

The Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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EDITORIAL

WILL THERE BE A BONFIRE?

Governor-elect James had already indicated that he had abandoned the idea of bonfire of the Democratic legislation and the lesser lights followed suit with an announcement that there wouldn't even be a ripper committee.

More recently, the new Speaker of the House, Ellwood Turner, who has a way of making one think that his words spring from inexhaustible wells of unadulterated candor, came out with the first of what he said would be a series of statements telling the people what goes on at the Capitol when the Legislature is not actually grinding out laws.

Turner's statement, and the announcement that there will be more of them "from time to time" merely confirms a well grounded contention that the party now in control of the State Government is not without its internal worries these days.

Quite a number of the old guard are back in the saddle once more in both branches of the General Assembly, and the old guard hasn't changed much to the naked eye. They still represent the same interests and they still have the same ideas about various kinds of legislation that they had four years ago.

AT HIS "SECOND HOME" (New York Times)

Mr. Roosevelt's "family" Thanksgiving at the Warm Springs Foundation must be the happiest function of his year. It commemorates not only his own gratitude for recovery from a crippling disease but his constant effort to help other sufferers and to stimulate research that will bare the secret of this mysterious malady.

The anniversary of the President's birthday has been turned since 1934 from an occasion of conventional compliment to a day of national kindness, pity and charity. Through the previous year the dimes and dollars have been rolling in to carry on in various ways the fight against infantile paralysis.

ARGUMENT FOR ARMAMENT

The argument for increased American armament rests upon the following grounds:

That there are powerful nations in the world today, devoid of all sense of decency in regards to their relations with other powers.

That regardless of the moral rights involved, these powers would ruthlessly take, by force of arms, that which belongs to other peoples.

That while these powers are not, perhaps, today ready to attack the United States, they are preparing for war upon such a scale that tomorrow they may be anxious to do so in the hope of greater spoils.

That no nation can wait upon the beginning of hostilities to begin to prepare for war. It requires years to secure the necessary material and equipment for modern armies and navies.

Facing an uncertain future, not knowing what group of powers will be dominant in the world a few years hence, the United States, to play safe, must be prepared to defend itself against a possible combination of ruthless and unprincipled aggressors.

PHILADELPHIA'S PLIGHT

For a good many years what Philadelphia did was not so important to other towns in the State as it is now. In those years the Quaker City despite its losses to corrupt politicians was still on its own. Now things are different and the big city is turning to Harrisburg to get more money for various purposes.

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A JAPANESE SOLDIER SPEAKS

We have no sympathy with the plans and purposes of the Japanese Empire, but we have abounding sympathy for the individuals who make up the Mikado's armies in China.

In condemning Japanese aggression in China, it is easy to accept the belief that the Japanese soldier is a brute, moved forward by a strange lust for blood. Waging a brutal war in a foreign land, they have been guilty of misconduct, but let us admit, soldiers of other nations have done the same.

Neutral experts express the opinion that at least 500,000 Japanese troops have died, either in battle or of diseases, or have been put out of commission through being wounded, since the war began. This loss, enormous as it is, is much less than the human sacrifice of the Chinese, but it is far greater than that expected by the Japanese generals when they began their march through China.

The fighting in China is unusually vicious because neither the Japanese nor the Chinese take any prisoners. The Chinese, forced into guerilla warfare are unable to transport prisoners, and, in most fights, it is victory or death for the Japanese. The fighting, proclaimed as a picnic in Tokyo, when the conflict began, is not exactly a picnic for the average Japanese soldier who has been taught from infancy that to die in battle is the greatest possible glory.

A recent Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo tells of the popular surprise at a soldier's book describing his sensations while under artillery fire. The writer thought of himself as utterly brave and daring but found himself quaking inside. His confidence that the enemy's guns would not find him was completely shaken.

Significantly, the Japanese soldier observed that "so much noble effort goes into the development of a single human life—but one chance shell ends it all." He thought of his parents, of his wife and children and their prayers for his safety, but the thought came to him "that also around were men whose families prayed for their safety yet they were dying, one after another."

This is a picture of war as it actually is. On the battlefield there is little of the fervor and enthusiasm that accompanies the gay departure from home for the front. No hands play as the men grapple with each other in the struggle to avoid death. No wonder civilized individuals, in their sane moments, denounce war and responsible statesmen make every effort to avoid the ordeal of battle for their people.

POLITICAL JOBS FOR THE FAMILY

The much-discussed question of "women in employment" and its offshoot, "husband and wife both in jobs" has reached the point where it has received the attention of a political party.

Among the resolutions recently adopted by the Republican committee of Allegheny county was one "declaring against the employment of both a husband and wife on any Federal, State, county or municipal job."

Back of such a resolution, of course, is the growing feeling that at a time when jobs are scarce, they should be distributed as widely as can be. Roger Babson, the economist, in his recent comment, said substantially the same thing. Mr. Babson made the point that there would be comparatively little unemployment today if no more women were in jobs proportionately than twenty years ago.

The solution of the problem, if it is a problem, is not so simple as some persons claim. It is tremendously complicated even where so-called "political jobs" are at stake. It will be interesting to see what will be the effect, if any, of the Allegheny County Republicans' resolution, even though it did strike at a practice which is not very popular anywhere.

BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HIM

Democratic State Chairman Lawrence has been indicted. Guilty or innocent, it was certain he would be. Grand juries and politics are like that. Since it was always certain Mr. Lawrence would be indicted, it would have been better all around if the indictment had been returned during the time the election contest was being waged.

The Democratic state chairman is accused of having "blackmailed" \$5000 out of a man who had a state contract or wanted to get one. Knowing Mr. Lawrence rather well we can say frankly that we don't believe he did anything of the sort. Those who don't know Mr. Lawrence can afford to wait until they can take a look at the evidence.

A LESSON FROM PHILADELPHIA

While Philadelphians were stirred to all kinds of fury over threatened tax increases those who fought the taxation did only half a job.

In all the hue and cry against wage and sales taxes there was but one voice heard—what council was not to do. Not once was a voice raised to tell council what to do to hurdle the \$25,000,000 deficit.

Philadelphia's citizens have shown a trait common everywhere. It is an easy matter to whip a shouting, protesting crowd into line to tell public servants what not to do. The what-to-do's generally are so far back in the crowd their voices never are heard.

Had Philadelphia had more of the what-to-do's it might not have been obliged to consider slapping a \$25,000,000 mortgage on its gas works, deferring for the time being a genuine show-down in its financial crisis.

The same thought well might be tucked away to be dug out at some future time when we are belabored with municipal problems at home.

BLAIR JURIST DECLARES 'SUIT CLUBS' ILLEGAL

R. S. Miller, of Altoona, was tried and found guilty in the Blair county court last week of operating a "suit club" and was fined \$25 and costs of prosecution. Miller's plan, it is said, was to sell tickets, hold drawings, and award suits of clothing as prizes to those holding the winning numbers.

In passing sentence, Judge Patterson said the suit club business must end, as such action is a violation of the law. It is said that hundreds of these clubs are flourishing in Altoona and that they are hurting the business of legitimate merchants.

To Build Model of Fort

Two hundred timbers, first of 5,000 needed for the replica of Fort Augusta, which will be built on the front lawn of the location of the fort, at Sunbury, were cut last week on the Isle of Que, by employees of the WPA. The replica, which will be rebuilt in the spring, will be 32 feet square, one-sixth of the size of the original fort, which was the largest colonial fort in Pennsylvania.

People talk about religion but they hate to increase their church dues. It's hard to tell which is worse, radio entertainment or radio advertising.

THE OFFICE CAT "A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

VERSION OF A MODERN XMAS

Contributed (A little late, but a good chaser) 'Tis the night before Christmas And in most every flat, The old man is broke— What's strange about that? The stockings are hung By the furnace with care, And Ma is a hopin' For a new installment. The children are sleeping Without any cares, A few more installments And the bed will be theirs. Comes a terrible racket At the end of our ward, It's old Santa Claus In a Model-T Ford. He can't get her stopped But he knows what it takes— A '39 model With hydraulic brakes. Now Santa hops out And spreads Xmas cheer, But his nose is quite red From drinking bad beer. The children are started And can't even chirp, But give up a secret When one has to burp. "Ho, ho," says old Santa, "You've been drinking again, I'd know of that, I would have brought you some gin." "Now, I have some dope That's supposed to be swell, I took a few shots, But don't feel so well." "I feel kind of dopey But wait, I'll be back; I'll get me some seltzer At the drug store, eh Mack?" So away went old Santa Right up through the stack, And believe it or not He hasn't come back. He wrote me a letter To start the new year, And cautioned me, never Drink any cheap beer.

Free Exhibition

This story has to do with a small boy whose father conducted a printing office. One day the advance agent of a circus came along and ordered some posters printed on muslin. His order was filled, but for some reason the circus man neglected to call for them, and they were left on the printer's hands.

The printer's wife ran across the discarded posters one day, and as muslin was then high, she took the posters home and used some of them to line a pair of pants she was then making for her son aged about ten years.

As the months rolled by the pantaloons grew threadbare, and at school one day he accidentally tore the seat out, leaving about one foot of lining exposed to view. Imagine the teacher's surprise when she was attracted by a continued chorus of laughter as she entered the yard to see standing out boldly upon the lining: "Doors open at 7:30. Performance begins at 8."

Mother's Pain

We used to occasionally read of babies being made sick by licking the paint off a toy.

Nowadays they are liable to become ill from licking the paint off mother.

Wise Guy

Little George had received a new drum for Christmas, and about a week later when father came home from work one evening, mother said: "I don't think that man upstairs likes to hear George play his drum, but he's certainly crafty about showing his dislike."

"Why?" asked the father. "Well," replied the mother, "this afternoon he gave George a knife and asked him if he knew what was inside the drum."

Dollar Bill's Prayer

"If I were a dollar bill I'd pray that my boss would take me to church some Sunday and leave me there on that little plate with the velvet cushion which the usher passes around—you know. I think I'd feel so kind of important and "snooty" among the nickels and pennies and buttons and things. I've seen enough filling stations on Sunday to last me for a lifetime anyway. I'd like to look up at a preacher for a change."

That's all, folks. We hear the Republican administration in Pennsylvania is to be a "Jim" dandy. "Arthur" anyone who disagrees? —"SCAT"

Louisa's Letter

Dear Louisa: I am a friend to both members of a divorced couple. The man has recently married again, but he and his former wife are very bitter towards each other.

Now my problem is this: I wish to have a party and as I like both of them I have to invite one and not the other and yet I think the occasion will be a failure if they both accept.

What would you advise me to do? PENNSYLVANIA. WORDS: ANSWER: If possible, I should have two small parties instead of one and ask them at different times.

If this is not practical and you have to invite all of your friends to one affair, the only course open to you is to let each of them know that the other one has been invited. No doubt they will both refuse, which will be better than to have both of them accept. Of course, in case one of them should refuse the invitation because of a previous engagement, there will be no necessity to say anything about the other one being invited.

LOUISA. ANSWER: I should think that I would give him the opportunity to do so. However, if you are convinced that he lies, you will be wise, I think, to break your engagement. I can see no happiness in marriage with a man you cannot depend on. If he misrepresents things, he may be out of work or have a wife and children some where else at the present time. Trust is a necessary ingredient for a happy marriage. LOUISA.

Penn State Professor in Crash Dr. Carl P. Schott, of State College, dean of the Pennsylvania State College School of Physical Education, escaped injury Sunday in an automobile accident at Harrisburg. Dean Schott told police he was driving north in Cameron street when the auto in front of him stopped suddenly. Due to the slippery roads his car skidded into it. An auto following the Schott machine, driven by John W. Herman, Carlisle, was also involved in the accident when it collided with the rear of the Schott auto.

1939 ought to be a good year; it began and ends on Sunday.

Dear Louisa: I have been practically engaged to a man for about a year but recently I have found that he misrepresents things. Not long ago he told me that he was to be out of the city for the weekend, but a friend of mine mentioned seeing him at a movie during the time he was supposed to be away. Several other things happened which caused me to wonder and I wrote to the college of which he claimed to be a graduate and they

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM—How many different sounds can a cat make with its mouth or throat? Are you sure? (Answer elsewhere in this department)

W. N.—What is the legal weight of wheat in the State of New York? Ans.—The legal weight of wheat is sixty pounds to the bushel in every State and Commonwealth in the Union.

M. E.—What is the proper pronunciation of the word "Orion"? Ans.—Orion is correctly pronounced "O-ri-on," with the "i" having the long sound, and with the accent on the same syllable.

B. T.—To settle an argument will you please answer who Darius was? Ans.—Darius Hystaspis, or Darius I, was Emperor of Persia from 521 B. C. to 485 B. C. He successfully finished the work which Cyrus had begun, by setting in order the affairs of the vast empire.

F. R.—What is the name of the Greek god of war? Ans.—The name of the Greek god of war is "Ares."

D. M.—Is the "Rip Van Winkle" story based on a fact or is it pure fiction? What caused him to sleep twenty years? Ans.—"Rip Van Winkle" is fiction. It is a tale by Washington Irving, and is based on an old German legend, "Peter Klaus," a boarder, who drank a miraculous draught of wine in a dell of the Harz mountains, which brought on sleep from which he did not wake for twenty years later.

W. R.—I hear a great deal about television, and I would like to ask you if it is only a theory or is it a fact? Ans.—Television is an absolute reality. The Radio Corporation of America has already announced the installation of a receiver and transmitter on top of the Empire State Building in New York City. Supplementary to this television apparatus will be installed at the World's Fair in New York in 1939 (this year) which is expected to be the springboard for everyday service throughout the land where there are receiving sets. People in remote places will be able to see and hear the production of a stage show in New York or elsewhere if a receiving set is in operation.

B. A.—To settle a dispute will you kindly answer in your good paper what the middle name of James A. Garfield was? Ans.—"Abram," his father's first name.

W. R. S.—How many horses are there in the United States? Ans.—The Horse and Mule Association of America says that estimates by the United States Department of Agriculture for January 1, 1938, show the United States had then on farms 11,612,000 horses (of which 727,000 were colts foaled in 1937 and 684,000 colts foaled in 1936) and 4,877,000 mules of which 105,000 were mule colts foaled in 1937 and 84,000 foaled in 1936. In addition it is their estimate that there are about 400,000 more horses and mules engaged in non-agricultural service, not enumerated above. These are in towns and villages, mines and lumber camps, road construction crews, in riding academies, and elsewhere than on farms.

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M. K. L.—Please give a biography of the English aviatrix who was lost at sea in 1928 or 1929. Ans.—Elsie Mackay, English aviatrix and actress, daughter of Lord Incheape, was born in 1894. She married Lieut. Dennis Wyndham in 1917, subsequently appearing on the stage as Poppy Wyndham. The marriage was annulled in 1921. As an aviatrix, she obtained the Royal Aero Club's certificate in 1922. On March 14, 1932, with Capt. Walter Hinchcliffe, she took off from Cranwell Airframe, Lincolnshire, in an attempt to make a westward trans-Atlantic flight. It is presumed that both flyers were lost at sea. In July, 1932, her father gave \$2,500,000 to the British nation in her memory.

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