

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 15

No one is useless in the world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else.—DICKENS.

PLANNING COMMISSION WORK

THE sale of the old Heister property and the announcement that this famous fruit farm is to be broken up into building lots emphasizes the importance of the City Planning Commission's recent work in the district lying between the northern city line and the Rockville mountains.

The law fortunately provides that in case the Planning Commission disapproves of any plan or part of a plan submitted for approval it may make its own plotting survey and submit it to the owners or promoters.

The seventeen-year-old locust is due again next year, but the San Jose scale we have always with us.

IS AMERICA SLIPPING?

IN this day of the whirling aeroplane and the cigarette-smoking society girl, the evidence is everywhere present that "the old order changeth!"

A somewhat lugubrious prospect, it may be said. Perhaps so, but it is not true that there is something lacking in present-day life to that full-grown Americanism which in this age is mixed with a heavy dash of Mammonism?

Closely allied with the outcome of the European struggle is the welfare of America, commercially and spiritually. From among the many issues quoted as having caused the war, one great fact now stands forth: the struggle is a battle for supremacy between the Democratic ideal, the rule of the people, the fostering of individualism on one side, and the Teutonic conception of the sovereignty of the State, the suppression of the individual to governmental efficiency in the hands of a few, and the uber-alles quality of the German Kultur.

The history and traditions of America bind us inseparably on the side of the former. And if the democratic ideal is worth anything, it is worth cherishing. One way to do this is to render our shores impregnable to foreign attack and to place our armed forces on an equality with those nations with whom war is possible.

We are living in an age of apparent prosperity, when money comes easily and goes even more easily—we demand more luxury, more pleasures, with the result that greater superficiality exists in our customs and habits and we slowly undermine the virile fiber of our national life to the extent that we become blinded to the better things. In the mad rush of business, altruism does not play the part it should. The world, of course, is upside down, and America has a strong part to play in helping to right it.

influence, it behooves us to awake from the satisfied state of security into which we have been lulled by a temporary shifting of the scales in our favor.

It is to be hoped that Congress will act wisely at its next session with a view to working out some adequate method of military training and patriotic education of our youth, maintaining the proper balance between an over-zealous tendency toward militarism and an under-courageous willingness to look the facts squarely in the face with respect to our still woeful unpreparedness.

It is suspected that the Kaiser is beginning to find that the best kind of a trench is that made by a plow.

EFFECT OF FOOD BOYCOTT

FOOD prices on the Harrisburg markets declined sharply the past week. This is remarkable because usually just before Christmas increased demand and willingness of people to buy at any figure have combined to cause advances in many lines.

The federal government has thrown up its hands and confesses its inability—rather, its unwillingness—to attempt criminal prosecutions, just as everybody familiar with the department of justice as at present organized could have forecasted from the beginning, so that the only weapon remaining at the hand of the housewife is her own decision not to buy any food that appears to be higher than conditions justify.

How well the local boycott works when applied in that manner is shown by the fact that turkeys will be cheaper at Christmas than at Thanksgiving, because hundreds of Harrisburgers who ordinarily dined on a holiday dish of roast turkey declined to buy it.

Just so long as sellers of foodstuffs—and this includes producers, jobbers, wholesalers and retailers—think the public will stand for top-notch prices; just so long will top-notch prices prevail. It is only natural, perhaps, to sell at the highest possible market figure. But when the food merchants find demand falling off and their patrons refusing to buy, just as naturally there is a readjustment of prices, of course within the limits of the law of natural supply and demand, which, by the way, has very little to do with recent efforts to make the consumer pay unreasonable profits.

FARMER AND CONSUMER

THE Grangers in session in Philadelphia this week discussed at length plans to eliminate the middle man by bringing the farmer and the consumer into direct contact. Produce direct from the farm to the household unquestionably would tend to improve the quality and lessen the cost, while yielding higher profits to the farmer.

Salesmanship and deliveries, which make city business on its present scale possible, are largely unknown to the farmer. The getting of fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products from the farm to the city is the big factor in price regulation.

Perhaps good roads, motor trucks and trolley lines may some day bring about the desired result. But until some such developments come about and the farmer learns how to sell direct, there is little chance that the middle man will be displaced, even by the parcel post.

TRUE DEMOCRACY

TRUE Jeffersonian Democracy, of the Wilsonian strain, put over another one at Washington this week that will make voters wonder how many more salaries are to be tacked on to the already over-burdened governmental expenses. Each Congressman, it is proposed, shall have an employe at a wage of \$75 a month—in addition to the regular secretary.

Here we have a fine job for the youngest son, or the poor cousin, or the aged grandfather, or the broken-down uncle. It is a wise piece of legislation from the standpoint of the Congressman with a large number of dependents on his hands, or who is in Congress not so much for what he can put into his job as for what he can take out.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS MAILING EARLY!



I SEE YOU HAVE THE BOWL OF GOLDFISH ALL PACKED AND MARKED 'THIS END UP' YES, I MARKED BOTH ENDS SO THEY'LL BE SURE AND SEE IT.

MARK ALL FRAGILE GOODS

PRODUCE SHOULD BE MARKED PERISHABLE.

DON'T PLASTER STICKERS ON THE ADDRESS SIDE OF MAIL MATTER

RIGHT WAY WRONG WAY HOW TO SEND AN UMBRELLA THROUGH THE MAIL. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAIL YOUR XMAS GIFTS

SCHEDULE OF A MARRIED MAN'S PRE-CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

- Friday, December 1—Peruse a "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early" plea, and agree with the sentiments. Saturday, December 2—Start a shopping list and stop after writing the word "book" opposite the name of the brother-in-law who usually gives you a book. Sunday, December 3—Express unbounded loathing and contempt for the persons who wait until the last minute before doing their Christmas shopping. Monday, December 4—Wonder what you can give your pretty cousin who has everything she needs. Tuesday, December 5—Figure up how much you can afford to spend on your wife's present. Wednesday, December 6—Go over figures on wife's present and deduct ten dollars. Thursday, December 7—Kick yourself for being penurious, and add twenty dollars to figure on wife's present. Friday, December 8—Look in two stores for wife's gift, but get nothing except three feet, a lame back and a groch. Saturday, December 9—Reckon up the number of shopping days remaining before Christmas, and find with some relief that there are twelve. Determine to do your Christmas shopping early. Sunday, December 10—Read newspaper articles about the overworked shopgirl, and curse the brutes who wait until the last minute. Monday, December 11—Visit stores, determined to buy eighteen or twenty presents, including one for your wife. Come home with a very bad case of nerves and one two-dollar necktie for your wife's father. Tuesday, December 12—Deliver several heated lectures to acquaintances on the folly of giving Christmas presents. Wednesday, December 13—Give wife a cheque with which to purchase gifts for twenty-two of your relatives. Thursday, December 14—Discuss with your wife the amount of largess to be given to the postman, janitor, maid, cook, washwoman, elevator boy and office boy. Friday, December 15—Get a cottony feeling in your mouth trying to decide whether or not your wife will like the

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Governor Brumbaugh's adoption of a drastic policy to further the selection of Representative Edwin R. Cox as the Republican candidate for speaker of the House, as evidenced by his request for the resignation of A. Nevin Pomeroy, superintendent of public printing and binding, has attracted no end of attention all over the State, and it is generally believed that the Governor will go further to show that he was in earnest when he said he had "rolled up his sleeves" to help the South Philadelphia.

Our Library Table

The Book of Truth and Facts, by Fritz von Frantzius. In the midst of peace discussions and in the light of the situation of the countries at war, it might be interesting to ascertain through the thoughts of a zealous German partisan just what his opinion is of the position of affairs not only in Germany, but in the United States and England also.

Why Don't Yuh Wipe Yer Shoes?

I hope some folks is satisfied What's always got the blues 'Cause winters now aint like they was— Why don't yuh wipe yer shoes? I tell yuh them WAS winters! You've heard such folks enthuse? But say, Old Buck, what's wrong with this! Why don't yuh wipe yer shoes? "December's jest half under way," So states the Annville News— "But snows have fell three days this week!" Why don't yuh wipe yer shoes? I've got to use the kitchen door— A wife's an' mother's views Seem frequently to coincide— Why don't yuh wipe yer shoes?

Business Briefs

Knit goods traders are all breaking records for sales and production. S. D. Bausher, textile manufacturer of Hamburg, operating a chain of factories in upper Dauphin and Berks counties, has been re-elected president of the Hamburg Savings Bank. Seventeen thousand cars of freight were handled through Reading last Sunday. The United States Expansion Bolt Company, of New York, has bought the plant of the Columbia Malleable Iron and Steel Company, at Columbia. The United States Government will be in the market shortly for \$15,000,000 of army supplies.

A Meteorological Motto

From the Christian Herald. The Lord sends the sunshine and the rain, but the farmer must do his own ploughing.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

IT PAYS TO BELIEVE. Do your children still believe in Santa Claus? Well, if they don't they are diplomatic enough to pretend they do.

THE SECRET

Why is Santa Claus so popular? Because he gives everything but advice.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Ex-Governor Edwin S. Stuart has been re-elected chairman of the Board of City Trusts in Philadelphia. —Ex-Auditor General Sisson says he is enjoying the political passing show from Erie.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg's output of steel this year was the maximum in the history of the city? HISTORIC HARRISBURG This town's census headquarters for this section when the first census was taken.

A Psalm of Life

1916 Model. Ask me not in mournful numbers What's the price of gaudinies! For mine income it encumbers, And my peace of mind serene.

Art is long and time is fleeting,

And first comes the dawn of day, Then like all dumb, human creatures, I must drive, so I must pay.

Let me then be up and driving,

With a heart for any fate, Sightless wings, with cunningiving How the dog-gone bills can wait!

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