

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH
Established 1837
PUBLISHED BY THE TELEGRAPH PRINTING CO.
E. J. STACKPOLE
President and Editor-in-Chief
F. R. OYSTER
Secretary
GUS M. STEINMETZ
Managing Editor

Published every evening (except Sunday) at the Telegraph Building, 216 Federal Square. Both phones.

Member American Newspaper Publishers Association, Audit Bureau of Circulation and Pennsylvania Associated Dailies.

Eastern Office, Fifth Avenue Building, New York City, Hasbrouck, Story & Brooks.

Western Office, Advertising Building, Chicago, Ill., Robert E. Ward.

Delivered by carriers at six cents a week. Mailed to subscribers at \$3.00 a year in advance.

Entered at the Post Office in Harrisburg, Pa., as second class matter.

Sworn daily average circulation for the three months ending Nov. 30, 1915.

21,794
Average for the year 1914-21,558
Average for the year 1913-19,962
Average for the year 1912-19,848
Average for the year 1911-17,662
Average for the year 1910-16,261

The above figures are net. All returned, unsold and damaged copies deducted.

TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 14

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming is the only end of life.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL
It is not likely that much will come of the suggestion of Senator Cummings that a Senate committee be named to investigate the feasibility of a government monopoly for the manufacture of all materials needed for the national defense.

This is a foolish proposal. It is all very well for the government to control sufficiently the manufacture of ships and munitions to keep prices at a reasonable level, but it would be the height of folly to turn all of this work over to government controlled factories.

In the first place, the people are to be assessed for additional arms and equipment, and they should have some return for their money. In the second place, to discourage private manufacturers would be to leave the country in dire distress at a time when every available means for the making of army equipment would be required to insure the safety of the country.

Thousands upon thousands of dollars from the savings funds of the city are being distributed and are finding their way into the ordinary channels of trade at the present time. Merchants and business men are looking with optimistic vision into the new year and there is a widespread disposition to pull together for a prosperous 1916.

Dry laws are responsible for an immense decrease in the amount of liquor consumed in 1915, amounting to nearly 9,000,000 gallons, according to Commissioner of Internal Revenue Osborne. Yet our anti-dry advocates insist that all such legislation is of no avail.

FREIGHT CONGESTION
JUST now it is not so much a question of more business for the railroads as it is a problem how to handle the business that is being offered, especially on the Atlantic seaboard. Reports for the last week show that the enormous increase of railroad transportation has created conditions such as have not been known in the railroad world for years.

The export trade has been largely augmented by the war orders from abroad and these, coming on top of a natural increase in business, have given the railroad experts sleepless nights.

It is pointed out, however, that the increase of earnings over 1913 do not represent so much abnormal prosperity as a subnormal condition two years ago. It is a one-sided condition which will be overcome, of course, at the close of the war, when normal trade balances will adjust the present jug-handle situation.

One of the worst features is the fact that the railroads are not now equipped for a great business revival. They have been economizing to the last degree for several years and now find themselves without facilities to take care of an enormous volume of business. Locomotives and cars and rolling stock of every character have been wearing out without replacement and the reports of June 30, 1914, show that in nearly every instance old cars and locomotives during the year were scrapped by the thousands and replaced only by the hundreds. It is known, for instance, that in many cases couplers and other equipment were transferred from idle cars on the sidings to those in active service to avoid new purchases. In short, every effort has been made during recent years to keep the old equipment going as long as possible, and the railroads are now confronted with unusual pressure at a time when they need all the rolling stock that can be had.

Most of the old wooden cars have disappeared and even those still in service are inadequate to take care of the business that is offered. Thousands and thousands of loaded cars are tied up along the eastern terminals and more traffic is on the way. Every effort is being made to relieve the pressure so that these cars may be returned to the points of delivery, but

Politics in Pennsylvania

Men interested in politics throughout the State are commencing to speculate as to the scope which may be played in the coming primary and next Fall's Congressional and legislative elections by organizations which are considered as likely to spring from the Committee of One Thousand at Pittsburgh. This committee, which seems to be going about things more systematically than the Committee of One Hundred and other organizations in Philadelphia, is understood to have considerable support in other counties and may prove to be a big factor in the selection of legislators.

At the meeting held in Pittsburgh last night, J. Denny O'Neil, Ex-Speaker George E. Alt and others were participants. The committee has announced its intention of taking a hand in legislative primaries. The men connected with it are all in favor of local option and good government.

—Governor Brumbaugh joined the Pennsylvania Progressive League in the work for Philadelphia. The Governor will meet men of prominence in the national Republican organization.

—Reading is all fussed up over the same troubles that York had regarding the term of its mayor. The question whether the term of the new mayor begins in December or January 1 was raised yesterday by Councilman-elect William Abbot Witman, who contends that the present chief magistracy term expired in December 1. Mr. Witman bases his allegations on the fact that the mayors of both York and Easton retired from office on December 1, admitting they were no longer eligible.

The new city father served notice yesterday that he did not propose to permit Mayor Stratton to swear him in on an old one to pass off as new, and possesses the essential legal powers in denying Mr. Witman's contention. Mayor Stratton points to the provision of the Clark law, specifying the first Monday in January as the day for the organization of the incoming council.

—Internal Revenue Collector Lederer yesterday announced that he had appointed Hugh J. Harkins, of Bristol as a deputy for the section comprising the lower parts of Bucks and Eastern counties.

—Old Guard forces and Palmerites at Luzerne courthouse yesterday divided the offices, when the Democratic plain tree was shaken. M. J. McLaughlin, elected to the office of county commissioner, broke the old rule by refusing to appoint a relative to any of the clerkships. Friends of Chairman were well taken care of by McLaughlin.

—Judges Stewart and Brodhead at Easton yesterday named a new board of prisoners to serve five years from January 1. The board consists of D. F. Balentine and Amos Turner, Easton; Oliver Labar, Bannockburn; and Charles South, Bethlehem, and Dr. O. D. Schaeffer, Nazareth.

—Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith, of Philadelphia, is having a busy time these days. He said yesterday that he had not switched his cabinet officials and that he would not stand for vice. The new mayor has given high praise by Mayor Blankenburg in a speech last night.

—Lebanon county is now being threatened with an election probe. The district attorney yesterday issued a notice to the court that he would ask the January grand jury to look into charges which have been made.

—The Schuylkill county court yesterday placed the ballot box of North Manheim township in the custody of a committee of which a woman is one. The township has no justice, hence the committee.

—Pittsburgh city employees are to undergo a councilmanic probe. It seems that the new council is looking into all sorts of startling information as the late grand jury.

—The Washington party name was prominently mentioned in Berks county. As in the case of the pre-emptions for this county it attracted some attention because people wondered for what reason it could be done.

—F. W. Balthaser, former member from Reading, is out as a candidate for Senator from Berks county on the Democratic ticket.

—Col. John Gribbel has been re-elected president of the Union League at Philadelphia.

—According to a Norristown dispatch "The die is cast for a fight between the organization and the re-organization Democrats. Charles D. McAvoy, of Norristown, is the county chairman. Assemblyman Christman, will, it is believed, run for delegate and as alternate to the Democratic national convention at St. Louis, Mo., in 1916.

—The Philadelphia Ledger says: "The political fight in Lehigh and Berks counties are greatly interested in the national delegates contest. Avowed candidates are Fred E. Lewis, who has just stepped out as Bull Moose Congressman, and Frank Schantz, in Berks, the aspirants include, besides Mr. Ruth, William Kerper Stevens, ex-Mayor Stratton and ex-Judge Bushong."

—The 12 Common Pleas Court judges of Allegheny county who will select a county commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John A. Martin, are being besieged by numerous Democrats who are seeking this appointment, which will be good for four years at an annual salary of \$8,000.

—The Democratic county organization, through William J. Brennan and Joseph F. Guffey, has endorsed James Houlahan, Pitted against him are 10 probable candidates, who believe they have as much claim to the place as Mr. Houlahan.

—How about a city that tries to do its business on streets built for the condition of four years ago? Or a county on mud roads? The time is coming when they can't compete with the cities and counties with modern facilities for transportation.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

A NEW TOY. (Courtesy Eastman Kodak Company.)

TELEGRAPH'S PERISCOPE

—To buy a Red Cross Seal is to pass death sentence on a million tuberculosis germs.

—"Why not spend the winter in Florida?" is the catch line over a current advertisement. If the agent will come around we'll take a half day off and tell him.

—If you are not careful it will be too late to shop early.

—Writing a letter to Santa Claus is the favorite indoor amusement in many homes this week.

—If you have any doubts about Christmas being worth while take an evening off and read Dickens' Christmas Carol. After that if you are not convinced you are hopeless.

—Senator Tillman is almost as great an admirer of Roosevelt as he is of Bryan, but he isn't urging either for the Presidency.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Roosevelt's method of preparing a speech is to coin a new expression or phrase, and then write around it.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Some of the Democratic leaders seem to think it more important to be prepared for the next election than to be prepared for the next war.—Brooklyn Daily Times.

The Kaiser is said not to have smiled for a year, but after he hears about Henry Ford's expedition, he will grin from year to year.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

NEWSPAPERS FOR DRY PLANK

Temperance Leader Says Poll Favors Action by Big Parties

According to replies received by Deets Pickett, of Topeka, Kan., publicity manager for the Temperance Society of the Methodist Church, a majority of the big newspapers of the country are believed to favor a prohibition plank in the national platform of the big political parties.

Mr. Pickett asked the newspapers for expressions on the matter. Of the 511 replies received, 265 favor party declarations, 174 oppose such action and 72 dodged the question. A majority of the 174 opposing voluntarily announced their allegiance to the prohibition cause, but deemed the political issue inexpedient.

A dozen of the best known papers of New York, Boston, Washington, Philadelphia and other eastern cities favored national party action. Ninety-six Republicans, 69 Democratic and the remainder of the 265 claiming independent tendencies favored action: 72 Republican, 58 Democratic and 18 independents opposed the plan.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

SPEEDERS. Do you believe the thoughts of young men turn to love and poetry in the spring? If I may judge from my own observations, I should say young men never stop to think.

"All things to all men."—Cesar.

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS By Wing Ding

By jove, when winds begin to blow At night, they sure can bust. The peace of him who's sleeping, bo, With that sleep of the just. Last night, for instance, just as I began to pound my ear The wind did blow, and funny sounds burst forth upon my ear.

Some window somewhere in the house Was rattling, out of bed I jumped and tried to locate it. Some nothings sweet I said When after chasing 'round the place For five minutes or more, I learned that all the noise came from A window right next door.

I settled back again in bed And soon was ready to Doze off again, when wifey asked: "Dear, are you sure that you've closed tightly, ere you came to bed, The front door?" knew I had, But couldn't sleep until I'd gone Down to find out, egad.



THE MEXICAN MUDDLE

Long Risks and Big Profits By Frederic J. Haskin

THERE are two ways of getting rich on the border nowadays. One way is to stay on the American side and attend to your business. The other is to go into Mexico. By the latter method you may make a great deal of money in a short time. You may also lose your original investment, and incidentally your life.

A good example of the man who takes a long risk for a big profit is a certain New Mexican cattleman. There was in circulation on the border a large amount of Villa fact money—bills printed by the Villa faction, redeemable when they should have control of the Government. This money was recently repudiated, and you can buy a thousand dollars for three or four cents on the dollar in El Paso.

The cattleman bought several thousand dollars' worth of this repudiated money, and he is now making a flying trip far into the interior of Mexico. As he penetrates deeper into Villa territory, his Villa currency grows more and more valuable, until several hundred dollars from the border is worth 40 and 50 cents in the interior. Then he bought cattle. He might get \$50 in the flat money for a cow, and the animal would still be worth \$100 when he crossed the border on his way out. He would have to pay an export duty of about \$100 on the cow, but he would still be richer than when he started.

When you consider the risks he took, his profits are not so large. Such speculation in currency is naturally discouraged by the party issuing the bills. It is a matter of being turned back, if not imprisoned, at any time. The American cattleman is the favorite of the Villa faction. He has been held for ransom, a number of his fellows have been held, and he is being held for ransom, a number of his fellows have been held, and he is being held for ransom.

Since war began his cattle have been a principal source of revenue for one of the men who was probably the wealthiest man in the United States. He is a prominent member of New Mexican and Texan cattle-men's associations. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Just as an idea of what the people of Harrisburg are reading it may be stated that 75 per cent. of the 9,700 books taken out at the Harrisburg Public Library during the last month were fiction. This is a rather low percentage than usual and shows that people are reading more standard works so to speak. There is a demand for fiction in dealing with the scenes of warfare.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Col. F. W. Stillwell, commander of the Thirteenth Infantry, is being credited with the credit of organizing the 13th Infantry.

—C. L. S. Sibley, who opened the State Street Railway Association convention to-day, has been president for several years of that organization.

—William H. Wilson, the new safety director of Philadelphia, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

—J. J. Reed may become the first burgess of the new borough of Lorain.

—Dr. Russell H. Conwell is delivering a series of lectures in western Pennsylvania.

—William, Thaw the aviator, will spend Christmas at his home in Pittsburgh. He has been with the French army.

DO YOU KNOW

That wheat and cattle raised hereabouts are being exported?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

John Harris' ferry was used by English troops to go west in the French and Indian war.

PREPAREDNESS FOR PEACE

[Pittsburgh Dispatch.] On the day before President Wilson read his annual message to Congress urging the need of national preparedness for defense, Vice-president George D. Dixon of the Pennsylvania Railroad, speaking before the International Trade Conference at New York, declared well built and equipped, properly equipped, and equipped, properly equipped, and equipped, properly equipped.

There comes to Pennsylvania from New York the report that almost bare feet are all the rage. This, of course, applies only to the feminine contingent of our readers. Woman is returning to the old Grecian styles in her choice of bouffant self-adornment. We are not interested.

A touring car occupied by five persons narrowly escaped extermination the other day just outside Coatesville when it struck a telegraph pole and would have plunged over a fifty foot embankment, had it not been for a fence which was constructed recently to avoid future accidents of this very nature. There are some, nevertheless, who do not believe in the guiding hand of Providence.

"Walk and the world walks with you; sit and you sit alone," would be the version of Frank Hoy of Beaver, who has been employed by the Federal government for the last 16 years on the locks in the Ohio river. He figures that in that time he has walked more than 40,000 miles, or nearly twice around the world. Competition under such conditions were hopeless.

THE STATE FROM DAY TO DAY

"Era Jones, of Jonesville" was written by Harold Igo, and produced the other night for the first time by the local talent of New Wilmington, Pa. Igo is a high school professor in that place, and his play is reported to have made good with a vengeance. Hugo has nothing on Igo when it comes to the question of writing plays.

All eyes are accustomed to heaving cables, whether it be as a regular truckman's job or merely as an expression of feeling on certain occasions, had better beware of your trade. A Philadelphia man, Joseph Green, is dead as the result of heart failure from over-exertion in unloading a truck wagon full of that particular fruit.

An albino doe, frequently seen on State lands in the vicinity of Ole Bull's Castle, in Potter county, says the Philadelphia North American, was found dead yesterday, slaughtered by some hunter. Many a hunter had previously drawn bead on the beautiful animal, but some unseen hand stayed the old Greelan's hand. If you would avoid creating the impression that you have a cold in the head, just refrain from repeating the name of the animal.

A "tomb mystery" is being aired in the courts of Erie county, having started out on the first lap yesterday. It is the suit of Harry Perkins against Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Strong for damages as a result of arrest for alleged desecration of the Scott Mausoleum. The case is attracting widespread interest and a big array of legal talent is lined up on both sides.

There comes to Pennsylvania from New York the report that almost bare feet are all the rage. This, of course, applies only to the feminine contingent of our readers. Woman is returning to the old Grecian styles in her choice of bouffant self-adornment. We are not interested.

A touring car occupied by five persons narrowly escaped extermination the other day just outside Coatesville when it struck a telegraph pole and would have plunged over a fifty foot embankment, had it not been for a fence which was constructed recently to avoid future accidents of this very nature. There are some, nevertheless, who do not believe in the guiding hand of Providence.

"Walk and the world walks with you; sit and you sit alone," would be the version of Frank Hoy of Beaver, who has been employed by the Federal government for the last 16 years on the locks in the Ohio river. He figures that in that time he has walked more than 40,000 miles, or nearly twice around the world. Competition under such conditions were hopeless.

Evening Chat

Friends of Frank Wert, who began his newspaper career as a reporter for the Telegraph, will be pleased to learn of his success in another field. For several years Mr. Wert has been manager of public relations for the Mahoning and Shenango Railway and Light Company, one of the largest and most up-to-date public utility companies in the East with headquarters at Youngstown, Ohio, and operating in this State, Ohio and West Va. This number of the Em-and-Ess Electric News is the editor, and publisher, of which Mr. Wert is editor, announces the establishment of a new bureau in the department of which he is the head. It will be known as the "Evening Chat" and will be published weekly. The publication also contains a paper read by Mr. Wert before the Em-and-Ess Club on the purpose and scope of the new bureau. Mr. Wert went from the Telegraph to the Patriot, from the Patriot to Philadelphia and from Philadelphia to Philadelphia. He has been in the field for the wider field of publicity he has made such a splendid success of his efforts with the Em-and-Ess company that his work in the East will be a time to time and his methods will be copied. He is a son of Professor J. Howard Wert.

Mrs. Edna Groff Diehl, of Paxtang whose Aunt Este stories and Plumpty's Hollow Tales have appeared from time to time in the Telegraph has been favored with places in a number of the Christmas magazines. A little playlet entitled "A Santa Claus Party" and "The Santa Claus Song" appear in The Normal Instructor and Primary Plans, the most widely circulated school journal in America. The playlet is intended as a vehicle for the distribution of gifts at a school entertainment. How the Gnomes Tried to Prevent "Thanksgiving" is another story by Mrs. Diehl in what is Do a Sabbath school publication. Mrs. Diehl is rapidly making a place for herself among the country's popular writers for little folk.

"Send me a couple of 'Thorn's books' quick," was a message received at the State department yesterday. Chief Clerk George D. Thorn has been issuing a booklet for several years giving dates for people interested in politics and digests of important acts that have been so useful that it is different state committees stole it and put it out as their own. This year there were reports that it would not be published owing to short appropriations. But enough was released through for 2,000. The requests are for 2,000, one man having asked for 1,000 alone.

Harris L. Sprout, who will reside as district attorney of Chester county to become the assistant district attorney, is the man who bore the banner in the West Chester club parade here on inauguration day. He is 4 feet 6 inches tall and as able and energetic as he is high.

The other day "Penn," whose interesting column in the Evening Bulletin of Philadelphia, has been one of the important features of that newspaper for several years referred to the old form of this country's constitution to the Governor of Pennsylvania. He points out that this phrase and similar phrases smack of the old days of royalty and have no place in our present official life. During the administration of the late Governor Pattison, who had no use whatever for highfalutin forms and ceremonies, the use of "excellency" was discontinued. Governor Pattison also declined to ride to the Capitol and in other ways emphasized his dislike for ceremonial formalities.

Just as an idea of what the people of Harrisburg are reading it may be stated that 75 per cent. of the 9,700 books taken out at the Harrisburg Public Library during the last month were fiction. This is a rather low percentage than usual and shows that people are reading more standard works so to speak. There is a demand for fiction in dealing with the scenes of warfare.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Col. F. W. Stillwell, commander of the Thirteenth Infantry, is being credited with the credit of organizing the 13th Infantry.

—C. L. S. Sibley, who opened the State Street Railway Association convention to-day, has been president for several years of that organization.

—William H. Wilson, the new safety director of Philadelphia, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

—J. J. Reed may become the first burgess of the new borough of Lorain.

—Dr. Russell H. Conwell is delivering a series of lectures in western Pennsylvania.

—William, Thaw the aviator, will spend Christmas at his home in Pittsburgh. He has been with the French army.

DO YOU KNOW

That wheat and cattle raised hereabouts are being exported?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

John Harris' ferry was used by English troops to go west in the French and Indian war.

PREPAREDNESS FOR PEACE

[Pittsburgh Dispatch.] On the day before President Wilson read his annual message to Congress urging the need of national preparedness for defense, Vice-president George D. Dixon of the Pennsylvania Railroad, speaking before the International Trade Conference at New York, declared well built and equipped, properly equipped, and equipped, properly equipped.

There comes to Pennsylvania from New York the report that almost bare feet are all the rage. This, of course, applies only to the feminine contingent of our readers. Woman is returning to the old Grecian styles in her choice of bouffant self-adornment. We are not interested.

A touring car occupied by five persons narrowly escaped extermination the other day just outside Coatesville when it struck a telegraph pole and would have plunged over a fifty foot embankment, had it not been for a fence which was constructed recently to avoid future accidents of this very nature. There are some, nevertheless, who do not believe in the guiding hand of Providence.

"Walk and the world walks with you; sit and you sit alone," would be the version of Frank Hoy of Beaver, who has been employed by the Federal government for the last 16 years on the locks in the Ohio river. He figures that in that time he has walked more than 40,000 miles, or nearly twice around the world. Competition under such conditions were hopeless.

Then and Now

A watch used to cost \$50, now its price is \$20.

An automobile formerly cost \$2,000. A better one can be bought to-day for \$1,000.

There are similar instances that stand out strongly in face of a general rise in living cost.

And the reason—ADVERTISING.

Advertisements have been widened and markets increased.

Automatically enlarged production has forced down cost and price.

It pays to purchase advertised goods; it pays to buy advertised goods of quality, but also from the standpoint of economy.