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FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 31

is not so short but that there

MR. TAYLOR'S GOOD WORK TITY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR will retire to-morrow He has accomplished much in a practical way and it is unfortunate that the political film-fiamming that seems In our own country, even, the arts —Ellsworth Kelley, city clerk of part and parcel of the new system of and the sciences have lagged. The Scranton, may have to fight for re-

William Henderson, president of the Civic Club, which has had the hearty co-operation of the commissioner unselfish public service.

Catholic Church property is practically the final step in the acquirement of the important property of the Capitol Park zone: There are still other parcels of land to be bought, but it is expected by the commission that there will be will not have been in visit that the sacrifice will not have been in visit that the sacrifice no serious difficulty in taking title to year in which to acquire the remaining roperty and meanwhile the State auproperty and meanwhile the State au-thorities will have a study made of the landscape treatment so that the next Legislature will be in position to direct what is to be done with the en-tire section east of the Capitol as well as the older part of the park bounded by Fourth, Walnut, Third and North

THE COMMISSION WHIRLIGIG

ARRISBURG is being treated as are the other third-class cities of the State to the usual whirligig of political manipulation as a result of the commission experiment. Instead of being able to give their at-tention to the important public du-That pictur ties, which are delegated to them, the up the whole Ford peace projectpulled this way and that by political interests to the detriment of the best interests of the people.

It was obvious from the beginning of this new system that these unfor-professional men it might have been THE CHRISTIANS OF MODERN BABYLONIA tunate differences would arise. In-stead of promoting harmony of action, to end the war in Europe it would be the exact opposite has been the case. a joke were it not for the pathetic We have heard much of nonpartisan-failure of its founder to measure up ship and all that sort of thing, but to the standards many of his admirers it must be plain to the wayfaring had set for him. man that politics will always prevail without regard to the particular form ered in serious conclave aboard the of administration imposed upon the peace ship might have elicited smiles municipalities by the Legislature.

desire is that the political eruption playing leapfrog when the may not seriously impair the efficiency of the government which will start them weighty problems of inferna-out on a new lap next Monday. In tional welfare excite only derision. the playing for position the commissioners will do well to keep in mind for use in school histories accompanythat their first and most important ing the paragraph that will some day duty is the transaction of the people's be devoted to setting forth the fruitbusiness. Naturally there will be some less voyage of the Oscar II. It sums political by-play; that is to be expected. But this should simply be a diversion and not in any sense allowed to interfere with the more seri-

duties of the commissioners. We hear much of combinations of ne sort and another and such combinations are certain to develop from tries, spending annually not less than legislative bodies; but it doesn't fol- own resources to a corresponding delow that all the energy of the com- gree. Perhaps! and then again, permissioners shall be exerted in rivalry haps not. It is not at all unlikely

vice as an inflexible rule of our munici- the hyphenated American will

himself to declare. It is rather amusing that practically every man mentioned for President thus far is said to be acceptable to T. R. We suspect that all this may foreshadow a situation in which the Colonel may determine that he himself is the only solution.

FRIDAY EVENING,

THE PASSING YEAR THE passing year will be recorded

on a dun-colored page in the history of the world. It has seen more of bloodshed, more of sorrow, more of waste, more of wickedness than humanity a year previous could have thought possible. It has witnessed no great progress in any line of endeavor. It has watched Europe in its march back toward the Middle Ages. It has seen the flower of German, English, French and Russian youth destroyed. Its journey of twelve months has been along a road strewn with human hopes, shattered cathedrals and ruined towns. Its way has been marked by the corpses of women and children slain without excuse and

committeemen can be expected.

and children slain without excuse and without warning, in sheer wantonness. The wreck of civilization has been left in its wake. "Frightfulness" has been its keynote.

And all this for what? That the selfish ambition of one man might have sway; that brute force might be matched against moral suasion; that autocracy might be substituted for the individual freedom that has been growing apace in the world for the past century or more. Fortunately for Europe, fortunately for us, fortufor Europe, fortunately for us, fortunately, indeed, even for those who are at this moment laying down their lives in such gallant manner in behalf of that monarchal government that would sway the world, the sun so long dimmed is beginning to show itself a claim him.

—C. E. Albrightwas yesterday named as chief of surveys to succeed George S. Webster, who becomes director of docks in Philadelphia. The Vares and expert.

—Daniel Haggerty has been appointed the Democratic real estate assessor in Philadelphia. Both factions are sent in Philadelphia. The Vares are sent for the variety of the variety of the control of the property of the control of the variety of the va rifie just over the horizon and another New Year's Day may see a brighter future in prospect for Europe and the world at large. That seems to be the biggest promise of a year that has had but little indeed for which humanity may give thanks.

In our own country, even, the arts trifle just over the horizon and another record of substantial achieve- biggest promise of a year that has had ment in his particular department. but little indeed for which humanity

municipal government should have accomplishment of wireless telegraphy onfused the public mind regarding and the perfecting of long distance Mr. Taylor's work. It is creditable to him that in the closing days of his term he has taken over another important stretch of the city parkway the year. We have not been thinking which has been under negotiation for of promoting the ways of peace; our familiar with the things that have preparations for defense against some ocen done during Mr. Taylor's term such unscrupulous foe as laid waste of two years, none is more cordial all Belgium. Perhaps in the end it praise of this official than Mrs. has been well that we are awake to co-operation of the commissioner right along. It is worth while to have the commendation of such or civilization is the poorer therefor and ganizations in the midst of misrepre- Americans have been robbed to some sentation and misunderstanding of extent of the birthright of progress

There remains about a the blood and travail of the past the Else 'twere better that the year now

of pity; snapshots of two of the most All that the citizens of Harrisburg "distinguished members of the party" thought they were weighing between

time to time, just as they do in all \$500,000,000 there and depleting our If anything will ever force civil ser- puts the stamp of disapproval upon pal administration in Pennsylvania, it is the demoralization that seems to come with every change of administration.

The Colonel is not putting his O. K. on several ambitious persons who aspire to be candidates for the Presidency. He is maintaining at Oyster Bay a strong position on the watch-tower, and what will be his final conpal administration in Pennsylvania, it place a mark of disfavor upon that

lusion remains for the Oyster Bay Sage ple: "Always remember that when tries you make your own country that

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith, of

-C. E. Albright was yesterday named

-Representative James A. Dunr

Throughout Mesopotamia you will find the descendants of the ancient Babylonians still living. They call themselves Nasrani or Christians; Europeans frequently call them Chaldeans. Though they all speak Arabic, they still retain among themselves their Chaldean language, which is similar to the ancient Babylonian. They are a large, well-built people, with light skin, and with features resembling those upon the sculptured figures from the walls of the ancient palaces. They are by far the most prosperous and progressive people in the valley. — The Christian Heraid.

[From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.]

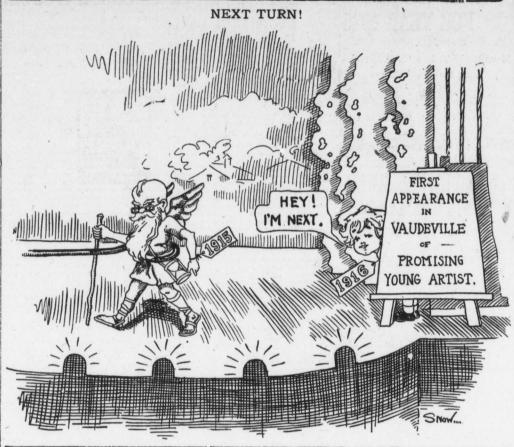
them weighty problems of infernational weifare excite only derision.

The picture ought to be preserved for use in school histories accompanying the paragraph that will some day be devoted to setting forth the fruitless voyage of the Oscar II. It sums the situation up so well.

A LESSON FROM GERMANY

The setimated by careful students of the subject that when the European war is over American tourists will swarm to trans-Atlantic countries, spending annually not less than \$500,000,000 there and depleting our own resources to a corresponding degree. Perhaps! and then again, perhaps not. It is not at all unlikely that the same public sentiment which puts the stamp of disapproval upon the hyphenated American will also the place a mark of disfavor upon that species of citizen who even see nother the species of citizen who even see nother the subject only the product of the stamp of disapproval upon the hyphenated American will also the place a mark of disfavor upon that species of citizen who even see nother the subject only the product of the stamp of disapproval upon that species of citizen who even see nother the subject of the product of the subject on the subject of the subject of the product of the subject of the product of the subject of the subject of the product of the subject of the subject of the product of the subject of the subject of the product of the subject of the subject of the product of the subject of the su

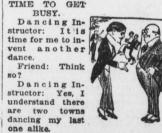
THE CARTOON OF THE DAY



TELEGRAPH'S PERISCOPE

"grip" is like pulling loose from a plank to which one has been

Our Daily Laugh





call last night. How did it happen?
My next-door
neighbor called
me up on the tele-

MY NEW YEAR'S WISH By Wing Dinger

If one wee wish I could express, And have that wish come true, I'd wish that each and everyone (And that would take in you) Might have a New Year full of joy, And incomes of the sort That Uncle Sam demands shall be Covered by long report.

CLOTURE

By Frederic J. Haskin

A world's champion has been discovered in Hazleton. Young Leland Gordon Schweitzer is the speed-king who claims he is the fastest man in the world on the cinder track. In fact, he does more than that—he admits his wonderful ability. He says he can do the hundred yard dash in nine and two-fifth seconds, clipping a fifth off the world's record and at other A world's champion has been dis

They were finally traced to the pig pen, where it was found that Mrs. Percus and her daughters had been dining sumptuously.

Ebening Chat

In spite of the fact that the interest and dividend period of many concernwhich formerly made payments on the first of the year has been changed, it is safe to say that an amount of mone sare to say that an amount of mone, not equaled in years will be put into circulation in Harrisburg to-morrow. To begin with, there is a large amount of city and county indebtedness on which coupons fail due to-morrow and quite a large amount of interval and quite a large amount of industrial and other securities held by Harrisburgers and their institutions have payments due on January 1. Business transac-tions due on the first of the year contribute quite a good bit, more than most people think, according to one of the city's bankers. And then there of the city's bankers. And then there are numerous private obligations which date from the first of the year and on which payments will be made. Of .course, the holiday will prevent actual transfers being made, but the papers are ready and the cash is stacked up, so to speak, for the closing up of these affairs. No two bankers appear to have the same estimate about how much money will be paid out in Harrisburg to-morrow, but they all seem to be in high figures with their guesses. So it must be considerable.

To-day was "weeding out" day in most of the city and county offices particularly, where present incumbents will give way to new officials or subordinates on Monday incident to changes of administration. Clerks and stenographers had small "house cleanings" with their desks and old letters and papers of one kind or another were thrown away or dumped into the waste baskets. Even in the offices where there will be no changes the heads of departments and their clerks cleared the decks and closed their books for the year. The official year ends Monday and as to-morrow will be generally observed as a holiday the office staffs to-day finished up all the odds and ends of business for 1915.

Capitol Hill has been seeing more

odds and ends of business for 1915.

Capitol Hill has been seeing more twenty-dollar bills lately than the average man runs across in half a lifetime. The reason is that this is the period of the year when automobile licenses are taken out, and as Father Penn will not take anything but cash, certified checks or money orders, a good many owners of cars send him twenties, especially as a twenty pays for a type of car that is in general use. The result is that every day the State Treasury that often goes through a day without actual cash but thousands and thousands of dollars represented by checks has been overrun with bank notes. The "yellowbacks," however, are pleasant to look at.

The ruins of the houses in South Fourth street which were wiped out by fire last autumn are serving admirably for advertising matter these days. The other day twenty-one distinct advertisements were counted on one building alone and there were signs of varied hue on all the others. It is a rare space that the shrewd advertising man lets go unadorned.

There are some automobile owners in Harrisburg who are progressive to a degree. Under the law every car run on January 1 must display a license for 1916, but cars may not be run in 1915 with only 1916 licenses. Hence some owners have attached their yellow 1916 licenses to the backs of their blue 1915 tags. The new ones are longer than those in use now and there is a promise of the 1916 crop when they are displayed together.

The sleet storm which wrecked so many trees about the city and damaged some of the finest in Capitol Park was the cause of the smashing of one of the squirrel hotels in the State House park. The house was located on the last sturdy limb of one of the smaller trees near the Mexican monument, but when the sleet came and encased the limb and the house in ice it was too much and the whole business fell to the ground. The squirrels seem to have escaped.

The Harrisburg Public Library, which will close its second year on Monday, will probably show a total circulation this year equal to two circulation this year equal to two books for every person within the cor-porate limits of Harrisburg. The cir-culation last year was considerably over 100,000. This year will beat it.

John A. Scott, of the State Work nen's Compensation Board, has been work. Scott, of the State Work-men's Compensation Board, has been ill with grip at his home in Indiana. Mr. Scott was taken ill a week ago and has been unable to attend meet-ings of the board, which is preparing to launch the compensation system to-morrow.

WELL KNOWN PEOP!

-Thomas H. Higgins, who is figur-in the mayoralty contest at Chesing in the mayorally contest at Chester, is a former postmaster of that city,
—Mayor Blankenburg, of Philadelphia, has declined a New Year's re-

eption.

—John Ellis, the aged Pottstown inventor, celebrated his ninety-fourth birthday a few days ago.

—William D. Heebner, controller william D. Heebner, county has re-

Montgomery county, has reurned from Florida. turned from Florida.

—The Rev. Francis E. Grunert, of Staten Island, has been appointed principal of Nazareth Academy.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg boiler plates are used in many manufacturing es

tablishments? HISTORIC HARRISBURG career as an army officer.

can do the hundred yard dash in nine and two-fifth seconds, clipping a fifth off the world's record, and at other distances he is equally good. Some cruel individuals might think this young man Schweitzer to be a "cheese," but it is hard to think that when he believes so thoroughly in himself.

Usually one does not look to the driver of a pretzel wagon for subjects about which to write romantic trage dies. If there is anything that is unromantic, it is a pretzel. After having his skull fractured as the result of an accident, William Schmidt, this Philadelphia pretzel maker, stuck to his wagon in a faint and was run over by his own wagon.

Two young men living in Erie are afonct on a huge ice-floor on Lake Erie. They were skating near the shore when the cake broke off and was swept rapidly away by 2, 40-mile-an-hour wind. They were soon lost to view, and the last report stated that a tug was chasing the ice down the lake.

"Pigs is pigs," all right, but this is the first time we have heard of pigs acting like wolves and bears. Mrs. Charles, of Lairdsville, keeps a large flock of chickens and turkeys and regently many have been disappearing.