

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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

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FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 4.

Let me but find it in my heart to say, When vagrant wishes beckon me astray;

THE NATIONAL GUARD

WHEN Secretary Garrison says that "The National Guard has always stood in the way of the organization of a federal force on sound lines" he does not state the truth.

Garrison is obsessed with his Continental army idea to the extent that he can see no good in the National Guard.

The Pennsylvania National Guard, for example, is as ready for service as any in the country, but it is not equipped as it should be.

FALSEHOODS ABOUT BANKS

BE careful how you talk about a bank. If you can't say something good, don't say anything.

MARSHALL AND THE FILIPINOS

VICE-PRESIDENT MARSHALL is the "me-too" of the present administration and it is hardly to be expected that he would do otherwise than vote for the Clark amendment to the Philippine bill.

The more the situation is studied by conservative and thoughtful men the more vital becomes this question of Philippine independence.

Under the amendment adopted Congress alone can give the Filipinos political freedom and the President in

the absence of other legislation will be obliged to carry out the mandate of the Clark amendment.

Furthermore, the Senate action indicates that the Filipinos are to be cast adrift on the world without any agreement among the nations as to recognizing their neutrality and independence.

WILSON AND CLARK

CHAMP CLARK is about to take another cup of coffee. At least, that is the impression one gains from reading the Washington dispatches nowadays.

Incidentally, it is suggested that William Jennings Bryan is ready to launch his campaign against the President and surface indications lead to the conclusion that he would not now be so ready to oppose Clark as he was in the Baltimore convention.

CRYPTIC HINTS

MAYOR MEALS is given to making cryptic statements with respect to police regulations. The other day he was asked about his policy regarding the so-called red-light district.

Mother, may I go out to swim?

Pressed for an interpretation of the foregoing lines, His Honor explained that the mother might as well have told her daughter not to go swimming at all as applied to the vice situation.

LOCAL HOUSING CONDITIONS

IT is high time that a building code worthy the name is provided for the city of Harrisburg. Scarcely a day passes that a rank offense against humanity is not perpetrated by some contractor who cares for nothing save the dollars he may accumulate through rotten building practice.

It has been reported in this newspaper that in one case a builder, deliberately ignoring rules of safety, comfort and health, has erected in the back yard, so to speak, of a property in one section of the city two or three small houses over garages.

What is the use of building inspection and building regulations and all that sort of thing unless we have actual results in improved housing conditions? It is an open secret that contractors and builders of a certain class snap their fingers at the Building Inspector and in effect tell him to go to.

It is reported in another instance that a builder erected a three-story dwelling with nine-inch walls that would probably crumple like paper under any unusual conditions of weather or stress.

Harrisburg is too far along the way of civic progress to permit this sort of thing to go on unchallenged. This is a matter for the City Council, and as the conservators of the city's welfare no time should be lost in correcting a manifest evil.

Those helpless dwellers in weak and ill-constructed houses, who accept the conditions as they are and who cannot do otherwise, must be protected from the cupidity and the indifference of men who are placing personal gain above considerations of health and safety.

In this work the Chamber of Commerce and all the local civic organizations have a part. They should cooperate with the City Council in bringing about as speedily as possible the enactment of a building code that will mean what it says and be capable of vigorous enforcement.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Men interested in the revival of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania as a good, strong opposition force have almost given up hope of getting the warring factions together and the proposed "harmony" slate for delegates at large has not proved popular even with its sponsors.

The truth is that between appointments to positions in the federal service, filling of post offices and the vesting of rural delivery routes Palmer and his party have managed to get the national administration into as much disrepute with the mass of Democratic voters as they are themselves.

As pointed out by the Philadelphia Record yesterday, the party has trouble getting men to sacrifice themselves. Years ago that was regarded as party duty.

—A dispatch from Hazleton to the Philadelphia Ledger says: "Judgment for \$165.70, with interest from June 1, 1915, was given by Alexander W. Heidenreich in the suit of Henry W. Jacobs, manager of the Pennsylvania Brewing Company, against Representative W. L. Adams, of Beaver Brook. The money was loaned to Adams, he said, to pay campaign expenses. Jacobs swore that he had loaned Adams money at various times and had taken diligent care to get it back. He declared that the Pilsenheim Brewing Company held some of the notes of Adams, and after the hearing former District Attorney J. H. Bigelow informed George Hart, county solicitor, that the legislator had got close to \$3,000 from the Pilsenheim concern. Adams was not at the hearing."

—Fred T. MacDonald, Republican county chairman of Chester county, has been appointed a bank examiner. This is regarded as taking him out of the race for the office of Ex-Senator E. Thomson is believed to have the call.

The Philadelphia Record of to-day says: "The return of United States Senator Penrose from Washington yesterday led his followers to believe that the senior senator's threatened declaration of war on the Brumbaugh-Vare alliance would soon be forgotten. Senator Penrose declined to announce his plans, however, and declined to comment on Congressman William S. Vare's statement issued yesterday, that Governor Brumbaugh was his first choice for the Republican nomination for the presidency. Influential independent Republicans and Washington party workers who are anxious to affiliate themselves with the Penrose camp, assert that Senator Penrose accepted the congressman's statement as a challenge to his leadership and that he assured them more or less that he would make a public declaration."

In court at Pottsville yesterday Judge Brumm widened the scope of the probe into the alleged frauds in the Lost Creek division of West Mahanoy township last November. He decided to order a recount of the ballots in this district what was the vote cast for every county official. The box having been opened yesterday, the count proceeded today, and will be finished in court.

—Congressman Benjamin K. Focht, of Lewisburg, one of the active men in the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress, to-day announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination in the eighth county of the district where he lined up for him. The congressman swung the district back to the Republican column in 1914 and will make another attempt such as he is capable of doing. Mr. Focht is standing on his record and in his announcement says: "Throughout my incumbency as your congressman I have always striven to be promptly responsive to the popular wish, and to ascertain the will of the people I have made it my business to become personally acquainted with the conditions of the splendid citizenship peopling the eight great counties constituting the Seventeenth district, which I have the honor to represent. In the presence of the fact moving and swift changes are taking place in the world and our country I feel assured that with problems so grave before us you do not desire a blank in the continuity of your representation in Congress for any uncertainty."

—Men interested in politics and in the advance of the temperance movement in Pennsylvania are watching the developments in license courts this month and plans for the local option campaign for election of members of the Legislature which will wind up the dry list yesterday by Judge Corbett, sitting at Brookville, and the local option forces are looking to the new judges in Mercer and Mercer to make those counties dry as well. There are fears that Lawrence, which was put in the dry column a few years ago by Judge Corbett, will become wet. Indiana has been granted licenses and in all probability the new judges will be liberal with licenses in Tioga and Mifflin. The counties which are dry now number ten as follows: Greene, Wyoming, Juniata, Mifflin, Bedford, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Venango, Tioga and Lawrence.

A GOLFER'S DICTIONARY

Niblick: A light iron scoop designed to help the golfer lift his ball over a bunker, or to drive a handful of soil into his caddy's mouth as a gentle hint to him to keep it shut.

Twoome: Two portions of golf served with a couple of caddies on the side.

Under quarantine: An attempt to monopolize the links by four persons for a "all a hole."

THE CAROON OF THE DAY

THE SPIRIT OF 1912



—The New York Sun.

TELEGRAPH'S PERISCOPE

—Recently produced evidence leads to the conclusion that the "Wall Street" got a few bulls and bears as well as lambs.

—That loud ha ha you heard as you passed the Federal Building this morning was the Weather Man laughing at the Groundhog.

—What we pause to ask, has become of those robins and bluebirds seen in Woodlawn last week?

—The man who is too lazy to clear the ice from in front of his house might at least pour ashes on the slippery spots.

—Jefferson county goes dry when forty-four licenses are refused. This is local option without the option.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Doubtless Considered It a Crime [From the Columbia State.] No wonder the infuriated Mexicans captured two of our soldiers. They saw 'em taking a bath.

Swiss Didn't Even Squatch [From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.] The Swiss ski jumper, who "umped 167 feet the other day, has nothing on the pole hauled away story.

Will Power of the Middle-aged [From the Houston Post.] The average half-centenarian's will power is easily indicated by the circumstance that he will proceed to take on large slathers of pork roast and sweet potatoes and then rely on bicarbonate to extract him from the jaws of death.

Doesn't Apply to Whiskers, Though [From the Albany Journal.] The men who pledged themselves not to cut their hair until Mr. Bryan was elected President may be relieved by baldness.

"PAYS TO ADVERTISE"

Shareholders of the American Thermos Bottle Company, of New York, received on New Year's Day checks to cover dividend, No. 5 of \$2.50 per share on the \$1,000,000 capital stock. The company started a few years ago with a cash working capital of \$20,000, of which \$15,000 was necessary to equip its first small plant. The remaining \$5,000 was invested in five full-page advertisements in five leading New York dailies. The company, through accumulated profits, has expended close to \$1,000,000 in publicity.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

CONCEITED. George is just crazy about me. Don't take so much credit to yourself. He was crazy before you ever met him.

ALWAYS THUS By Wing Ding

MANAGING THE CITY

The Ups and Downs of Des Moines By Frederic J. Haskin

DES MOINES, Iowa, Feb. 3.—This city has recently been witnessing demonstration of some of the imperfections of commission government. The commissioners have been squabbling and bickering among themselves, opposing each other's projects, getting their personal ambitions between the spokes of the wheels of government.

The story of Des Moines for the last eight years is the story of the rise and to some extent of the fall, of civic righteousness. It shows most clearly how commission government will work—and how it may stop working.

Undoubtedly, one of the chief reasons for the success of commission government is that the campaign for the reform attracts public attention to public business. How to keep that public attention awake is a problem that many of our cities will have to face in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASPHALT AND ICE PLANTS To the Editor of the Telegraph: Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 3, 1916. The annual report of Highway Commissioner Lynch upon the operation of the municipal asphalt repair plant is both interesting and gratifying. It shows that the city not only obtained the highest efficiency in service from the plant but that it acquired a considerable revenue. Yet the exact cost of operation of the plant for the year covered by the report was \$8,500 while the revenues amounted to \$12,694.15, the difference being the profit of the operation.

As most of my friends know, my hobby is a municipal ice plant. For that reason the report of Commissioner Lynch has a special interest to me because it suggests that if the municipal asphalt repair plant has achieved so much why not take advantage of the possibilities of a municipal ice plant? A hundred-ton ice plant would be able to deliver ice to consumers at the cost of five cents for a 25-pound chunk and operated for full capacity for a year would yield a net profit of \$90,000.

This is not conjecture. During my campaign for city commissioner last year I gave an itemized estimate of the cost of the plant, the expenses of maintenance and the revenues. It provided better wages for labor than the trust pays and guaranteed 66 per cent. more ice to consumers for a given sum. Yet it made certain the earning of \$90,000 for the city, thus relieving the taxpayers of that amount of taxes of securing that much additional improvement.

One could hardly ask for better results than that but as a matter of fact Commissioner Lynch's report indicates vastly better results. That is, he shows that notwithstanding a profit of \$90,000 the plant shows that the estimate of expenses on each job was less than that previously charged for similar work by the private contractor who previously performed this service for the city.

Very truly yours, J. EDGAR RODENHAVER.

Evening Chat

Men connected with the transportation interests of the city and active in its highway affairs say that they fear February weather more than that of any other month in the year. The weather of the second month, they say, is apt to be more variable than in any other month, even more so than in March, which is the month against which medical men warn patients subject to depression when the weather turns bad.

William Conner, who was hurt in the Pennsylvania Railroad wreck near Johnstown, is a former legislator and is now register of wills of Allegheny county. He was on his way to Harrisburg to consult with State officials when he was hurt.

The Harrisburg Public Library's new school libraries, which were placed in five of the buildings of the city, have proved so successful that there is considerable need for additional books. The school librarians sent out a letter from their own shelves to the school branches and the demand is growing faster than the resources of the library.

There are a number of railroad veterans in Harrisburg who can tell many interesting facts about the early history of the Pennsylvania Railroad, but if you want correct dates and other information, consult with William Bender Wilson, a former Harrisburger, now a resident of Philadelphia, and on the honor roll of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Colonel Wilson is the historian of the Pennsylvania system between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Members of the State Board of Public Grounds and Buildings will determine next week where to place the paintings brought into the Capitol from the State building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. These paintings, which were by a noted Pittsburgh artist, were removed from the walls of the building on the shores of the Golden Gate in excellent condition and are now stored at the Capitol. Superintendent of the Capitol S. E. Bantz will make an inspection of the canvases and determine their location. They will be placed this summer when some of the Oakley paintings may also be here.

Copies of Colorado newspapers which have been received here lately give some amusing incidents connected with the closing of the mountain country. One would seem that some of the liquor dealers got ready for the change and are now selling "soft drinks of all kinds, making specialties of mineral water and grape juice. One man advertises in two-column form "Temperance Bar Room," while another says that he sells "Fiz-zing, sizz-zing, LIKA-BLE drinks. Another man advertises "Evil things are dry, including the climate," but that he has some fine thirst quenchers.

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WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Dr. Charles Roland, the new health officer of Reading, is well known here. He is a University of Pennsylvania graduate.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg shoes are sold in New England, the center of shoe manufacturing?

What Is Economy?

Secretary of Commerce Redfield asks the above question and then answers it thus: "ECONOMY is spending money wisely. It means spending much when much is needed, spending little when little is needed, none when none is needed.