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E. J. STACKPOLE President and Editor-in-Chief

F. R. OYSTER Secretary

GUS M. STEINMETZ Managing Editor

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SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 10.

If you wish another to keep your secret, first keep it yourself.—Seneca.

WEST SHORE RESPONSIBILITY

THERE are signs even now that the people residing along the west shore of the Susquehanna opposite Harrisburg are realizing the opportunities afforded them by the damming of the river at the lower end of this city. Here and there owners of homes and summer bungalows are beautifying the river bank down to the water's edge. Never, before the construction of this dam, did the West Shore have a depth of water sufficient to make boating there a pleasant recreation. With the dam still open at places, due to the construction of the Cumberland Valley bridge, the water is already uniformly higher than ever before, and it will be increased in depth at least a foot when that work is completed.

Harrisburg has done its part in the beautification of the river basin. It has expended many thousands of dollars in the task and is pleased that it has done so. It is not to be expected that the more sparsely settled West Shore will be able to do anything so comprehensive, but it is entirely within the powers of the township, the borough and individuals to decide upon some harmonious form of treatment that would add not only to the beauty of an already picturesque locality but would increase property values as well and make the West Shore an even more delightful place in which to live than it now is.

Wormleysburg people are noted for their public spirit. If they want new fire apparatus or a town hall or some other municipal improvement, they join hands and get it. Doubtless they are already thinking of the future of their river front, which is every bit as attractive as that of Harrisburg. A community meeting to discuss the matter would be entirely in order and might bring about means for an early consideration of the subject by a joint committee or other body delegated to take up the matter.

Why is it that when we ask our friends, "How are you?" we are bored when they begin to tell us.

FLOOD WARNINGS

ONE of the most valuable services

of the State Water Supply Commission renders to the communities lying along the banks of rivers and streams that in rainy seasons are apt to overflow their banks is the warning it issues at such times. Flood warnings that come out but a few hours before the rise of the waters are not of much value. The commission realizes this and strives to estimate the height of the streams at various points at least twelve hours in advance. This gives everybody interested ample time in which to take necessary precautions and results in the saving of much property that otherwise would be damaged or destroyed.

The accuracy with which the commission makes its forecasts is well illustrated in the bulletins issued during the present flood stage of the Susquehanna and its tributaries.

"Courage conquers all things," said an ancient philosopher who never charged a machine gun battery.

GRADE CROSSING RELIEF

CONSIDERATION has been written since the accident at Hummelstown Monday night, concerning the responsibility of the State Public Service Commission with respect to grade crossings. There are more than 11,000 such crossings in Pennsylvania and it is a task of no mean proportions to attempt their regulation.

The commission has never declined to extend proper relief to communities asking for it in this respect. It has suggested, when complaints of dangerous grade crossings were laid before it, that the residents or the authorities of the territory immediately adjacent were in better position to pass upon the subject than a body of men sitting miles away at the Capitol, and to that end decisions have been based largely upon testimony taken on the spot.

It is certainly the duty of the community, as well as of the railroad and officials, to see to it that the public is adequately protected whenever

ever the crossing. Conditions such as those at Hummelstown ought not to have been allowed to exist, and the people of the town share in the responsibility inasmuch as they not only made no complaint previous to the accident, but actually petitioned the Public Service Commission less than a year ago for another grade crossing within the limits of the borough.

Probably the coroner's jury did not have these facts when it rendered its verdict, against which there can be made no complaint save that it should have been framed to include the borough of Hummelstown as censurable along with the others involved. Other communities should look to their crossings before attention is called to them by a tragedy such as that which cost six lives this week.

We fail to note in any of our exchanges that one time standard summer ticket to the effect that "Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So left yesterday to spend the summer in an extended tour of Europe."

STATE POLICE AID

THE utility of the State Police is well demonstrated in the assistance they are rendering just now in breaking up rowdyism and robberies in the eastern end of the county.

The local authorities found themselves unable to cope with the situation. Lawless men and boys paid no attention whatever to the constables and the populace for weeks has been at the mercy of these rural "gangsters." Now comes the State Police and immediately the trouble is at an end. To be sure it is a pity that some of the offenders were not brought to book, but it is pleasing to note that the bullies who terrorize helpless country constables have a wholesome respect for the men who constitute the State constabulary.

It is in just such service as this that the State Police are indispensable. Rural communities cannot be expected to go to the expense of maintaining large police forces, and in most cases such are not needed. But here and there over the Commonwealth disorder breaks out at intervals and is not quelled until some such powerful and fearless force as the constabulary is called in. The man who advocates the abolition of the force labels himself at once as an enemy of law and a friend of the lawless. It is not recorded that a State policeman ever arrested or interfered with anybody who was conducting himself with due regard for the law and its requirements.

Mrs. Shaw is a better press agent for herself than she would be a witness for her husband.

CHAMBER'S GOOD WORK

THE Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce is doing an excellent work in bringing men of national reputation to the city. The coming of United States Senator Theodore E. Burton on July 15 is only one of many such instances. More really big men have spoken before the Harrisburg Chamber in the past year than have addressed similar gatherings in either Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Every one of these speakers has brought a message well worth hearing, many of them embracing lessons that are keynotes to success with respect to community life or applied individually.

This is one of the important duties of the Chamber—to keep Harrisburg in touch with the country at large, to keep its members abreast of the times; and in no way can this be accomplished so well as by bringing to Harrisburg the big, deep thinkers of the nation to tell us of their own experiences and ideals and what others are doing. The study of history is invaluable to the man engaged in public work. Biography contains important lessons for the man bent upon personal success. The addresses of such men as Burton are both history and biography brought down to terms of everyday life and having their application to every one who hears the messages they bring.

"Nothing dries sooner than a tear," nor leaves such a stain on a well powdered cheek.

BURLESON'S ADMISSION

IN his last annual report, Postmaster General Burleson presented statistics showing the steady growth in postal savings deposits and then said: "These facts afford conclusive proof that the practical operations of postal savings in this country have amply fulfilled the predictions of its advocates."

That is certainly some admission, coming as it does from a man who, as a member of the House of Representatives, voted against the postal savings bank bill. It is one more acknowledgment of the superiority of Republican ideas. But Burleson had plenty of bad company, for every Democrat in the House who voted at all recorded his vote against the measure.

If we had our way, the river would clear up and bass fishing would improve.

CONTROL OF THE BUDGET

THE last session of Congress was an extremely extravagant one, and yet it appropriated \$113,000,000 less than the Executive Departments urged it to appropriate.

Let this fact sink into the minds of those who advocate a national budget system for the United States. That a budget system is desirable, few will question, but those who believe in economical administration will also agree that the control of the budget board or commission should be in Congress and not in the departments.

The reason for this is plain. The head of each department, upon the insistence of his subordinates, and because of his desire to extend the activities of his office, asks Congress for larger appropriations for work already in hand and for new appropriations for new governmental activities. He is naturally impressed with the im-

portance of his department and is more or less actuated by vanity and ambition.

Congress, the only branch of government chosen directly by the people and including men from every walk of life, is not influenced by personal ambition, so far as departmental expenditures are concerned, and upon that body we must rely for the check upon extravagance.

A budget system we certainly need, but not one in the control of men who ask for \$113,000,000 more than a liberal Congress will grant.

TELEGRAPH PERISCOPE

—Henry Ford says we eat three times too much. Thereby spending for food what we might otherwise put into gasoline.

—Was Shaw crazy or his jury?

—The "bear that walks like a man" knows how to run almost as well. Also he is "some" stopper.

—The crankless automobile is sometimes one that has transferred its crank from the radiator to the driver's seat.

—Holt was a bad man, no doubt, but what of the merchant who sold him dynamite?

—One of the advantages of going on vacation is that we enjoy home so much more when we get back.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Mr. Bryan's successive statements make it increasingly evident that he resigned in a fit of passionate admiration for Mr. Wilson.—New York Evening Post.

An exchange informs us that all the Balkan countries are mountainous. We knew already that some of them were not on the level.—Charleston News and Courier.

Must have been easy for the President to tell what the flag stands for after having written three notes to tell what it won't stand for.—Philadelphia North American.

The bottom has fallen out of the motor car price lists. At the rate the cost is being reduced the idle rich will soon have to abandon motoring entirely.—Kansas City Star.

IN HARRISBURG FIFTY YEARS AGO TO-DAY

From the Telegraph, July 10, 1865.] Sunday School Picnic

The annual union Sunday school picnic will be held next Thursday on the west shore of the river.

CONVENTION IN THIS CITY?

Prominent colored men in the State are discussing having a national convention in this city beginning August 1.

THREE MORE ENGINES

Council has passed an ordinance authorizing the purchase of three new steam fire engines.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

[From the Kansas City Star.] Two fatal motor accidents in Kansas City last night call attention once more to the need of the greatest caution in driving. It is speed makes the automobile both a great convenience and a great menace.

It is not merely that passengers in a motor car are endangered by carelessness on the part of their own drivers. They are endangered by carelessness on the part of other drivers and of pedestrains. Thus it is that the driver must never take anything for granted on the part of anybody he meets. He must assume that other people are liable to bewilderment, and must be prepared for anything.

STEPS TOWARD PREPARATIONNESS

[From the New York Sun.] No action undertaken by any of the numerous associations devoted to the improvement of the national defense has been more practicable or better calculated to achieve results than that which provides for well all employes of labor for the encouragement of enlistment in the National Guard.

In a numerous well drilled and properly equipped body of soldiers instructed in the profession of arms, lies the only immediately available means of increasing our military establishment to a degree remote enough to meet the pressing necessities of the country.

Unfortunately the National Guard has not received in the past the intelligent understanding of the public that it deserves. In this connection, the question of whether the climate where you are to "summer" is better than your own is by no means the only important factor.

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