

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

Founded 1837

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1917

Hurry and Cunning are the two apprentices of Despatch and of Skill, but neither of them learn their master's trade.—COLTON.

THE BUDGET

CITY COUNCIL is engaged in the annual agony of paring down the budget. Like all surgical operations, if properly performed the patient will recover, perhaps little or none the worse for the experience. Indeed the cutting away of a little surplus here and there may be very beneficial. But right there is where it behooves those who are wielding the knives to be careful.

Among the items are many requests for increases of salaries. These are difficult days for the salaried man and none will begrudge the public servant his pay, but in granting advances here and there Council should be careful to go about the matter in an equitable manner. It will not do to keep on and on raising pay in this or that direction without giving thought to those whose salaries have not been advanced in many years. No private employer could do that and maintain an efficient force, and the city is in precisely the same position.

Councilmen should scan carefully every salary raiser proposed and so divide the money available for that purpose that the deserving shall receive each his full share and not appropriate all to a favored few.

There are, also, the departments to think about. Street cleaning, street repairs, health, parks—all of these have been created for the public good. All have their place in the city government and all must be adequately maintained. Everything told, it is a puzzle of no mean proportions.

WHAT A CHRISTMAS!

SOME of us are making our Christmas preparations with a touch of sadness and a bit of homesickness about the heart. For home is not really home with loved ones off in the training camps and vacant places at the holiday feast.

But we keep on smiling, and remembering, and looking forward hopefully and joyously toward another Christmas. For what a Christmas that will be when the boys come home! What a Christmas when at last there really is peace again on earth! It is something to live for.

FARM LOAN BONDS

SENATOR PENROSE has given notice that he will contest the effort of Democrats in the Senate to pass the Hollis amendment to the federal farm loan act authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase \$100,000,000 worth of bonds from farm loan banks in 1918 and as many more in 1919.

THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

TOMORROW afternoon school will let out with a rush and a shout for the holiday season. It has been "some" week. Ask any teacher if that is not so. For childhood reckes little of war and the grim figure of the Kaiser is dwarfed to small size and lost entirely to sight behind the colossal presence of the beneficent Santa Claus. And this is quite as it should be, the Kaiser having murdered some thousands of children, while dear old Santa has wrought his magic spell and blest the Christmas days of millions. Which is why Santa Claus will be making his endless rounds, cheerful, chubric and smiling, centuries after the imperial Wilhelm, like Caesar, "dead and turned to clay, will stop a crack to keep the wind away."

The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of childhood, and so when Christmas combines with the boys and girls in a conspiracy against school discipline the wise teacher bows to the inevitable, turns the pages of the singing book to "Jolly Old St. Nicholas, Bend Your Ear This Way," lets the younger pupils recite "The Night Before Christmas" and enters upon a season of Christmas trees and excitement that winds up Friday afternoon before the great holiday in a very orgy of holiday celebration.

It's hard on cold-blooded school efficiency, but it's great sport and he were a hard-hearted Old Scrooge, indeed who would have it otherwise. Looking back over the years, there is

removal of the gates the traveling public shall get smooth and safe riding at least for its money.

PUBLISH THE DISLOYAL

LET us have a published list of those people who won't buy Liberty Bonds, who decline to join the Red Cross and who refuse to subscribe to Y. M. C. A. or Knights of Columbus war work funds. Let us know who they are, so that we may treat them for what they are. By that we do not mean poor folks who cannot buy bonds or those who can give reasonable excuse for failure to assume a share of the private citizen's burden of the war, but those who are prompted to withhold their means by mere perversity of spirit.

The time has come when those who are not for the nation must be regarded as against it. The sheep must be separated from the goats, as the Providence Journal says: Every German or Austrian in the United States, unless known by years of association to be absolutely loyal, should be treated as a potential spy. Keep your eyes and ears open. Whenever any suspicious act or disloyal word comes to your notice communicate at once with the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

We are at war with the most merciless and inhuman nation in the world. Hundreds of thousands of its people in this country want to see America humiliated and beaten to her knees, and they are doing, and will do, everything in their power to bring this about.

Take nothing for granted. Energy and alertness in this direction may save the life of your son, or husband, or your brother. A sure sign of disloyalty is failure to purchase a bond or to subscribe to the war funds, providing of course, the person solicited is financially able to do so. By all means let us have the names of those who insist on aiding Germany by withholding their dollars from the United States, so that we may file them in our notebooks for reference. Our people have a right to know who's who, patriotically speaking, in Harrisburg.

THE WAR AND BASEBALL

FORMER GOVERNOR JOHN K. TENNER, discussing the possibilities of the coming season, says that despite the war "the people must have baseball."

There have been and are those who believe that all forms of enjoyment, recreation and sport should be discontinued for the period of our conflict with Germany, but Mr. Tenner is not one of them. A hard worker from his childhood, the former Governor plays just as hard as he works. That is why he is still young at an age when many men are beginning to feel their years. It should be so with all of us. We shall grow staid if we do nothing but work. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The harder we work the more are we in need of diversion, and the American public's great outdoor recreation is baseball. The boys took their baseball outfits with them to France; where is the harm in continuing the game at home?

SOUTH MAKES BIG SLAM

REPRESENTATIVE FITZGERALD, of New York, will retire from Congress at the end of the year. His assigned reasons are that he feels the need of making provision for his family and that his private affairs have been neglected through the service which his Congressional membership entails. Mr. Fitzgerald will practice law in New York.

It is no secret at Washington that Fitzgerald has found his position irksome since the Wilson administration came in. He is a Tammany man and as such, despite his great ability, his high character and his powerful position in the House, he has ever had cold welcome at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. This, doubtless, has contributed to his decision to retire.

He is chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and that is the only great chairmanship in the House which is held by a Northern man. It will now go, in all probability, to Representative Sherley, of Kentucky; and Southern domination of national legislation will be without a single flaw.

BOOKS

With golden looks—Hive, rarest honey!—A friendly, honest—The world for little money! Blow, blizzards, blow! The heart's aglow, Than just the light Of his bright—Sweet sheltered fireside reading. With friends o' mine I us and dine, The gentle, kind and clever, And though I'm poor In worldly store, In my friends forever!—Frank L. Stanton in the Atlanta Constitution.

Learn How to Stoke Furnace

[From the Mother's Magazine.] Learn to fire your furnace or stove economically. If you don't know just what to do with the drafts, or the heat, or the various kinds of fuel, write to the manufacturer, giving the name, date of manufacture, and style number; he will send you the desired information.

a halo of mellow memory about the bit of spruce on a school room desk that is a treasure, indeed, to him who holds it in his heart as green and lovely as the day it bloomed gaudily in its dress of home-made trimmings from its anchorage in an erstwhile inkwell. And there is joy in the recollections of the old school "treasures" that thoughts of more pretentious gifts of later years cannot mar. The riches of childhood are not measured in dollars and cents and all the lessons are not learned from letters. So let the fun be fast and furious on the final day. Out upon stupid textbooks! Let Santa reign supreme!

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The manner in which the friends of Superior Court Judge William D. Porter, of Pittsburgh, have taken hold of the proposition of renominating the Judge and the emphatic endorsement given him by the bars of a number of counties, has raised the hope of many Pennsylvanians that the state may be spared in 1918 a repetition of the recent primary and general election scrambles for places upon the appellate benches. In a number of counties members of the bar have given hearty approval to the course of Judge Porter and the sentiment manifested in favor of his renomination has been so general that there is now not much doing in the way of opposing him.

Men active in politics in Pennsylvania have upon a number of occasions expressed the hope that when the state is engaged in strenuous contests for the nomination of party tickets for state offices next year that it would be a fine thing to keep the single state-wide judicial election out of partisan politics. The Porter candidacy will furnish an opportunity for testing the strength of this feeling and also of the popular attitude toward the nonpartisan act.

It is very evident from what is being said and done at the State Capitol that Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh proposes to take a hand in the primary campaign. The Governor has told friends that he will continue to speak in behalf of candidates for the Legislature pledged for the "dry" amendments and many look for him to depart from traditional neutrality with the George years of gubernatorial terms and go on the stump. The Governor is fond of campaigning and with his well-known personal presence in behalf of an anti-liquor legislation he will not want for a theme.

Men opposed to the "dry" amendment are already setting up pins about the state and are bending their efforts to sew up the nominations for the Legislature in both parties. Some of the Democrats are in a quandary as they fear to openly take up the amendment because of effect on some of their most ardent supporters.

Mayor Smith was indicted by the Grand Jury yesterday on charges of violating the Sherman law in connection with the outwary in the Fifth ward last primary election day, which resulted in the election of George Eppley, special policeman. Isaac Deusch the political opponent of James A. Carey, a Mercantile Appraiser, and one of the principals alleged to be responsible for the reign of terror that swept through the ward on that day, was indicted on charges of murder and manslaughter, with Lieutenant David Bennett, Policeman John Witschater, Michael J. Murphy, Emanuel Uram, Lewis Feldman and George Hayden, his political followers.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 votes are expected to be added to the strength of the Town Meeting party through plans which will be placed in operation at once, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. The party leaders of the new party intend to secure a complete list of names on the assessors' lists, which closed last night. These will be compared with the voters' lists of last fall. A difference of more than 40,000 is expected to be revealed. Every man who fails to register for the recent election and who is now on the assessors' lists, will be subjected to a personal canvass, with the idea that when a large number failed to enroll in August and September, they represented the Independent element who lack interest in elections when there is no prospect of a vigorous fight at the polls.

The city of Scranton has started to cut down expenses and three of its department battalion chiefs have been dropped.

DEAR MOTHER O' MINE

I am sitting tonight far away from the place where you are, and where I'm sure there are others see a beautiful face; And as I sit here writing line after line, I'm most hear the voice of dear Mother o' Mine. There's many a Christmas has come and has gone, Since the first one I saw its bright new put on; But never a one failed my thoughts And affections about this dear Mother o' Mine.

Sometimes there were sorrows that strewed my path thick, And sometimes were griefs that made the heart sick; But troubles could never so thickly combine As to separate Christmas and dear Mother o' Mine.

Or might it be joy that was piling up high, And showing to me a cloudless blue sky; Yet the sun of delight could never so shine As to hide the loved face of dear Mother o' Mine.

The years have come on and have fled away, And her locks that were dark are now silvery gray; But search through the years and you'll not find a sign That she's ever been less than dear Mother o' Mine.

Her hands are now toll-worn, her form less erect, Her features less plump, her step circumspect, But you can't find another, I care not how fine, That begins to compare with dear Mother o' Mine.

In childhood's distress or in manhood's deep need, To each call for help she quickly came, Nor ever was heard her lot to repine, This blessed and sweet dear old Mother o' Mine.

Yes, Mother, dear Mother, we're bound to grow "old," And all our life story will soon have been told; And Christmas reminds of the Savior Who gives life eternal, dear Mother o' Mine.

And when we have crossed to the beautiful shore, Where partings and troubles can come never more, We'll see how "all things worked together" so fine, For your "good" and my "good," dear Mother o' Mine.

B. E. P. FRUGH.

A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE



LABOR NOTES

Since the war began the employment of women in the British metal industries has increased 84 per cent.

Of the 200,000 women and girls employed in the district of Birmingham, Eng., 25,000 are organized.

Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad has raised wages of its federal shop employees 1 1/2 cents an hour.

On some of the street railways in Great Britain half the cars are being operated by women.

Frisco Cement Finishers' Union has negotiated a new agreement which includes wage increases.

More than 300,000 girls are engaged in cutting moss in England, where, after being dried, it is used for fuel.

Buffalo, N. Y., has raised wages 20 per cent for city laborers, hydrant men, repair men and foremen.

Munition makers in this country say they can operate their plants successfully with 70 per cent of women as employees.

An American army of 1,000,000 men will require the output of 4,000,000 men, working in factory, field and foundry.

Of the international organizations in Canada the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen heads the list with a reported membership of 10,684.

The harvesting of the Canadian crops was done mainly by women and girls.

Drug clerks in Kansas City, Mo., are organizing to reduce their 90 and 95-hour work week.

Mason City (Iowa) carpenters will get the eight-hour day on January 1, 1918.

WHEATLESS THERE

We are born in this Georgia valley with a "single eye" for three things, the weather, the harvest and Almighty God. We have had practice in keeping our vision clear and our attention fixed on the main job. We heard much, for example, about "wheatless days" and "meatless days" but this has been made a "wheatless" year. The freeze in February destroyed all the grain in this section. We live on corn bread. It is the best, most nourishing bread the world except for Yankees and foreigners who do not know how to prepare it.

And even of corn we have had little enough. Last summer the floods destroyed two-thirds of the crop, so we could not even pig during the winter. Therefore we have had meatless days a-plenty, and thought nothing tragic about that. For we have had an abundance of butter, milk and eggs. We have not suffered and we have never had better health. Nearly every young single man of draft age in the valley has been called and accepted in the National Army. Not one has been returned to us as "physically unfit." We are very proud of this record.

We just sent them down to Camp Gordon in their Sunday clothes, and told them to do the best they could; that probably they would not worry about wrist watches and the time of day when they got in sight of the enemy's trenches.

We are strongly quiet about these young men. We have uttered not one word of complaint. We are just dumb, holding our breath for what may happen. We are not coddling them, nor sending them boxes from home. They can live on war rations. They always have done it on less. And we reckon they will do their duty when the time comes, because they are accustomed to performing hard duties with sublimely unconscious dignity.—Corra Harris in the New York Independent.

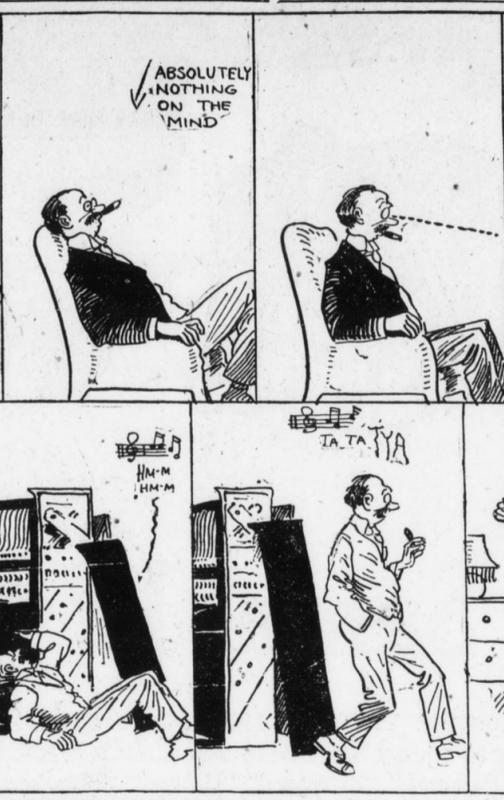
NOTHER HERO

He wears no medal on his vest, No lettered bronze adorns his chest, He makes no grandstand bid for fame, The hero stunt is not his game. But he has faced the stress of life And smiled through tears and pain And strife.

LOCAL PRIDE

Let hardy blurb of Elysian Fields or Terrestrial Purgatory. Both may be fair, I do not care. They're too far from Wamego. There is, indeed, no place like home, as Payne says in his similes. None to compare, so good, so fair, as dear Wamego, Kansas. —Kansas City Star.

THE MAN FOR THE JOB



OUR DAILY LAUGH

HORRIBLE. 1st Microbe—What's wrong with you? 2nd Microbe—I had a horrible dream! I dreamed I fell into a can of antiseptic solution!

ONLY THING THAT WOULD FIT. Sparrow—What's your Christmas? Stork—Same old thing, a candy cane!

BREACH OF PROMISE. Dodge is suing his wife for breach of promise. For breach of promise? Yes, she promised to divorce him, but now she has backed out.

UNRECOGNIZED ABILITY. The folks who are running this war don't know anything. No? No, my boy's been in the army six weeks now and they haven't made a colonel out of him yet.

DO YOU KNOW. That Harrisburg people are furnishing considerable material over the holidays in the big camps? HISTORIC HARRISBURG. Peter Barbone, a French trader, is said to have had a trading post at Lochiel before Harris came this way.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE. —Dr. Wilmer Krusen, Philadelphia director of health, who sized up the Philadelphia charitable institution, says he would do it again if occasion arose. —D. W. Kuhn, Pittsburgh coal administrator, asks heads of establishments to lend him trucks on Sunday to move coal from mines. —Cass Morgan is the new mercantile supplier of Lackawanna. He lives in Scranton. —Major Russell Beall, General Pershing's adjutant, is a native of Unlontown.

TO DOUBLE THE ADVERTISING SPACE. GORDON H. CILLEY, advertising manager of the Philadelphia store of John Wanamaker, announces that it is planned to use this season double the amount of advertising space used last season. This policy is adopted in order to overcome selling handicaps imposed by war conditions, to properly educate people as to the new complexion of buying problems, and to establish the great store still more firmly in public esteem as a service institution. The Wanamaker example should be cited, by publishers everywhere, to any and all merchants who may be incited with the virus of timidity and over-caution. It is an example which the wise will follow and the foolish ignore.—Editor and Publisher.

BY BRIGGS



Over the Top in Penna.

One advantage a talking machine has over the human voice is that you can shut it off or change the record.

Must be some good in the coal barons. We read: "Following their usual custom the Keystone Coal and Coke Company, Jamison Coal Company and the H. C. Frick Coke Company and perhaps several other big Westmoreland county corporations will distribute tons of candies, oranges, bananas, popcorn balls and other sweetmeats at their stores and mining plants this Christmas or the day before. Every child as well as the parents will be given Christmas treats."

The lovely town of Ardmore, Pa., has been substantially put on the map lately by a "movie fan" dog, named Fritz. He is owned by Mrs. J. W. MacKeynoids who takes him to the films every night. Friends of the owner say it is the "cutest thing" how Fritz pays close attention to a Mary Pickford reel and how he moans sadly when a howl is shown.

The hot denial of Austrian newspapers that Austria is not a vassal of Germany certainly recalls the old ballad: "There was a young lady from Nixer Who smiled as she rode on a tiger; They returned from the ride And the smile on the face of the tiger."

Dr. Charles T. Aiken, chairman of the commission to the Auditor General, says that his commission is now ready to receive invitation to visit sites, but is not anxious for a winter trip. The commission wants to secure a site which will be ample and healthful and wants suggestions.

"What is the reason that people persist in driving on car tracks? Don't they know that by going only in the 'place made' by the cars that they are really restricting the roadway because they do not help make any?" asked a man yesterday. "The traction company pays for the opening of the tracks and every car that uses them; the rails become clogged with snow and ice and the wheels spin around a couple of times, wasting energy without making any progress. I can't understand why teamers and auto drivers do not try to make paths or tracks and keep the energy within the rails of the railroads and filling them with snow."

"This snow is too big a proposition for the city as it is now constituted," declared another man. "The snow is really a pretty serious proposition. It is ahead of time and a lot greater than expected. The allowance for fighting and removing snow was made on the basis of experience for many years. This is an extraordinary snow and comes at a time when labor and carts are hard to get. The city's regular force is small and it is hard to get. It is hard to get its appropriation, but this snow needs a big force of men to tackle it and clear it off. And the problem is to get the men and the carts at this time!"

These are the days of conservatism even in Christmas. A rather nicely printed paper bag was received here today from a Virginia city, conveying best wishes for a Merry Christmas. It was just an ordinary paper bag such as you receive when you buy peanuts.

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Evening Chat

Indications are that by this time next year that substantial progress will not only have been made on the preparation of the twenty-seven or so acres embraced in Capitol park extension for the landscape architect, but it will also be possible to see the big changes which will be made along the streets which bound the park. Specifications will be drawn up shortly for the coping to be placed along the base of the sidewalk which will rise from a little inside of the present edge of the park in Third Street and North streets and it is the idea to let contractors for the work within a few months so that when spring comes around the active operation of the park extension work will mean that the sidewalks on the Capitol park side of Walnut and Third streets will be abolished and there will be materially widened driveways. The city will have to furnish the wider street in North but that will come with the years. At Third and North streets, where there will be an indentation into the park for highway purposes which will be beneficial in form and not only wider but with valuable side effects, the intersection of streets, but also permit of the creation of a formal entrance to the park. With the enlargement of the park and the new Penn-Harris this formal entrance and the "circle" will make a very attractive spot. It is hoped to get all this under way by the end of the twelvemonth and to push things along in the extension. It is also possible that the new highway between Third and North streets, which will be on the lines of Aberdeen and East streets may be opened and Fourth street closed. The Harrisburg railroad which is under way is ready to begin preparations to move their tracks whenever the Commonwealth asks. About the only thing that is held up for which a patent has been issued since the Pennsylvania railroad which is under discussion with that company. By this time next year it is also possible that the people of Harrisburg will have authorized the relocation of the bridge at State street so that it will be part of the great scheme of adornment of the city.

Rival claims to Fish Island, in the Susquehanna near Wilkes-Barre and under the name of Fish Island, which has been before the State Board of Property for twenty years and attracted state-wide attention, will not be opened up again by the Board. Today it decided not to grant a rehearing prayed for by Edwin A. Hoffman, of Wilkes-Barre, who had long been fighting for a patent on the title, but it passed from the state. He was refused a rehearing in 1901 and in 1915 renewed the case, presenting for a patent a patent he had obtained from the Board, which he had never issued to the Mitchell and Shoemaker interests which have held title for years and have been conducting operations conducted. The present title is said to date from 1811 and Hoffman was refused a patent for it for many years. Hoffman had the title passed from the state. 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