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SATURDAY EVENING, JAN. 1

God answers prayer; sometimes, when hearts are weak.
He gives the very gifts believers seek.
But often faith must learn a deeper rest.
And trust God's silence when He does not speak;
For He whose name is Love will send the best.
—Myra G. Plantz.

MUNICIPAL CHANGES

MANIFESTLY City Commissioners Bowman and Lynch are prepared to wish the employees of their departments a happy new year with no string to the greeting. They have announced that no changes will be made in their present forces and this means a much happier day for the men who are serving in the important departments of Public Works and Public Safety.

As for City Commissioner Gorgas, who was also re-elected, he is likewise in the same happy situation, but with City Commissioner-elect Gross and Mayor-elect Meals the case is somewhat different. They are going through the worries and frets which accompany the reorganization of any public department.

When the currency bill came up, Dr. H. Parker Willis, college professor and financial theorist, was called on to frame the measure. Dr. Willis played a double salary roll, drawing salary from the Ways and Means Committee, for his free trade advice, and from the Banking and Currency Committee at the same time. Republican amendments to the bill, which made it workable were forced into it in the Senate.

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Mayor-elect Meals has been fussing more or less over some changes in the police department, but the situation is about as much mixed now as was the case immediately following the election. Some fear has been expressed that unless care is exercised the police department will look like the milk-white flag regiment which, it will be recalled, consisted of a number of officers and one private. There is such a thing as too many generals and with a small force at best it would seem to be the part of wisdom to hesitate in reducing the active patrolmen in the creation of detectives and color bearers.

It doesn't follow because there is to be a change in the mayoralty that there should also be a change in the police department every four years. By the same token it does not follow that once a policeman always a policeman. If there are good reasons for changes in the force, they should be made and made promptly; but if the changes proposed are simply to provide jobs for those not now on the force it would be well to remember that a police force is first of all organized for the conservation of the public peace and the protection of life and property.

There has also been a good deal said within the last few weeks about the choice of an assessor. It ought to be apparent that no more important place in the entire city government is now under consideration by the City Council. It is true that a treasurer of municipal funds should be chosen with discretion and good judgment, but it is equally true that the man who shall have charge of the assessment of the real estate of Harrisburg must be qualified for that important work. It may be too late for the coming year to consider a change in the organization of the office of assessor, but we believe the time is at hand to give serious thought to this subject to the end that there may be equitable and reasonable valuation of all property.

With all the difficulties which confront the five gentlemen who will supervise and manage the municipality on and after next Monday we still wish them a happy new year and a clear vision of the future Harrisburg whose destinies will be largely in their keeping.

WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
THERE can be no doubt of the success of the William Penn Highway. It is as certain to come as the flowers of Spring. There are back of this proposition most of the livewires of the commercial and motor organizations between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

DELEGATED LEGISLATION
PRESS announcement informs the public that Albert Lee Thrusman, solicitor of the Department of Commerce, and brother-in-law to Senator Underwood, of tariff notoriety, has drawn up the shipping bill, which meets with the approval of a number of Democratic legislators, and which will be introduced in Congress.

When that provision of the Federal Constitution was framed which declared against the delegation of legislation by Congress, it was the idea of the fathers that while legislation should reflect the popular will, it should originate in Congress, and be threshed out in that body. But the supineness of the majority of the Democratic members of the National legislative body has resulted in the delivery of its legislative functions largely to outside interests.

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best smelling Havanas it has been our pleasure to whiff for many a day.

At noon comes the first real test, and if it were not that we had figured out along about 10 o'clock that in three years we could save the price of an automobile by giving up the weed for good and all, we might have yielded to the temptation to take just a draw or two—break off gradually, as it were. But no, we are firm in our resolve, and go back to the office, smelling perfectly delicious cigar smoke at every step. Confound it, why does everybody persist in blowing it in our face?

Around about 3 o'clock we remember having read that to break away from the nicotine habit suddenly is to do violence to the system, with dire results to heart and nerves. We grow shaky in our resolution. Perhaps, after all, it might be better to smoke moderately for a while, cutting down slowly, so as not to injure the health. But the grinning face of a friend whose cigar we refused a few hours earlier bobs up before the mind's eye, and we set our face sternly toward duty, resolved to do or die.

We go home to dinner in the evening grumpy and ready to fight the world. The good wife looks at us in hurt surprise, for the New Year's dinner has taken hours of her time and labor and it is worth a good word and a smile at least. Finally she learns that we have resolved to stop smoking, and intuitive soul that she is, she knows our need before we do ourselves. "You're going to do nothing of the kind," she says, "and Johnny is dispatched for his father's pipe. You don't dissipate in any other way," she continues, "and as a man must have one bad habit, I prefer smoking."

Oh, joyful words, how sweet to the soul of us! We protest, mildly, the while searching our pockets for a match, and soon the home is the dear old, sweet place it used to be before we quit smoking.

And so with most good resolutions. But don't let that deter you from a day of the exciting sport of temporary martyrdom.

TELEGRAPH'S PERISCOPE

The Reading Coal and Iron Company announces a 10 per cent raise in prices of coal and the abolition of the amount added per ton at the mines for State tax. In other words, the tax law having been declared unconstitutional, the company is preparing to put the tax into its own pockets.

After making all other New Year's resolutions, make a resolution not to break the others. You might as well go the limit while you are about it.

The weather man might have contributed a clear day to the Mummies' Association.

Over in Austria, when you sink a ship and drown a lot of citizens of a friendly country, the emperor punishes you severely with three light slaps on the left wrist.

A man at the poorhouse died as the result of excitement over a game of checkers. We wonder how he ever managed to get through an old-fashioned Fourth of July.

Same to you and many of 'em.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Let us hope that when they settle the war and return to New York they will be able to pass the mental tests usually required at Ellis Island. — Boston Transcript.

The San Francisco Fair closed with a surplus, which is more than some of those who visited it had when they got back home. — Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

Well, maybe there isn't anything suspicious about a powder factory blowing up, but how about that asbestos factory that burned down the other day? — Boston Transcript.

WALKING STICK OF MARBLES AND AGATES

[London Chronicle.] Many of the French walking sticks introduced into England in the early years of the eighteenth century were made of fine marbles and agates. From their semiprecious appearance they were known as "knobby" canes, and are referred to by Pope in his "Rape of the Lock":

Sir Plume of amber snuffbox justly vain,
And the nice conduct of a clouded cane.
The "nice conduct" is graphically described in No. 102 of the "Tatler," where a beau declares that his cane has "become as indispensable as any other of his limbs, and the knocking of it upon his shoe, leaning one leg upon it, or resting upon it with his mounting air, such great relief to him in conversation that he does not know how he should be good company without it."

Director W. H. Wilson is said to be planning a general shake-up of all police lieutenants in Philadelphia when he takes hold next week. It is said that numerous changes will be made in Vane wards.

Judge-elect Rogers, of Philadelphia, has resigned from his Republican ward committee. Lieutenant Colonel M. L. Case has declined the proffer of appointment as chief of police of Lebanon, but the new mayor says he will send in his name anyway.

G. J. Parker was appointed the first sealer of weights and measures for Juniata county. —Beatty, Martin and Magee have been appointed county solicitors of Allegheny. They succeed Hay and Vaill.

Frank Malloy of Freedom, prominent in police work in Luzerne county, has been appointed county detective at \$1600. —According to dispatches from the western part of the State Representative H. R. Myers, of Washington, who was mixed up in the Thompson affair, has become insane through his troubles. He served his first term as a legislator last session.

Mayor-elect Rhoads, of Altoona, will retain the members of the police force according to an announcement yesterday.

DANIELS AGAIN

[From the New York Sun.] Secretary Daniels erecting himself into a final judge of what the country shall know and shall not know discloses in his attitude toward the job hunter and the arrogance of the bureaucrat. He can achieve only one welcome suppression, and the object of that is too dear to his heart to encourage the hope that he will be called upon to submit to it.

PLAYING IT SAFE

[New York Sun.] Certain sociologists at Washington declared that Colonel Roosevelt's argument in behalf of preparedness was fallacious, but none of them asserted that the Colonel was soft and slitherous, or a poisoner.

RESOLUTIONS

By Wing Dingler
I made some resolutions, good,
With which to start the year.
I vowed that I would early rise
On mornings cold and drear.
On mornings cold and drear.
And put the bedroom windows down,
Then to the cellar go.
To start the furnace going
And warm up the house, you know.

The clock this morning by my bed
With loud alarm did rouse
Me from my sleep, reminding me
Of all my solemn vows.
Game to the core, I leaped from bed,
My chores, without delay,
I did—but what else could I do?
The family is away.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Commissioners have been sent from the State Capitol to all judicial and other officers who receive their authority from the Governor under the great seal and who will assume office on Monday, January 3, with exception of probably half a dozen county officers of various grades who have not yet filed their bonds as required by law.

The commissions of Supreme Court Justice Emory A. Walling and of Judge Uriah P. Rossiter, who will succeed him as president judge of Erie county, were the last to be sent. The commission for Judge Walling's successor on the bench of Erie will be sent Monday.

On Monday three Superior court judges will begin ten-year terms, two having been re-elected, and there will also be twenty-eight common pleas judges sworn in throughout the State, two orphan court judges, one municipal court judge in Philadelphia and six associate judges.

Enormous county officers, including sheriffs of most of the counties, over twenty mayors and many other local officials will also take office on Monday.

In addition Coatesville, Bethlehem and South Bethlehem will become third-class cities, having received charters from the State following elections on the question whether to enter that form of government.

Ceremonies attending induction of new judges into office will be more or less elaborate in a number of the counties of the State on Monday. In some counties retiring judges will be presented with addresses and the new judges will be given receptions. At Carlisle there will be more or less ceremony when Judge Sadler retires and Judges Wanner and Gillan will be congratulated by the bars of their counties when they assume new duties for the new term. In Philadelphia there will be quite elaborate ceremonies for the inauguration ceremony.

The attitude of Judge-elect Corbet, of Jefferson; Judge-elect Emery, of Lawrence; Judge-elect Bailey, of Huntingdon-Mifflin-Bedford, and of Judge-elect Quigley, of Center, in regard to licenses is attracting considerable attention and it is likely that the license fights will start very promptly next month.

Judge-elect J. N. Langham, of Indiana, who will assume office on Monday, is a former corporation clerk at the Auditor General's Department and his friends here will send congratulations.

Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith yesterday announced his candidacy for national delegate at large and said that he expected Governor Brumbaugh to be a candidate, too. The new mayor said that he had invited Senator Penrose to visit him.

The county controller situation in Allegheny has assumed the fighting stage. Controller Cribbs has notified all the judges that he considers Controller-elect Moore ineligible and that they should not recognize him. It is probable that the matter will get into the courts very promptly.

George F. Holmes, county commissioner-elect was sworn in yesterday and elected mercantile appraiser much to the surprise of Eastern politicians. Representative R. H. Trach was appointed deputy county treasurer.

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"The automobile will eventually displace the horse, but it will never figure prominently on a New York restaurant menu," says the Erie Evening Herald, in an article on the thought of introducing a horse meat as a palatable dish. Even this light method of jesting does not take away our inactive dislike for the thought of driving our own food through the park.

In the great wave of prosperity that is sweeping over Pennsylvania, the newspaper, the Parkersburg Journal, rears its head and sweeps in upon the crest. We extend to it our best wishes for the New Year, with the added hope and confidence that the wave be strong enough to carry it to safety before breaking.

"Skeleton is Seller's Cellar" was the alliterative way in which the news of the discovery of a number of human bones in the cellar of J. P. Seller's store in Reading a day or so ago was made. Rumors of a murder, thoughts of Edgar Allan Poe and other theories were advanced when it was learned that the bones, pieced together, made an almost perfect skeleton. It now comes out that a doctor had left it there some years ago and the janitor had thrown it away as debris.

Pneumonia-grip, that delightful companion that has called upon so many in the last few weeks, has claimed twenty-three lives in Pittsburgh in three days. The mortality out there last week totaled fifty-three persons.

The Herks County Conservation Association has applied to the State Forestry Department for 778,000 trees, which will be given to schools, orphan's homes, associations and individuals, to be planted throughout Reading and the county during the next year.

It costs a million dollars to run the city of Reading for one year, but a recent report states that one million a day is required to keep New York city, the largest in the world, going.

DINING HALL OF FAME

[From the Boston Transcript.] The Gary dinner where the Colonel and Big Business feasted together is going to put all previous meals into the shade. It will stand by itself in the dining hall of fame.

THE CARTOON OF THE DAY

WINTER SPORT



—From the Chicago Tribune.

VISITING THE WAR BRIDES

The Chemical Industry
By Frederic J. Haskin

IS America going to have a dye industry after the European War? This is a question which has been the subject of a great deal of speculation, both verbal and financial. The men with capital are beginning to see the results of their enterprise, and the man of words is able to get a pretty good idea as to the probability of an American dye industry surviving the European peace.

The popular idea that the American market for the dyes does not afford a great opportunity, for our total annual consumption of them is only worth about \$15,000,000 and includes an almost infinite variety of shades and chemical compositions. An expert estimates that to develop an American dye industry capable of supplying the American needs would cost \$80,000,000, and he does not believe that the United States, despite its present abundance of capital, has eighty million dollars in a fifteen-million-dollar business.

The opinion of this man, and probably of a good many other professional chemists, is that the industry of making dyes in this country will be strengthened rather than expanded. The United States will produce more of the dyes used by American manufacturers at present, but of a somewhat greater variety. But of the numerous factories that have sprung up since the breaking out of the war, only a few can survive the matured and experienced competition of the German, Swiss and English factories.

The chemical industry in the United States is certainly flourishing. The manufacture of these materials of its prosperity, however, is based upon the European demand for acids to be used in making high explosives, and that is a demand which, of course, cannot last. Some factories, which were organized and equipped to take advantage of the so-called dye opportunity, have turned instead to the manufacture of these materials of war. Thus one concern, recently organized and having an apparently precarious hold on existence as a dye factory, was reported to have obtained contracts for \$5,000,000 worth of picric acid.

There are, roughly, three stages in the chemical industry between the raw material and the finished dye. In the first place, from coal tar and other by-products are made what are called the "primaries" the crude chemicals which are the basis of all dyes. The conversion of these primaries into the intermediates, which comprise some 1200 chemicals, is a separate industry, and the making of the finished colors from the intermediates is yet a third. The Pittsburgh factories described in a recent article of this series, are devoted almost entirely to the making of primaries, or crude chemicals, and especially to the high explosive acids at present. Along the Atlantic seaboard and adjacent towns, the intermediate and final stages in the conversion of by-products into dyes have undergone an almost equal expansion.

The intermediate business has grown from one of \$3,000,000 to about \$15,000,000 in a single year, and it did not seem to come into being until after the war broke out, and there are now fifteen, which eight are new. Likewise, in the making of finished dyes, there were five factories before the war broke out, and there are now fifteen. It is upon a solvent, of course, rather than the less specialized factories that the heaviest strain of European competition will fall.

The popular idea that the superior skill of the German chemists has enabled them to successfully build a by-products industry which the United States in its young wastefulness has overlooked, does not stand much favor with American chemists. True, there may be just a touch of professional bias in this point of view, but it seems to be true that the Americans have manufactured the chemicals which they were able to produce with profit, and have neglected the dye industry chiefly because it did not seem to come into that class. The Germans have always found a ready market for their primaries and intermediates in England and Switzerland, where a large proportion of the finished dyes have always been made. The Americans, however, had no similar market close at hand and could not manufacture their own dyes to compete with the English and Swiss trade.

Benzol is an example of a chemical of which manufacturers in this country have manufactured 90 per cent of the American supply. Benzol is the basis of nitro-benzol, which is the material of aniline oil used in several dyes. The American manufacturer dyes cheaply enough to compete with the English and Swiss trade. Accordingly, they develop the use of benzol as a solvent for paints and varnishes, and also it is used in the rubber trade for making rubber cement. It is notable that the Germans, with all their scientific ingenuity, never thought of either of these uses for benzol until the Americans had taken it up.

Nothing is so bad for the soul as feeling that it is dispensed on nothing. We recognize this well enough in the esthete who takes in impressions and gives forth estheticism, in the school-teacher who weighs over impossible romances, in the old gentleman afflicted with chronic moral indignation. To feel and feel and never to do anything, to feel and to do nothing, is a waste of time. We Americans have been witnessing the same thing, clenching our fists, talking, yet unable to fasten any reaction to realities. Ferment without issue, gestation without birth, is making us sullen and self-conscious and ashamed.

The source of our trouble may be traced directly to the President's first message to the American people, when we were asked to be neutral in feeling. We were not told to feel about anything, we were merely told not to feel too deeply. The negative injunction was bound to fail, and the vacillation of America has ever since grown more serious. What President Wilson seems not to understand is that the declaration of a great purpose which elicits emotion is the only way to avoid that clashing of emotions from which we suffer.

MATTER OF PRONOUNS

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal.] Elsie Ferguson, actress, objects to the expression "isn't it lovely." Of course, any actress would, but she isn't she "lovely" ring across the footlights?

Evening Chat

New Year's day has always been more or less formally observed in Harrisburg, although as a matter of fact until the last few years there has been no public celebration such as has taken place through the agency of the Mummies' association. The celebration have been more or less confined to watching night administrations of force and a tremendous racket at midnight and social events the next day.

Back in the early days of Harrisburg the leading men of the town kept open house for their neighbors and, if the truth be told, punch bowls and toddies were not unknown. Governor Simon Snyder, the first Governor to be inaugurated in Harrisburg, always received the citizens of his jurisdiction in this city, there being no executive mansion owned by the State until the Civil War.

The State's new stock transfer tax, which is a stamp tax like that Uncle Sam requires to be paid on notes and other things, is making the usual amount of stamp taxes for the State authorities. About 100 letters a day are answered on the subject, but the prize went to a man who complained that stamp taxes were becoming too numerous and that the service of stamp taxes, whether he could use federal tax stamps for business and thus avoid having to get two sets of stamps, officials in charge used a postage stamp to get the amount of tax so trifling. The State wants its two cents and the government wants its two cents, and the inquirer must go to separate places and buy stamps.

Commissioner Clerk Gilbert H. Hassler was given a new form of inquiry the other day. He gets asked all kinds of questions about the Secretary of the Commonwealth and then it lands on Hassler. The other day someone in Kansas wrote for information about an ancestor who served in one of the early wars and helped organize a county. The writer stated that he had been a justice of the peace and asked for his military record, his marriage, the name of his wife and whether he had lived prior to becoming famous. Mr. Hassler found his public service and where he lived, but Father Penn never existed, and the genealogy and statistics of marriages before the days of State Librarian Montgomery and Health Commissioner Dixon.

Each change in the theater of war brings a demand for new maps, according to a merchant who handles such matters, and it is declared by him that he has no and helps to organize the people who get mixed up on the spelling of places. Some come around and say that the map sold does not give what they want when it is as plain as day before them, and they differ from what they read in the newspapers. One man, said the merchant, has been a regular map buyer. He traces the armies on a map at his home and uses up a map a week.

The proposed State society which it is intended to organize among the heads of departments of the State government will probably take shape about the middle of next week when a conference will be held. It is likely that the organization will have its first luncheon at Altoona county, and the Governor will be the guest of honor. Later on a dinner will be held, possibly in Philadelphia.

Prof. Eli M. Rapp, the new president of the State Educational Association, is well known to many residents of this city as he has frequently spoken here. Mr. Rapp will preside at the session of the Association at Altoona in accordance with custom the teachers will have their biennial meeting in Harrisburg.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—H. J. Cornman, retiring head of the Altoona city water department, was presented with a loving cup by employees of his department.

—John D. Graham, the new recorder of Allegheny county, took the oath of office before the judges in open court.

—Alderman James Moir, of Scranton, has just celebrated his fiftieth wedding anniversary.

—H. C. May is the new head of motive power of the Lehigh Valley.

—W. R. Kranzley, chief of the Altoona fire department, is urging that it be merged with the Lehigh Valley.

—F. J. Donnell, postmaster of Jenkintown, is seriously ill.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg-made tin is used in many foreign countries?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG Residents of this city built a canal over part of the way of the later Pennsylvania canal in 1825.

BROWN'S COMPASS

[From the Kansas City Journal.] A compass, once the property of John Brown, which played a part in early history, has just been sold to the museum of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. John Brown used the instrument when he was living in Ottawa, Kan., for a number of years between 1855 and 1858. During the Missouri-Kansas border warfare in the West, the instrument was used by Brown in the compass in a camp of surveying land, when in reality it was lost in the mapping of the camps of pro-slavery men.

Welcome 1916

Especially welcome for the rainbow of promise you bring marking the passing of the industrial clouds. And with business getting better each day it is time for all of us to go ahead. There is a slang phrase to the effect that "the best time to go is when you don't know what to do." When did the outlook promise a better return for the well directed effort for newspaper advertising especially?