

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 26.

Be strong! Say not the days are evil—who's to blame? And fold the hands and acquiesce—O shame!

Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name! —MALTIE DAVENPORT BABCOCK.

THE COMMUNITY TREE

HARRISBURG had a community Christmas tree again this year and the celebration was pronounced by all who witnessed it or participated the most successful in the history of such events in Harrisburg. This was not only because the tree was more beautiful, or because the efforts of the Municipal band or the Moorhead chorus were appreciated as their delightful contributions to the program of the evening so well deserved, but because the people of the city are learning more and more the pleasure of rubbing shoulders one with another and of taking a part, at least, of their holiday enjoyments in common.

"United we stand; divided we fall" is just as true of the city as it is of the nation. The more we have in common the deeper interest we will have in the common good. Community Christmas trees, mummers' parades on New Year's Day, river carnivals and all such public entertainments in which the people as a whole join make for a better city and a more contented populace. They are to be encouraged and those who give them their time, effort and money deserve public thanks.

WAY TO REAL ARMY

IN a recent address, Major General Leonard Wood points out that the present volunteer system will not do and his reasons are so convincing that further discussion seems a waste of words. Six months of compulsory, intensive military training for every able-bodied American in his 19th year. From fifteen to thirty days of review training in his 21st year, and then assignment to a reserve regiment until his 25th year. Calisthenic work and some rifle shooting, a total of from ninety to 130 hours a year for every citizen boy between the ages of 12 and 18. The absolute abolishment of the National Guard and the substitution of a State constabulary. A standing army of 250,000 for overseas garrisons and for coast defense.

This, in brief, is the plan of the Army War College which contemplates universal military training. As to the calling of the National Guard to the Mexican border, General Wood says: Our National Guard has failed miserably, not because of any lack of officers and men—but because of the system. The calling out of the National Guard to the border was a tragedy, but it was a tragedy worth its cost if we only learn our lesson from it.

As to the plan itself and the training of the youth, the head of the Army declares that "about 1,300,000 Americans reach the age of 18 each year. Fully half of them are physically unfit for service, but we could figure on at least one-half million a year for training. At the end of eight years that would give us a trained force of four million men, and with such a force there would be no danger of any foreign nation wantonly kicking up a row with us." He says:

Six months of intensive training is enough for the average American boy. Such training is three to one as effective as the regular army drill, where much time is wasted. It would make them as good soldiers as half the regulars to-day. The boys would be put through hard work while they were young and in their 21st year there would be back for a month, or maybe two weeks for a repetition. At 29 they would be out of the service and they would have paid their debt to the nation. The men in training should have pay. Aside from giving us the defense of which we have none now, the plan would greatly improve the public morals. It would lessen crime. It would build up patriotism and would give them discipline which every young man needs. I believe that no industrial occupation will so much increase a boy's efficiency as six months of drill. It will build him up physically, morally and nationally, and it would give us an out-and-out Federal force.

General Wood is also of opinion that there would be greater respect for the soldier under this system of training and that the opposition of labor

men to universal training would disappear when they found that everybody who was physically able must serve and that there could be no buying of substitutes by the rich. He considered the Plattsburg, N. Y., camp, where bishops were seated at mess with men from New York's slums and millionaires fraternized with street sweepers, the greatest democratizing agent ever known in America. He emphasized the need of a feeling of nationalism with foreigners coming so rapidly and believed that universal training was the surest way to get it. When the President and the Secretary of State on the same day sent forth official statements intimating that our international relations have been strained to the breaking point the time for theorizing as to the national defense would seem to have passed and the hour for action to be at hand.

What more appropriate for holiday remembrance than an illustrated brochure of a poem by Leigh Mitchell Hodges, the optimist of the Philadelphia North American, which was put out as a Christmas greeting by the J. C. Blair Company, at Huntingdon. Our friend Africa never loses an opportunity to point out the glories of the Juniata Valley, and Hodges was inspired to write some verse last October that breathes the very atmosphere of the enchanted region.

ASH COLLECTIONS

RECOMMENDATION that the city take over the work of ash and garbage collection, now done by contract, will appeal to thousands of residents of Harrisburg who have suffered untold inconveniences under the present system—or lack of system.

There is no need to recite the deficiencies of the contract plan as it has worked out in Harrisburg. Everybody knows them. There is urgent demand for a change. Even reversion to the old method of each householder paying for the removal of his own refuse would be preferable to a continuance of the present unsatisfactory contract collections.

The fault, however, does not lie entirely with the contract system as such. City Council erred when it entered into the agreement with the reduction company at a figure which it was freely forecast at the time would not yield a profit to the contractor. No company can operate long at a loss, and the extreme likelihood is that even if labor and materials had not advanced in price to an unforeseen degree during the life of the contract the reduction company still would have been unable to earn a dividend and at the same time keep collections up to the requirements of the specifications.

This is not said in extenuation of the reduction company, but only in fairness to it. Unquestionably the estimates on which its bid was based were too low. The company has had an excuse for every delinquency brought to its attention by the Board of Health, under the direction of which it operates, but many of them have not been valid in the eyes of injured residents, who see only failure to do the work and not the reasons why.

There are those who believe if the city took over the collections and made a reasonable direct charge upon every residence and business place for removals—simply enough to let the municipality out whole, the charges upon the individual to be regulated according to the service performed—the results would be satisfactory. At present the man whose garbage is not more than a dozen pounds a week helps pay for the removal of immense quantities of refuse from hotels, restaurants and large households. The same is true of ashes. Collections made free to the householder at the expense of the city as a whole are unfairness.

The problem of replacing the present means of ash and garbage removals, however, is too big to be solved by the first measures that suggest themselves or promise early relief. Council erred so grossly ten years ago when the present contract was made that it should go slowly now. Careful study should be given the matter and those who will be entrusted with the working out of a new plan might do well to visit other cities and learn the latest and best systems in use elsewhere, Harrisburg has suffered long enough to deserve only the very best when a change is made at the expiration of the contract now in force and the time to plan what shall be done then is now.

The custom of exchanging Christmas presents reached the department stores to-day. Don't count the expense. Whatever it cost it was worth it.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The vortex of the contest for the Republican nomination for the speakership of the Lower House of the Legislature will move from Philadelphia to this city in the next 48 hours. The headquarters of the rival candidates will be opened here to-night and the leaders will follow within a day or so. Members from all over the State will be coming in and many will be here days earlier than usual because of the intense interest displayed by men in politics and the importance of the result to people who have ambitions for the campaigns of 1917 and 1918.

Death of Governor Brumbaugh's father has removed him from the contest for several days. The Governor feels the death of his aged grandfather and his bitterest opponents have expressed their sympathy for him.

There was little of the Christmas sentiment in political circles in Philadelphia the last three days. Governor Brumbaugh on Saturday afternoon issued a statement referring to the charges made against him by Senators Snyder and Sproul in which he said he was merely a target and that the real fight was the people against reactionary interests. Senator Sproul came back with a tart retort of everything he had said and Attorney General Brown then opened up declaring that if the saying of hard things went on he would have some things to hand out which would create heart burnings. This challenge was promptly met by Senator Sproul who issued a statement last night that Mr. Brown had been a Democrat and had done well financially since he became a Republican. Friends of Mr. Brown retorted with other sharp things. It is expected that there will be continued interchanges which will interest few people outside of those attacking and attacked and the war in politics. The great bulk of the people of the State are wishing the fight over the speakership had never begun.

The Friday editorial in the Pittsburgh Dispatch deploring the row among the Republicans and the editorials in the Philadelphia Ledger denouncing the politics in the speakership have stirred up no end of comment all over the State. Numerous dailies are calling for cessation of the fuss before it goes so far as to endanger county and municipal elections next year and creates a breach which will be hard to heal in 1918. The Westboro Agitator, one of the old weeklies and an influence in the northern tier, voices the general up-State sentiment in an editorial which objects to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh rows being taken as the real politics of Pennsylvania.

News columns of the big newspapers print some interesting sidelights on the battle. The North American says that Mr. Brown has forced Senator Penrose to go through with his threatened investigations and the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times intimates that they would have gone through anyway. The Democratic Philadelphia Record helps on the row all it can and says that Baldwin people have some letters from members in which it is charged that offers in return for support for Cox were made. It is also said here that a York county member wrote a letter pledging support to Baldwin and "dropped," because appointees in his district were threatened with dismissal by the State administration. The Baldwin people make the man's name known and declare they will brand him as a "pledge breaker."

The Philadelphia Press says: "While the lieutenants both of Cox and Penrose are in a tussle, the candidate, who has the backing of Senator Penrose, claim enough actual pledges to assure the caucus nomination; it is known that in a number of cases both the Cox and Penrose lists contain the same names. The balance of power which will decide the result is held by a comparatively few representatives who have refused to indicate how they will vote."

Auditor General A. W. Powell, who has been mentioned once in a while in the news columns, last night that he was not in it, but only an interested spectator. The Auditor General said some things nowadays remind him of the ringer days in the public schools' houses.

Representative Nelson McVicar, of Allegheny, will likely not vote for either Cox or Baldwin. The North American says that the Baldwin lists contain the same names. The balance of power which will decide the result is held by a comparatively few representatives who have refused to indicate how they will vote.

John T. Lenahan, of Wilkes-Barre, and J. Kier, a former assistant district attorney of Harrisburg, have been engaged to bring at Pottsville oyster proceedings against M. J. Brennan, of Pottsville; P. C. Fenton, of Mahanoy City; Archie B. Lamb, of Shenandoah, and Evert Evans, of Coaldale, mine inspectors-elect, when these officials take office next week. Although the law requires the same qualifications for a candidate at the primaries as at the general election, it is alleged all these men were nominated before the examining board acted on their applications for qualification. It is also charged that the county commissioners violated the law in printing the name on the ballot of Martin Nash as a candidate, as he had never qualified and was not a candidate. It is also charged that the county commissioners violated the law in printing the name on the ballot of Martin Nash as a candidate, as he had never qualified and was not a candidate.

Rooms engaged at the Commonwealth Hotel for the headquarters of Representatives Richard J. Baldwin and Edwin R. Cox, rival candidates for the speakership, were being cleared for station to-day. The furniture that will not stand strains is being moved and crash placed on the floors. The rivals will open up headquarters to-night and be ready for the fray. Representative George W. Williams, strictly "dry" candidate for the speakership, will have rooms in the same hotel and will probably have some further statements. Counter irritants are expected from the Baldwin people. Representative Miles A. Milliron, of Armstrong county, is a member to come to town after Christmas. "Per-haps my faith in you has had something to do with it," he said; "you see, you have never failed me, and so the whole world has seemed right."

When a Feller Needs a Friend

By BRIGGS



BRIGGS

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Philadelphia Press — The Senate of the next Congress apparently will consist of 54 Democrats, 41 Republicans and LaFollette.

Manchester (N. H.) Union — Since New Hampshire went wrong in her national politics we suppose Vermont will be a tussle, than ever, about having that State boundary line established.

Trade Briefs

In 1915 the United States imported 10,670,388 pounds of dried figs from Portugal. No figs were imported by Germany or Russia, formerly the largest buyers.

American tractors have met with approval during recent tests in Scotland.

Norway's apple crop was a failure this year. This should increase the demand for American fruit.

Most of Guatemala's imported preserves, fruits, jellies and meats are supplied by the United States. If this trade is to be made a success goods of the highest quality must be supplied. Tacks and iron hooks are needed in Greece.

Inquiries have been received from Columbia about automobiles, motorcycles and motorbuses.

Through the efforts of consular agents in the Athens district, Greece, orders have recently been placed in this country for \$70,500 worth of brewers' surplus.

The wheat imported into Greece since 1914 has been bought by the government and distributed to millers. In 1915 the American wheat shipped to Greece amounted to 204,623 metric tons.

Bermuda expects to have a normal potato crop.

Chilean merchants have asked for catalogues of men's clothing and furniture.

An effort is being made by Brazilian dealers to interest American upholsterers and mattress makers in the Japanese coral beds have been extensively developed since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. The beds weigh 65,000 pounds of coral worth \$700,000 annually.

Why the World Seemed Right

There is a story in the January Woman's Home Companion in which this passage occurs:

"In her trailing gown of white charmeuse, with its touches of fur and of old lace, with her pearls, little Mrs. Delevan was a figure not to be overlooked by discriminating eyes.

"There isn't a woman here who can hold a candle to you," said the adoring Jimmie as they sat down in the red dining-room; "most of them look so bored, Midget."

Perhaps it was Mrs. Delevan's look of shining radiance which drew the eyes of the old gentleman at another table. "That little woman hasn't lost her enthusiasms," he said to his wife, a stately dame in mauve satin and diamonds. "By Jove, it's refreshing to see one woman whose stock in trade isn't an artificial grin and a pair of shoulders."

"His wife smiled at him over the centerpiece of spring flowers. 'Is pres-tent company excepted?'"

"You" he exploded. "Oh, you're a marvel! How in the world you've kept it up through all these grinding years of official life! How you've coped with the climbers and fought off the hangers-on, and have still kept your faith in human nature, is the eighth and ninth wonder of the world."

"Again she smiled, the illumined, steadfast smile of the woman who has gone softly through the years. "Perhaps my faith in you has had something to do with it," she said; "you see, you have never failed me, and so the whole world has seemed right."

Something to Explain

[From the Armonk Sun.] An adorable young married woman here—North Whites Plains complains that every time she passes a certain party in the street he turns around and stares after her. Now, how does she know?

NATION-WIDE REFERENDUM ON DAYLIGHT SAVING PLAN

Los Angeles, Cal., Chamber of Commerce has united with other similar organizations throughout the United States in an appeal to the National Chamber of Commerce to take a referendum of its members to get their opinion as to the feasibility of the "daylight saving" plan. The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce feels that the desirability of this plan will be greatly enhanced if it can be made uniform throughout the United States, and is urging a nation-wide movement or none at all. "Personally, I am very heartily in favor of the daylight saving scheme," said Frank Wiggins, secretary of the Los Angeles chamber. "Not only because of the great saving in electric and other forms of illumination, but because of the obvious advantage of doing one's work by natural rather than artificial light. I think there is no question but that more can be accomplished in the same time, and the work better done, when the daylight hours are used than when the operations are carried on by artificial light."

Palmer and Sproul

[Girard in Philadelphia Ledger.] Political prophets assert that Senator William C. Sproul is a Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. These same prophets also assert that Vance McCormick is a Democratic candidate, and that his next friend, Alexander Mitchell Palmer, will manage the latter's campaign.

You have doubtless heard about Damon and Pythias, and how the one offered his life as a hostage for the other. Well, Damon would have got just as much joy in wallowing Pythias over the head with an ax as Mr. Palmer can extract in helping to defeat Senator Sproul for Governor. These two come nearer to being a replica of those sons of ancient Syracuse than any pair ever turned out by Swarthmore College.

"Ninety-one" men, same Greek letter fraternity, officiate at each other's weddings—these big, strong, husky Pennsylvanians differ in nothing apparently except politics and the color of their hair.

One is a blond and the other a brunette, and Mr. Palmer's blond locks are curly, while the Senator's are straight as a Lenni Lenape Indian's.

In their set at Swarthmore were two other notable Philadelphians, Morris L. Clotier and Mr. Temple, one of the best railroad engineers in the country.

It may sound like an Irish lull, but Senator Sproul began to be a successful man while still a Swarthmore College boy.

He told me himself that he was earning \$100 a week in his newspaper work before he graduated. I think I have told you how amused young Sproul was when E. A. Dorr, then news editor of a Philadelphia paper, offered him \$20 a week when he left college.

The Senator is now a very successful businessman, with wide interests, but he started his fortune in the Chester Times, which is one of the most successful country papers in the United States.

There are very few men in Pennsylvania who are known personally to so many people as he, and certainly but few who are so popular with those they do know.

But Palmer campaigning against Sproul! It is to laugh!

OUR DAILY LAUGH

MATHEMATICAL ITEM. What is an unknown quantity? What you get when you buy a ton of coal.

DUBIOUS COMPLIMENT.

Dorothy—Do you think my costume becoming? Jack—Yes, indeed; but you would be lovely in any disguise.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Dr. L. Webster Fox, of Philadelphia, has gone to Florida on a fishing trip.

—Dr. Morris Jarow, Jr., the oriental scholar, will give a series of addresses in Philadelphia on the Old Testament books and their authors.

—Directors W. H. Wilson, of Philadelphia, former legislator, says that next year he hopes to abolish all horse drawn patrol wagons.

—Judge A. S. Swartz, of Montgomery county, sentenced boys in Newtown who had been doing some pilfering, to go to church.

—Insurance Commissioner O'Neil started to work in a store when ten years old and has been busy ever since.

Evening Chat

Although the bellnickles of our childhood days have turned into Halloween nummers and New Year's eve frolickers there are still some of the traditional Harrisburg observances of Christmas day about the State's capital. The disposition to make it a day of rest and to preserve it as a time of family gathering is if anything growing stronger and there are few social affairs and they are confined to greetings of friends and neighbors. The bells about Zion church in the morning of Christmas day, they have done for fifty years or more and the bell of the Cathedral seems to have a more mellow note in its early call to service. Milkmen, postmen and newspaper carriers are given "plates" of cake and candy and the presentation of new money continues to put a strain upon the banks' supplies of fresh coins and notes. More and more the display of wreaths at windows and on the doors and the placing of evergreens at entrances is coming to be regarded as of much importance as the Christmas tree in the home where there are youngsters. Not a few conductors are told to "keep the change" by the regulars who travel on their lines and it was to be noted this morning that a good many men who appeared with a couple of days' sprouting of whiskers did not seem to mind the "kidding" of the more fortunate mortals who can shave themselves because the barbers wanted the day off. It might be added that when it was the "kidding" of the girl went to Perry county for Christmas or as a protest against the high cost of living the number of Harrisburgers who sat at meat at hotel tables on Christmas day was larger than a year ago.

An entirely new Christmas feature was contributed by nature on Saturday night when a display of Northern light occurred. It was visible for a short time, but the glow and the flashings were unmistakable. The aurora was about the time the people were going home and those living on the country saw the beams above the mountains quite plainly.

Somehow or other every time there are crowds thronging the stores, like Saturday night, for instance, there are some young cubs who jam into the stores just to have fun and not to buy. Saturday night the usual display of such horse play occurred, but what happened in one store to a couple of young men who had some beer in their stomachs and those with their heads deserves to be written about for the sake of the future. These two lads began pushing and shoving in the aisle of one of the Market street stores. They were asked to behave themselves and became insolent. Then they started to crowd people worse than ever. A nice plump girl standing at a counter was literally lifted up and carried six feet. She was one of the kind that you would not think would get mad easily. But she did when a word from the girl behind the counter she snatched up two of the long steel hat pins on sale and went into action. A few minutes later one youth holding his hands up in a gesture of submission threatening to "suesome one" while his companion was being chucked through a door by a couple of men who had been stung into action by the nice plump girl who discovered she had a temper.

Jerse S. Black, the York lawyer, who died Saturday, was well known to many Harrisburgers. He was one of Princeton's half backs in the years when "Will Spicer was the other and Marvin Randolph, who lived here several years and is connected with a number of Harrisburgers, was an end. Mr. Black was best known, however, as a Democrat. He was a great Bryn Mawr man and had much to do with the organization of Pennsylvania Democrats against the Guffey domination in 1907 and 1908. He was known here as a lawyer before he was picked as the nominee for Lieutenant Governor in 1906, and his speeches in which he took the chancellors in the Capitol as his special target were among the best of that legislative campaign. Mr. Black was also a "stormy figure" in the last Democratic State convention, that of 1912. The Governor then was sworn to note within the last year that the health of the genial and able York Democrat was failing. He was the third generation of notable Democrats and he had lived would have been heard from.

The State Educational Association, which will begin its sixtieth annual convention here to-morrow, has been meeting in Harrisburg every two years for a generation. For a time the meetings were held in various parts of the State, but it became the custom to hold sessions in Harrisburg just before the Legislature met so that the thought of the educators in regard to the school legislation would be fresh upon the incoming lawmakers. It is interesting to note that three of the men who will make addresses to-morrow are former presidents of the association. They are Governor Brumbaugh, Secretary Houck and Superintendent Schaeffer.

People here recalled in yesterday's Christmas celebrations that it was just six months ago that the Pennsylvania National Guardsmen mobilized at Mt. Gretna for Mexican border service. The Guardsmen assembled on the site of the previous encampments on the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth, the artillery being the last to go in. For not a few men departed from their homes but a year ago was in the line they have seen of families and the experiences of the camp will linger long in the minds of many men who wanted to go on service, but who could not "go by" the medical man.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg payroll was larger this Christmas than ever known before?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG The first State convention was held in Harrisburg in the thirties.

Fifteen Thousand Children Sing Fifteen thousand grade school pupils in Spanglers Park sang the Christmas choruses, says the Spokans Chronicle. They will appear in a public concert at the city hall on New Year's eve. The large orchestra also is being drilled to accompany the gigantic chorus.