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Philadelphia, Friday, October 13, 1922

## MORE OF THIRD DEGREE

THE first day of police investigations is to not to "get confessions." It is to get the truth.

Therefore the inquisitors at New Brunswick, who have added a touch of atrocious comedy to the tragedy of a mysterious double murder, are hard to less than the youth from whom they wring false testimony of a sort intended to incriminate an innocent man.

Here is a good illustration of the endless harm that the misuse of third-degree methods may do. Suspects pointed in a jail, harassed and kept awake and threatened and even beaten and starved by the police, often will say anything that will bring them even a short interval of rest from torment. They have been known to make false assertions terribly damaging not only to themselves but to others.

Doubtless there are times when the application of the third degree is necessary and justifiable. But the persistent use of a method of torture borrowed from the Middle Ages is due for the most part to a lack of cleverness and resourcefulness on the part of the police themselves.

The less able detectives are to go out and obtain evidence in a decent and orderly manner, the more likely it is that the third degree will be carried to brutal extremes.

## GAFFNEY'S PETTINESS

THAT was a petty exhibition when County Gaaffey denounced the Mayor for transmitting to City Council the departmental estimates for expenditures for next year without putting them down to come within the estimated revenues.

County Gaaffey knows that the Charter directs the Mayor to submit to the Council an estimated statement of expenditures supplied to him by the various departments, offices, boards and commissions, and that he may revise these estimates or not in his own discretion. If he chooses to rescind from revising them he is acting within his legal rights, and if he revives them he also is acting within his power. But Council is absolutely free to regard or disregard any revisions that the Mayor may make. The only restriction upon it is that it must keep its appropriations within the estimated receipts for the year.

In England, if we are to judge by the preliminaries of the coming election, the people are grimly determined that there shall be no more wars of conquest for the time being at least. That resolve also has taken hold of the mind of Canada and the British dominions.

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The stormy politics of the moment in England represents the reaction of the press and the people to the policy of action referred in the Prime Minister's dramatic request for aid from the dominions in this latest crisis. It is now only charged that the Council has misrepresented the Charter, the Council has "full discretion to determine the character and amount of expenditures to be made out of the estimated receipts."

The Mayor has merely exercised his legal discretion by sending the departmental estimates to the Council without much charge. He might have said that he took this course because he had discovered that the Council will pay heed to his financial recommendations and that he therefore had decided to put the full responsibility on its shoulders.

Last year, what the world expected him to tell the Council that he did not know until September 30 what the estimated receipts for next year would be, and that he had neither the time nor the facilities for making an intelligent revision of the estimates before October 15, the last day on which the budget can be submitted. The Charter gives the Council two months in which to make the revision and Council has the final say.

## REPARATIONS SANITY

ALTHOUGH the most recent Franco-British reparations conference ended in failure, attributable in some quarters to a tactless and ill-timed statement by Lord Balfour, it is evident that the French are reverting once more to the program of moderation disrupted in that meeting.

Premier Poireau was perhaps disconcerted that wild-man tactics are unprofitable. It may be that the French people themselves are at last realizing the dangerous futility of the old pound-of-flesh program.

In any event, it is now reported from Paris that M. Poireau will talk to the inter-allied financial congress in Brussels a plan calling for an extensive revision of the totals of German indebtedness, fixing a basis of payments upon actual reparations only, and wiping pension charges and other war allowances of the by-product varieties of the slate. This would reduce the French claim by as much as 25 percent.

No better evidence of a return to sanity in Europe could be desired than repudiation by all the claimant nations of the more preposterous features of their financial demands upon Germany. No friend of civilization believes that the awful depredations in Northern France should go unpunished. But damages from Germany on this score amount to something very different than a program of economic imbecilities.

It may be added also that if France is willing to drop pension claims, it is time to revive the monstrous promises on this subject made by Lloyd George in the demagogic post-armistice campaign which entreated him as First Minister.

## A SEA TRAGEDY AVERTED

IT IS a lonely stretch of great waters between Honolulu and San Pedro, the aspiring little port of Los Angeles. As a traffic lane, this route is in its infancy, and it is through the radio alone that ships taking the course can offset the perils of isolation.

Without wireless the Shipping Board liner City of Honolulu, in the grip of a raging fire, would have been tragically helpless. Appeals for aid ranged through a gallery of thousands of square miles. The comparative proximity of the Pacific Ocean and of the West Parallel to the burning ship made it possible for relief measures to be initiated in a fifty-mile dash to the

hapless passengers and crew, forced to take refuge in open boats.

Of significant value as a safety device is also the stringent, explicit regulation concerning lifeboats adopted after the Titanic disaster. Judging from the wireless operator's messages, the Honolulu was operated in strict conformity with the Government order for accommodation for every passenger. Discipline must, in addition, have played an inspiring role, since all the boats were lowered within thirteen minutes, and in a short time every passenger had been transferred.

The loss of the Honolulu, a fine vessel, formerly the Friedrich der Grosse, of German registry, is a blow to the American merchant marine, as was the destruction of the fleet Northern Pacific, also a victim of flames. In the present instance, however, hermion has not been squandered but supported and made fruitful by modern science and more drastic lifeboat regulations than those on the statute books of any other maritime nation.

AFTER EIGHT RED YEARS  
THE BIG GUNS ARE COOL

The Turkish-Ally Truce Ended Fighting That Has Been Continuous Since the Invasion of Belgium

IN ALL parts of the civilized and uncivilized world—in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas—the guns are cooling for the first time in eight years. There is no war anywhere for the moment. The guerrilla fighting in Ireland and occasional small skirmishes in Central America need not be taken into account.

With the signing of the truce between Turkey and the Allies the last of the fighting which began with the German invasion of Belgium was brought to a stop. Two years of war in Russia followed after the war of the world. Before the Russians had driven out the various armies sent to reform them by force the conflict between the Turks and the Greeks was well under way.

During the course of that mopping-up operation west of the Mississippi River will be many generations before either Harvard or Columbia will elect any one but a citizen of Massachusetts or of New York to its presidency. The protests of the University of Pennsylvania have all been Pennsylvanians, and most of them have been natives of Philadelphia. The election of General Leonard Wood does not violently disregard tradition, for General Wood is not direct the scholastic policy of the University, but its business and financial policy. And he is an Easterner rather than a Westerner.

Yet the time is inevitably coming when residence west of the Mississippi River will be a handicap rather to a candidate for a national presidential office nor for an aspirant to the presidency of an Eastern university, because the spread of population and the industrial development of the country will gradually wipe out the differences between the sections and produce men who are neither Westerners nor Easterners, but Americans.

The result of the presidential election in 1916 brought to the Easterners with a shock of surprise a realization of the fact that they were not the whole country and that the process of Western expansion had gone a long way.

West that the near-eastern colleges are going as far afield as the Great Lakes for their presidents. Yale a year or two ago got its new president from Michigan, and Lehigh will inaugurate tomorrow a president born and educated in Indiana, whose latest previous service was in the University of Illinois. The predecessors of Dr. Charles R. Richards at Lehigh were all born between the Atlantic Coast and the Allegheny Mountains. But within twenty-five years there has developed such a likeness in points of view, educational methods and standards of scholarship that this great region between the Lakes and the Atlantic Coast is regarded as a single community, about which scholars can move as freely as they used to move about New England.

Yet in spite of this westward spread of the cultural standards of the East, it will be many generations before either Harvard or Columbia will elect any one but a citizen of Massachusetts or of New York to its presidency. The protests of the University of Pennsylvania have all been Pennsylvanians, and most of them have been natives of Philadelphia. The election of General Leonard Wood does not violently disregard tradition, for General Wood is not

direct the scholastic policy of the University, but its business and financial policy. And he is an Easterner rather than a Westerner.

Not the wildest guess, however, could have anticipated the spot where the surroundings in which the meal was served and apparently eaten, although it was certainly inappropriate that on a trip to inspect stables we should have eaten in a stable, and in that part of one that is given over to well-bedded horses.

During the course of that mopping-up and early afternoon our two guides, the Mayor and the Director, saw fit that we saw the city stables at their worst, before they rounded us up to eat in their best.

I'VE been in many stables, first and last, but I never walked through one less creditable to its owner than the first we visited on South Broad street, which is devoted to the horses and the mounted officers of the mounted police force of this town.

We are all familiar with the splendid horses and the well set-up men who ride them, and the equipment of the mounted officers is the envy of us who have an eye for such things as soldierly and well cared for, but how they are kept up to the mark housed in that dilapidated, unsuitable and insanitary building is hard to imagine.

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