

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1917

The love of the beautiful is becoming not only the possession of the rich, but the desire and possession of the very poor.—JOHN BURNS.

THAT POSTAL SURPLUS

THE local subsidized organ of the Democratic administration boasts to-day that the post office department closed its year with the largest surplus in its history, "\$8,436,811, and naively adds that "such a showing must be extremely gratifying to the public."

It is nothing of the sort. The public is not interested in postal profits; what it wants is service, and service it is not getting. The post office department was not created for the purpose of earning money. It was brought into being to provide prompt and efficient transportation of all manner of mail matter, and this under the Wilson administration it is not doing.

Time was when Hardscrabble represented a considerable number of homesteads with family traditions and a history of many generations of the same name, but during the last few years there has been a gradual change of the situation and the houses are in many instances now occupied by comparative newcomers.

Who cares for a wheatless day with buckwheat cakes ripe and ready for the plucking?

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

NO matter what it may or may not reveal, the Congressional inquiry into the prosecution of the war will have salutary effects.

Remember, Christmas is the children's holiday, and don't let the war interfere with your celebration. Santa Claus doesn't care a hoot for the Kaiser.

THE GARBAGE "HOLD-UPS"

SPECULATION as to the conclusion of the garbage and ash problems in this city is about as full of doubt as guessing when the war will end.

out of his private purse for what has already been paid for through his taxes under a municipal contract. Whatever system shall be finally installed there ought to be sufficient inspectors to stop definitely and effectively the "holdup" of the people by the wagon crews, who have boasted in some instances that they have received more in tips than they did in wages.

Harrisburg is too far along the way to longer endure the imposition and inconvenience that have resulted from the inadequate and indifferent service under the existing contract. There must be a change and no consideration shown those responsible for failure of the present plan.

It is all up to the councilmen, and we believe they are fully awake to the importance of speedily closing up the whole matter and preparing for something like modern methods in disposing of the garbage and ashes of the community.

If this sugar shortage produces the enlarged crop of maple syrup that is promised, some of our old-fashioned folks may look upon it as a blessing in disguise.

LET US HAVE AN END OF IT

NOW that the final step is being taken in the Hardscrabble controversy, it is the hope of all good citizens that an end shall be made of the whole matter.

It is regarded as very likely that General Charles M. Clement will be named as a public service commissioner. The volume of the "Poems of Peace and War," with numerous additions, mainly of poems relating to the great war, some of which will be remembered by audiences to whom Mr. Johnson has read them on patriotic occasions.

It is said that Senator W. C. Sprull has accepted a number of invitations to speak throughout the State this winter.

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TOOK BULL BY HORNS

OVERLOOK JAMES M. COX, of Ohio, took the bull by the horns yesterday and seized several trains of coal bound through his state to relieve a serious fuel shortage there.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Auditor General Charles A. Snyder's declaration to some of the department chiefs of the state government that he will not pay clerks recently appointed as "extras" and paid out of contingent and emergency funds of the government unless he is shown that they are essential, bids fair to create a ruction in the state government and to disarrange many of the plans of the state administration to strengthen itself in advance of the next primary.

The first place where the blow fell was in the State Insurance Fund where the bulk of the nine persons recently appointed to places, including some Harrisburgers, got informal notice that they would be paid for December, but after that their jobs would end.

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A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE



BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Two Books of Verse—Two volumes of poems by Robert Underwood Johnson, who has become his own publisher, are shortly to appear from the DuVine press.

AN EPISCOPAL Bishop is quoted just now as saying that the camps and cantonnements are really great universities. The chief text book in these universities is the Bible, and especially the New Testament.

SIGNED FOR FLESH POTS

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin.

KEEPING CHRISTMAS

I write as your brother; a big family we. With task set before us to whip the persistent winter, we'd rather forbear.

ARTISTS AND THE MOON

The erratic behavior of the moon in the sky has been a pitfall for artist and poet; the mistakes have provided much amusement to the astronomer.

HEALTH IN THE ARMY

Under modern scientific management of the army camps, only four kinds of infectious disease are giving the medical officers trouble.

THE REAL TEST

There is one striking and important fact about the United States which must be remembered by all who consider the status of this nation and the state of mind of the American people in regard to the war.

AMERICAN HUMOR

The irrepressible ebullience of the Yankee soldier rises above the terror of war and bubbles in sparkling effervescence over the battle front.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

LACKED PERSEVERANCE. If I ask you once to marry me and you say "No" I'll never ask you again.

HER TROUBLE.

How is your wife? Her head troubles her a great deal. Do you think she has neurasthenia?

SURE WOULD.

I see Mr. Price has joined the army. Good! If he doesn't advance rapidly, he'll be different from all the other prices.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg people were among the earliest supporters of the Government in the flotation of the Civil War bonds?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

Early political gatherings used to be held on the River Front, sometimes at Harris Ferry.

New Form of University Extension

By the REV. DR. JOHN FOX

than to see such a sight as a young lad with memories of home, or if you please without memories, looking through this astronomer's glass into the heavens, and discovering as never before God in His heaven, the better country, the Cross of Christ, salvation now and thereafter, as he sits on the rude benches or in the ruder trenches of this new university.

LABOR NOTES

Richmond (Va.) painters have secured a reduction of one hour in the work day and wage increases of 75 cents a day since April 1.

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Evening Chat

Some very, very queer ideas about military service are cropping up at the meetings of the district appeal draft board at the State Capitol these days and the abrupt manner in which the board is acting upon some of the requests for exemption from military service should carry their own lessons.

Another instance puzzled the members of the board for a while. An undertaker claimed he needed a son within the draft age more than the members of the board had any idea. In fact from his remarks it would be impossible for people to believe that he was serious.

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