

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

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POSTOFFICE NECESSITIES

MODIFIED rupture is inspired by the recommendation in the Treasury Department of a reduction of \$95,000 for repairs to the Philadelphia Post-office.

Considering that the structure at Ninth and Chestnut streets has cost the Government only \$200,000 for improvements for the last eighteen years, it might appear incumbent upon this community to render thanks for an unexampled display of Federal munificence.

THE FOOL PRINCE

FOR modern princes incompetence is evidently a plea in extenuation. Andrew of Greece has besought his inquisitors to regard him only as a futile figurehead, and his argument is rewarded by a considerate sentence of banishment.

DR. DOLLITTLE'S RIVAL

THE hero of one of the recent books is Dr. Dollittle, who is a student of the language of animals. He has learned how to talk with dogs and ducks and cats and canaries, and is getting some slight acquaintance with the language of goldfish.

CHEAP POLITICS

HOWEVER effective in practice legislative opposition to the Ship-Subsidy Bill may prove to be, its weakness in principle already is glaring and unmistakable.

THE UNRULY SICK

HOW much the world owes to the doctors and their assistants and assistants is a question suggested by the work of Dr. J. Madison Taylor, who, writing in the PUNTO LINGUO, brings up again the delicate but enormously important question of invalids who endanger their own lives and the lives of others by their disdain of the doctor's advice and instruction.

PICKING A JURY

THE picking of the HERRIN jury suggests the possibility that sooner or later the authorities in their laudable desire to get men without opinions of any kind will automatically draft them from some Home for the Feeble-Minded.

MARRIAGES

New Turkish Government is giving lands for the 150 harem of the ex-Sultan's harem. Here appears to be an excellent opportunity for the feminist movement.

WHERE POLITICS ENTERS

The old spoils system enters into this matter. We can never get the schools for politics until this basic measure is passed and the teachers are secure from political raids on their jobs.

that wrangling over the significance of the Hay-Panncote covenant will make rough voting for the subsidy measure. His will-power methods, demagogic or not, that seem likely to plunge the Administration plans in confusion.

Mr. Borah is pleased to pose as a champion of principles. But principles are not reflected in his present tactics, which reveal him as an exponent of shabby and graceless political maneuvering.

THE PUBLIC MUST PAY THE ANTHRACITE TAX

But It Wants to Know How Much More Than the Tax the Operators Will Add to the Price to Cover "Overhead" Charges

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

IT IS inevitable that the Pennsylvania State tonnage tax on anthracite, whose legality has been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, will be passed down to the ultimate consumer as an increase in the price of his coal.

The General Committee of Anthracite Operators has announced that the tax will amount to 12 1/2 cents a ton, so far as they are concerned at the present time. No explanation is given, however, as to how this figure was arrived at by the clever statisticians employed by the operators.

It presumably represents the tax per ton on the average cost of the product at the mine—and nothing more.

The interesting question to the already overburdened and harassed coal-holder is, How much additional will the coal operators add to the tax for their trouble in collecting it?

Something like twenty-five cents a ton has been suggested.

This "overhead" always has been a convenient refuge not only for coal companies and mining concerns generally, but for other classes of industry where it is desired to find an excuse for increasing prices to the public and incidentally the profits to the producer or retailer.

In this instance of the coal tax it will not require a platoon of clerks in the various mining offices to keep track, in the bookkeeping way, of the amount of anthracite mined and to be taxed.

No elaborate detail of double entry is required to find out the number of tons mined or screened or washed per day at any given establishment.

A coal company with an average output of 3000 tons daily, if the increase, with overhead added, is to be fixed at twenty-five cents a ton, would drag down \$125 every working day for "overhead" alone in the way of bookkeeping and clerk hire.

A trifle of \$3250 per month for collecting the few facts involved which would require the services of but two or three individuals at most.

The whole thing, at the suggested rate of twenty-five cents per ton additional, is a gigantic game. It evidently is a new field of endeavor in which to fleece the public.

Still another phase of this anthracite-tax question is that of the so-called steam sizes, which has been referred to by some one as non-competitive by-product.

The present coal crisis has led hundreds of people to buy steam sizes of anthracite at unheard-of prices for a wasteful but necessary domestic consumption. This is "value" to the operator if not to the retailer.

One household last Saturday paid \$0.50 a ton for best size anthracite. The same size was priced to him by other retail dealers at the same figure, showing that there evidently is an understanding among shippers or retailers to put these grades at the top notch.

With the tax added to the cost of steam sizes, which will increase their price to the manufacturer, these grades will be more difficult to dispose of in competition with low-priced bituminous.

because they overtax their strength after an illness. And it is true, too, that those who are carried abroad by people who, if they obeyed the doctor's orders, would remain in a bed of convalescence. Probably it is because of the extent to which social experiments have invaded personal rights within the last few years that many people were disposed to resent the suggestion that doctors should have authority to enforce their orders not only for the good of the patient but for the good of the community.

Dr. Taylor might have carried his argument further by pointing out that this in-metaphor objection comes from the same mood that inspired active objections to the first quarantine established against small-pox and similar contagions. Now no one doubts the value or the imperative need of disease quarantines. But there are people who object strenuously to the principle and practice of vaccination, even after the utility of vaccination has been demonstrated in millions of cases and proved by every sort of scientific revelation.

The refusal of earnest and talented physicians to be discouraged and their patient labor as educators were needed to overcome the popular prejudice against methods of medical practice that would avert a great death rate greatly and almost completely to eliminate diseases which, in less enlightened days, appeared as scourges against which people were defenseless.

Dr. Taylor, knowing from his own experience that carriers of disease are often at large and that many people do not heed their personal independence against the will and advice of the doctor, did what the able men of his profession have always done. He told unpopular truths and permitted his enemies to try what they would. And in the course of time, perhaps, when an impatient world gets good by the clever statisticians employed by the operators, the public may see the wisdom of his advice and follow it as it has learned to follow other men with whom, at first, it refused to agree.

IN GOD'S COUNTRY

"WHERE," mourned Hugh Walpole, echoing a query that is loosed in the air of the United States by almost every observant traveler from abroad, "is all your speed and your jazz thinking going to get you people of this beautiful and amazing country?"

Well, we don't know. A great many people are even afraid to ask thoughtful people or even those who are not afraid of the random questions of British lecturers deserve serious attention and a rational answer may turn his attention to Los Angeles County, Calif.

For hints and implications necessary to social prophecy as it must be formulated in these high times.

Over Los Angeles yesterday were zooming airplanes. Submarine chasers—relieved temporarily, we suppose, from the pursuit of bootleggers—cut long white swaths in the sky-blue waters of the Southern California coast. East towers boomed on the high roads. Detective trucks in the woods and bloodhounds sniffed the earth and posse were being formed in the city proper.

All these forces of law and order were directed in a search for a pretty lady who, having been convicted of killing another pretty lady with a hammer, nonchalantly severed the hair of her hair and escaped to what, for want of a better name, is called Liberty.

Los Angeles is close to Hollywood. Whether a love of pictures is contagious, whether the circumstances of Mrs. Phillips' escape were somehow colored by thought transference, whether the plan originated in the dreams of an escaped convict, we shall never know, because, on minutes after she left the jail the fugitive was reported to be in Mexico. But you may feel sure that pictures are now being made of what the studios will call "The First Great Woman Hunt of American History."

As a culmination of the spiritual restlessness that finds no outlet in the smaller games and the output of the washeries, this product also must be taxed under the State law.

Operators in the past have claimed that these grades, known variously as buck-wheat, rice and barley, really are sold at a loss; that they are not actual by-products, and, furthermore, that they can only compete with bituminous coal for steam purposes.

But are these grades being sold at a loss? They are not!

The present coal crisis has led hundreds of people to buy steam sizes of anthracite at unheard-of prices for a wasteful but necessary domestic consumption. This is "value" to the operator if not to the retailer.

One household last Saturday paid \$0.50 a ton for best size anthracite. The same size was priced to him by other retail dealers at the same figure, showing that there evidently is an understanding among shippers or retailers to put these grades at the top notch.

With the tax added to the cost of steam sizes, which will increase their price to the manufacturer, these grades will be more difficult to dispose of in competition with low-priced bituminous.

If, however, anthracite operators decline, for competitive reasons, to increase the price of buckwheat and its kindred grades by adding this tax and overhead, it is a fair conclusion that the general public will be required to continue this additional burden.

In these words, while the washery and breaker steam sizes will be taxed under the State law, the coal operator may not add the State tax and overhead to the selling price, as he will do in the case of the domestic or household sizes.

ROADS AND RUBBISH

Old Easton Post Road to Be Rededicated—New Philadelphia Statistic, State Crusade Against Filth and Rubbish in Furniture

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

ONE of the famous old highways of Pennsylvania is to be rededicated to modern service in a few days.

It has been known for more than 200 years as the "Easton Post Road."

Could the disembodied spirits of all those who traversed the old thoroughfare in the coaches of long dead decades be present, they would line both sides of the new and splendid concrete highway from Easton to Philadelphia.

Today it is said to be the finest concrete road in the State.

It is one more monument to the memory of Lewis S. Sadler.

THE Easton Post Road was for three-quarters of a century, subsequent to the Revolution, one of the State's great post roads.

Regular lines of coaches-and-four carried passengers, mail and express, between Philadelphia and Easton, over it.

The trip required eight hours.

Post houses, where the horses were changed, dotted the road at frequent intervals.

On occasions the running time was reduced considerably.

The portion of the highway from Philadelphia to Willow Grove was laid out in 1711.

The Old York road was part of it.

A much older thoroughfare was the Durham road, which was opened from Bristol to Newtown in 1683.

STAGE COACHES continued to run on regular schedule till 1865.

The North Penn Railroad was built in 1838.

It paralleled the old road here and there.

Ultimately its speed and convenience drove the coaches from the highway.

Today who recall the old thoroughfare of the coach horn on the famous thoroughfare.

OUT OF THE SHALLOWS



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

JANE ALLEN

On Needed School Legislation

THERE are certain of the school laws of the State which are in need of revision in the interests of the communities and the children as well as of the teachers, according to Miss Jane Allen, president of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' League.

"Our organization," said Miss Allen, "is strongly for this legislation, and an effort will be made at the forthcoming meeting of the Legislature to have the members see just what should be done to make the school laws more effective in a number of ways.

What Organization Stands For? "First, let me make the purpose of our organization perfectly clear. The Pennsylvania State Teachers' League is an organization formed for the purpose of the public. It does not stand for anything in the nature of an educational bloc nor is it a group which tries to influence legislation, but it is simply formed for the purpose of safeguarding as far as we can the best interests of public education throughout the State.

"We are trying to raise the standard of teaching to that of a profession and to arouse the interest of the various communities to the importance of school matters. Until the communities are interested it will be impossible to get any legislation through under any circumstances in our State as if they were members of a profession; that is, I mean that the laws relating to them do not make this incumbent upon the various school boards."

Existing in Philadelphia "Philadelphia is today the only place in the State where teachers are not elected annually. Even here it is custom and not law, but the custom is a very old and strong one and virtually amounts to a law. Nevertheless, there is the legal power here as elsewhere in the State to elect the teachers annually. Every other school district in the State is subject to the annual 'hire and fire' system, and many of them actually work under it.

"We do not desire to protect the incompetent teacher in his or her job, although the opponents of the tenure of office bill make this claim. Most emphatically this is not true. We are willing that Dr. Finigan shall raise the standard of teaching as high as he pleases and the teachers will gladly meet any reasonable educational tests. One point is that, after meeting these tests successfully and after having served the probationary period, with satisfaction, the teachers should, in justice, be reasonably secure in their positions.

"When this is the case, the teachers can settle down and become a part of the community in which they live, but they cannot do this without an assurance of reasonable security in their jobs, which the present law does not grant. Only in this way can the teacher become an asset to a community; a general thing he or she is willing to do this and to assume this community position, but the law as it now stands will not permit it.

Where Politics Enters "The old spoils system enters into this matter. We can never get the schools for politics until this basic measure is passed and the teachers are secure from political raids on their jobs. The firemen, the police and the judges are not elected in this manner; a general thing he or she is willing to do this and to assume this community position, but the law as it now stands will not permit it.

There are more than 4000 school districts in the State of Pennsylvania, and there are in those districts more than 45,000 teachers. The annual election of teachers, this often means that if a newly elected director has a relative whom he wishes to place in such a position, a teacher who has been a part of the community for perhaps twenty or more years must leave the community in which he has been a valuable factor and seek a place elsewhere.

"In this case he often has not only to



SHORT CUTS

Everybody hopes Old King Coal will be here to meet him when Jack Frost comes.

"Tim Healy" is title enough for the new Governor General of the Irish Free State.

One thing the Holmesburg exposure demonstrates is the horrible waste of manpower in our prisons.

England gets a line on Italy's stand on the Straits as Mussolini moves along over the map of the Mosul oil field.

An optimist is one who believes that the Broad street subway will successfully handle the Nesque-Centennial Fair crowds.

Opposed as we are to the third degree, there appears to be something not altogether inappropriate in grilling a suspected barn-burner.

Chicago plans to remove Ku Klux Klanners from municipal office. But, after all, it isn't the men who are known that are dangerous.

A prominent bootlegger surreptitiously vouchsafes the information that if the Nationalist Government has its way Turkey will soon be as dry as the United States.

By the time she has a navy big enough to count, signers of the Washington Navy Treaty (if it still survives) may think it wise to have Russia as a signatory (if she is still willing).

The British machine guns which forced the Turks to permit the embarkation of Armenian refugees at Constantinople may also have considerable effect on the Straits settlement at Lausanne.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. Who is Governor General of the Irish Free State?
2. What kind of an animal is a tup?
3. To what country does Yucatan belong?
4. What is the origin of the word 'belong'?
5. How many bushels make a chaldron?
6. Name two Russian military commanders especially distinguished for their ability during the World War.
7. What is a burro?
8. What is the characteristic of bull-fur?
9. What is a burro?
10. What is Foisin?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. The colors of the flag of Mexico are red, white and green.
2. Commodus was the Roman Emperor who participated in the gladiatorial combats in the Colosseum. He was the son of Marcus Aurelius.
3. John Jay was the first Chief Justice of the United States. He served from 1789 to 1795.
4. The word 'marionette' is derived from the French 'Marionette,' diminutive of Maricle, a small image of the Virgin Mary.
5. A triangle is triangular, rigged on a short mast.
6. A sash is a summer house commanding a view, resigning in 1877 in order that a house, a projecting window or balcony.
7. Simon Cameron was a prominent American politician from Pennsylvania. He was originally a Democrat, but turned Republican and became the first Secretary of War of Lincoln's Cabinet. He was United States Senator for several terms, resigning in 1877 in order that his son, Donald, might be elected in his place, thereby keeping in the family the almost entire control of the Republican Party in Pennsylvania. Simon Cameron held one diplomatic post, that of Minister to Russia, in which position he was appointed by President Lincoln. He died in 1883.
8. Robert Cookman, an English colonist, preached the first sermon printed in America. He died about 1625.
9. Circumlocution is a term for the sixteenth century, especially with reference to 'Truly, or in its art or literature.'
10. Simla, immortalized by Rudyard Kipling, is the summer capital of India.