for it. It was indicted as a player-partisan to the other tyranny, and opposed to the spiritual, intellectual and physical health of the nation. Its treasures were lost. Its dignitaries were buried to the dust and many of them were slain. Its great buildings were demolished and put to the worldliest of uses. In every way possible the Moscow Government proclaimed its hatred of what it called "paralyzing superstition."

Now, after a period of contemplation, the Russians are searching out the churches again. They go from one to another seeking something for which there is not a name. They are looking for something that they can believe in, something to which their spirits can hold. And in this quest they are not greatly different from all the rest of humanity.

LADIES FOR THE SENATE?

SOMEONI or later women will be formally seated in the Senate of the United States. Whether the day of future will continue to see and fit the higher political office or whether, with the progress of democratic thinking, they will content to leave the choices of government to men and supervise the business through the medium of their ballots, no one may know at present.

The fact remains that the appointment by the Governor of Georgia of Mrs. W. H. Felton to the place left vacant in the Senate by the death of Tom Watson is a true sign of what we may expect in the days ahead. It is not true, as the dispatches say, that the honor record of Mrs. Felton is an empty one. She is, in actuality a Senator of the United States and she will be remembered for all time as the first of her sex to hold that office. She will not naturally serve, however, since a successor to Mr. Watson will be elected before Congress reconvenes.

According to these figures, Germany has issued \$25,000,000,000 paper marks. Of these, \$8,000,000,000 were bought in America and \$900,000,000 in gold was paid for

ladies in the Senate now and they are not grand. There is no reason why Mrs. Felton or any other woman of education might not be as efficient as the average member in Congress. It is said by politicians that women are out of place in the National Legislature because they can never make their minds up. But one may doubt whether any women are slower in making up their minds than the average Senator. And women who have difficulty in making up their minds certainly are less ready to let others do that work for them than those large-voiced statesmen who are forever boasting of their ability "to abide by the decisions of the party leaders."

IS PUBLIC MONEY WASTED IN POPULAR EDUCATION?

I f the Schools and Colleges Had Trained Men for Citizenship There Would Be More Interest in the Approaching Election

IF ANY ONE besides the officers of the State Chamber of Commerce and of the Bureau of Municipal Research of this city is interested in the home-rule amendment to the Constitution to be voted on in November, a careful reading of the newspapers has failed to disclose his identity.

Yet that amendment is an important one. It empowers the Legislature to give to cities of any class the right to frame and adopt their own charters and to exercise such powers of local self-government as it may confer.

If the electors of this city were particularly interested in the kind of government they have they would be qualifying themselves to vote on this amendment. But they are nonchalant. Although an important State election is pending, the voters have not taken the trouble to register in large numbers.

Two of the three registration days have already passed and there is only one left. That is next Saturday. Unless all present fail there will be a much smaller total registration than usual, for the number of voters who qualified on the first two days is not large and the number qualifying on the last day always is smaller than on either of the two preceding days.

What is the use of spending public money for education to qualify the voters to cast their ballots intelligently when they show no particular interest in voting? The maintenance of schools at public expense merely to teach boys and girls how to earn their living is not enough. The purpose of popular education is primarily patriotic; that is, it is training in the duties of citizenship and qualifying the citizens to judge for themselves on the merits of the issues to be settled at the elections.

As the situation stands today, supporters of the undertaking have no precise knowledge of what they are favoring, and opponents are striking blindly at the amorphous and the impalpable. Flat condemnation of a project before it is presented is a procedure of doubtful logic.

One of the unfortunate features of the present conditions is that the impression prevails that decision either for or against the fair world settle the issue. In a few weeks, when the architects and engineers have evolved a program that is pertinent and dissimilative, criticism, constructive or destructive, may be of some value. But just now both enthusiasts and detractors are groping in fog.

This explains the evasive nature of Mayor Moore's ready to the protest of the North Philadelphia Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Moore admitted that it'll be impossible to let the sesquicentenary of national independence pass here without some recognition of the event.

On this theme there cannot be much argument, for even the most conservative Philadelphians are unlikely to take the attitude that an epic historical anniversary should be ignored entirely. The question is, therefore, resolution into debate concerning the form of the celebration. But the exact form is unknown, a circumstance which obviously limits intelligent argument.

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The cottages have just recently had electricity added to their creature comforts, and in the last five years others have also joined bathrooms without stint. Figure, too, the bedroom chaise longue or sofa or strax pieces that piled up on the benches and tables of the hall! Picture, too—and this time literally—Brain photographs and European tinted Venetian ones! They are no longer taking up space in the bedrooms, walls of today's summer cottages.

The craze for hook and ladder and the unhygienicness of carpets were excuses for the carpet and carpet runners that rolled in to sold.

The desire for sleeping out of doors on sleeping porches made a certain kind of single bed a long-time favorite. At all events, no one could be more likely to buy a track lead.

Fortunately the village houses are not yet equipped electrically and only partially supplied with indoor plumbing, while pictures on the wall of distant lands are challenging the old cravat portraits of dear departed.

I do not mean that this is fortunate for the village, so much as for the success of the summer fair or auction.

The idea of holding a summer fair or auction is a good one, but the unhygienicness of carpets and the unhygienicness of carpets were excuses for the carpet and carpet runners that rolled in to sold.

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