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MONDAY EVENING, MAY 31

Time destroys the groundless conceits of men; it confirms decisions founded on reality.—Cicero.

WILSON AND MEXICO

It is the intention of President Wilson to do in Mexico as president ex-officio of the Red Cross what he refused to do some months ago as President of the United States? In China they refer to this sort of thing as saving one's face.

Having announced that it will raise \$2,000,000 in cash and supplies for the starving Mexicans, the Red Cross has been assured by the President that the administration will take such steps as may be necessary to make effective the relief work.

"Friendly intervention" is to take the policy of the futile "watchful waiting" policy that has resulted in nothing at all save demoralization south of the Rio Grande. It is given out at Washington that the President intends to proceed sending foodstuffs to the Mexicans and in the event that any of the factions now disturbing the country show an unwillingness to allow the Red Cross to proceed with the work, or should attempt to divert foodstuffs from the civilians to the soldiers, then the President will give the 90 per cent. of the people any assistance they may ask to rid themselves of the internal enemies.

It is believed at Washington that the time will not come when it will be necessary for the President to put an army across the border—that is, an army of any great size—because he expects that a stiffening of the peaceful Mexican backbone by the realization that the United States will support those people in restoring order will result in a cessation of the present conflict.

But what is still paramount in the minds of many people is the thought that the President would have saved himself and the country a lot of trouble by recognizing Huerta, the only one in authority, more than two years ago, instead of encouraging Villa and Carranza, who have since proved themselves of the same stripe as the other bandits who have despoiled our unhappy neighbor.

The Mexican situation has hardly been handled in a way to increase respect for American diplomacy, and the conditions are now infinitely more difficult than they were at the outset of the Wilson administration when the President insisted upon the retirement of Huerta, the de facto head of the country, and the selection of a successor agreeable to the Washington government.

Truly, now is a time calling for wisdom and firmness, that we may avoid the pitfalls upon every hand.

It is characteristic of the National Guard authorities of Pennsylvania that preparedness should mark every step in the development of the State's militia. This week the first of a series of camps will begin at Mt. Gretna, where the officers of the Guard will assemble for instruction. Next month will follow the brigade encampments, and it is certain that after a week of instruction the officers will be in better shape to train the men under them.

THE ALLIES AT METZ

The report that the French are preparing to lay siege to Metz, the great German fortress, is significant of the changed aspect of the fighting in Alsace-Lorraine. Only a few months ago the Germans were threatening to do to Verdun what they did to Liege and other Belgian strongholds. Verdun is thirty-seven miles from Metz, to the West, and the "ribbling" tactics of Joffre have pushed back the invaders not only beyond gunfire of Verdun, but have brought the French to the very doors of Metz.

This does not mean, however, that the great armed camp of the Kaiser is in any immediate danger. The fortress, like that of Verdun, is surrounded by heights affording admirable protection and commanding long distances of approaching ground. In the time of the French possession of Alsace-Lorraine it was supposed to be the strongest fortified place on the frontier. The Germans began to strengthen it immediately after 1871. The work was finished in 1890. Another transformation, during which a number of new forts were built, began in 1900 and was not yet completed at the outbreak of the war.

The place is defended by twenty-five modern forts with many intervening redoubts and secret field works. The southernmost forts are the Sommy

and Haesler, which adjoin each other on the right bank of the Moselle, and the left bank of the Sella, and Wagner on the right bank of the Sella. It is supposed to be the forts of Sommy and Haesler that are now being attacked. The former is one of the most recently constructed forts of the fortress.

Joffre is not one to rush his troops heading at Metz as the Germans were hurried to destruction at Liege. He is evidently bent on reducing the fortress by the less costly means by which he has sapped and mined his way to the gates. He is awaiting, very likely, the bringing up of the new English mortars. It will be interesting to compare the work of these newly-devised weapons of siege with the results attained by the great guns of the Germans at Namur. In this war the fortress has been less easy to defend than the trench and it would not be surprising to find the allies as successful here as were the Germans before the Belgian strongholds.

Thousands of people have already admired the Capitol of Pennsylvania and its treasures of art and decoration and thousands more will visit Harrisburg when Governor Brumbaugh's plans for the improvement of our highways have been worked out. Superintendent Rambo's order to keep the building open holidays will be generally approved.

PRACTICAL CIVIL SERVICE

It is common report on Capitol Hill that George H. Biles, of Philadelphia, now in charge of the maintenance work of the State Highway Department, will be advanced to succeed E. A. Jones, of Scranton, who resigned a few days ago as Second Deputy Highway Commissioner. This will be a recognition of faithful service in line with the well-known views of the Governor and Commissioner Cunningham and a practical demonstration of the administration's civil service policy.

Since the outset of the State's good roads movement Mr. Biles has been one of the officials whose engineering skill and general fitness for the work have been appreciated by those familiar with his devotion to duty and his realization of the great undertaking upon which the State has entered. All the friends of a faithful official will hope that the rumor concerning the preference of Commissioner Cunningham is correct.

Isn't it enough that the business of the country has been hectoring almost to the vanishing point in many lines through the meddling of a Democratic Congress that we should now be threatened with an extra session of that remarkable body of misfit statesmen. If the business equilibrium, he will wind down the extra session talk of alleged leaders of his party, who are never so happy as when they are strutting about Washington giving a rank imitation of the real thing in statesmanship.

"M. G." AND LINCOLN HIGHWAY

With the tremendous impetus given the nation-wide propaganda for better highways by Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh, the road-building movement in Pennsylvania and elsewhere is bound to go forward with increasing momentum. That "Good Roads Day" proclamation and its practical effect have placed "M. G." as the Governor is known up the Juniata Valley, among the great leaders in this constructive work.

And it is almost certain that he will throw the weight of his influence on the side of the proposition to divert the Lincoln highway, which will extend from coast to coast, from a tentative line southward so as to touch Harrisburg and the several towns on the old Pittsburgh and Philadelphia pike through the Juniata Valley fanned in song and story and easily the most picturesque and historic region in the State. It is inconceivable that such a highway could be established without touching the capital and his great interest in his native Commonwealth will make the Governor a potential figure in the adoption of the national highway.

The fellow who said the Washington administration had imposed an income tax when there was no income and a war tax when there was no war, will probably have something to say about the new national law that has compelled the railroad companies on and after to-morrow to require all travelers to pay ten cents for each additional \$100 of valuation on the contents of their trunks. Where in the name of all that's sensible is the paternalism of the present Democratic dynasty to end!

PROSECUTE THE "DOPESTERS"

It is to be hoped that the Poor Board's investigation of the sale of habit-forming drugs in Harrisburg will prove that the charges are groundless. But if there is evidence to show that anybody in any walk of life has been breaking the federal law in this respect, he or she should be prosecuted to the full extent of the statute.

There is no more dastardly, inhuman trade in the world than that which fattens the pockets of those who engage in it at the expense of the happiness, the honor and the life of those upon whose patronage it depends. Whisky drinking is bad enough, in all conscience, but drug-taking is a hundredfold worse. It is possible for some few men to "drink moderately," so that to all appearances they are not seriously injured thereby, but there is only one end for the man who uses drugs, and that is dishonor and death.

The federal government was a long time in arriving at a conclusion with respect to the outrageous traffic in opium and drugs of its kind, but, having enacted a law designed to abolish the trade, its agents have been characteristically active in its suppression. There are no more tireless nor more conscientious officers in the world than those employed to enforce the federal statutes of the United States. They have a big task on their hands in the present crusade, but they have public opinion with them, and all good citizens should give their assistance wherever possible. Dealing in habit-forming drugs must be made as rare in the United States as the manufacture of "moonshine" whisky or the making of counterfeit money—and just as serious an offense.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committee

People at the Capitol are considering with ever qualified interest the probable political effect of the survey of the State government which is contemplated by the new Economy and Efficiency Commission which will consist of the Governor, auditor general and attorney general. The clerical expenses of this commission are carried in the \$35,000 item in the auditor general's department and the officials will have the report of the Tender commission as a guide.

Governor Brumbaugh will dominate the commission and will also have the authority to bring about any necessary changes without interfering with statutory provisions and Auditor General A. W. Powell is expected to "go along" with the executive. The Governor has probably the most complete information about the political affiliations and backing of every employe in the State departments, boards, commissions and institutions, and with the results of expert study of the details of the State government he may be able to make changes that would be justified by both.

Probably a score of the recommendations of the old Economy and Efficiency Commission were passed in the form of bills, most of which are before the Governor for action and some of the changes were put by for further consideration, while some were "passed up."

Indications are that interesting political movements are being made on Capitol Hill. The fate of some of the 708 bills in the hands of the Governor will foreshadow what is going to happen to some of the legislators and when appropriations are given the final executive revision it is likely that the lists of employes of the government will get attention. Incidentally new appointees will be expected to be "right" on local option and all other administrative measures that appear next session.

—Ex-Senator Frank E. Baldwin, of Austin, Potter county, is said to have some congressional ambitions which may be heard from this summer when a Republican candidate to succeed Edgar W. Kieser is nominated.

—The Berks county judicial primaries promise to be interesting this year because there is talk that Democrats may disregard party lines in an effort to defeat Judge R. G. Buehler. The judge was named by Governor Tener to fill a vacancy.

—G. Scott Smith, the Kane editor, and one of the active Republicans of McKean county, is being talked of for senator in the McKean-Potter-Tioga district and if he desires to enter the race will be a formidable candidate next year. Mr. Smith is well known to many here as he was in the city frequently during the legislative session and has many friends.

—Suggestion of Director Porter for mayor of Philadelphia appear to have aroused some of the voters up here. I think with Joe Rogers, assistant district attorney, that South Philadelphia has some fine timber. If Congressman W. S. Vard is elected to enter the race there will be some interesting doings as all the influence of the Brumbaugh administration will be thrown in his favor and it is believed that some of the local potentates so-called progressives who have been making a noise lately would be forced to go along. The congressman has been keeping quiet on majority matters, but when called upon and has been to the front in many affairs. If he should win it would strengthen the Governor immensely in his battle for control of the next legislature.

—Fayette county Democrats are trying to get together on the slating of a county ticket before the primaries. As in most counties the Democrats of Fayette are split up the back and up the sides and the bosses are afraid that the primaries will result in intensifying the conditions. Hence, the effort to decide how to divide.

—It is expected that James Mapes Dodge, who has been active in successful and unsuccessful independent political movements in Philadelphia for several years, will be a member of the Committee of One Hundred's propaganda in the Philadelphia election this fall.

—Simon Devlin, backed by ex-Congressman Robert E. Lee, has been out in the fight for the St. Clair post office.

—The Philadelphia Public Ledger of yesterday in its resume of the judicial elections gravely announced that Chief Justice D. Newlin Fell would retire on January 1 and that a new chief justice of the Supreme Court would be chosen. Mr. Fell retired on January 1 and J. Hay Brown has since been acting as chief justice.

—Joseph P. Rogers, one of the assistant district attorneys of Philadelphia, is being mentioned as a possible candidate for judge this fall. He is well known to many residents of this city and has been a frequent visitor to the Capitol.

—Clara W. Evans, deputy revenue collector for Schuylkill county, who is well known to this county's people, has resigned.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Dernburg wants safe conduct on the high seas. . . for Dernburg—New York Evening Sun.

The President believes also that nations can be too proud not to fight.—Philadelphia North American.

Whatever comes in the shape of trouble, it will certainly not bear the "Made in America" label.—Chicago Herald.

Mexico's useful role was to give the United States the drill and exercise in forbearance that it needed.—Chicago Daily News.

Now is the time for American citizens, one and all, to see America first, last and all the time.—Chicago Herald.

If that's a note, the Kaiser sincerely hopes Mr. Wilson will never write him a letter.—Boston Transcript.

Possibly Germany's idea was to take advantage of us while we were tied up in court.—Philadelphia North American.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

On many grounds, the works of Oscar Wilde possess an abiding interest. Including, they do, books that are the expression of a brilliant cynicism and others that are wrung from the bitterness of the soul's agony—at times mocking, at times serious, they appeal irresistibly to all who are weary of the banalities no less than of the insouciance of life. The tone and coloring of these books and their range from surface brilliancy to the abyssal depths of the soul. They are strange, tragic, in not a few respects, but nevertheless fascinating. They are the work of a man with his attainments and his scold descents. The range of form of Wilde's works is almost boundless. His essays, and poems, not to mention criticism, assures their appeal to a variety of tastes.

IN MEMORIAM



Our Daily Laugh

NEEDS SYMPATHY. Mrs. W.—Is she a member of many afternoon clubs? Mrs. T.—No, poor thing, she isn't. She's married to one of those husbands who insists on coming home to all their meals.

NATURALLY. Where is the seat of war located, pa? In the front row, I presume, say so.

WORDS—THAT'S ALL By Wing Ding

I've read the note from Germany, And as I read it through I noted all the greetings and the friendly phrases, too, That diplomats 'most always use In such a document Before they get down to the point And make known their intent.

Each word I read most carefully, And patiently did wait Until I came to that part of The note, where it would state Just what the Germans have in mind— What they intend to do— But gee, before that part I found I'd read the whole note through.

Now it is very clear to me Why three weeks it did take The Germans to write the reply Which to us it would make. One can't sit down and write in haste A thousand words or so That really don't say anything— That takes some time, you know.

"DECORATION DAY"

By E. S. E.

Do you know what it means, you boys Who hail from the North and the South, Don't you know what it means— This twining of greens Round the silent cannon's mouth? This strewing with flowers the grass-torn grave. This decking with garlands the statues. This flouting of flags, All tatters and rags; This marching and singing, These bells all a-ringing; These faces grave and these faces gay. This talk of the Blue and this talk of the Gray, In the North and the South, Decoration Day?

Not simply a show-time, boys and girls, Is this day of falling flowers; Not a pageant, a play, Nor a holiday with those Of flags and floral bowers; It is something more than the day that starts War memories a-throb in veterans' hearts.

For across the years, To the hopes and the fears, To the days of battle, Of roar and of rattle, To the past that now seems so far away, Do the sons of the Blue and the sons of the Gray Gaze—hand clasping hand—Decoration Day.

For the wreck and the wrong of it, Boys and girls, For the terror and loss as well, Our hearts must hold A regret untold, For we live and know That the fighting and sighing, The falling and dying, future—the martyr's way! A-down which the sons of the Blue and the Gray, With love and with pride, Decoration Day.

THE VOICE OF MEMORIAL DAY

By J. Howard Wert.

A beautiful land by Heaven blessed, Of every charm and good possessed, Was in a moment called to war, Whilst darkness draped each shining star.

When wailed a bleeding country's call Through mountain cot and stately hall, By patriotic impulse grand, Brave men arose o'er all our land.

A very few remain to-day— Their step is slow, their heads are gray, Of millions, some are with the slain Of every bloody battle plain.

In each God's acre of our land, From eastern coast to western strand, To-day, from scores of hallowed graves, The tiny flag of honor waves.

Yes, strew their tombs with fairest flowers; Look what a goodly land is ours; Honor the men from sea to sea, Who made our States, home of the free.

And make the solemn vow to-day, Over these mounds of heroes' clay, "The Flag for which they fought and fell Shall ever to the breezes swell.

"Unmanned by stain; symbol of right, Amid the bloody, gruesome night Of slaughter wild in other land, Earth's messenger of Hope it stands."

Observance of Memorial Day

[From the Philadelphia Bulletin.]

Fifty years, with the passing of one generation and the coming of another, and the influx of millions from other countries, naturally serve to lessen, in some degree, that appreciation of Memorial Day which was born of personal contact with the events of the Civil War. But the dedication of this day to the honor of the patriotic dead of the nation was for all time, so long as the nation was saved shall last, and neither the thinning of the ranks that fought nor even the passing of the last of that number should be permitted to lessen in any degree the sense of obligation or the privilege of setting apart one day in which to remember the men who offered their lives in battle and in the performance of national life and duty for which they were ready to die.

"Where are the dead?" asked Mytil, in Macerlinck's allegory, looking wonderingly at the opening blooms where a moment before were the somber tombs. "There are no dead," said Tyl, Old Granny Tyl and Gaffer Tyl woke from their long sleep and came back into companionship with those they left on earth, whenever thought sounded the call of Memory. Not alone for the soldier dead, though those have their place of special honor, but for all the Day of Memories has become hallowed, that the living may call back those who are gone, that the graves may be strewn and blossom with flowers and those who have been and there may come out and live again in thought and influencing contact.

The value of this day and its sacred function is beyond estimate. The history of the nation is a heritage. We live and butly prosper on what the Past has established for us. We recognize the value of the principles and the traditions which have been given permanence and we shall gain a better appreciation of them if we call back in memory the men who gave them life and strength, and on this one day, set apart from the others of the year, do personal honor to the dead. The nation, rendering due honor to its army, to the great majority gone and the remainder present, gains inspiration for a better and more devoted patriotism by this miracle of Memory. The individual, kin of some soldier patriot or patriot, can find profit as well in making this annual occasion his personal Day which will reach every person.

Partial transformation of the day from its original purpose is inevitable—the fate of all the holidays in some degree, regrettable as it is. But the perpetuation of the day and its duties is a charge upon the people of the United States that must never be neglected. When the last of the soldiers of the Civil War shall have gone, there will be sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters to take up the service of decorating the graves, and there will be those who will continue the formal exercises of the occasion. But the thought of the day is for all, and if its appeal is to be permanent it must be in some manner that will reach every person.

The "Five Minutes of Memory," now incorporated in Memorial Day proclamation by the Governors of many Commonwealths, is a conception of such an objective. Fitting, appealing, and a service of decorating the graves, it is proper and desirable that on each Memorial Day—next Monday and in each succeeding year—the state, the Angelus summons the faithful to prayer, the noonday bell shall be recognized by every person as the call of Memory to five minutes' communion with those who, though dead, shall live again.

MEMORIAL TO GENERAL GEORGE G. MEADE

John W. Frazier, in the course of a communication, says that Comrade John B. Patrick, of Post 58, Harrisburg, has succeeded in securing from the Legislature an appropriation of \$50,000 for the erection of a memorial to General George G. Meade in the city of Washington, making a total of \$80,000 for that purpose, and that credit is particularly due to the patriotic and persistent help of Governor Brumbaugh, Attorney-General Brown and James A. Dale, of York. With this money there ought to be such a memorial of Meade in the National Capitol as will be distinctly worthy of his fame and of the signal part which he played in the preservation of the Union. The character of the statue and its embellishments have yet to be finally determined, and Mr. Frazier writes that it should be "entirely free of allegory that no one understands and of the archaology of prehistoric periods, but that

INSPIRATION TO BETTER LIFE

[Kansas City Star.] An Atchison theologian advances the awful theory that there are probably a great many flies and dandelions in hades.

HEADLESS HUSBANDS

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer.] "The ideal husband is never bald-headed," says a woman. The ideal husband has no head at all.

Evening Chat

According to people who have been through the country in the last few days, one of the effects of the observance of Good Roads Day has been to stimulate discussion of the merits of portions of the road and if this is correct as to rural districts generally it will result to the advantage of everyone. It is not far from discussion of ruts and bumps of a stretch of highway to starting movements for improvement and Governor Brumbaugh's suggestion that the people should constitute themselves vigilance committees and bring to the attention of proper authorities unsatisfactory conditions will need little further support. In half a dozen Dauphin and Cumberland townships men who worked on the roads of Good Roads Day and some who did not have offered to unite with neighbors and friends in fixing some sections which could not be reached. In other words, they are not content to wait until next Fall or next Spring, but are anxious to get the roads bettered. In some parts of the country there is a very tangible movement under way to bring about betterment of roads which have been a hissing and a byword and it would not be surprising if the same situation prevailed in many other parts of the State and that purely local "good roads" observances would be noted from time to time during the summer months. The things that interest people in this section is that for miles around all roads lead to Harrisburg, and for years the condition of some has not evoked favorable comment. The increased volume of motor traffic among the farmers and the development of the business of supplying its needs at country stores, coupled with the willingness of the city people to help those in the country put the highways into good shape, will probably lead to much work being done before snow flies.

Speaking of Good Roads Day, it is a subject of much favorable remark the way the newspapers took up the suggestion. From the press of Pennsylvania Commissioner Cunningham laid the matter before the Governor and an executive proclamation was issued there have been few newspapers in Pennsylvania that did not devote columns to boosting the proposition. Some of the country weeklies literally gave yards to the suggestions sent out from the State Highway Department's offices and supplemented them by noting the plans of folks in their own neighborhood. The automobile associations and the owners joined with various other organizations and their shares duly noted. In fact, much of the success of the state-wide observance came from the splendid support and encouragement from the rural press. The newspapers in the cities gave much first page space, the valuable commodity, and strong editorial commendation and the general movement in favor of better highways in the press of Pennsylvania was so great as to attract the attention of newspapers in other States. Apparently, Pennsylvania, while a late in establishing a Good Roads Day, made the rest of the country take notice, and but for rain would have made a record.

The last time the Brethren held their convention in this section was back in 1901. The convention was held in Paxtang, where large assembly buildings, dining rooms and other conveniences were erected and even temporary living places provided. The convention was largely attended by people from all over the country and the sessions attracted national attention because of the vigor with which they were conducted. Some of the most noted of the denominational leaders were speakers and many matters of interesting nature about the members were talked over with candor, such subjects as life insurance, personal ornaments and the like being discussed. The convention was the first to be held in this section in a long time and the presence of so many earnest, upright people attracted popular attention to the meetings, so many so that visitors were very numerous.

Some very attractive pictures of incidents in the life of the Harrisburg Academy are presented in the annual publication of the school. It contains capital photographs of the property and its environment and of school nights and scenes of the school. It shows ex-President Taft and Governor Brumbaugh at the school, the photograph being very like that which appeared in the Telegraph. There are many interesting matters about the educational institution, which is only one year younger than Harrisburg itself, in the publication.

In this connection it might be remarked on the subject of pictures that those which appear in the Telegraph from day to day form a record of daily events in and about Harrisburg which will be invaluable in years to come. The progress in newspaper photography has almost kept pace with the service and the pictures in this newspaper will in time to come furnish the "local color" which the multiplicity of items nowadays forbids except in comparatively few instances.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—A. J. Drexel Biddle will give up his house in Philadelphia.

—Mayor Armstrong, of Pittsburgh, plans a Canadian vacation trip.

—S. M. Knicker, the publisher, was given a reception by friends on his return to Philadelphia. He was saved from the Lusitania.

—Attorney General Brown is planning to be presented in August.

—William B. Hackenberg, well known here, is president of the Philadelphia Jewish Hospital, which is celebrating its semicentennial.

DO YOU KNOW

That Dauphin county is exporting flour to European war depots?

THERE'S SOME BALM IN GILEAD

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.] War and weather and wardrobe may combine to encourage pessimism, but the true balm for the soldier is not when he remembers that the days of double-headers are fast approaching.

Make the World Walk Your Way

Is the world walking your way? Is the attraction of your goods and your store such as to be synonymous with a magnet? Do people know you at all? Good merchandise and good merchandising are only two factors.

You must let people know you have a reason for their patronage.

You must advertise—and the best medium for manufacturer or retailer is the daily newspaper. Newspaper advertising makes people walk your way.