

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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E. J. STACKPOLE, Pres't and Editor-in-Chief



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MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 22

I like not twice to grieve my soul, First in bearing pain itself and then relating.

UNSALARIED PUBLIC SERVICE

ANY good citizens in every community fall to give proper support to those who are engaged in the people's business because they are not in touch with what is transpiring from day to day.

Upon another page this evening is printed a photographic reproduction of the new Penn-Harris million-dollar, fire-proof hotel as it will appear when finished a year hence.

Judging from present prices of shoes, parents are apt to be more than usually inclined to let their boys go barefoot next summer.

THE ASH PROBLEM

THE ash collection problem has reached a stage where council must do something to relieve conditions or admit its inability to cope with a situation that is fast becoming intolerable.

One hundred men are needed for the work, it is said, but cannot be procured for the wages offered. Then let the wages be made sufficiently large to attract the men, for the situation has reached a stage where the ashes simply must be collected.

of patience, and very justly so. They are paying out their money and getting nothing in return.

WHAT OF THE SESSION?

IF the Legislature which reconvenes to-night after a recess of three weeks—this period having been utilized in conferences of political leaders with those who will conduct the business of Senate and House—will honestly endeavor to legislate for and in the interest of the people, then the waste of weeks of time may be overlooked.

As the Telegraph pointed out a few days ago, most of the time of the Legislature is consumed in the discussion of matters affecting the municipalities of the State when, with some constitutional limitations removed and a larger measure of home rule provided, these same municipalities could paddle their own canoes and in a much more satisfactory way work out their own salvation.

Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and Scranton and Harrisburg and scores of other cities are forced by constitutional and statutory restrictions to go before the Legislature every two years for relief which would not be necessary under proper home rule provisions.

What is satisfactory for one city is wholly unsatisfactory for another, but with "thou shalt nots" confronting the various municipalities at every turn their development is checked and intolerable conditions arise which demand legislation to correct.

Harrisburg is at this moment faced with a problem which illustrates the point. The death of one of the five city commissioners now compels the holding of a special election to fill the vacancy and there is thus imposed upon the taxpayers a needless and burdensome expenditure of approximately six thousand dollars.

Then comes Senator Penrose and others with a program of legislation for Philadelphia, including a civil service provision for the police force and the creation of a single council for the metropolis.

Cities and boroughs and other incorporated municipalities ought to have more freedom of action. They must have the chance to expand, and the Legislature should find time between problings and investigations and other political diversions to do a good turn for the folks back home.

FAIR PLAY FOR HOME INDUSTRY

THERE is food for thought for every American in the following statement of the Bethlehem Steel Company relative to the recent contract let by Secretary Daniels to a British firm for shells for the United States Navy:

To the American people: The Secretary of the Navy has awarded contracts amounting to over \$2,000,000 to a British bidder for fourteen and sixteen-inch projectiles for the navy, for the reason that the British firm offered prices very much below those of the American manufacturers, including ourselves.

We know nothing of the basis upon which the British bids were made, but the public is entitled to know the facts upon which we ourselves bid for this work. Our bids for the sixteen-inch shells (shells which have never been used by this country) for use based upon our experience in making fourteen-inch projectiles.

Navy Department tests are so severe that neither we nor, so far as we know, any other manufacturers have yet been able to produce in quantity fourteen-inch shells which will meet them. In the light of our experience, and having no other basis, we bid for sixteen-inch shells approximately the same rate per pound as that upon which the Navy Department has awarded its fourteen-inch shell contract one year ago.

make armor plate for the government at whatever figure the government's experts decide is a fair price.

The Bethlehem Steel Company is the corporation which has offered to build cruisers for the government at the price for which they can be built in the government's own navy yards, and to deliver them sooner than the navy yards can.

The Bethlehem Steel Company is the corporation which in case of war the government would have to depend upon for a very large part of its supply of munitions.

And yet the Bethlehem Steel Company is brusquely turned away without explanation in order that Secretary Daniels may favor a British company whose specifications and other agreements with the government are kept secret by Mr. Daniels.

This is neither fair to American businessmen nor to American workmen, but it is much more unfair to the American people. In case of war we could not depend upon England for our 16-inch shells, and unless we encourage their construction by American manufacturers the outbreak of hostilities would find us with a lot of big guns and no ammunition with which to supply them.

Germany, may be pointed out by way of example, encouraged the building up of the Krupp works, which correspond to those of Bethlehem in this country, and had it not been for Krupp's Germany long ago would have been crushed for lack of munitions. The German government would encourage the Schwab interests were they located in that country, instead of doing everything in its power to discourage them.

The American people, also, are entitled to know what kind of shells they are buying. Are they second raters, turned down by the British government as not coming up to grade, or have they been in storage so long that their usefulness is doubtful? Is this the first effort of England to unload her cheap labor products on the United States? Are our workmen to be turned down after the war is over in favor of English workmen, simply because the English will work for less than our workmen will? Are we to buy all our government's supplies abroad because Europe will be willing to sell at starvation prices, while their cheap workmen get the work that our highly paid employes should have?

These are questions that interest the people mightily and it will be surprising if labor does not unite with capital to demand an explanation of the lordly Mr. Daniels and his colleagues.

Mr. Daniels' assertion that the Bethlehem company cannot make shells up to government tests does not hold water since Bethlehem has been providing the Allies with countless shells the quality of which never has been questioned.

City Clerk Charles A. Miller's name has been suggested as one worthy of consideration in filling the vacancy in City Council. Without knowing how Mr. Miller feels about it, this newspaper has no hesitation in saying that such a choice would be eminently proper to make in view of the intimate knowledge of municipal administration possessed by the popular City Clerk.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The policy the State administration will adopt in regard to the proposed investigation of the departments of the State government is the big theme of interest in Pennsylvania politics today. It is dawning even committee members and legislation is forgotten for the time.

The Penrose people insist that the resolution for the probe is going to be presented and that its passage will be demanded. The State administration people have not yet announced what they will do, but that there will be resistance of some sort is indicated by Attorney General Brown's remark that he thought some "for Democrats" like E. Lowry Humes, United States district attorney for Western Pennsylvania and chairman of the Democratic legislative committee, should be chosen as counsel. This suggestion says the Philadelphia Inquirer, has added to the "tenseness of the situation."

Considerable discussion has been aroused in Western Pennsylvania by the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times statement that the Democrats are considering Ambassador Guthrie and Col. Richard Coulter, Jr., commander of the Tenth Infantry, as gubernatorial timber.

When a Feller Needs a Friend

By BRIGGS

Evening Chat



This will be "Farmers' Week in Harrisburg because of the meetings of the State Board of Agriculture and the allied organizations and the launching of the first midwinter show of farm products. It seems rather odd to be talking about raising apples and corn and shearing sheep and the difficulties of "grass" butter when there are snow banks in the street and the sleigh bells echo to the automobile horn and the trolley gong, but it seems that this week in January is always given up to the farmers and they will divide attention with the legislators who come back to Harrisburg to-night to take up the real work of the session of 1917.

It seems that the snow which has been falling the last day or so is worth a good many dollars to the farmer in the State, especially in this section, because the acreage devoted to wheat is larger than it has been for years. The high price of grain and the certainty that the land rotation of crops has been somewhat tampered with. It might be remarked in passing that the general experience of farmers with hay has been that it has been a very profitable crop and there will be a large area devoted to alfalfa next spring. Hay will be given much attention.

"The worst thing I have to think about these days is the coaster," said a motorman last night. "The kids are out in full force with their sleds and every street has an ice-cream wagon. We have to sound the whistles more than we do for farmers' wagons and automobile trucks and we keep cars ready to stop on the instant."

The snowbanks have been put to use again. There were few in the central part of the city that the alert "Floyd Hopkins" did not prevent for advertising purposes. No one can object to it. It does not violate any ordinance like tacking a poster on a pole and it certainly does attract attention.

While railroading is nothing like as arduous as it used to be back in the days when airbrakes were in use only on passenger trains and the long coal trains are controlled from the engine, there is not much of a snap connected with handling the big trains that are seen passing through the city. Yesterday work was a tough proposition in the snowstorm and the frequent blocks of traffic caused the men on the alert and to do some tramping over rough tracks in deep snow. The wonder is that schedules are so well maintained in the present rush of traffic and weather.

The wintry weather has not interfered with the demolition of the buildings in the Capitol extension zone bought for the expansion of the State's park and buildings have been disappearing like the snowflakes which have been falling the last ten days. The people in charge of the work say that the demand for building material is great and that as fast as it is taken out of the old buildings it is sold, some times before.

The midwinter mosquito, like the housefly that lives near the stove and the cockroach that lives in the wise man and woman will kill the insect on sight. It is astonishing, the number of flies that are to be found lingering in houses in midwinter. They generally die at once, but some times they kill. It is not a difficult matter. They turn up at any time and while they do not sting it is always the part of safety to kill a mosquito.

Several third-class cities are watching the manner in which Harrisburg handles the vacancy in Council which has resulted from the death of Commissioner H. F. Bowman. This city has taken no less regard to the legislative situation in many ways and its treaty of the Clark act has been awaited with interest in more places than one would think.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Congressman Thomas S. Butler has been invited by citizens of Coatesville to get a new post office for that city. Dr. B. K. Wilbur has been elected President of the Lower Merion Board of Health for the ninth term. The Rev. Dr. C. H. Woolston, Philadelphia pastor, celebrated thirty years in the ministry yesterday. He has preached to 3,000,000 persons. W. H. Connell, chief of Philadelphia's bureau of highways, has called in the city manager yesterday. He has preached to 3,000,000 persons. John P. Lowers, former legislator, has been elected President of the Employers' Protective Association of Allegheny county.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg distributes hundreds of cars of coal for cast-iron points every twenty-four hours? HISTORIC HARRISBURG William Maclay ran lines for what is now Front street before the Revolution.

Local Option

"When the friends of booze argue about local option, sincere persons are going to say that local option would work better if the liquor interests in the city were abolished. It would not use the machinery of the Federal Government, as they do now, to defeat the purposes of various States and counties which have gone dry. Moreover, if prohibition can be adopted successfully as a nation-wide rule by Russia and by France, why not by the United States? If Paris and London can get out without booze, why not New York? And if those countries adopt prohibition under the pressure of a necessity to achieve maximum moral and physical efficiency, why shouldn't we do it as part of the policy of preparedness?"—From January 20th Collier's.

RAILROADS CEASE FIGHT ON FEDERAL REGULATION

Now Advocate Measures of National Control Deemed Radical Ten Years Ago—Dual System Costly

A LITTLE over a decade ago the railroads were fighting hard against national regulation. Says Harold Kellock in an article in the February Century published today, "To-day their attitude shows a complete reversal. Virtually every railroad manager in the country recognizes that regulation has come to stay. They are reconciled to it, and they are advocating more thorough national control. In fact, they go far beyond the measures proposed by the advocates of the Hepburn statute, now the basis of our national railroad law, which was considered radical ten years ago. The people want regulation," say railroad managers. Let's help make it efficient.

"Railroad managers are substantially agreed upon the following program to end the present railroad muddle: "Federal incorporation of all interstate carriers. "Federal supervision and regulation exclusively for all carriers of interstate commerce. This supervision to include Federal regulation of all securities.

"Increasing the size of the Interstate Commerce Commission and dividing it regionally, so that regional bodies, as under the Federal Reserve Board, will conduct investigations on the ground in the different traffic districts and present their findings to the central body at Washington, which need review only exceptions to such findings. "Distributing the functions of the commission so that the same body does not act as judge, jury and prosecutor. "The rate muddle with forty-nine States indulging in rate-fixing, competing with one another and conflicting with the rate-fixing powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is productive of some of the most vexatious and costly litigation the railroads have to bear. In some States railroad managers complain that they have to spend from a quarter to over a half of their working hours in court sessions. In some States railroad agents would not accept rates established by the State Legislature, which had been enjoined by a Federal court. In other States, in similar circumstances, indictments have been brought against the railroad seeking the injunction. Alabama reduced rates and thereafter decreed that any railroad operating in the State which sought to question in court proceedings the acts of the Legislature or the State Railroad Commission should thereupon forfeit its license to operate in the State. One State has solemnly decreed that there must be a cuspidor between every two seats on passenger trains; an adjacent State forbids cuspidors as vulgar and unsanitary. One State requires screens in the windows of passenger coaches, and an adjoining State forbids screens.

"One byproduct of all this chaotic regulation has been an increase in ten years of eighty-seven per cent. in the number of general office clerks employed by the railroads and an increase of nearly 150 per cent. over \$40,000,000, in the amount of wages paid to them. During this period the gross earnings of the roads increased only fifty per cent. In the fiscal year of 1915 the railroads were compelled to furnish to the National and State Commission and other bodies over two million separate reports, and if duplicates are included, the total is swelled to three million. "The cost of State regulation to the railroads, to the shippers, to the public generally, is a staggering sum. It runs into hundreds of millions of dollars a year. The expense of merely maintaining the various State railroad commissions must be close to \$50,000,000 annually."

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It is now evident that Germany can reply to some notes much more promptly than to others.—Nashville Southern Lumberman. Entente Allies' New York resolutions seem more convincing than most.—Wall Street Journal. Peace comes roaring onward with all the meteoric rush of an invalid small with a ball and chain attached to his tail.—Kansas City Star. Secretary Lansing's postscript to the peace note suggest the advisability of having a woman in the Cabinet to handle such matters expertly.—Chicago Daily News. The Kaiser suggests holding the immediate peace conference in some "neutral city," which lets Milwaukee, Cincinnati and St. Louis out of the running.—La Crosse Leader-Press. A good example of the topsyturvy conditions growing out of the war is afforded by the arrest of those military aviators for participating in a peace demonstration in London.—Nashville Southern Lumberman. Peace proposals without terms are as dead as faith without works.—Louisville Post. Switzerland's peace proposals are beginning to look like a chunk of her famous dairy product.—Boston Transcript. It has been a great year for all financial institutions. Even the pawnshops report a record prosperity.—New York World.

He Retains the Brogue

[New York Sun] John McCormack, who has taken out naturalization papers, may call himself an American, but his brogue, the most delicious that ever came from the Land of the Shamrock, he never relinquish; and no Irishman will ever be able to compete with him in singing "Kathleen Mavourneen" and "Killarney."

OUR DAILY LAUGH

CAREFUL HUBBY. Does your husband subscribe to the theory that kissing transmits germs. No, he thinks the germs are mostly transmitted by money, and is very careful not to hand me any. LAUGHING STOCK. Are you laughing at me? demanded the professor sternly to his class. Oh, no sir, came the reply in chorus. Then, asked the professor even more grimly, what else is there in the room to laugh at?