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MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 21 THE NEW CABINET SURPRISE is expressed in some quarters over the fact that Governor-elect Brumbaugh has refused to discuss the make-up of his cabinet with anybody at this time and that he declines to say whether or not he has made any definite selections. It is true that there has been less of guessing and of gossip concerning Dr. Brumbaugh's appointments than has preceded the inauguration of almost any other Governor in the past twenty years. This, however, is not remarkable when the facts are taken into consideration.

One reason why the newspapers have not been able to write on this subject with any degree of certainty is that Governor Brumbaugh is a newcomer in Pennsylvania politics. He goes to the Governor's chair not as the selection of any one group or faction of the Republican party, but as the choice of an overwhelming majority of Republicans. He was elected in the county districts as well as in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties. He owes his elevation to office as much to one section as to another and he has no political friends to reward for past services, for this is his initial venture into politics.

Then, too, Dr. Brumbaugh is of a deliberative turn of mind. He realizes that there is no necessity for hasty choice and he understands more and more, as he studies the situation, the importance of choosing only the best men available for the places to be filled. It is absolutely necessary to the success of any State administration that the Capitol Hill department heads be men of thorough training and of more than ordinary ability along the several special lines represented. The day of specialization is here in State government as well as in private life. The State has no use for raw material in the conduct of its important affairs. Dr. Brumbaugh realizes that at the head of each department must be a man of high ideals, combined with an ability to do big things in a big way.

There are many reasons why the Governor-elect might not want to announce his appointments now, and not one reason why he should be in any hurry about it. COLD STORAGE It is to be hoped that the legislative commission, which has just finished a three-day investigation of cold storage conditions in Philadelphia and is about to prepare its report to the Legislature, will be able to straighten out the kinks in the present law. The act we have to-day in Pennsylvania, while a start in the right direction, is very far from perfect and has been a source of annoyance to managers of plants who were desirous of complying with the spirit of the law and of some disappointment to the consumers. It came through the legislative chambers after a series of protracted hearings, much discussion and reprinting, embracing features of a dozen bills and bearing all the earmarks of hasty agreement. It was signed because it was the best that could be secured at the time and it made a start by regulating storage of food and providing that the consumer should get information about what he was buying.

The testimony of Dairy and Food Commissioner James Foust is that while he found the heads of cold storage plants willing enough to comply with the statute they were as mystified as he was over some provisions. Mr. Foust submitted to the commission a plan for administrative details and called attention to the necessity for making the law clear. After all, what this State needs is an act that will require food that has been in cold storage to be so marked, to have the storage periods fairly determined and to prevent the shunting of certain things from place to place until their travels are as uncertain as their age. In other words, the food speculator and the man who tries to deceive the consumer, not the man who runs a cold storage plant, appear to need some healthy State regulation.

COURTESY PAYS THERE are still a few men left in Harrisburg who would not, if it were to save them from perdition, give a woman a seat in a street car. There are many more so rude that they will shove a woman aside when getting into a car. Every day these ruffians at heart may be seen in the business sections of the city crowding women aside to enter the car first and to obtain the few seats that may be vacant. No man who has a grain of self-respect will ever be guilty of such conduct. Courtesy is a civic as well as a personal virtue. Good citizenship includes good breeding as one of its elements. Towns that are stagnant and uncouth nearly always are unprogressive. Where the town is prosperous the people are nearly always truly polite. In decadence there is usually a pronounced note of rudeness. Courtesy pays.

TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT THE spirit being shown by the students of the Central and Technical High Schools this Yuletide speaks well for their training both at home and at school. Boys and girls who learn to give freely and cheerfully at the high school age will never forget to give when they become men and women. But they are not only giving of their money in the work which they have planned to do, but they are giving "of themselves" as well. The youngsters from the Nursery Home will be the guests of the Central students; the Open Air School students will be entertained by the Technical lads. The students have planned to entertain the little folks by "playing Santa Claus" and distributing gifts with their own hands. Those who are so fortunate as to take a personal part in this making of others happy will have a merry Christmas, indeed.

THE 1914 "SPUG" WITH a vision of the truer meaning of Christmastide, the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving, organized several years ago, has changed its name to the Society for the Promotion of Useful Giving. Since it is more blessed to give than to receive it is doubtful whether any giving is really useless; but unquestionably some giving is far more useful than is others. Just at this time when there is so much suffering, both at home and abroad because of the great war, every penny that is given should be placed where it will be most useful. Doubtless, with the vast flood of charity that is pouring out of the hearts of the American people, there will be many appeals for aid where aid is really not deserved. Against the giving where there is no need every precaution should be set up. The Harrisburg Associated Charities is doing splendid work along these lines, as it insists that every case be proved worthy before the food and supplies at its disposal be given out. The new and truer "Spug" can well apply these principles in his individual giving this Christmas.

SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY OF all the short-sighted policies that have been urged upon Congress in recent years, that embraced by the provisions of the Works bill, placing an embargo on the shipment of all kinds of supplies from the United States to the belligerent nations, is the climax. The Works measure forbids "the selling, supplying or furnishing of food, clothing, arms, ammunition, horses or war supplies of any kind, whether the same be contraband of war or not." The absurdity of Senator Works' proposal is at once apparent, when it is considered that while the whole nation is engaged in an organized effort to gather together supplies to save the destitute people of Belgium from starvation, this bill, if passed, would forbid us to ship a single dollar's worth to its intended destination—this notwithstanding that Germany has recognized our right to carry on the work of relieving those left homeless and helpless in the wake of the devastating war. But aside from this, the whole idea is wrong. We once tried to do to France and England just what Senator Works proposes in the present conflict and the only effect apparent was disaster to our own business and shipping. The embargo had no material effect on the length of the war and only served to engender hard feeling and unfriendliness toward us on the part of both belligerents. We have supplies to sell. Europe needs them. Let Germany, England, France or any other nation buy. So long as we receive the money and they take the risk of delivery we should rest content. Besides, as the Philadelphia Press, in a recent editorial points out, to pass the Works measure would be to establish a precedent that would place us always on the side of the great and powerful nation and against the weak in case of war, for the great power that rushes into conflict prepared does not need our supplies nearly so much as does the lesser nation which must build its armies and construct its defenses after the first blows are struck.

RENDERING A DOUBLE SERVICE PROFESSOR SURFACE'S recommendation that the people of Pennsylvania use red cedars for Christmas trees, not only because they are quite as ornamental as the spruces and pines, but because the red cedar is the prey of "cedar rust" that is also very destructive to fruit trees, is practical in the extreme. There has been much criticism of the Christmas tree custom in recent years, due to the fact that whole forests of young trees are cut annually to meet the enormous demand. Conservationists have expressed the belief that these should be left on the land to help replenish the fast falling lumber supply. But certainly there can be no objection to the removal of trees that by their presence threaten the productivity of our orchards, and when we do this and at the same time provide our homes with the cheer of Christmas greens we have at one stroke rendered a double service. The suggestion should be widely observed.

AN EVENING THOUGHT Every believer is God's miracle.—Bailey.

EVENING CHAT

It is very evident that Harrisburg is going to attract almost as much attention in legislative way this winter as it did in the early part of 1913 and that a good many men and organizations who are concerned about laws will practically make headquarters here for a couple of months. One of the city hotels has had inquiries for quarters for some attorneys and others who plan to spend two or three days a week during the whole legislative session and another has been asked to reserve rooms for men who want to be on the ground to observe the course of law making. All this is in addition to the members and officers of the Legislature who have commenced to look up places to stay. It is rather significant that a number of the members plan to stay at hotels, which is taken by some to mean that they do not anticipate a session reaching much beyond April 1. Officers are being secured by a number of committees interested in legislation and there will be active headquarters maintained here by the Woman Suffrage Association, the State Federation of Labor and other organizations, while the men in charge of the Democratic and Democratic and Washington parties will hold forth at hotels.

The juvenile brough of Paxtang is just now having quite a time with itself over the question of lighting. Burgess Smallwood, with an eye to the future believes that steps should be taken to prepare the day when wires will be underground and favors the erection of ornamental iron poles on which to display the lights. This view is not shared by others. The installation of the lights is to take place about the first of the year and will be a big boon to the people of the growing suburb, as well as the numerous Harrisburg folks who go out there to visit.

Lee McClung, the former treasurer of the United States who died in London, was well known to many Harrisburgers as he was a member of the famous Yale eleven on which Vance C. McCormick and W. Orville Hickok played in the nineties. He frequently visited here and played baseball and tennis at the Country Club of Harrisburg as well as attending dances here.

Progress of the work on the South Second street subway was being casually discussed by Frank B. Musser, president of the Harrisburg Railways' Company and W. F. Martin, the subway contractor, the other day when an interested spectator stepped up to them. "Just noticed some of the methods you folks use to get the dirt out, and how you change the foundations of the houses and so on," said he, "my, oh, my, how the contracting business has developed. Why you've got a scheme now for lifting a man's house."

"Yes," answered President Musser, "there are ways to do most things nowadays. You can even lift the mortgage." "Truly," interposed Mr. Martin, gravely, "but that method's been in use for some time when Uncle Sam started to coin money!"

Dauphin county lawyers are still smiling at Attorney George R. Barnett employed recently before the Assemblyman-elect John C. Nissley, a fellow attorney, that he had borrowed a law book without Mr. Nissley's knowledge. He needed a certain book for reference and needed it badly. It was too late to get into the court library; he called at Mr. Nissley's office and discovered that the book had gone home. So Mr. Barnett simply selected the book, found a blank form for a criminal indictment—and then proceeded to fill out the form with the information to the effect that he was charged with having taken the book. And on the back he endorsed "plea, guilty, before bill found."

"The government ban on the song, 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary,' has only served to increase its popularity," said a downtown music dealer yesterday. "Ever since Secretary Daniels stopped the men of the navy from using it and the military bands were forbidden to play it our sales have been steadily on the increase. Indeed we have a hard time keeping the song in stock. As fast as I buy one supply it is sold and the publishers have not been able to keep up with orders."

"The big apple crop in the East this year and in Europe during the past year and a half is the largest since a serious slump in the western apple business this year," said Clyde P. Graham, of Seattle, who was in Harrisburg yesterday on his annual trip through the fruit growing sections of the East. "Formerly the seasons were so command first class prices for first class fruit, but now out our way the apple growers find their crops of splendid fruit being sold for a low price. Many of them have stored their crops hoping for a turn of the market, but as it looks now prices will be far below what we ought to have to realize a profit and many of our people will suffer severely in a financial way unless we can find a market. Experts to Europe that formerly consumed hundreds of thousands of boxes have been discontinued almost entirely."

Just thirty more persons are members of the Telegraph Employees' Association for this year than during 1914. The total number is 123 persons and they have 922 shares. This is the largest number ever taken and illustrates the prosperity of the organization.

DELAWAR COUNTY MAN SAYS THE SPEAKERSHIP IS A FREE-FOR-ALL RACE

Delaware County Man Says the Speakership Is a Free-For-All Race

Penrose Keeps Out of It Machine Democrats Get Another Jolt From the Wilson Administration

Mr. Lee Cronican

Mr. Cronican says it is a pleasure to use the STEIFF PIANO. Its touch, its easy action and wonderful full round tone is most pleasing.

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STEIFF CONCERT GRAND

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STEIFF WAREROOMS, 24 N. Second St.

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Real Relief

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At Your Service

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HARRISBURG LIGHT & POWER CO.

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