

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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E. J. STACKPOLE, Pres't and Editor-in-Chief
F. R. OYSTER, Business Manager
GUS M. STEINMETZ, Managing Editor.



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THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 29

No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him; there is always work, and tools to work withal, for those who will.—LOWELL.

PATRIOTISM

And there was tumult in the air. The fife's shrill note, the drum's loud beat, And through the wide land everywhere...

So sang Buchanan Reed in his poem, "The Wagoner of the Alleghenies," inspired by the rising of '76. It is a stirring bit of verse. In imagination one sees the "embattled farmers" of New England...

Their example must be before us in these days when the honor of the nation they founded is assailed. We enjoy the blessings of liberty and all the good things that make America the Mecca for oppressed and down-trodden of all the world...

AN IMPRESSIVE GATHERING

If anybody had any doubt of the inherent patriotism of the citizenry of Pennsylvania, that doubt has been dissolved by the splendid response of a large number of prominent citizens to the call of Governor Brumbaugh to serve as a Committee of Public Safety.

Throughout the conference at the Executive Department yesterday there was displayed the highest type of patriotic devotion to the interests of the State and the nation. It would be difficult to conceive of anything more impressive than this gathering of influential and busy men from every corner of the Commonwealth to consider the mobilization of the resources of the State for the proper support of the government in this great national crisis.

Governor Brumbaugh himself made a most impressive address setting forth his view of the situation and emphasizing the importance of co-ordinating all the departments of the State's industrial and individual activities for and in the interest of the national defense.

It was a thoughtful and patriotic and impressive statement of the conditions which demand the most intelligent consideration of the people of the State. That the Governor realizes the importance of the service which these influential citizens have been summoned to perform has been best demonstrated in the high character of those men who have been invited to undertake the work which was outlined to the conference held here yesterday.

The Governor also has been widely commended for the choice of the chairman of this committee. George Wharton Pepper demonstrated in his remarks of yesterday and in the manner in which he assumed the discharge of the grave responsibilities which will rest upon him in directing the affairs of the committee that he is alive to the importance of what must be done to mobilize the resources of the State for the proper support of the national government.

This general committee will give force and inspiration to local committees everywhere throughout Pennsylvania and it is the hope of the Governor and those who are upholding his hands in this crisis that there will be no waste effort, no lost motion,

but on the contrary co-operation of the most effective and efficient character. Pennsylvania always has maintained her position as a great patriotic Commonwealth and there is every promise now that it will be found ready to meet every call upon its people or its wonderful resources.

HELP THE BOYS!

WHO will help the boys of Harrisburg "do their bit"?

A few days ago the TELEGRAPH suggested that the greatest patriotic service the boys of the city could perform would be to go extensively into the work of backyard and vacant lot gardening. Yesterday there appeared on the editorial page of this newspaper a letter of endorsement from a correspondent, who expresses the belief that much good could be accomplished if the boys are properly organized and their work supervised by a trained gardener.

This is a good idea. There should be in Harrisburg some man rich enough and generous enough and patriotic enough to perform this service to the community, for there can be no doubt that it would be a service of most substantial kind.

Gardening, to be successful, must be done properly from the very beginning. This is no time for experimentation. The yield from the vacant ground of the city can be wonderfully increased by proper attention and direction. City boys know little about gardening, but they can easily learn. No great skill is required. All that is needed is intelligent instruction. And the crops the boys would raise would do much to keep down living costs in the city and add to the local food supply.

Who will come forward with sufficient money to make gardeners of hundreds of Harrisburg boys who are ready to volunteer? Why will they help them "do their bit" for their country?

THE RUSH TO ENLIST

THE recent rush to enlist in both the army and the navy illustrates a curious effect that war or the threat of war has always had on American youth. So long as the country is peaceful and the military and naval branches are performing merely routine duties, it is next to impossible to get men to keep their numbers up even to the full peace quota. But the moment the eagle screams and war clouds begin to gather, the recruiting offices are overcrowded.

The men who go into the navy today do so with their eyes open. They fully understand that there will be a perilous service. Hunting the submarine is exciting, but it is also dangerous. Yet that is the work to which a large majority of the recruits desire to be assigned.

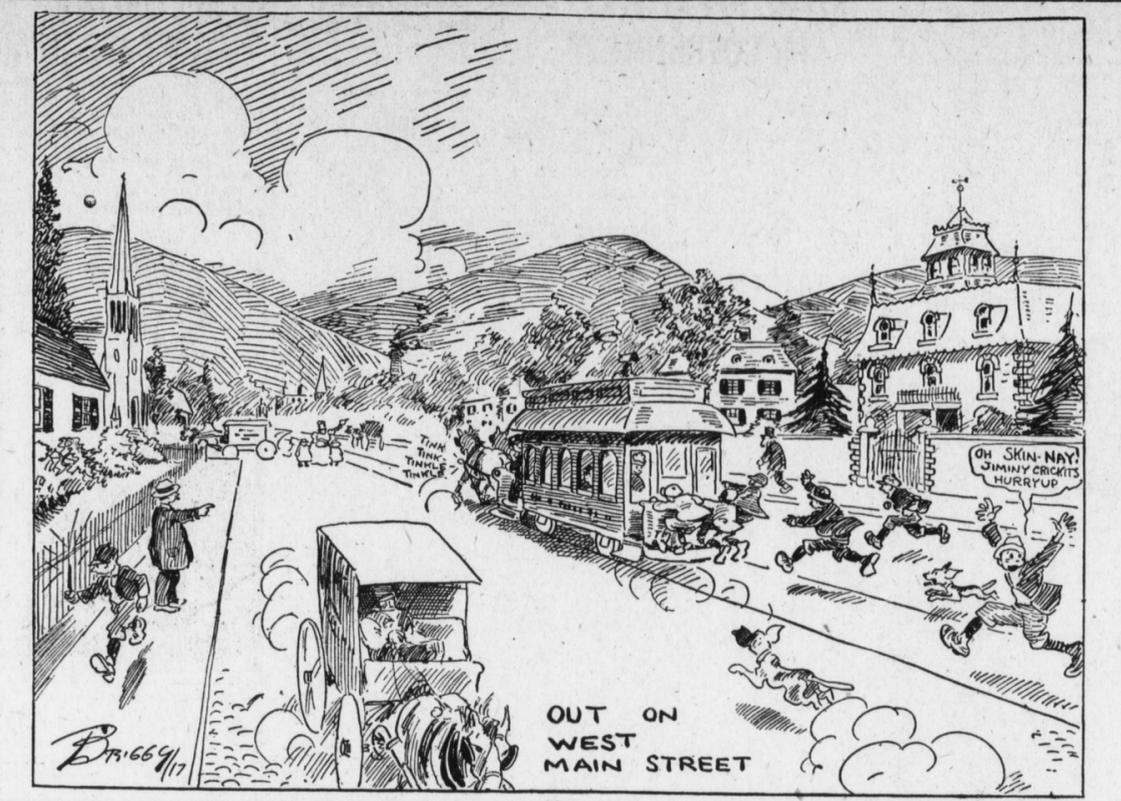
CAPITOL PARK EXTENSION

Governor BRUMBAUGH and members of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings expect to formulate promptly the legislation necessary for the treatment of the Capitol Park Zone during the next two years.

This legislation will include an act authorizing the city of Harrisburg to co-operate with the State in working out the several problems, provide for the transfer of such land as may be necessary and obtain an appropriation for the immediate grading of the park area, the planning of grass plots and the planting of trees.

Governor Brumbaugh and those who have been interested with him in the project hope in this way that the people will be able to appreciate at once something of the meaning of the proposed park and thus lead the way for subsequent assemblies to erect buildings to care for the State's business as the needs arise. It may be said to the credit of the Governor and those associated with him on the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings that they have gone about the solution of the problems involved in the planning of the Capitol Park extension in a broad and comprehensive way and those who follow will be able to complete the scheme of improvement in such a manner as to conform with the dignity and importance of the Commonwealth. It is the hope of all concerned that full provision will be made at the present session of the Legislature not only for the planting that ought to be done as soon as possible, but also for the widening of the streets abutting on the park. The landscape designers who are working out the plans see no reason why the width of these streets should not be increased without further delay, inasmuch as this feature of the improvement will not interfere in any respect with the general develop-

The Days of Real Sport



Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The proposed legislative check upon governors and mayors who seek to dismiss officials for political reasons, a measure born of the abrupt changes made in the State government just prior to the speaker's contest last winter, was affirmatively recommended by the committee of the House in charge last night and will reach the lower branch next week.

The resolution would have to pass the present Legislature and the next before going to the people. The Governor, the most concerned, has nothing to do with it. It provides, in brief, that there shall be no dismissals except in the manner that the Legislature prescribes. This is aimed to stop such dismissals as those of Superintendent of the Capitol Rambo and Commissioner of Banking Smith without charges being filed and hearings given.

The committee in charge also reported out the bills providing that Philadelphia city employees shall neither be assessed nor contribute for political purposes and that they shall not take part in politics. The bills are designed to go with the Hefferman bill which has been the cause of two airings of the Philadelphia scrap and which will probably furnish another opportunity.

Still a Winning Fight

(Public Ledger, Philadelphia.)

It cannot be said that the defeat of the local option bill in the House was unexpected. Every one knows what influences have been brought to bear upon the legislators at Harrisburg. The fight for this measure has been the one bright spot in Governor Brumbaugh's administration, but the party bosses have proved too strong for him. Doubtless conscientious conviction was represented in some of the affirmative votes. There are persons who, though they may believe in the proper regulation of the liquor traffic, do not see that the most just and the most effective way to keep it within bounds is to confer upon the voters the right to select or prohibit it. There are differences of opinion as to the unit of option, whether it be the country or the town, or even the city ward; but these are questions of minor importance in relation to those of the main question. A familiar objection to prohibition is that it may be imposed upon communities without their consent, as when the centers of population have voted to prohibit it. It is carried by the country districts. In such cases the enforcement of the law becomes a difficult matter and conditions become more deplorable than ever since the moral effect of a law that is not enforced is always bad. That objection does not attach to local option, which gives every community exactly what the majority of the voters want.

Defeated though it be for the moment, this reform is one which is bound to come in Pennsylvania. The people will not forever permit the saloon evil to exist against their will. It is not necessary to take extreme views, to argue that the use of liquor is always and everywhere a crime, in order to concede the right of the public to restrict it in the interest of the public welfare, or even to eliminate it if that is the only way to check its bad effects. Nothing is more certain than that the second alternative will finally be adopted if the first is refused. Indeed, one reason, perhaps the chief reason for the growth of prohibition sentiment has been the stupid obstinacy of the liquor dealers in opposing salutary reforms in the conduct of their business. Thus many who have no scruples against the moderate use of alcohol, who would willingly license responsible hotels and restaurants, have come to see that the saloon as such, carried on too often by men without a sense of obligation to their fellows, is a menace which demands vigorous action. They are not fanatics, they have no wish to interfere unduly with the habits of others; but they will not much longer permit a great Commonwealth to remain helpless in the grasp of an element that chooses to ally itself with the forces of social and political corruption. No temporary defeat will turn them from this determination.

Decidedly Cool

(From the Tuttle, N. D., Star.)

At the burning of a barn in Steele recently our superintendent displayed some nerve and pluck. Miss Sherman did not wait for the men to get there, but hastened to the barn without stopping to dress, and in bare feet untied the horses before they had become unmanageable, thus saving them with little trouble. There is not a man, we venture to say, in all Steele but would have stopped to put on his pants before venturing out into the crisp air, but she did not, her whole thought being of the dumb animals imperiled, and it was, indeed, a nervy and cool-headed performance.

Probably

(From the Providence Journal.)

If the Maine Legislature passes the bill to prevent the sale of cigarettes, will the new act be enforced along the lines of the Pine Tree anti-liquor laws?

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Abolishing Death Penalty

To the Editor of the Telegraph:

As on Saturday you published an anonymous but lengthy article advocating the death penalty, may I ask that in fairness which I think you always try to maintain, that you will publish another, but much shorter. Last Tuesday the House of Representatives had more speakers than could be heard in three hours' time to speak in favor of the abolition of capital punishment, and no one could be found to say a word in opposition to them. Only one speaker advocated giving the jury the right to decide for or against the death penalty. The proposition is in the form of an amendment to the constitution and is another piece of political dynamite. Its consideration will probably lead to a fresh outburst of factional political speeches and the perennial Philadelphia row will be dragged out again on Capitol Hill.

The resolution would have to pass the present Legislature and the next before going to the people. The Governor, the most concerned, has nothing to do with it. It provides, in brief, that there shall be no dismissals except in the manner that the Legislature prescribes. This is aimed to stop such dismissals as those of Superintendent of the Capitol Rambo and Commissioner of Banking Smith without charges being filed and hearings given.

Men who observe politics are wondering what would be the effect if the Philadelphia reform bill now being urged by the dominant faction in the Legislature, but not in the State or city administrations, should become law and there would be another of those changes of control which Philadelphia works out every now and then. For years the Shern law has been invoked to stop political activity. The newest set of bills which are backed by the committee of seventy, are designed to put teeth in the Shern law.

Incidentally, it might be added that Daniel J. Shern, the former floor leader in the House and for whom the law mentioned was named, may be a candidate for Senator to succeed Samuel W. Salus. It has been Shern's desire for years to get into the Senate.

Considerable criticism of the legislation for forming the resolution to support the President become a football of factional politics has been heard about the city. It is not impossible that the conference committee which will be put in charge of the measure next week will take its time about reporting a compromise.

This session is about as prolific as any known in recent years in the way of liquor legislation. It varies from the restrictive to the wide open. The chances are that there will be precious little done about new liquor bills.

The Lynch bill repealing the non-partisan law insofar as it relates to the nomination and election of second class city officers has been reported from the Senate Elections Committee of which Senator James P. McNeel is chairman. Ex-Mayor John Von Bergen of Scranton and other prominent citizens of that city are asking for the repeal. The bill will be on first reading Monday and can be considered finally in the Senate next week. If there is any desire to hurry action on it, if the repeal goes through, the mayor and five councilmen to be chosen this fall in Pittsburgh and Scranton would be nominated and elected on partisan tickets. Senator W. P. Graff has presented a bill to repeal the portions of the law relating to the judiciary. It is understood that both measures can go before the Senators at the same time.

An Inconceivable Humiliation

(From the Providence Journal.)

This is a world struggle, and if the United States is to win back any measure of the confidence and admiration we have lost in the eyes of the world by our failure to maintain our national rights since the sinking of the Lusitania, we must perform enter this struggle with every atom of energy we possess. To enter into the war, to declare to the world that we are in arms against Germany and then sit back and make faces would be a humiliation that it is inconceivable to contemplate.

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To the First Gun

Speak, silent, patient gun! And let thy mighty voice Proclaim the deed is done— 'Made is the nobler choice; To every waiting people run And bid the world rejoice.

Tell them our heaving heart Has found its smiting hand, That craves to be a part Of the divine command. Speak, prove us more than ease or mart, And vindicate the land.

Thine shall the glory be To mark the sacred hour That testifies the free Will neither cringe nor cower. God give thy voice divinity, That Right be armed with Power.

Thou art not lifeless steel With but a number given, But messenger of weal— 'Hot with the wrath of Heaven, Go earn the right to Honor's seal— To have for Honor strive.

Lead us in holy ire The path our fathers trod; The sword shall through the sod. Shall thrill them through the sod. The smoke of all thy righteous choir Is incense unto God.

And when long Peace is found And thou hast earned thy rest, And in thy cave of sound The sparrow builds her nest, By Liberty shalt thou be crowned Of all thy comrades best— Robert Underwood Johnson, in the New York Times.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

"Not eating meat?" "I haven't eaten any meat for three months." "Dieting or boycotting?"

Evening Chat

Persons who have been studying the proposed plan for improvement of the Capitol Park Extension district have been astonished at the amount of traffic that passes over the State street bridge.

Removal of the houses in the Eighth Ward facilitates the observation of the conditions attending the traffic and an automobile a minute is nothing uncommon at certain hours of the day. One would think that with the Mulberry street bridge and the Market street subway quite a considerable part of the traffic going to the Hill section would be taken care of but the growth north of Market street is well demonstrated by the number of vehicles going over the bridge spanning the Pennsylvania tracks at State street. By and by when the Hill builds up still more north of Foster street there will be a large amount of traffic carried through the Herr street subway and the State street traffic will increase as well as that of the Hill section. The improvement of the park district North and Walnut streets will converge at the entrance to the new bridge which is to start somewhere near the present location of the ornamental type and of such a gradual ascent that it will fit into the general plan for beautification. The bridge will be a large affair, capable of taking care of traffic from the central part of the Hill, the far-out section and even that portion north of Foster street. It would be the part of wisdom, say the observers, to begin the construction of the bridge at an early day.

There were probably more prominent men in Harrisburg yesterday than for a very long time. The meeting of the Governor's State-wide Committee on Public Safety and the hearings on the "mine cave" and other bills brought to this city captains of business and men prominent in the official and civic life of practically every city in the State. Indeed, there never has been in the new Capitol, not even on the day of its dedication or on any of the historic occasions since, such a gathering of men eminent in the affairs of Pennsylvania. Men of the highest household words and who have been making the marvelous history of the business, the life and affairs of the State. Indeed, there never has been a room at the Capitol yesterday in such number that Chairman Pepper was led to make a striking remark. Discussing the need for finances to organize the State he said that if he could get one-tenth of the wealth represented at that meeting he could carry on almost any project. Some one who heard him said that he could conduct a war even under the terrific expensive conditions of modern days for a while.

James Scarlet, the Danville lawyer, told an amusing and yet tragic story yesterday in appearing before the committee hearing the "mine cave" bill. He said that people in some districts of the hard coal fields never know when their houses would sink into the ground. He read a letter from one company to a man in which he was requested to make some arrangements in case of damage. The man who got the letter had a sense of humor even in disaster. He replied that his house had sunk into a hole caused by a cave-in of a mine several hours before he had received the letter. He requested his acceptance of a proposition in ten days. "Naturally," said Mr. Scarlet, "he was unable to take advantage of the proposition by mail."

A good many interesting stories are being told about the old Commonwealth hotel which is to go out of business as a hotel on Saturday. Some of the traveling men who have been "making" Harrisburg for a long time are sorry that it will pass from the active list. There are some mercenary men who have been coming to Harrisburg for twenty-five or thirty years and some of their names have been regularly written on the registers. Several of these men, last night in the hotel lobby and told stories of "Jim" Russ and of the times they had to get beds in days of political contests. Some of the traveling men have gotten so accustomed to the work that the hotel that they say they will feel homeless when they come to Harrisburg.

The spring time is a great time for people to go to night fires. An alarm of fire any hour before midnight will bring out folks who would not think of turning out if the weather was wintry. Last night's alarm came in time to catch the crowds from the "movies" and folks walked for blocks to go to see the excitement and to follow the machines. A number of automobiles they turned out by scores. A fire in fine weather after a long winter is one of the greatest occasions to stir up excitement and give a fine excuse to turn out in the evening.

Harry S. McDevitt, the solicitor of the State Economy and Efficiency Commission who drew up the report which has been so much discussed, used to be a Philadelphia newspaperman, having been a member of the staff of the Press for years. It was while he was in newspaper work that he became interested in research work, which he has turned to good advantage of the State.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Senator W. E. Crow, of Fayette, has a fad for Holstein cattle and owns a fine stud. —George Wharton Pepper, chairman of the Safety Committee, is a Pittsburgh graduate. —Judge Gunnison of Erie, who has heretofore been much interested in Harrisburg's treatment of its river front. —Col. C. C. Allen, who commands the First Infantry just mobilized, is a regular army officer. —Mayor McDowell, of Chester, has proclaimed a "flag day" for next Monday in his city.

DO YOU KNOW

—That Harrisburg does a tremendous business in the printing of labels for food products? —Historic Harrisburg State-wide gatherings of men interested in politics were held here as early as 1818. —If We Are in Earnest (From the Boston Advertiser) Ever since the Gulf Light Armble and Lusitania were sunk the Entente report has been lighting our battles. It is as certain, we are to be at war with Germany, will it be as a mere sham or in earnest? If the former, surely we should "go it alone" and make a pretense of keeping the peace terms later; and that must be to aid the Entente in whatever way their council of war finds necessary.

Belated Energy

(From the Rocky Mountain News) "Franklin's Orders Submarine Chasers Built 'for Delivery in Sixty Days.' Why didn't he order them sixty days ago?" "Did your husband write you poetry before you were married?" "No; but he used to write me what we both thought was poetry."