

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 14.

Men forget That great hearts suffer greatly; yet God comforteth the comforter. Blanche Fearing.

HAVE THEY ANYTHING BETTER?

OPPOSITION on the part of friends of the Clark act—how it happens that this choice bit of legislative absurdity has no friends is not explained—has developed against the Beldeman small council bill. It is explained that this measure "is a step backward from the ultimate goal of city management."

If city management is the "ultimate goal"—and the TELEGRAPH is persuaded that this form of government should have a trial—why not get to it at once? Why fritter away time trying to patch up a law that, by its very fundamentals, is designed to place the administration of cities in the hands of paid councilmen?

The Clarkites hold up their hands in holy horror at the mere mention of politics in municipal government, but they play directly into the hands of the little men who want to be councilmen for the \$2,500 a year involved when they oppose an unsalaried council. The Clark act has proved itself an utter failure. If the Beldeman bill is no better, then why, in the name of the efficiency they prattle so much about, do not some of its opponents come forward with legislation that will correct the evils into which Harrisburg and other cities of its class have been forced by a law that is not only poorly drawn but unwise in nearly every one of its provisions? The people are not wedded to any bill or law, but they are insistent upon some change for the better.

THE FLAG AT THE FRONT.

THERE is more than a merely sentimental reason for clothing the American flyers at the French front in the uniform of the United States army and having them carry the Stars and Stripes on their machines as they fly over the German trenches.

The effect will be to hearten the British and French fighters, who will be thus reminded daily of their new and powerful ally beyond the seas, and at the same time to disturb the morale of the Germans, who will see in the new flag among the standards of their enemies another potent factor in the already overwhelming array against them.

Let the flag fly. It has ever been the symbol of freedom where the hosts of liberty have striven against the armed forces of autocracy. It has never known defeat. It will not be performing a new duty along the bloody line in France; it will be living up to the highest traditions of its glorious history.

PURELY A HOME GUARD

GOVERNOR BRUMBAUGH has wisely asked Adjutant General Stewart to provide for a secondary branch of the National Guard of Pennsylvania to take the places of the men who will go into the federal service with the first call to arms.

Only by such means can an adequate home guard be organized. The division that will be formed to fill the vacancies no doubt will be organized for the period of the war and it will not be subject to summons for duty outside the State, for the reason that the army to be raised by selective conscription under the proposed new laws will eliminate the possibility of a fresh draft on the National Guard.

The likelihood is that the new force will be made up largely of men too old for enlistment in the first line army, but who are desirous of serving their country as soldiers. These troops could be used in protecting bridges and munition plants and otherwise safeguarding the public.

THE PATRIOTIC PARADE

HARRISBURG'S great patriotic parade, to be held next Saturday afternoon, gives promise of being the biggest celebration of its kind in the history of the city. It should be. Chief Marshal E. Laubenstein expressed the sentiment of the occasion adequately when he said: "I hope to see so many in line of march that the spectators on the sidewalks will be largely made up of out-of-town visitors." It is "Everybody's Patriotic Parade" and everybody who can march should participate.

The time is very short for preparation. All organizations planning to take part should let the chief mar-

shal or his secretary, William Laubenstein, know at the earliest possible moment. The task before the committee in charge is heavy and it should have all the assistance possible, so that proper arrangements may be made for divisions and division marshals.

HARDSCRABBLE SETTLEMENT

MORE power to City Solicitor John E. Fox in his effort to bring the Hardscrabble matter to a final conclusion. It is high time that the delays of the law should be overcome in this proposed improvement. It ought to be possible in conserving the rights of the city and the property owners to bring the whole matter to a final determination in the Dauphin county courts. It is the insufferable routine of postponement and continuance and motion and counter-motion that has caused universal unrest among the people over the law's delay.

We believe Judges Kunkel and McCarell and City Solicitor Fox realize that sufficient time has been given to the consideration of every possible point involved in this controversy and that they will not be disposed to permit further dawdling for no good purpose.

City Solicitor Fox is understood to have in course of preparation sufficient bonds of the city to cover any possible damage to any property owner and under these circumstances the interest of every individual will be amply protected in going forward with an improvement which has been under consideration for a generation or more.

SUGGESTION TO CHIEF WETZEL

CHIEF OF POLICE WETZEL is doing so well in so many directions, with the efficient co-operation of his force, that we have no doubt a friendly suggestion from this newspaper would have consideration. Instead of the policemen at the street intersections making themselves rigid sign posts for automobiles and other traffic, why would it not be a good thing to introduce the traffic signs which are utilized in all large cities? These signs are easily seen at a considerable distance and the officer would be relieved of much annoyance resulting from careless or indifferent motorists, who either are not able to understand his signals or pretend not to do so.

Chief Wetzel and his subordinates are manifestly doing their utmost to improve the service and in this they will have the hearty co-operation and support of every good citizen. Anything which will assist them in their difficult work should be provided and we believe the intersection sign boards which can be raised and lowered at will, will be a help in traffic regulation.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the police department is finding the imposing of penalties a rather helpful way of enforcing the municipal regulations. A few examples of those responsible for infraction of the law throughout the park system would have equally beneficial results. So long as malicious offenders are permitted to go free when they could easily be apprehended and punished just so long will the deceptions along the River Front and elsewhere continue to the cost of the city and the disgust of all orderly citizens.

Park Commissioner Gross has a difficult job in his supervision of the park system, but a little of the iron hand instead of back-patting and "you're-a-good-fellow" stuff would accomplish a great deal in the right direction.

STAND AND BE COUNTED

LET the Germans in Congress stand and be counted! We must have an army and have it as quickly as possible. The President and the heads of the military have told us that after mature deliberation and study of war conditions abroad they are convinced selective conscription is the method to pursue. Yet there are those in Congress who would stand in the way.

Every man who puts himself in opposition to the swift and efficient assembling of a great armed force does so to the peril of the nation. None can tell what a day in Europe may bring forth. Just now it looks as though our greatest task may be the clearing the seas, the feeding of the allied peoples and the loaning to the war-stripped nations who are fighting our battles the vast sums required to keep their soldiers in the field. But to-morrow may bring another story. Germany is not whipped by any manner of means. The need of American men at the French front may become a grim necessity any time.

Shall the crisis find us wanting? Shall Congress be permitted to play into the hands of the enemy by denying the country an army in time of war? Let the Germans in Congress stand and be counted!

We ought to know at once who they are.

THE ST. LOUIS

THE St. Louis, the first American armed ship to leave our shores, and also the first to make a European port in safety, is a true-blue American vessel. She belongs to the American Line, she was built in an American shipyard and she has always flown the American flag. She is one of the four ships which took on the Stars and Stripes under the wise legislation enacted by the first of the Tom Reed Congresses, when that sturdy American, Benjamin Harrison, was President.

Had that legislation been perpetuated, we would now be in possession of a fleet of ocean liners in which we could take pride; and there would be no need, even argumentatively, for a shipping board—made up of land-lubbers, by the way—to seek means to put our flag upon the seas.

SOMEbody IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



Martyrs of Petrograd

The revolution which brought liberty and rights of citizenship to the millions of Russia cost the lives of only 180 patriots. The toll seems wonderfully small when it is considered in connection with the immense results. To throw off, in a single week, the burden of despotism was itself miraculous. But to achieve the seemingly unachievable at a cost of only 180 lives is almost beyond belief.

In a year of peace the killing of 180 citizens would be appalling. In 1917 it seems nothing. Ten times as many are killed in utterly futile engagements in many parts of Europe. In an official report of the fighting on the Stokholm, Petrograd admits the loss of two regiments from which only a few tens escaped alive. But death on the battlefield and death in a struggle for domestic liberty are two different sacrifices. Russia cannot stop to mourn of itself the thousands who may be fighting the Germans at the Stokholm; but Petrograd did pause to give a public funeral to the men who gave their lives for liberty.

The 180 who died in the revolution were no more sincere patriots than those Russians who have died in the war against Prussianism. But they did the unexpected thing any patriot might do: they brought an immediate result almost beyond the hope of the Russian people.

Germany's Last Hope

Until recently there may have been in some minds a fear the war might end indecisively, in a sort of deadlock, in some quality defeat for Germany. The entry of the United States as an ally of the Entente makes it absolutely certain to any who before doubting that any slight nation might be able to bring the war to a close, that the German military power has been humbled in the dust, the German dynasty hurled from the throne, and that the German people have been made free by the wrongs done France, Belgium, Serbia and Rumania; Alsace and Lorraine restored, parts of Austria given to Rumania and Russia, the Turk expelled from Europe and probably Poland established as a kingdom under Russian protection. The wealth of the United States will be at the service of the Allies for attaining their ends. In the next few months the United States should be producing more artillery pieces, machine guns, rifles, shells and other munitions than any slight nation has a population estimated at 100,000,000. Its manpower has not been affected by the war as has been the manpower of all the belligerents. From the tremendous reservoir of Allies may draw armies of millions, if the war continues long enough. The one chance in a million that Germany might somehow come out of this war unwhipped of justice has been removed by the entry of the United States, with its large financial resources and capacity for producing war materials and foodstuffs.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Food Control and Prices

J. Ogden Armour's remarks upon the food situation will command instant attention. Besides being one of the greatest of provision merchants he is powerful in the speculative markets, and his knowledge of conditions is unquestioned.

Germany's recommending national control of food production and prices at once, Mr. Armour assumes that a policy inevitable soon or late may wisely be adopted now than a year hence, after the military situation has been done. This war may yet be won on American farms. We must feed the Allies and we must protect our own people against want and extortion. To be remiss here would be as disastrous as failure upon the firing line.

If prices of the great food staples have already gone beyond any control but that of government, the fact itself is proof of scarcity, waste or monopoly. In either case government has a duty to perform which it should meet as promptly and efficiently as any other military problem.

An important triumph already gained by Americans in the world war is the spectacle of iron, steel, copper and zinc producers, shipbuilders, munition-makers and manufacturers of every variety of implements and supplies voluntarily limiting profits. By adding to these the food growers and merchants represented by Mr. Armour we shall have, for the first time in our history, business mobilized for patriotism and not exclusively for profit.—New York World.

The Holdup

Representative Henry Flood proposed a bill for arming merchantmen, said a luncheon in Washington: "Germany declares that with her unrestricted submarine campaign she'll hold up meat, she'll hold up cotton, she'll hold up munitions, she'll hold up all neutral maritime commerce." He smiled grimly. "But she'll hold up all her hands," he ended, "she'll hold up her hands," Washington Star.

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Wisdom of Being Ready

To the Editor of the Telegraph: New York, April 10, 1917. I have observed this war at short range, having dodged shells upon the European front and having visited the camps, munition works and hospitals of England and France. I have seen the wounded and the dead, the widows and orphans, and the ruins not only of buildings but broad fields which can never again be tilled—none of the pomp and circumstance of war but all of its horror.

Again and again I have heard the remark: "If England had only listened to Lord Roberts! If we had only been ready this would never have happened!" I quickly became convinced that what I saw was no more the result of war than it was the result of the pacifist. Noble buildings which were the work of the imagination of the ancient artist are now in a condition which may truly be said to be the work of the lack of imagination of the modern pacifist. His smooth hand has wrought as much destruction as the mailed fist of the Kaiser.

Since returning from battle scarred Europe I have traveled our own land from North to South and from East to West. Everywhere I find prosperity but there is lacking that presence of a national soul (which may be nothing more than a common sense) which we have a truly great country, not in its material resources but because of its ideals and because we have the strength to make those ideals something more than idle dreams.

We only value that which has cost us something. Let every young man give but his little share of time and work to the United States and he will become a true patriot. The plan proposed in this case is not that it should not be necessary for a single man to raise his voice in its favor. Even if no emergency training should be adopted without delay for the unifying effect that it would bring to our people, and even if we could see in no such step a straightening of the backs and fill out the chests of our slouching boys and to teach them the first principles of hygiene.

There can be little doubt that our Congressmen are individually in favor of this measure, but perhaps they are not sure of the attitude of those whose faces are bright with knowledge and ennobled by the desire to serve. In the opposing ranks are the unenlightened, those who have never felt the thrill of a common cause and who have no sympathy either above or below themselves in the social scale.

Shall we permit this fair land to fall an easy prey to the wild beasts which are rampant in Belgium and harried all of Western Europe. In later years shall one of us say to another: "That ruined church shows the hand of the enemy. It is the work of the work of these Architects of Destruction, you, our Representatives."

Yours truly, THOMAS ROBINS, Secretary Naval Consulting Board, TR-st.

School Architect Question

To the Editor of the Telegraph: I noticed a queer editorial in a Harrisburg paper yesterday, April 13, in regard to accepting a small man for a big man's job, or in other words ignoring the Chamber of Commerce. Who is this Chamber of Commerce and where do they get their argument from in regard to the school building affairs. I am sure the people whom they speak so much about or in whose interest they claim to be fighting, know very few of the 80 members and which we all know our school board was elected by the people. If the so-called Chamber of Commerce is to do the dictating and try to run our school board to suit themselves, why what's the use of giving the people a chance to vote for our school board. It seems to me the Chamber of Commerce is using the watch me, catch me system. It hasn't been so long ago when this same Chamber of Commerce advocated a buy-at-home campaign and patronize our home business places. Now they want to try and tell the people how they can save money by doing business in St. Louis, Missouri. What seems so strange is that none of our home architects can fill the bill, and still we have some of the finest school buildings in the east.

Those Ashes

To the Editor of the Telegraph: When, oh when, are the ashmen coming around? We have nine vessels, boxes, baskets, lard cans, lunchboxes and different other vessels all full, full in the west, known to them as "Seven Rabbits" which corresponds almost exactly with the year in which Joshua was conquering Palestine!" A similar, and still more striking tradition is to be found in the ancient Chinese records.

Thus both modern science and history and traditions current in places so far apart as China and Mexico, unite to confirm the truth of the wonderful narrative in Scripture. Respectfully, JOHN M. SULTZMAN, 1718 Penn St., City.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg has many acres of building lots which could be made into gardens.

HISTORIC HARRISBURG In Civil War days Harrisburg people used to furnish many lunch boxes for soldiers going through the city to the national capital.

Minimum Wage Upheld

The decision of the federal Supreme Court upholding the validity of the Oregon minimum wage act is of interest to the country over, for several other States have such legislation either pending or in suspension. The court decides, contrary to the claims of those who brought the test, that a State is within its authority when it authorizes a commission to fix minimum wages and establish a standard of working conditions. This decision is strictly in accord with the tendency observed in practically every State.

The World's Long Day

To the Editor of the Telegraph: Will you kindly print the following in answer to the recently reported denial of the truth of the 48-hour day record as given in Joshua 10:12-14: "Professor Totten of the University of Edinburgh, December, 1907: 'The question of the sun standing still remains to be considered and here I extract the Chamber of Commerce statement to important matters in their line and keep out of our school board affairs.' Yours, CLARENCE A. FISHER, 612 Seneca St.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

THE SECRET OF FAILURE. The Author: I don't see why I can't sell any of my stories. The Well-wisher: Lack of confidence. You always enclose full postage when your manuscript would come back just as well under a two-cent stamp and a postage due. Shows your exact form back.

GETTING IN CONDITION.

What makes your wife so flighty of late. Don't you know? She's taken up aviation.

OLD STUFF.

Did your husband see the joke when he found out you married him only for his money? Oh, yes, he asked me why I didn't get something new—said it had been paved on him and had a dozen times before, that.

A MISFORTUNE.

Isn't it a nuisance to be fat! Yes, especially when some one offers you a seat in a crowded street car.

BEAUTY IN A BEASTLY MOOD.

Doctor: Do you suffer from morning headaches? Debatesuffer: Certainly I suffer. If I enjoyed them as I do a dance I shouldn't have consulted you.

Discussion's Objections

Wisconsin also had an objection in Congress during the Civil War. By his persistent objecting to war measures he became known as "Eldredge, the Great Objector." In this war we have a Vallette, Milwaukee Sentinel.

Evening Chat

Up at the facts and figures bureau of the State Department of Agriculture they figure that there are 2,684 farms in Dauphin county. While this is a fair number for a county which is better known because of its coal and iron than because of farming products there really should be between 3,000 and 4,000 to put the county on a more self-supporting basis. The county could raise considerably more than it now does for its own consumption and probably this year will see it attain maximum of agriculture. Areas are being ploughed now, especially within easy distance of the city which have been in grass for a long time and there are probably more garden and truck patches being planned out than known for many years. Under the stimulus of warnings from those in authority and the economists the move to boost food raising has reached almost an ideal proportion in many sections. In the first place seeds, notably seed potatoes are very hard to get hold of and the price is very high; secondly, fertilizer such as is really needed to put some of the land offered or taken hold of for trucking is a scarce article and lastly, because rigging garden is work and it takes a lot of time and stick to it persistence. Men who understand gardening are working at something that pays better now and those who plan gardens had better arrange to do their own ground works and cutting. The greatest trouble about speeding agriculture in this section this year is going to be labor and it may come to it that even those who enlist in the agricultural army which is to be formed for systematizing work on farms and recognition of those who labor on the soil may have to be helped out during the summer.

Some idea of the business the Harrisburg Public Library is doing just now in spite of the curtailment of expenses due to heavy drains made upon the funds of the association can be gained from the statement that in the first three months of this year the library circulated 89,263 books. This is the largest circulation of any quarter since the library began its work in Harrisburg. In fact, it is a couple of thousands ahead of the best previous record for any previous quarter and illustrates the demand being made upon the institution. On two of the three months of this year the circulation was over 30,000. In March it was 33,446. It is probable that April will be a heavy month owing to the demands made for special works on American history, with which the library is well supplied. To meet the requests for fiction the library has been borrowing books from the State Library and renting them from other libraries which make a specialty of such business. The circulation of the library has been growing with leaps and bounds and the demands on its resources have been extending exceedingly heavy. The school libraries and all of the grammar schools being represented in the list of persons who ask special information. In addition the library has been extending its libraries to the schools and the total circulation of the first quarter shows considerably over one-third to be among juveniles.

A resident of Green street determined to arm himself last summer against the coming of the burglar who was terrorizing the people in that vicinity. He bought a nice, shiny revolver, a couple boxes of miniature 42 centimeters and a good flashlight. When he took them home he took to his family. He was ready for all the burglars in the neighborhood and stored his arsenal in places easily accessible in case of an emergency. Sad part about it was the burglar was slow in coming. He waited and waited until he was almost ready to awaken "Mr. Fearnot." The light went out and all was darkness. Was she dreaming? No, again the light faded. Then the door opened and the burglar was awakened. Again the light flashed. Despite a thousand chills that played up and down his back "Mr. Fearnot" investigated. After he had slowly crawled up the stairs, he turned miles of carpet toward where the light had last flashed a childish voice exclaimed: "Oh, papa, see what a pretty little burglar you have! The two-year-old son of the house has turned the light and just discovered what a nice plaything it made when the sandman would not come.

With the coming of spring the small boys about town are naturally inclined to work off their surplus energy in any way that a boyish mind can think of, but a great many people seem to forget the time when they too, were young and doing the same thing. The police department is constantly receiving telephone complaints from residents about the horrid boys who are playing baseball on the vacant lots next door and who will undoubtedly break a window if not stopped immediately. One of the officers reports an unusually emphatic complaint. A man approached him and began saying excitedly, "Are you the man that arrests them? Are you the man that immediately on the alert was prepared for any emergency but a careful look at the landscape failed to disclose anything but some of the boys young legs pushing as man roller skates down the pavement. "There who are?" asked the officer. "Why those fellows sitting on my pavement," replied the man. "When was told that he would have to make information against them the worthy citizen decided not to have them arrested. That park must have been born a thousand years ago," said the officer recounting the episode.

Two sturdy youths not more than twelve marched boldly into the office of the Chief of Police yesterday afternoon, bared their heads and looked boldly up into the eyes of the Chief of Police. "Are you the man that arrests boys when they aren't good?" said the one. "Well, I might," said the Chief. "What's wrong?" "Why some wop kid down here on Cherry street has the flag in a great big old rag, and I'd a lied the stuffin' out of him, only I was afraid I might get into trouble, too, so I just thought I would come in and have an arrested." An immediate investigation was promised and the patriotic little Americans left the office much pleased.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Robert Ewing, the new president of the Presbyterian Union of Pittsburgh, is a prominent actor. —Dr. C. B. Millhoff, active medical man at Johnstown and veteran of the Philippine war, will re-enter the medical service. —Colonel G. C. Rickards, commander of the Sixteenth Infantry, was offered motor ambulances by people of Kittanning. —E. B. Hulley, of Pittsburgh, is president of an association formed to encourage back yard gardening.