

Evening Public Ledger

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CITY'S STAKE IN HARRISBURG

THE adoption of the home-rule amendment to the State Constitution suggests the advisability of an early conference of representatives of the various cities of the Commonwealth in order that agreement may be reached on the character of the bill to be passed by the Legislature.

The amendment empowers the Legislature to permit the cities to draft their own charters under such regulations as it may adopt. The cities themselves ought to be allowed to make their own recommendations about the extent of the power they are to enjoy and the restrictions that are to be put upon it.

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If it is possible under the Constitution to make the court in law what it is in name—a municipal court—and to make it a branch of the City Government, the problem would be solved forthwith. For then the appointing power would be through the Civil Service Commission, and the erection of a building to accommodate it would be under the direction of the Department of Public Works.

The court was created to supersede the magistrates' courts, but those courts have been allowed to continue. They cannot be abolished without an amendment to the Constitution, and the Constitution has not been amended because it would involve the abolition of a lot of jobs useful to the politicians.

BETTER SPEECH!

WE SEE by the papers that this is a better speech week in New York. It is idle to say that the occasion is a little less than an election year, for the occasion is a little less than an election year.

A clearer enunciation of the words of the English language and a greater respect for the rules of our native tongue, rather than improved political oratory, is the aim of the English Language Society.

One can but feel that a propaganda for better speeches as well as for better speech would be timely enough. If the present election year is to be a year of better speeches, it is idle to say that the occasion is a little less than an election year.

LITTLE STREETS REVIVED

YOU never can tell what good may come unexpectedly out of a situation that seems to have no good in it. Certainly no one would have been disposed to look for a promise of anything desirable in the present tendency to sky-high rents.

For the last twenty-five years there has been speculation about the approaching realignment of the voters into radical and conservative parties, attracted by the preponderance of radicalism or conservatism in the old parties.

We all know the romance of the typical little street in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Boston. Once it was the abode of the pretentious and the well-to-do. Its houses are often spacious and dignified.

Came street was the first of these small thoroughfares to suggest to imaginative people the charm that even superficial restoration may bring to run-down neighborhoods.

Now, however, the little street is looking up. In this city there already is a perceptible drift of well-to-do and even fashionable people backward to the downtown areas where residences built in the early eighteenth century, with all the grace of their original architecture unimpaired under the dust, may be bought for nominal sums.

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THE FARM BLOC AND THIRD PARTY TALK

No Party Committed to Class Interests Can Survive in a Nation Dedicated to Human Equality
NO FUNDAMENTAL issue divided the two great parties in the recent election, and no such issue has divided them in any election in recent years.

The absence of great issues dividing the two parties has led to a discussion of the prospects for the formation of a new party committed to definite policies.

Conditions are ripe for the exploitation of the Farm Bloc as a new party. Its congressional members constitute about the only group with a definite program.

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AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT

Spangler Mine Disaster Draws Attention to Another, Long Drawn Out, in the Unintown Coal Fields Where Disease is Rampant
By SARAH D. LOWRIE

IT IS curious how one's attention is attracted to one subject until there is nothing left but to look at another.

The day of the mine disaster this week, before any inkling of it got as far as this country, a woman was lunching with me who brought him there was a very terrible mine disaster in which he came off a hero without any of the "side" one connects with stage heroism that we realize more afterward than at the time.

Her interest in lunching with me, I really think, lay in the fact that I had lived in a coal mine town and knew little about conditions, chiefly above ground to be sure, but enough of the underground to have at least an imaginative interest in miners and their lives and their conditions and their strikes and the reaction of the community to their unrest.

THE questions that she asked me and the horrors that I knew about from hearsay of local mine disasters and the aftermath of broken families as well as the death of the miners, all came back to me so that when I opened the paper and saw what had happened at Spangler during the day I felt in a way as though I had known it all the time.

Today there came to me a clergyman named Huntington—a grandson, I think, of Bishop Huntington—who greeted me with this question: "Are you perhaps interested in coal miners and the conditions in a mining town? Do you know what such a place is like, where the men work, as I have said, in an emergency, I ran into a story of mines and miners. One of the State Department of health nurses was there and was telling a tale about trouble in a mining town, and the quick coming to the rescue by the State through Dr. Edward Martin and the Department of Public Health.

THE town is Unintown in our own Fayette County, and the mines are the soft coal mines owned by Berwind, White & Co., and the trouble has grown out of the strike, which was broken by the State, and the employees of the company—over 1000 miners were evicted from the company houses with their families, making a population of over 6000 in the town.

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THE FRENCH WAKE UP

WITH all Bonar Law's disposition toward "tranquillity," there is little likelihood that the new British Prime Minister will be permitted to enjoy the slight of the French, who seem in the Levant to have played the part of a Frankenstein in fashioning a monster fast becoming uncontrollable.

There can be no permanent vitality in a party seeking to secure special legislation favoring one group of citizens at the expense of the others. It may grow up in a night after the manner of Jonah's gourd, but it will wither as suddenly, leaving those who sought shelter under its broad leaves to the scorching heat of popular contempt.

There is no greater justification for a party committed exclusively to the interests of the farmers than there is for a party committed to the interests of the school teachers or the retail merchants or the cotton manufacturers or to the railroad brakemen.

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MONSTER METROPOLISES

THE latest figures of the population of "Greater London" credit that large urban agglomeration with 7,480,261 inhabitants, the largest number in its annals.

This disparity, however, is much more apparent than actual, for State frontiers have prevented the metropolis of the New World from devising an "outer ring" which has so successfully helped to swell the London record.

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Now My Idea is This!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best
FIRE MARSHAL GEO. W. ELLIOTT On Results of Fire Prevention Week

WEEK is not always tangible or to be judged by definite facts and figures, still it is unquestionably shown by the relatively decreasing number of fires of the special kinds against which the week is aimed, says Fire Marshal George W. Elliott.

"Fire Prevention Week is almost entirely educational," said Fire Marshal Elliott. "The change from a single day to an entire week gave us, among other things, the chance to reach the public schools, to put the subject before the children, to give them a very great, far beyond what we reached seventy-five schools with an average attendance of about 200 pupils at present sessions, making 5,000 in all who heard the address, it will be seen that this was quite an important feature of the week.

"Pupils Were Interested"
In addition to this there was a big assemblage in the high schools at which all the high school pupils were present, and there are two sides to the affair, which has apparently put a quietus on local charities of an organized sort. At this distance one can only guess at the amount of the thousands who withheld help, and naturally the State nurse who was here to collect Emergency Aid supplies has received about 1000 applications for relief from the Department of Health to deal with.

"Direct results of a movement like fire prevention are something which cannot be seen. All educational processes are slow of growth, but we have every reason to believe that much progress is being made in this important matter—a thing which affects the lives of the people, of every man and woman in the city and country.

"In 1921 we had 4000 fires, in which twenty-one lives were lost, and of this number of fires 1701 were in dwellings. While there were a lot of fires in 1922, and many false alarms, the percentage of fires in the dwellings that year was very high. There was the usual large number of false alarms, one of the worst misuses of which the fire department has to contend.

"Most 1000 False Alarms
Of these false alarms 200 were attributed to fright on the part of the dwellers of the buildings; there were 357 innocent mistakes and 137 malicious false alarms, a total of 810. The total number of alarms included five buildings which had collapsed without fire resulting from it, but to which the firemen were called to assist in rescuing persons, and also five or six times when the city firemen were summoned over the county lines into Bucks or Montgomery Counties.

"There has been a considerable decrease in the number of fires caused by children playing with matches or with fire. This, I am convinced, is due to the campaign of education in the schools by Fire Prevention Week and to the vigilance of the officers of the law. Last year there were 222 fires caused by children playing with matches, and while the number is still large, it shows a substantial decrease, which is gratifying.

"Observed for Ten Years
Fire Prevention Day has now been observed for about ten years, this being the first time that it was extended to a week. In the last three years it has been the subject of a presidential proclamation, and it is becoming a more important affair and more generally observed each year. It is only a question of time when it shall be so generally observed and its teachings taken so much to heart by the public that the number of fires of unnecessary or careless origin shall be reduced to a minimum.

"The calendar manufacturers have put it on their calendars as a regular day to be observed throughout the country. The day was placed in the fall on account of the great amount of trouble that persons usually had with fires at that time of the year, and because it was selected as the special day for the anniversary of the great Chicago fire.

"Of course, we are aiming at particular kinds of fires in this campaign. Last year, for example, we had in Philadelphia 973 fires due to the careless use of matches;

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SHORT CUTS

This here now is Better Speech Week. Albert is the latest beverage to be banned.

The last Volstead act was to step down and out. The Democratic mu: is still behaving.

A car shortage is a burdensome tax which pays no debts. "Watch my smoke!" said the Pittsburgh as she sailed for Constantinople.

As New Jersey sings it: "It is always wet weather when Democrats get together." Republicans console themselves with the thought that a tidal wave isn't a permanent one.

In New York Smith appears to have carried Jones, Brown and Robinson along with him. The Sultan's orchestra has joined the Nationalists. He is thus more than even out of tune.

Chicago Board of Education is taking steps to combat puppy love. "Doggone it," says Cupid.

It is now the task of the Allies to prove to the Turks that a step backward is really a step forward.

One trouble with the Hall-Mills melodrama is that every act seems to demand an entirely new cast.

"Both 'Wets' and 'Drys' See Victory Vote." Which probably means that it wasn't there either of them to see.

It is as reasonable to suppose that the recent unpleasantness pronounced an opinion on ship subsidy as on the Volstead law.

Culture is spelled with a capital letter in Rochester, N. Y. Recently Wladislaw Zbrasko, Polish wrestler, was billed on a card of wrestling bouts. Later, when it was learned that the name "Zbrasko" was formerly a province of the Mohammedan part of the contiguous territory of the United States?

Who were the seditious in the Battle of Wagram and when was it fought?

How many miles make a league in old measure?

When was the first Thanksgiving Day observed in America?

What is the lightest known metal?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. Galena is a metallic lead-gray cleavable mineral. It is an important ore of lead.

2. The Caliphate of the Mohammedan world was at Bagdad for about 500 years, from the middle of the eighth century to the middle of the thirteenth century.

3. The character of Prospero occurs in Shakespeare's romantic comedy, "The Tempest."

4. The word "hubbub" is said to have been possibly derived from an ancient Egyptian word, "hubbub." He lived in the fourth century B. C.

5. Austin is the capital of Texas.

6. The name of the Mohammedan prophet, who was the son of a merchant, is Muhammad.

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8. The last Orleanist King of France was Louis Philippe I, who was dethroned in 1830.

9. Galicia was the name of an ancient province of the Roman Empire, which was a province of the United States of America.

10. The name of the Mohammedan prophet, who was the son of a merchant, is Muhammad.