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TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 21.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is its depth; one who is in a rut long enough will soon find himself in a grave.—Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Boynton.

THE "HARDSCRABBLE" VIEW

THE exhibit of the findings of the viewers in the condemnation of the "Hardscrabble" district brings that long desired improvement to the final steps of the legal procedure necessary to the opening of Front street and the completion of the river wall and steps. By April 1, it is expected, the city will be ready to begin the removal of buildings and the treatment of the park slope.

With such an experienced and fair-minded hand at the helm as that of City Solicitor Daniel S. Seitz, the interests of the property owners are safe. The city has no desire to take advantage of anybody and all of the owners may rest assured that they will be allowed every penny that the law will permit up to the full valuation of their properties.

It is unfortunate that, under the law of 1871, the city is not permitted to recompense residents of the districts for businesses blotted out, but on the other hand it must be remembered that these enterprises were developed with a full knowledge of the court's rulings and a realization that eventually the city would require the land it is now about to take.

It is a pity, too, that several homesteads must go before the sweep of progress, but the good of the whole must always be considered above that of the few.

The improvement of the Capitol extension zone has been fraught with many such instances of business places wiped out and homesteads condemned. But the old must always give way to the new and the remarking of a city necessarily is accomplished by hardship for some. The best that can be done is to treat everybody as generously as may be, with respect to the courts only where the city and the owner cannot come to an agreement.

The city's bond is good and no time should be lost in giving the property holders this form of protection. Since the land and houses of the "Hardscrabble" district are to be taken over, the more quickly the transaction is completed with justice to all, the better for everybody concerned.

THE STORY TELLERS' CLUB

THAT was a pretty tribute to the graciousness of the yuletide season which the Story Tellers' Club paid on Saturday when its members entertained the school children of the city with Christmas stories at the Technical High school. The entertainment cost considerable effort and much preparation and the members gave freely of their time and talent at a period of the year when most of them are unusually busy. They had their reward in the interest of the little folks who came out in large numbers despite the inclement weather and in the delight they displayed in the various numbers of the program.

To instill into the young mind love of good literature is to teach the first steps of good citizenship. Good books guide the youthful mind aright and keep it from the pitfalls of evil publications. The imagination is stimulated by wholesome fiction and a knowledge of good English is to be gained therefrom. The Story Tellers' Club is moving in the right direction. The parents of the city owe it a vote of thanks.

OUR FOREIGN MUDDLE

THE muddle of our foreign affairs grows worse and worse. Once we had an international policy; now the term must be used in the plural, for the mind that is guiding affairs at Washington changes overnight and what was law one day is tossed into the discard for some new fancy the next.

With the Lusitania incident lost in a flurry of words resulting in neither honor nor satisfaction to the United States; with a truckling policy toward Germany and a neuter policy toward England and France, and with no end in sight of the numerous notes that

have flitted intermittently between Berlin and Washington, Secretary Lansing has addressed a note to Austria that amounts to little less than an ultimatum. Vienna must be puzzled indeed, for what is food for the international goose is by no means food for the gander. Germany may do with impunity what Austria is called sharply to account for doing. To the ordinary observer the Ancona note appears to have been written in vigorous language with the hope of rehabilitating the national administration at home in the opinion of the voters; not forgetting that the President is to be a candidate for re-election next year.

About all that can be said in favor of the relations of our government with nations abroad is that we have avoided actual conflict, except in the case of the foolish occupation of Vera Cruz with its loss of American lives and unprofitable results. Otherwise the whole course of the administration has been a failure. We are in disfavor with Germany and Austria and we are the laughing stock of England and France. The government has blundered at every turn and the efforts it has made to correct its errors have only made matters worse.

We are no longer able to pose as the one great neutral nation ready to stand between the belligerents as a peacemaker who, the hour for laying down arms has come. The German attitude toward us is illustrated by the Lusitania and the Boy-Ed incidents. How France feels is well set forth in a recent discussion of the subject by Monsieur Coudurier de Chassigne, a distinguished French journalist, who asserts that France is disappointed in the lack of moral support given the allies by the government at Washington and he points out that America will not be wanted in the peace conference at the close of the war. The French critic says that in that case we would be much in the same position as the referee who endeavors to figure in a contest only after it is over.

The dismal failure at Washington can be remedied in but one way—by the summary removal of the cause next November.

GOOD EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

D R. SILAS C. SWALLOW, in presenting to the Methodist conference of this district a handsome bungalow in Camp Hill to be used perpetually as a residence for a retired minister and his wife, the beneficiary to be chosen by the conference, has set an example that others might well follow.

Dr. Swallow is well along in years but he is young in thought. Thanks to good business judgment and much energy he has accumulated sufficient of the world's goods to relieve his mind concerning any personal interest in conference benevolent funds for superannuated ministers. Nevertheless he has not lost sight of the fact that the salary of the average minister is small and that the calls upon his purse are large. He knows from long observation that he, in his prosperity, is the exception rather than the rule and that to many a minister old age is the spectre that haunts his younger days.

Few professions are so poorly paid as that of the preacher. Conference funds have been created for his benefit, but the sums of the annuities they pay are meagre and scarcely enough to keep soul and body together. To enter one of the ministerial homes is like taking aim for many a preacher who has held his head high during a useful and energetic manhood, and the feeling of charity is there in a way that cannot be ignored. But to occupy such a house as Dr. Swallow has provided is to maintain the old home ties and to accept its benefits is only to enjoy special recognition as a laborer worthy of his hire.

Here is a line of benevolence all too seldom practiced but which ought to appeal to churchmen who have wealth to spare and who have a fair appreciation of their responsibilities as wardens of the talents entrusted to them.

NO BUDGET FROM DEMOCRATS

TO the other fair-sounding promises of the Democrats which have gone into the discard must now be added that for instituting a budget system to deal with the national appropriations.

Mr. Sherley, of Kentucky, who had the matter in charge, has announced that it has been impossible to arrange the details of a plan so as to make them applicable at this session of Congress; but he intimates that something will be done for another year.

The fact is that the Democrats in Congress have found themselves unable to agree upon any scheme for revenues and expenditures to which a budget system could be applied. There has been demonstrated absolutely no disposition among Democratic Congressmen to relax their demands upon the treasury in spite of a deficit which the optimistic Mr. McAdoo cannot set at less than \$100,000,000; and there is no unanimity of Democratic opinion as to how the money is to be raised.

The financial record of the present Administration is one of shocking ignorance of even the fundamentals of fiscal legislation. Almost without exception, Democratic estimates of revenues have been too high, while Democratic estimates of expenditures have been too low. Novel and confusing methods of bookkeeping have been resorted to as a cloak to actual conditions; and Secretary McAdoo has lately put forward a naive suggestion of hamstringing national defense in order to keep the treasury outgo within the limits of possible receipts.

Consequently, there is small wonder that a national budget system is not to be discussed now. Nor is it likely that the scheme will be considered seriously at the next session. That will be a short session and everyone expects it to be the last which the Democrats will control for many years. There is already a good deal of bad blood among Democratic leaders, and this situation will hardly become ameliorated by defeat next November. Next winter the Demo-

The Days of Real Sport



DIAGNOSING THE SLIDES

By Frederic J. Haskin

crats will be too busy salving their wounds to attend to much else. A budget system, therefore, will not be seriously considered until the Republican Congress convenes—which will probably be some time in the Spring of 1917.

Politics in Pennsylvania By the Ex-Committeeman

Reports from New York that Philander C. Knox, ex-senator, ex-attorney general and ex-Secretary of State, was among those who would be favored by Colonel Roosevelt and other Progressives for President has caused a marked revival of interest in the famous lawyer and it is intimated to-day that it would not take much to switch some of the friends of Mr. Knox from his boom for United States senator to a boom for President.

Senator Knox has never announced that he was a candidate for senator, but has been boomed by "loving friends" and has been making speeches. He has not been heard from since his name was mentioned as acceptable to Roosevelt.

The Philadelphia Ledger in a story from Atlantic City to-day says: "Political disclosures, following closely the refusal of ex-Governor Edward C. Stokes to support a reactionary Republican for the presidential nomination, indicate that South Jersey may line up for Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh, of Pennsylvania. This is the first visible movement outside of Pennsylvania in favor of Brumbaugh. Varying leaders, upon the friendliest of terms with Stokes' leaders in the Southern tier of counties, where a coalition of factions is in progress, already have made proposals having in view securing of the two delegates from the Second Congressional District for the Pennsylvania Senator Penrose, scenting such a move, also has made overtures both at Trenton and in the lower shore counties, to secure the representatives from both the First and Second districts for himself, or for the candidate he will espouse."

Judge George B. Orady, recently re-elected to the superior court bench yesterday became president Judge of the court through the retirement of Judge Charles E. Rice. The commissions of Judge John B. Head, also re-elected, and Judge J. Henry Williams, the new member of the court, were received and both took the oath of office. The oath was administered by William K. Taylor, prothonotary pro tem. of the court.

Yesterday in the Chester county court counsel for 30 electors of Coatesville, filed a petition to have the late election in the Fourth, Eighth and Ninth precincts of Coatesville, for mayor, declared unlawful. He also asked that the voters for Jones and McKinney, the candidates, be deducted from the total that each received in the town. Counsel for Jones objected, but the court granted the amendment.

Joseph R. Grundy, the Bristol manufacturer, has offered \$1,500 to one of the boroughs in Bucks county for improving its highways. The borough people will endeavor to match the gift.

The Allegheny county judges have appointed Gilbert F. Meyer, long active in Democratic politics in McKeesport, to fill the vacancy on the board which will assume office next month, caused by the death of John A. Martin, of Pittsburgh. There was a scramble for the place.

James H. Maurer, member of the Legislature from the Reading district and president of the State Federation of Labor, is being boomed for the socialist nomination for president. It is said that Maurer could be named for vice-president if he chose and his friends want him to be selected for first place.

The selection of E. F. Meyer as Allegheny Commissioner is a hard bump for the Democratic reorganizers who had backed James Heulahan, of Millvale, the dead Commissioner-elect's running mate, saying he was put forward as the second choice of the Democratic voters. "Judges of common pleas court, in turning down Heulahan," said Executive Chairman Joseph F. Guffey, of the reorganization faction of the Democratic party, "allowed themselves to be swayed by the narrowest of religious prejudices."

THE STATE FROM DAY TO DAY

Geraldine Farrar has been in the public eye for a long time, but a statement that appeared yesterday in a State contemporary gives us the first intimation that she is of such a tigress-like temperament as to draw blood from the nose of a fellow actress and "bite the man who plays the role of officer in the hand." From reports given out by the patent, it must have been a "bird in the hand."

Owing to a scarcity of dye, a donation of 200 pairs of stockings annually made by a Norristown hosiery manufacturer to poor children will not be made this year. And yet they do say that the lack of protection of industries never works a hardship.

The chickens in Yardley will not behave, and so hereafter they will have to scratch in their own backyards. The members of town council down there have passed an ordinance "restricting domestic fowls, including turkeys, ducks, chickens and geese, from running at large either on private or public property." Not what you thought, was it?

A pioneer resident of the city of Scranton, Edward W. Weston, has offered to pay for two-thirds of the cost of a municipal athletic field if the city will pay for the other third. Needless to say, the city has accepted the offer, and all of Scranton's youth are delighted.

A shocking exhibition was given in Johnstown the other day when a couple of miners were walking through a puddle and one of them attempted to brush a loose wire out of the way. The wire seized him hungrily and everybody who tried to step to his assistance in the charged water hopped nimbly out again. He was finally freed by a non-conductor in the shape of a broom.

Williamsport laundrymen may place a tax of one cent on every package going out of their establishments after January first in order to cover the additional expense which the Workmen's Compensation Act will entail.

With gasoline going up in price as a result of the war, perhaps after all there was some method in Ford's madness.

About this season the average man begins to wonder why in thunder he didn't pay more attention to the "shop early" warning.

The Kaiser says he never told Boy-Ed and his fellows to do what they have done. But he never told them not to, either.

Flinn says he is going to be the last Progressive—and he won't have to wait so long for that.

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT

(Put a candle in your window.) Once from out a stable ruid Long ago, Shone a light, the pale and crude Long ago, Where a mother, bending low, Long ago, To the cattle's cheo, Long ago.

But that light, so rude and quaint, Long ago, Gleamed long ago 'twas but faint, Long ago, Sent its light o'er hill and plain, Long ago, Sounded PEACE on EARTH again, Long ago.

For that little light so clear, Long ago, Told the World their King was here, Long ago, Told that the Christ was born— Long ago, He whom men should mock and scorn, Long ago, With a cruel crown of thorn, Long ago.

Centuries have passed away, Long ago, Still that glow Long ago, The LIGHT that turned the night to day, Long ago.

So should we who love our Lord Long ago, (He by angel Hosts adored!) Shed our candle lights abroad Long ago, Make them glow, Long ago.

So within your window stand Long ago, Lights to glow, Long ago, Who can know? Long ago, They may make some wand'ring soul, Long ago, They may make some wanderer bring, Long ago, They may tell how came a King Long ago.

They may make men think of PEACE Long ago, With their glow, Long ago, They may help to make WARS cease, Long ago, And wars woe! Long ago, They may speak of "Peace—Good Will," Long ago, Promise sung on Bethlehem's hill Long ago.

—EDNA GROFF DEIHL

Burn a Candle on Christmas Eve

You will want to observe this city's latest custom for heralding the Coming of the King. Burn a candle in your front window on Christmas Eve. The custom that is centuries old, but it has lately been revived and will be observed in this city this year. Be sure that your window has a burning candle.

NEVER AGAIN.

Why don't you try jollying your wife a little? It's easy to tell her she's a looking yutener and more beautiful every day. I tried that once, and she nailed me for money to have her picture taken.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

The boys are likely to get out of the trenches by Christmas on the enemy's side, with bayonets and hand-grenades.—Wall Street Journal.

NEWFOUNDLAND WILL TRY IT [From the Kansas City Times.] The American brewers had better keep their eyes on Newfoundland. It has adopted a real prohibitory law. It forbids the sale, manufacture or importation of liquors of any kind, American States that have stopped the sale and manufacture are forbidden by the Federal Government to stop the importation. Russia has stopped the sale of vodka and strong drinks but permits a traffic in light wines. Newfoundland goes the whole way.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

If all the berths are taken it need not keep Mr. Bryan ashore. He can bring his own bunk.—Brooklyn Eagle.

And the next thing the poor Mexicans are facing is a Congressional convention.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Everyone Has a Sweet Tooth Now

The "sweet tooth" surely has its day during the Christmas season. Christmas without candy would be a joy taken out.

All the more reason to be careful in the choice of your confectionery—to see that it is free from adulteration.

All the more reason for seeking to guard off the "after Christmas" headache. It's a good time to look closely into the character of the store and the guarantee behind the name on the candy box. Perhaps the advertising columns of the Telegraph will help you?

Ebening Chat

From all accounts Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh struck a popular chord when he wrote his statement regarding the national defense in which he so strongly urged the development of the National Guard rather than the formation of the continental army. Since that statement was printed the governor has had dozens of letters, some times a couple of dozen a day, commending him for declaring in favor of the use of the guard as a basis for defense and they have come from people in every walk of life. Comparatively few have come from guardsmen or alumni of the organized militia, but from businessmen and residents of the State who observe the trend of events and the strong local sentiment aroused by a military company. The Governor issued his statement after he had considered the matter for weeks. Ever since the plan for the continental army was brought out he has been thinking it over and his statement was not only the result of mature reflection, but of that observation of conditions for which the Governor is noted and which he can understand keenly and use so well for deductions.

Dr. Russell H. Conwell, the Philadelphia clergyman and educator who entertained a Harrisburg audience on Saturday evening with his famous "Acres of Diamonds" lecture, gave some very interesting reminiscences that were of great value from a historical and biographical standpoint. He told of the time he had gone as a boy-captain of a "Yankee" company to see President Lincoln on the matter of saving one of his company from being shot as a deserter. He took his place, he said, among the long line of others waiting to see the President and announced his business to the secretary. Soon he was picked out from among all the others and invited within. The secretary pointed to a closed door and said "The President is in there," and the young man shut the door. Well, the poor young farmer was never more scared in his life. He wished he was in Europe or anywhere except just where he was. He soon screwed up courage to knock on the door and was invited in. He was told to sit down while "Old Abe" concentrated on a pile of papers that were on his desk. Those finished, he turned his attention to the young soldier, swung his long, lanky legs over the table and then when his eyes were on the minutes. Needless to say the young soldier who had deserted was pardoned, but what impressed Captain Conwell most was the manner in which the President of the United States put at his ease this awkward, young backwoodsman, made him feel as though he were right at home and then when his time was up turned back to other work. The young man was an example of concentration such as has seldom been seen in the history of this country, was the gist of Russell Conwell's formulated opinion of the man.

"Do you know that I have noticed a marked increase in the manner in which people are getting rid of inflammable stuff about stores and other places where there are apt to be many passerby and danger of chance accidents," said one of the older firemen of the city. "For years it was the custom to throw boxes and excelsior and other packing material right into the cellars. Now the wise man has restricted domestic fowls, including turkeys, ducks, chickens and geese, from running at large either on private or public property." Not what you thought, was it?

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