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A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 1.

I know that there is nothing better for them, than to rejoice, and to do good so long as they live.

Ecl. 3, 42.

HEALTH INSURANCE

JOHN PRICE JACKSON, head of the Department of Labor and Industry, addressed Labor's Open Forum, Sunday on health insurance, touching upon a theme that has been attracting widespread attention recently. The United States public health service has issued a bulletin on the subject. It found that there are 30,000,000 wage earners in this country, and that each one of them averages a loss of nine days a year through sickness. Averaging the wages at \$2 a day, and estimating that each will spend \$11 a day while sick for a doctor and medicine, the total loss is \$800,000,000 a year, the bulletin says.

Commenting on this, the Kansas City Times says:

There is a further loss due to the percentage of the sick workers who die, and yet another loss to industry by having each worker sick nine days a year. Nearly all this loss is pure waste. No care is taken that it might be prevented. The Government found in its investigations that in the average factory in this country 50 per cent. of factories are a menace to the health of those who work in them. No care is taken to prevent poisonous dusts or gases and fumes from being breathed by workmen. Sanitation is neglected. Impure water is drunk. No provision is made for fresh air. The chance to become sick is aided by the neglect of the workman in many cases. Often he lives in insanitary houses, and neglects the ordinary rules of health.

It has been found by the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor that 96 per cent. of families assisted were destitute because of sickness or death of a wage earner. This report says that the average annual income of heads of families in the leading industries in this country is so small that when the head of the household becomes sick the tendency is to try and get along without the expense of doctors, thus prolonging the sickness and so for a long period the workman loses the only thing which enables him to earn anything—his health. Says the United States health service bulletin:

The waste from disability and death due to preventable disease is so tremendous that estimates mean nothing to the suffering and sorrow due to these causes should be sufficient argument for a health insurance law which will place adequate medical relief within the reach of all and provide for preventive measures on a broad and comprehensive plan. Such a law would prove to be the greatest public health measure ever enacted.

This kind of insurance has been worked out satisfactorily in Europe. Such a law would go a long way toward inducing employers to improve living and working conditions and interesting themselves in the welfare of their employes. The Labor Forum has opened up a very interesting line of discussion in Pennsylvania.

KANSAS CITY AND US

KANSAS CITY, having attained a large measure of home rule through State legislative enactment, has framed a charter and placed it before the voters for approval. Here are some of its provisions:

A city manager government. A daylight ordinance. The abolition of ward lines. A provision of supervised recall. Initiative, referendum and recall. Only three saloons in any one block. Ten Councilmen in place of thirty-two. Home rule in saloon control and regulation. Street cleaning department to collect garbage. Tax bill interest reduced from 7 to 6 per cent. City engineer head of public works department. Councilmen and mayor to form an administrative board. A plan whereby city can pay cash for any public improvement. City manager to name heads of all administrative departments. The city engineer to serve as deputy city manager when necessary. Only twelve elective officials: mayor, ten councilmen and excise commissioner. Majority of resident property owners may bar saloons from any given district. Only two city boards—civil service and city planning—instead of five boards as at present. Street repair districts in which a front foot tax is levied for maintenance of all streets in the district. The average, good-thinking citizen would run through the list and not find serious objection to any of the features outlined. Indeed, one and all they appear to make for good government. Nevertheless, Kansas City will not get its new charter without a fight. Professional politicians who see their occupations disappearing, contractors who have had "a good thing off the city" and saloon men who fear the effects of the local option clause are opposed to it. "Curtailed of personal liberties," framed

by highbrows, "one man power," and similar arguments are being used against it. Harrisburg is heading rapidly toward home rule. There is a strong undercurrent of sentiment in that direction in the Legislature. The first step will be taken during the present session. A few years hence we shall be framing a new charter for this city. The experience through which Kansas City is now passing will be repeated here. We would do well to observe closely what is transpiring. The same forces that oppose a reasonable, businesslike government for Kansas City will oppose such a charter for Harrisburg.

WILHELM, ARCH VILLAIN

THE Emperor of Germany stands to-day revealed to Americans as the arch villain of the world.

If ever there was any doubt that the Entente Allies are fighting the battles of America in their conflict with Germany, that doubt has been dissipated by the revelations of the past twenty-four hours.

In a moment it becomes perfectly clear that the power of Germany must be crushed if we in America may hope to live at peace with the world.

There is no enemy so dangerous as he who pretends friendship while plotting mischief. Protesting his everlasting good feeling for this country, the Kaiser was at one and the same time endeavoring to incite Mexico against us and trying to bribe Japan into the greatest piece of international treachery since the German invasion of Belgium. There is but one sure means of protection against such a foe—the creation of an armed force sufficient to render his plotting futile.

The publication of the Zimmerman letter leaves Congress no other course to pursue than to give the President all the power he may need not only to protect American shipping from submarine attack but to arm the nation against assault by sea or land.

We are going into this war. That much is certain. The important thing then to do is to prepare for it and to prepare at once. Even opponents of armed intervention in Mexico or participation in the land operations against Germany in Europe cannot reasonably object to measures taken purely for the protection of our own homes and firesides, from the invasion of a power the watchwords of which are ruthlessness and frightfulness.

The time has come when the whole resources of the country should be mobilized for defense against aggression from any source. We are rich and prosperous. We have the bulk of all the wealth in the world. We are, as somebody has said, like a countryman with both hands full of hundred dollar bills walking down the Bowery at midnight with no policeman in sight. But we have the materials from which to construct the most gigantic and efficient weapon of defense the world has ever seen. We can erect in a year an impassible barrier across the path of this monster who would be knocking at our gates the moment he would find Europe helpless at his feet. Or we can throw into the forces operating against him the weight that would tip the scales heavily in favor of his opponents.

We must act and act quickly. Congress and the President must work as a unit. There is no room now for political differences or personal bickerings. The safety of the nation is at stake, and nothing else matters.

ET TU BRUTE?

FRIENDS of the Underwood tariff law have pointed toward Great Britain whenever Republicans have raised their voices against the near-free trade Southern Democrats have foisted upon the United States. The attention of these is invited to a recent cable dispatch from London to the New York Tribune:

The report by Lord Balfour of Burleigh's committee on imperial preference has created enormous interest, as it shows unmistakable divergence from all traditional free trade ideas. The findings are the more remarkable because Lord Balfour and the majority of the committee were free traders before the war. The members of the old Manchester school are still ready to adhere to all their former ideas, but unquestionably the majority of the public regard colonial preference after the war as an accepted fact.

England, the great exponent of free trade, is seeing the folly of the policy.

KIPLING—PROPHET.

TWENTY years ago Rudyard Kipling, touring the United States, wrote some letters to a paper in India. In one of them he discussed our military strength—or was it weakness? He said that some morning there would be several million madmen in the United States because there would be occasion for them to fight and because they would want to fight, but there would be no guns for them. That day may now be near at hand.

KELLY—THE CLEANER UP RUBBING IT IN



By BRIGGS

Evening Chat

Approval by the Public Service Commission of an application for a man to operate a ferry across the Susquehanna, near McCall's Ferry, calls attention to the fact that such enterprises while numerous in the State, are among the fewest public utilities to be increased in recent years. The act of 1913 placed their control under the Commission and all new ferry propositions must have State approval. In all the time less than five ferry projects have been before the commission and that granted this week to a down-the-river man is the first for this section of the State since the act became effective. There are probably a dozen ferries operated on the Susquehanna within a radius of fifty miles of Harrisburg and some of them, especially between the Dauphin and Perry towns, are well-established enterprises and pay fairly well, although once in a while the service is apt to irritate one. The ferry companies granted charters have been very few in number and have been for southern waters from Pennsylvania, especially along the Monongahela and its tributaries. However, ferry rights are among the things which are pretty jealously guarded and no one will give one up. There are some old ferries which operate under charters that are yellow with age and which maintain regular service while there are others whose charters because of restrictions on bridges in their vicinages, are maintained by running of a boat once a month or even less frequently. A ferry is a pretty valuable thing even in these days of gasoline and frequent bridges.

With the return of the Eighth regiment but one Harrisburg guardsman remains at the border. He is Walter F. Stroup, a member of the Governor's Troop, Troop C, "First Pennsylvania Cavalry," and is in the military base hospital at the United States army post at Fort Bliss, Texas, about two and a half miles from the site of Camp Stewart. Trooper Stroup was badly injured at drill with the troop last August when his horse fell and fell on his rider, fracturing his hip. The horse was one of the "outlaws," of which the troop had several and he fell to young Stroup in the allotment of mounts when the thoroughly "green" animals were received from the Government. A trooper at Fort Bliss, Trooper Stroup was taken to the hospital and operated on at once. The break was a serious one and the many surgeons were afraid the injured leg would be amputated. In order to remedy that several other operations were necessary and the hip was enclosed in a plaster cast for several weeks. In a letter written a short time ago Trooper Stroup says he is now walking about the hospital on crutches. He expects to be discharged in a few days. He is recovering and will come home soon. Young Stroup says he is homesick, now that all his comrades in the Governor's Troop are at Fort Bliss. Trooper Stroup is an excellent cavalryman and his comrades in the Governor's Troop are anxious to join them. When Trooper Stroup returns to his home at 1337 Howard street, he will be greeted by a daughter, now only a few weeks old, whom he has never seen.

It is astonishing the size and number of the trains which are being sent east through this city by the two big railroad systems and the quantities of provisions there would not be much difficulty about feeding people in the large cities. Some of the trains passing through this city are as heavy as the engines can draw and glance at the cards tacked on the cars show that they are going to tide water. The reports of shortages of coal in other cities should be understood when one sees the trains of coal that pass this city and the same is true when one sees the special fast freight trains made up of cars of provisions that go east at certain times each day. The fact is that the materials they contain, whether for fuel or eating, are all bought by the residents of this city who is posted on transportation says that every twenty-four hours shipments through Harrisburg contain provisions and coal worth millions and millions of dollars.

A scarlet cardinal was seen the other day in Wildwood Park, and a scarlet cardinal according to one who loves birds. Hundreds of very blue blue birds likewise greeted strollers in the country during the spring-like days of early March. When they shed their overcoats and adopt low shoes, the more or less indefinable unrest which seizes upon the youth in springtime more familiarly known as spring fever, continuing up visions of long drives to center field and flashes of lightning around the bases, as well as inciting enthusiasts, from the aged and infirm to the young, to physical exertions suggestive of the full St. Andrews swing, was present last Saturday in great bunches. Curious ones passing golf courses exclaimed, "How do you expect to get to the ground frowned back uninvitingly and the sticks were replaced in the bag." Pretty soon, however, pretty soon!

Vesta Furnace near Marietta which is being rehabilitated by the Lavino interests of Philadelphia to manufacture ferro-manganese was formerly owned by Harrisburgers. It is one of the old furnaces of the lower Susquehanna Valley and has changed hands a good many times. The neighborhood which it occupies has been making iron for over 100 years. The sister furnace, across the river at Wrightsville, used to be called Aurora. Vesta is one of the few furnaces left in the Columbia district.

"You have been printing some interesting matters about foodstuffs; now listen to this," remarked a business man to a printer. "How do you account for eggs selling by the case at forty-five cents on Saturday and thirty-five to-day? Give me the answer, I have to go up against changes in price like this. Why a man came in to my place and offered me eggs on Saturday at forty-five and insisted they were scarce and liable to go up. To-day he came in and I bought the same eggs at thirty-five."

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Albert H. Swing, the new mayor of Coatesville, was formerly postmaster. —Alexander McFadyen, the Pittsburgher who wrote a new national anthem, is a musician and pianist. —General Charles Miller has taken up the active work of the Galena Signal Oil Company in spite of his age. —Bishop Garvey, of Altoona, who has been ill, has gone to Atlantic City to recuperate. —W. Boyd, of Stoneboro, well known among Western Pennsylvanians, has been chosen as president of the Northwestern State Fair Association.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg is making a dozen or more lines of supplies for the government?

MARK TWAIN HID IN PIGPEN

Rather Than Ride With Henry James, the Humorist "Disappeared"

SEVERAL weeks ago Col. George Harvey made a most interesting address at the anniversary of the Phi Beta Kappa at William and Mary College, says the Washington Times. He did not touch on politics and was at his best. For an hour or so he kept his brilliant audience on edge as he told about some of the literary lights he had known. The stories about Henry James and Mark Twain were particularly delicious. According to Harvey, Mr. Clemens and Mr. James despised each other. James did not know that the world was moving on; what had been when he came back, after he had been living for years in England. Many changes had been made, but he would not admit it. His eyes could not see other than the evidence of his eyes. But the most amusing experience of Harvey with these two high lights in the literary heavens was when they were both his guests at his country estate at the same time. He had some work to do, and thought it over to himself how he could get rid of both of them for a brief space while he went to his workshop, and he conceived the brilliant idea of sending them off together in his car to see how the town had grown since their last visit. If it had worked out the idea would have been little short of genius; but it did not. Henry James was ready for the ride, but Mark Twain suddenly disappeared as if the earth had opened and swallowed him up. What had become of Mr. Clemens? He could not be found upstairs or down, in the garden or at the kennels, and Mr. James was getting more nervous every minute. Ten minutes passed, fifteen minutes, and the whole place was upset while Mr. James fretted at the disappearance of the gentleman who had been wished on him for a ride which neither of them cared to take, at least in each other's company. Having exhausted all the possible hiding places at the castle, further search was made for Mr. Clemens in the adjacent grove, and one of the men almost party in passing a pigpen was almost startled by some voice saying, "S-h, s-h, s-h!" Approaching the pen the searching party found Mr. Clemens squatting in the corner of the pen and saying: "S-h, s-h; don't tell anybody you saw me."

Rhymes From the Nursery

Nursery Land Oh, a wondrously fine place is Nursery Land, Where everything's pleasant and everything's grand; The people who live there are busy as bees, They rest not a moment—they build on their knees The longest of trains, that through dark tunnels creep— And they hammer and plane, and when they're dressmakers fine, and milliners, too, Bookmakers and singers—I'll venture that you'll find them all here. With all of your learning and culture so grand Could ne'er fashion a place quite like Nursery Land! And the languages spoken in Nursery Land! You never could learn them nor yet Baby talks Goo-Goo, and brother talks slang, The next to the baby, well, twingy-twang! His twaddle's a cross between English and French, The words seem to come with a sort of a wrench! And big sister pulls off a new sort of stunt, She calls "piggy language"—she says with a grunt "Oh, don't do do—youski d' thinkski it's grand!" Yet Harmony reigneth in Nursery Land. And they're quite democratic in Nursery Land, Though Babe tries to rule them with heavy iron hand; 'Tis true they will bow to him once in a while, And sometimes they kiss his wee feet if he smile, Yet the ruling of this most miraculous place, Is the voice of the people—the Vox Populace. The Presidents oft changes as one would discern, And whenever there's trouble Congress doth adjourn— But though they may quarrel they never disband, But live on and prosper in Nursery Land. —By Edna Groff Delih, Paxtang, Pa.

Were as Busy as Bees

(From the New York Mail) One of the oldest assertions of the bee-keepers has been that honey could not be adulterated with success, but health department inspectors have found a full blown honey plant in the basement of a private home in Manhattan. There were no bees at work in the plant when it was raided, but there were half a dozen women and a mah as busy as bees with pots and pans about a stove. They were boiling up a concoction, the chief ingredients of which were sugar and about 10 per cent of genuine honey. The plant was discovered after honey purchasers had complained they were receiving adulterated honey.

Labor Notes

Canadian cigarmakers at Montreal, London and Hamilton have secured an increase in pay. An eight-hour day and six-day week may be granted all State employes in California. Improved working conditions have been granted workers in Canadian munition plants. Frisco Municipal Street Carmen's Union asks \$3.40 a day for platform men. Road workers have been granted a wage bonus of 50 cents weekly by the Middleton, Ireland, Urban Council. It has been decided by the British government to take over the railways of Ireland. Little Rock, Ark., bricklayers ask an increase from 75 cents per hour to \$7 1/2 cents, effective March 1. On February 26, at Cleveland, Ohio, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees of America will convene.

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

The first church of the Zion Lutheran congregation was built by Stephen Hills, architect of the old State Capitol.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

SOMETHING FINER. The vine-clad cottage, be it said— The one our daddies used to know: Is seldom seen. We have instead The mortgage-covered bungalow. TOO LATE. I'm going to the ball game this afternoon. I'm anxious to see our new ball player. My dear, it won't do you a bit of good to go. I saw by the paper that he died trying to steal third. FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. Do you believe women ought to smoke? Indeed not. A box of cigarettes has enough hands to grab from it as it is.

