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MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 11

Business despatched is business well done, but business hurried is business ill done.—BULWER-LYTTON.

PUBLIC SPIRIT

THE Telegraph's congratulations to the Harrisburg Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jovian League and the Harrisburg Light and Power Company for their joint efforts in behalf of a Municipal Christmas tree. It is but fair to say that but for their joint enterprise the city, which inaugurated the Municipal Christmas tree in Central Pennsylvania, would have been without a tree this year, while many of the smaller towns around about which take example of us would have had their community celebrations.

Christmas is above all else a season of thought for others. Most of us feel that way about it, but even in our giving we are apt to be selfish. We think of our immediate friends and possibly a few people we know who need assistance, and let it go at that. Too few of us have the community Christmas spirit. But it is a good thing that some of us do have it. The community celebration of any sort makes for a better city and a more contented people. It gives to even the poorest and humblest a share in the joys of the holidays. It would be a sad day for Harrisburg if it ceased to observe such occasions.

The small boy with Santa Claus thoughts in his mind will frown upon that proposal to make stockings shorter.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

WHEN you set aside your Christmas appropriation, Mr. Harrisburger, when you make up your gift list, Mrs. Harrisburger, and when you figure out your selections for relatives and Little Harrisburgers, don't forget to include a certain amount for Red Cross Christmas seals.

Within a few weeks another campaign of Yuletide goodwill and good cheer will have been closed and from all indications previous records for sales will be smashed to smithereens.

As ever, the school children of the city and neighboring communities are coming to the fore as salesmen and the possibilities are that the half-million mark—the number which Dr. C. R. Phillips and the general Red Cross committee expect to sell—will easily be reached before the dawn of the Birthday.

For several years Harrisburg people have responded generously to the call for enlistments in the great nation-wide campaign; each year the sales have been larger. As the years go by the educational end of the crusade is being driven home more forcibly. Harrisburg people realize pretty generally now that all but twelve and a half per cent. of the proceeds go toward the assistance of the local sufferers of the dreadful "White Plague"—to provide trolley tickets to and from the open-air schools, clothing where necessary, carfare to Mont Alto or to Cresson, clothing for the less fortunate folks who must travel the long way. The balance goes to the National Red Cross organization.

And as Harrisburg learns so Harrisburg responds. That's why, in the opinion of the general committee, half a million Red Cross Christmas seals will be sold in this city and surrounding towns before the advent of 1917.

It is just possible that Hiram Johnson may not go so far as to vote all the time with the Senate Democrats.

IS RESERVE BOARD BOSS?

THE activities of the Federal Reserve Board are causing some comment these days, especially among those who recall that the chief complaint and criticism of the currency plan worked out by the Aldrich commission was that it provided for too much centralization of financial authority and power.

The law as finally passed was shorn of some of this, but it is evident that the reserve board holds that it possesses sufficient powers of admonition, at least, to admit of its talking a large share in directing the general operations of the banks which compose the federal reserve system.

The British government planned to make use of its treasury bills in this country to finance some of its military purchases and American bankers contemplated accepting these obligations, backed as they are by large gold reserves held for the purpose in Canada, in the same manner as if they were regulation bills of exchange drawn to cover ordinary commercial transactions.

The reserve board frowned upon this plan and issued a circular warning member banks from tying up their liquid funds in such securities. The board held that the funds of the member banks should be kept in fluid state for the benefit of American enterprise and that they should not be absorbed in foreign treasury bills.

The obvious retort of the member banks who contemplated such action was that the operations of the Federal Reserve Bank system in the large financial centers have not yet been of such character as to demonstrate their tremendous value to enterprising Americans, and that the system—outside of the South—has caused very few borrowers to procure accommodation at any other place or at any lower rate of interest than they did before the law went into effect. In addition, many banks, especially in the smaller communities, have seen no inconsiderable percentage of their assets tied up in their investment in the stock of the regional reserve banks, from which they have received practically no benefit. They probably thought, in addition, that the opinions of the reserve board have no binding authority.

On the face of it, trading in the treasury bills of the British government looked to be safe and remunerative. But the British government promptly ended the discussion and the agitation by withdrawing the bills from the market; though the propriety of the reserve board's action and the manner in which its warning was issued still remain the subject of comment.

When peace is finally negotiated Belgium will have to rely again on another "scrap of paper."

GOLD INCREASES

SPEAKING in round numbers, the money in actual circulation in the United States a year ago was a little less than $38 per capita and now is about $42 per capita, an increase of about $4 per capita, or a little more than 10 per cent. Of gold coin alone there was an increase from about $5 per capita to $6.50 per capita, or 30 per cent.

This great increase in gold in circulation has been due to shipments of gold to this country by the nations at war to pay for supplies. Increased gold means vastly greater increases in credit and a business situation which many people call inflation. It is a condition brought on by the war and it will last as long as the war continues.

Broadway, as the police of New York say, may be free from pickpockets, but have the police looked inside some of the places of business as well as on the sidewalks?

Another inventor announces the discovery of an "absolutely punctureless tire," but what we would like to have somebody invent is a gasolineless automobile.

William Jennings Bryan says the Democratic party will "make war on liquor;" and he might have added that many, many Democrats already are engaged in putting down liquor.

"Danes Face Food Shortage."—Newspaper headline. But at that Denmark has nothing very much on us Americans.

Do you remember the time when there was no greater joy in the whole world than one of those large, yellow clear toys?

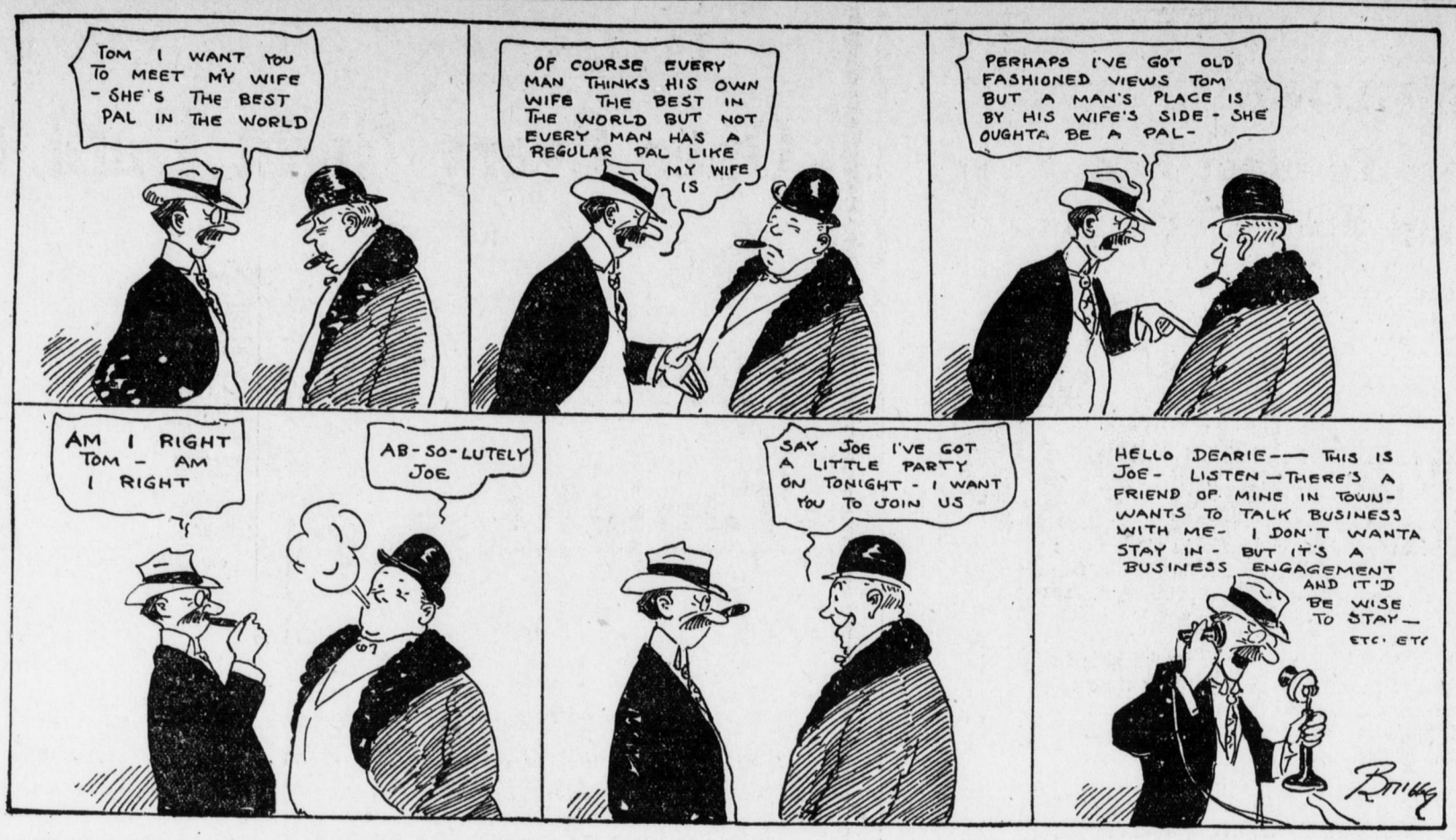
Lloyd George promises that the new English war cabinet shall be "little, but oh, my!"

Now that we have found Oliver Osborne there may still be some hope of discovering Charley Ross.

The forecasters predict a white Christmas, but what we are far more interested in is a green pocketbook.

The munition factories are becoming almost as deadly as the munitions they make.

OH MAN! By Briggs



Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Return of Governor Brumbaugh to the State Capitol to-day is expected by administration people to be followed by a series of conferences on the speakership contest and the State Executive will be urged to a more vigorous effort in behalf of Representative Edwin R. Cox. It is understood that several of the administration leaders will counsel radical action even so far as to demand changes in personnel of departments if attaches can not induce their home members to swing in for the South Philadelphian.

Governor Brumbaugh was assured a few days before Thanksgiving Day that Representative Richard J. Baldwin could not be nominated for speaker of the House. It was also intimated that all that was needed to solidify the elements opposed to Baldwin was a declaration by the Governor in favor of Cox, who had been agreed upon a few evenings before. The statement was issued and the Governor left for North Carolina, believing everything was as lovely as represented to him. It was found that reports of some of the "pickets" were unreliable and on top of discovery that men claimed were the other way came the announcement of his candidacy by Representative George W. Williams, of Tioga, the local option leader, and the man who carried the Governor's banner in the local option fight of 1915. It is also intimated that Mr. Cox did not find things as lovely as had been represented to him either.

In the next few days State administration leaders will tell the Governor what they think about it and Private Secretary Ball, who has been most active in behalf of Cox, will inform him of what he has found out. The Governor will then be asked to determine whether he wants to make a relentless fight with all its possible consequences in the session or whether he will so campaign in behalf of Cox as not to arouse any new antagonisms.

—The Baldwin people have announced that the two Lebanon county members have signed a statement declaring for the man from Chadds Ford for speaker, and intimate that there will be more. According to the Philadelphia Inquirer there are twenty legislators in the anthracite field for Baldwin. They include five in Luzerne county, five in Lackawanna, three from Northumberland, four in Schuylkill, one in Wayne and one in Carbon with the upper end member from Dauphin.

—Friends of Edwin R. Cox declare that he made a dent in the Baldwin strength in Western Pennsylvania by his visits to Allegheny county and that he will turn up with members from the big steel county who have been counted for the Delaware man. On the other hand the Baldwin people say that Cox's visit to Allegheny county was the worst thing he could do as it brought out the men who are behind him and their combined efforts did not gain him anything.

—Democrats in this State are getting somewhat apprehensive about William Jennings Bryan. There is a plan made to capture the Pennsylvania governorship in 1918 when the national administration will throw all of its influence into the fight for its slate. With the peculiar attitude of the President toward prohibition and local option in the campaign just ended there are fears that Bryan may set out to make fences for himself by backing some slate of his own in Pennsylvania. Bryan is popular with the rank and file of the Democrats in the State and if he starts to buck Wilson and Wilson's choice there will be merry doings.

—The Democratic State windmill is being kept open and ready for emergencies. It is the plan to have the Democratic members of the House caucus in the headquarters and nothing will be said about local option if it hurts any member's feelings. The attitude of recent candidates on the subject will not be referred to out of consideration to them and deference to the President.

A Great Hotel Man

[From the New York Sun.]

George C. Boldt was the greatest hotel man of his time because he understood the innocent weakness of mankind, because no fault was too small for his attention and because he worked hard. It has been said of him that he would have made a great Mayor or Governor. It is better to record his actual accomplishment, the rescue of an important but neglected business from the slough of inefficiency.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

In future elections, why not let California decide all by herself, to save wear and tear on the other States? —Philadelphia North American.

Broadway objects to the "saving-daylight" plan on the ground that we have too much daylight already.—New York Morning Telegraph.

Champ Clark's idea that a country can keep out of war by attending to its own business would cause a Belgian to smile sadly and mockingly. So far as nations are concerned it does not take two to make a quarrel—only one.—New York Sun.

Morals and Magazines

[The Fourth Estate.]

Certain magazines were roundly denounced for the character of the matter they publish in last week's meeting of the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs. The speaker's subject was "The Problem of Reading for the Adolescent Girl." Two magazines were singled out for special condemnation and one of them was dubbed "the unspeakable."

It is not strange people are beginning to protest against this type, says the Chicago Herald commenting on the incident, as there has been a striking deterioration in the character of magazines during the last few years. The honorable exceptions emphasize what might be regarded as the general rule. They likewise furnish a standard of taste by which the fall of the magazines denounced may be measured

* * *

Once the monthly magazine was the familiar friend of the family—even deemed worthy of preservation in binding. No father or mother hesitated to leave it on the table for the young girl to read.

It was read carefully from cover to cover because it was felt that the contents were all worth while.

To-day it is often bought for a single story or a single name and lightly thrown aside.

The newspaper is read more carefully than most of them.

The magazine has fallen and one somehow thinks of the Mann act in connection with the kind denounced at the Woman's Federation.

Thrift to Rule

Our grandfathers discovered a country of "inexhaustible" wealth. The prairies upon which their cattle could graze were "limitless." The stretches of land upon which grain might be raised were "endless." The forests, the coal lands, the great reservoirs of oil and gas were without bounds. So we grew wealthy—and wasteful. The plea for conservation has been heard for several years. Perhaps it is not too late to be effective.

This "inexhaustible" wealth of natural resources has had its influence upon our national character. Our governments have been wasteful. Our workmen have paid little attention to preventable sickness, to the the economies practiced in foreign countries. We haven't been shiftless, but we have been thriftless.

The Italian who has come to this country and become wealthy, the Jew who left Russia in poverty and acquired a banking business, the Japanese, who became rich on a little garden patch in California, serve as lessons of what we might have done if we had the saving instinct.

There will be more thrift in Europe when the war is over. Every interest will be subservient to thrift. Governments will take a hand in it, teaching the public ways and means of living without waste. In a greater field they will conserve their natural wealth, watching over water power and coal lands and agricultural projects lest there be waste. Intensive methods of manufacture and of selling manufactured products will be put into operation. Scientists will be called in to advise government and people how to make every resource and every penny count.

If Americans, while this is going on, do not reverse the present method of living for the day only, of spending lavishly merely because they have the wherewithal, the wealth which has been piled up in this country will slowly but surely gravitate to the other continent. This is not a plea for hoarding. It is a plea for investment and conservation of all resources—human and natural.—From the Syracuse (N. Y.) Post-Standard.

Santa Shops Early

Santa Claus, old jolly fellow,
In the autumn rich and mellow,
Strikes out early for his toys;
Christmas gifts for girls and boys,
He don't wait till bleak December,
But gets busy in November,
For he has a sense of pity
For the clerks in town and city
Who detest the Christmas season
'Cause some people won't use reason;
So he smiles and counts his money
And while days are bright and sunny
Santa stores each toy and treasure
And the shop girls beam with pleasure,
Not a whit fatigued or surly;
Do your Christmas shopping early.

MARTHA J. OPIE.
Williamstown, Pa.

HOW GUARDSMEN TALK ON BORDER; MANY STRANG TERMS

BRING on the chow; only don't give me any slum," one guardsman told his mother on the night of his return from the Mexican border. His mother naturally demanded a translation, says William M. Tugman, in the Providence Journal.

"Why, chow is the army term for anything good to eat," the guardsman explained. "Slum means soup. I might say, 'Bring on the eats, only don't give me any soup.' That would be perfectly plain."

Many of the guardsmen have come home from the border with an enriched and picturesque vocabulary. Part of it is regular army slang; part of it is mongrel Spanish; it has sometimes shocked and sometimes amused the home folks.

Most of the army slang relates to chow. That is almost the most important subject of conversation in the army, anyway. But the faltering Spanish phrases are an embellishment.

"Please pass me the blood," a returned guardsman is apt to say, pointing to the catsup.

"Gracias," he will say when his wish has been fulfilled. Hardly any one on the border says "Thank you." It is "gracias," and "gracias" it will be with the guardsman for a long time to come.

Nearly every one, even those not connected with the army, knows that "corned Willie" is canned corned beef. The returned guardsmen hope they may never see it again.

Some people are going to be surprised, however, when they hear guardsmen referring to "ole Bill." "Ole Bill" is not a departed comrade, merely "corned Willie" under another alias.

Returned guardsmen say they have sworn off drinking "blackleg." "Blackleg" is strong drink, not alcoholic, however, simply the powerful black coffee served in the army to wash down the "Willie."

Beans are apt to be called "bullets" or "berries" in the army, according to their condition. Hot cereals may be called "bran" or oats." Potatoes, of course, are "spuds" or "Murphies." All other vegetables are "greens."

There is a little song which the men sing to the notes of the mess call, a complaint more often made in fun than in earnest. It goes:

Soupy, soupy, soupy,
Without e'er a bean;
Porky, porky, porky,
Without any lean.
Coffee, coffee, coffee,
The worst you ever seen.

The ungrammatical conclusion of the verse is conscientious. Grammar isn't popular in the ranks of the army, and some of the Rhode Island men will have to practice to regain their old-time correctness of speech.

Army men have borrowed from the circus in calling their mess halls the "big top." Mess kits are called "China," and that is a real touch of humor. The mess sergeant is sometimed called "the mess," and that, perhaps, is an unfair and deceptive abbreviation.

Finally, of all the slang pertaining to chow, there is the "galloping goulash," otherwise known as "cooks mounted," or the "kitchen chariot." The worst thing about the "galloping goulash" is that its chief production is "slops," thin soup not considered worthy to be called "slum."

Some of the strangest language in the army is heard on the picket line. Horses are frequently called "goats" or "sheep." Occasionally there is a "camel," a "giraffe" or a "juggernaut." The term "outlaw" for a wild horse is not unusual, although the name "corrahn," common in Battery A, is.

Automobile and horse terms have become crossed in some mysterious manner. The owner driver speaks of putting a "shoe" on his machine. In the army the horseshoer puts "tires" on the mules. Long before the Rhode Island militiamen went to the border, a captain was "the old man" or "the skipper." They have picked up other names for officers on the border.

A lieutenant just out of West Point is a "shave-tail," because he has just changed his long cadet coat for the service uniform. A general is a "big chief." A colonel is an "eagle," because of his insignia. Other officers get any nicknames that come handy.

Even the non-coms have special names. The first seargeant is always the "top." Any sergeant is a "sarge" and any corporal a "corp." Signal men are known as "boobs with flags."

Infantrymen are always "dough boys," and this term has never been sufficiently explained. One theory is that the infantrymen wrap their feet in fresh dough when they are swelled from long marching.

A man who has served on the border will probably not say cavalry soon again. In the ranks of the army cavalry is always "calvary." It is bad form to call it anything else in enlisted men's circles.

One term which the Rhode Island guardsmen picked up on the border is the Spanish "abarrotes" for groceries. On the trip home, wherever a stop was made, a general store was always hailed with a shout "Abarrotes."

"Ciudad," the Spanish for city, is another word adopted by many of the men. Likewise there is "toros" for bull and sometimes for beef. "Adios" is the word used by most of the guardsmen in saying good-by to any one.

As long as the border service is remembered mud of any kind will be "dobe" to the militiamen. Adobe mud is really peculiar to the border country and Mexico, but, nevertheless, all mud is "dobe."

Probably the strangest habit of speech formed by the Rhode Island guardsmen on the border was calling camp "home." That, however, is a habit already forgotten.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STILL A BOOZE STATE

To the Editor of the Telegraph:

It seems strange that Pennsylvania, the great Keystone State of the Union, which was foremost in the struggle for American Independence and foremost in the effort to emancipate the slave, should be one of the three "booze" States of the land, sharing with New Jersey and Nevada the infamy of being still given over to liquor rule. May the day be hastened when our otherwise noble Commonwealth will take its place with the devoted sisterhood of States which are working for a finer type of manhood, a safer world of business, and a purer, happier home! Christian men and patriotic men should unite with commercial interests to do away with a business that besmirches our lawmakers, fills our jails and almshouses, breaks the hearts of wives and mothers, debauches our youth, sends innocent children to want and dishonor, and leaves behind it everywhere the serpent's trail.

At the recent election, the liquor traffic received overwhelming condemnation. Twenty-four of our States are now in the "dry" column; thirteen have local option, with less than half their territory without saloons; and eight have local option, with more than half their territory without saloons. Sixty per cent. of the people of our country, and 85 per cent. of the area, are now within "dry" territory.

The Rev. Dr. C. F. Swift, State Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Anti-Saloon League, recently said: "Never in the history of this great movement have the temperance people had greater reason for rejoicing than now. Of equally great importance, and possibly more so, is the decided expression of a large number of the other Prohibition States reaffirming their action in refusing to vote to enact any other form proposed by the liquor people to change to any method of restriction of the liquor traffic other than Prohibition. Pennsylvania is ready for and will fall into line under the new watchword and slogan, 'On to Washington for National Constitutional Prohibition.'"

It is a joy to know that not only booze dealers, but politicians also are now being put on the defensive. In the recent election, neither of the dominant parties would adopt a prohibition plank. Four years hence, however, a far different condition will prevail, and the party that does not realize the vast importance of reckoning with prohibition sentiment will by that very act surrender all hopes of having its Presidential candidate elected.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

PUZZLED.

Giraffe: Now what was it I was to remember when I tied this knot in my neck?

YES.

Mrs. Scrapp—Statistics show that married men live longer than single ones.

Mr. Scrapp—Yes, and it serves them right.

AN OBSOLETE WISH.

Times have changed.

Yes, I don't believe you'll ever hear any of the youngsters growing up wishing for the kind of pie their mother's used to make.

"'Tis, indeed, a sanitary age."

"How now?"

"I notice that the electrician who installed our phone never touched the wires with his bare hands. He wore rubber gloves."—Kansas City Journal.

Evening Chat

Pennsylvania is just now experiencing one of those periodical campaigns in behalf of individuals sentenced to pay the extreme penalty of the law as recognized from the days of the Tower of Babel and the office of the State Board of Pardons is receiving pleas for mercy for lads of seventeen and eighteen convicted of parricide. The strenuous nature of the efforts calls to mind the fact that every year for the last fifteen there has been some big case in which the clemency placed within the control of the State Board of Pardons by the Constitution has been sought by newspapers, committees, individuals and even communities. The natural sentiment of people against capital punishment and especially against sending to death women or boys has been invoked, adroitly at times, but always with vigor. The case of Kate Edwards, of Berks county, sentenced to death and refused commutation and pardon time and again, set a precedent in Pennsylvania against capital punishment for women. Governors refused to sign her death warrant and the public did not object. Ultimately she was pardoned and passed into oblivion. So have other women who stood in the shadow of the extreme penalty. The present Board of Pardons has taken a stand against campaigns such as have been launched in the last month for the commutation of young men, mere lads, whose cases have already been considered and decided against them. Few instances in the history of the board compare with the time and opportunity given in the March-Pennington and Digeso cases, in which the board declined to interfere. Youth, control of stronger minds, intoxication, retardation, lack of early opportunities, insanity, impulse of the moment, environment and other pleas have been made by eminent counsel and yet the board declined to interfere except where it was shown that matters had arisen since the trial or where those things which can not be considered within the rules of evidence or some extraordinary condition was found. It was for this purpose that the board was constituted, as is to be found in the memoirs of those who sat in the constitutional convention. Time and again people of counties have been worked up by sentimental waves and in some cases they have come here with matter which gave a new phase, but too often with only those things which were threshed out at trials and which when winnowed by the board were found to be based upon the hope of mercy.

* * *

Successive State officials who have sat upon the State Board of Pardons have told me that it is the hardest form of service for the Commonwealth and I know one man who used to dread the coming of the third Wednesday of each month, the date of the sitting of the board. Another told me that it was only a sense of duty that kept him from getting sick sometimes when the board was scheduled to meet. The late Robert S. Murphy, Lieutenant-Governor under Edwin S. Stuart, who, like John C. Bell, Attorney General under John K. Tener, had been a district attorney, once said that it required all his brains and training to keep the legal aspects of a case in their proper place and all his sand to avoid giving way to pleas for mercy in many cases. Most of the men who have sat upon the board in the last decade have been personally opposed to capital punishment and the idea of it is positively repugnant to two members of the present board by their own statements.

* * *

One of the odd things about campaigns for extension of clemency to persons convicted of murder is that they seldom lead to moves to abolish capital punishment. Of all the recent cases in which unusual efforts were made to secure recommendations of mercy I recall only one which led to anything like an attempt to get the Legislature to change the law. Cases which have stirred up the whole state brought expressions of regret or gratification, according to the way the case went, and ended there. Bills for abolition of capital punishment have turned up in the Legislature and never gotten out of committee. It took years of energetic propaganda to get the electrocution law passed. One session a bill giving juries the right to say whether a person should die or suffer life imprisonment for murder attracted little or no comment and was vetoed. Since the last General Assembly met there have been some big cases submitted to the board. It will be interesting to see what turns up in the Legislature and how any propositions are backed.

* * *

In another instance some printed matter regarding blankets came to a friend and he brought it around to show. In this envelope were the catalog of the blanket manufacturing firm, a circular about a gas engine made in the same town and a slip sheet with a boost for some kind of breakfast food. The card of a lumber association was enclosed. Harrisburg may be the heart of distribution, but it has something to learn about co-operative mailing.

* * *

Gifford Pinchot, who speaks to-night before the members of the Engineers Society on the conservation measures now before Congress, plans to pay some visits to Harrisburg during the coming legislative session. Mr. Pinchot has been carefully following up the legislation proposed in this state relative to water power and forest conservation and has been visiting some of the districts.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Congressman G. W. Edmonds, of Philadelphia, who is active in food embargo legislation, got first-hand information for his bill in Philadelphia and by inquiries throughout the state.

—Major-General C. M. Clement, commander of the Pennsylvania troops on the border, has been in the National Guard since it started under the reorganization.

—James M. Beck, president of the Pennsylvania Society at New York, used to be active in the Philadelphia courts.

—Highway Commissioner Frank B. Black spends his spare time on his model farm in Somerset county.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg is sending machinery to Japan?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

Harrisburg's first manufacturing venture was wrought fron nails It began about. 1786.

Shutting Door to Drinker

[Kansas City Star.]

The opportunities for the man who drinks are narrowing all the time. The railroads won't have him. The shop the factory, the store do not want him and now the drinking policeman and fireman must go. The mayor and city council of Joplin, Mo., decreed this week that city firemen and policemen who take even one drink, on or off duty, shall be discharged. The head of the Chicago police department have just announced that the man who does not drink will be given the preference over the man who does. James Couzens, millionaire Detroit police commissioner announces: "Applicants for jobs must not drink."

Booze is on its last legs.