

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 28.

God help us all to kindly view

The world that we are passing through!

—LYDIA MARIA CHILD.

MR. CUNNINGHAM'S ADDRESS

ONE of the most interesting and instructive features of yesterday's William Penn Highway Conference was the address of State Highway Commissioner R. J. Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham pointed out that, whereas the original good roads bill contemplated the transfer of about 4,000 miles of main highways to the immediate care of the State, legislators ambitious to favor home communities and relieve counties of road burdens added so greatly to the original plan as to increase the State road mileage to more than 10,000.

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ANOTHER FLOP COMING

THERE are men in touch with political sentiment throughout the United States who confidently predict that President Wilson will be an ardent advocate of a protective tariff before the conventions meet in either Chicago or St. Louis.

In fact, it is only a long standing prejudice against the Republican party, as such, that prevents many prominent Democratic businessmen in the South from voting the Republican ticket in a national election.

In recent years manufacturing has developed rapidly in many of the Southern States. It is not surprising, therefore, that men engaged in manufacturing and other lines of business such as banking, wholesaling, and retailing have come to see the importance of a protective tariff in building up not merely individual business but the trade and prosperity of the community.

So strong is the evidence of this change of sentiment that there can be no doubt that the Democratic party would be strengthened in the opinion of the strongest of its members by advocating a tariff policy based upon the principle of "America First."

The recent announcement by President Wilson that he has changed his mind upon the subject of a tariff commission, and his further declaration that he cares nothing for either free trade or protection, is an indication of his recognition of the change of sentiment in his own party.

It is only a few months since he was denouncing protection and proclaiming the efficacy of free trade in lowering the cost of living. His willingness to admit that there is nothing in free trade is but a preliminary step to his acknowledgment that protection is in fact the proper economic policy for the United States.

It is not to be expected that he will acknowledge that he has been wrong all these years. His explanation will be that the war has changed conditions and that although the Democratic party was sound in its previous attitude upon this question, the changed conditions have made advisable a change of tariff policy.

Thus will he attempt to save himself from the accusation that he has at last changed his mind upon the only

subject upon which he has not already reversed himself.

When President Wilson signed the Underwood act, he declared that he took a peculiar pleasure in doing so, and that this was an accomplishment which he had hoped all his life to be able to achieve.

Since it is evident that as a continued opponent of a protective tariff the Democratic party must lose some of its strongest members, and since the election of a Democrat on a free trade platform would be impossible, it is almost certain that the St. Louis convention will hedge on this issue and that President Wilson will pose as the leader in the new movement in the Democratic party and become as ardent an advocate of protection as he is now of military preparedness.

He will hope thus to steal the thunder of the Republican party or at least remove this issue from the campaign, and win the election on the plea that he "kept us out of war." But will he?

WHERE THE BLAME LIES

AT the outset of the present war restoration of Belgium by Germany—with indemnity for the invasion—might have been sufficient to have taken England out of the fighting. England was not prepared on land and her people were pacifically inclined; so much so indeed that raising armies was one of the government's greatest difficulties in the war.

Now, however, the bait of Belgium restored and Alsace returned to the French attracts only passing interest in Great Britain. The people are determined now as never before to carry on the conflict until German militarism shall be crushed.

And, curious as it may appear, the very weapon that was to drive Englishmen whimpering from the seas and terror-stricken to their cellars has turned, Frankensteinlike, upon its creators. The "frightfulness" of Von Tirpitz, which sank the Lusitania, with its load of women and children, and sent overseas the great Zeppelins to slay and maim mothers and their babies as they lay sleeping, has had exactly the opposite effect than that for which it was diabolically designed.

Instead of cowering Englishmen it has made lions of them; instead of making them beg for mercy it has made them cry for revenge; instead of breaking their spirit it has stiffened their backbone. It has transformed pacifists into warriors.

If Germany finds England a hard taskmaster when it comes to paying for the ruthlessness of which the Teutonic allies have been guilty, the German people will have no difficulty in blaming except Von Tirpitz—and those responsible for him and his kind. "Frightfulness" has proved to be a two-edged sword, and Germany is finding to her sorrow that it cuts both ways.

WORK AND WAGES

JAMES J. HILL, writing on the requests of the railroad men for increases of wages, thus reviews the business situation of the country:

We have a feverish prosperity that may vanish overnight. The great bulk of the business now tax-arises from the war necessities of Europe. The money our people are getting in payment for their products is being provided on the forced credit of the combined nations of Europe.

They are raising hundreds of millions by piling up to enormous heights the debts of their countries. The rest of the world is being provided on the forced credit of the combined nations of Europe.

Then the United States, which has been profiting by Europe's war necessities, will have to share her burden of the cost of the war. In these days of close relations, a great nation cannot enjoy prosperity for any length of time without the rest of the world being in financial distress.

With the war over, we will no longer see the railroad blocked with merchandise bound for the seaboard or our harbors choked with a large part of the rest of the world's goods.

This is precisely what Elihu Root and other eminent Republicans have been preaching ever since the war began. These conditions bear not only on the matter of increased wages, but on the coming national political situation. Wages is a mere factor in the situation. The insurance that we need is a protective tariff. Give us that and work will to a large measure take care of itself, and when work is abundant and prospects bright, adequate pay is to be had without grudging.

With a continuance of free trade after the war, wages would not be the most important factor. Men in that event would be glad for work at any price. Look back only a year or two if you doubt that.

BOATING FACILITIES

THE taking over of the "Hard-scrabble" district must not be permitted to interfere in any way with boating and canoeing during the coming summer. Some arrangement must be made, either public or private, whereby the large number of boats that find dockage and storage at Verbeke street can be cared for as they now are.

The new dam at the lower end of the city has given a tremendous impetus to boating and canoeing here during the past year and rivermen predict a great increase of pleasure craft on the stream within the next few months. Sunday's delightful weather—even with the river nearing flood stage—took hundreds of canoeists out, and the stream was dotted with myriads of these tiny craft. This was but an indication of what is to come. Everything should be done to encourage this use of the river and nothing should be put in its way. No doubt a satisfactory manner of caring for the situation will be worked out, but no time should be lost in giving it the consideration it deserves.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Belief that a harmony arrangement in the selection of Republican national delegates and in the nomination of a State ticket was strengthened to-day by reports from Washington that Congressman who those activities in behalf of peace were noted last week had not given up hope and were working on a new tack.

In Philadelphia and Pittsburgh newspapers there are intimations that the harmony program may be carried out, the State administration people being said to be more ready to listen to suggestions than they were before the State conference of the Progressives.

—The latest peace rumors are covered as follows in a dispatch from Washington: "A possible basis of compromise has been suggested both to Governor Brumbaugh and Senator Penrose in the delegate fight in Pennsylvania, according to information which reached several members of the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress to-day. This basis of agreement, suggested by those who are not definitely allied, as yet, with either side, is that the State ticket be split between the two camps, while two more men, friendly to Senator Penrose, be named as delegates-at-large. It would be understood that Governor Brumbaugh would get the complimentary vote of the delegation, while two more men, friendly to Senator Penrose, be named as delegates-at-large. It would be understood that Governor Brumbaugh would get the complimentary vote of the delegation, while two more men, friendly to Senator Penrose, be named as delegates-at-large.

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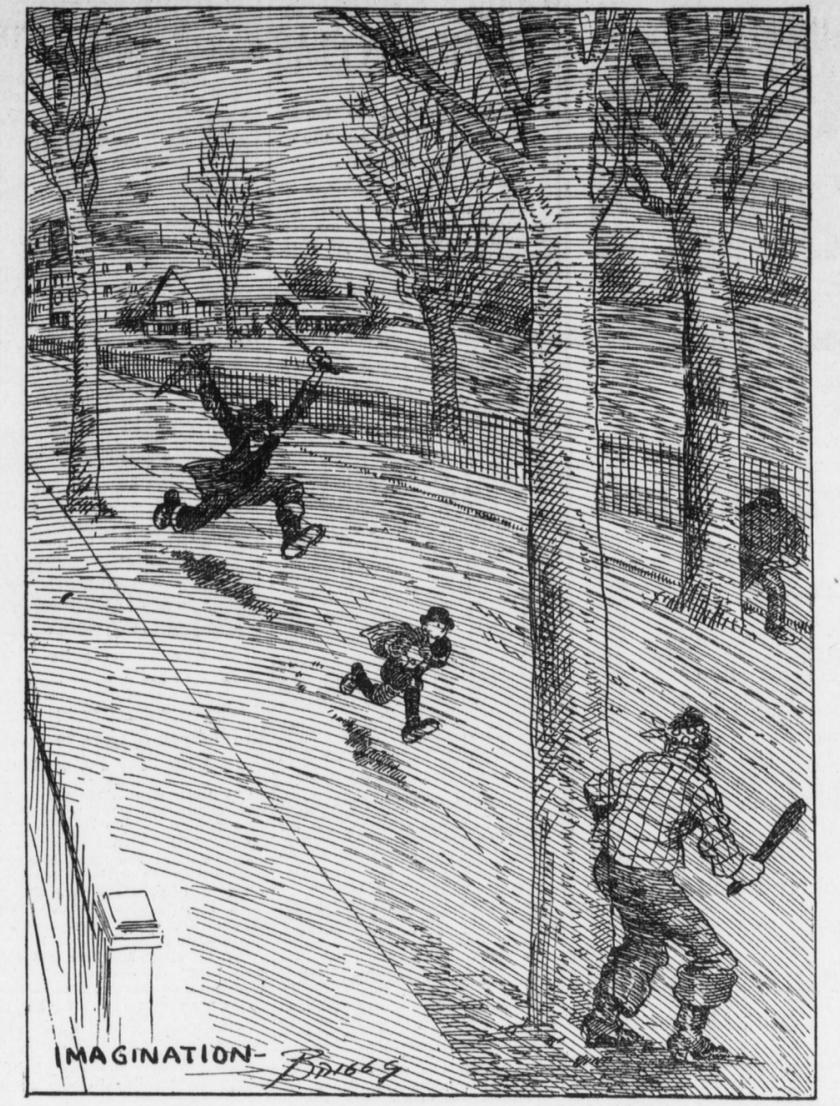
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When a Feller Needs a Friend

By BRIGGS



IMAGINATION—Briggs

TELEGRAPH'S PERISCOPE

—If the Colonel isn't careful the Teddy Bear and the Bull Moose may become jealous.

—Twelve rural mail routes are to be abandoned in York county April 1. And York gave Wilson a majority, too.

—The man who prepares for the worst usually doesn't get it.

—China having changed its form of government again, one has only to try to remember what its previous form was to know what its form now is.

—There's one thing about this weather—it keeps us hoping that tomorrow will be pleasanter than to-day.

—Barbed wire having proved too cruel for use in the construction of cattle barriers, it has been transferred to Europe for war uses.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

CARRYING IT TO EXTREMES

(Philadelphia Inquirer) Wish we knew just what kind of funeral villa prefers. We dislike him enough to give him just the other kind.

WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST THE TRUSTS

(Grand Rapids Press) And of course the grateful trust responded to the decision to keep the tariff on by promptly raising the price of sugar.

WHO IS AN AMERICAN?

(Philadelphia Public Ledger) Uncle Joe Cannon scored heavily with Congress—and with the country at large, afar from the echoing halls of debate—in his speech upon American citizenship. He pointed out that the same old stumbling block has been included that has led to the veto of two Presidents—namely, the proviso of a literacy test wherein the applicant must show that he can read. Uncle Joe raises the pertinent query as to the nativity of those who would bar out those of alien blood. When did their forebears come to our shores? Were not the Pilgrim Fathers immigrants? Is it not a dog-in-the-manger attitude that would lead men after their own admission to a land of tolling equality to put up the defenses, and let the portculis fall to those who crave a similar privilege and flock hither as to a camp of refuge against the social pressure of the militaristic regime in countries beyond the seas? It is a narrow definition of freedom that means liberty for ourselves alone and not for all mankind. The spirit of those who planted the colonies was not exclusive. Captain John Smith did not want the men who were too fine to work; the founders were in many cases men innocent of the culture of books and the refinement of the arts. They were plowmen and sturdy yeomen; men that had knowledge of a trade, with hands cunning to work in the raw material such as the forests and the soil and the sea afforded. Since those pioneers, millions have followed in their train, and have built their lives into the teeming life of the land to its great advantage. They have taken their places among the trust and the best Americans. They never spelt their citizenship or made oath to their allegiance with a hyphen; they promised unreservedly to serve the country and obey her laws and live in honor and in peace with all men. Learning has made many a man mad with the greed of gain, a cunning practitioner in politics, treacherous and subversive of the common good. Signs of those pioneers, millions have followed in their train, and have built their lives into the teeming life of the land to its great advantage. They have taken their places among the trust and the best Americans. They never spelt their citizenship or made oath to their allegiance with a hyphen; they promised unreservedly to serve the country and obey her laws and live in honor and in peace with all men. Learning has made many a man mad with the greed of gain, a cunning practitioner in politics, treacherous and subversive of the common good. Signs of those pioneers, millions have followed in their train, and have built their lives into the teeming life of the land to its great advantage. They have taken their places among the trust and the best Americans. 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