

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1917

A fat kitchen makes a lean will.—FRANKLIN.

MORE CITY REVENUE

COUNCIL is facing the necessity of more taxes, abandonment of the municipal ash collection plan or higher water rates. It is hard enough to face any one of these three at this time, but of the trio an advance of water rates is probably the least offensive.

There has been a persistent doubt in the minds of those acquainted with the facts concerning the wisdom of the several reductions of water charges in Harrisburg in recent years. It never did look like good business. The saving to the consumer was small, but the aggregate has sadly crippled the department and the city government as a whole.

With all the war work activities, and hands stretched forth for our dollars at every turn, some of us have forgotten the poor whom we have always with us—the unfortunate of our own city. There must be no letting down in this quarter. The organized charities of the city are now generally well conducted, but administration amounts to little if there are no funds to administer.

Governor Lowden, of Illinois, set forth the need and the importance of meeting it the other day when in a public statement he said:

"The large sums of money which are flowing in for relief work, because of the war, should not blind us to the needs of our charities at home. Some most useful charities already have closed down for lack of funds."

European countries engaged in the war neglected their home needs, with a resulting increase in juvenile delinquencies, the spread of insanity and other forms of dependency. We must, at whatever cost, avoid this mistake.

While we fight for that civilization upon which we are depending, we cannot afford to see it slip away at home. I earnestly urge upon all who have given in the past to home charities to give again, at least as much, at whatever personal sacrifice, of self-sacrifice, not the sacrifice of the helpless ones who need our fostering care.

"Give as the Lord has prospered thee."

Out of the hundred millions which Congress gave to the President for exigent war expenses, he has given George Croell's Committee on Public Information \$1,350,000. This is not a large percentage of the total sum at the President's disposal; but it is wholly out of proportion to any genuine service which the committee has rendered to the people. No detailed items have been presented to show what Mr. Croell has done with all of this money; but it is very plain that a committee cannot be staffed with any large number of dollar-a-year-men.

CONSERVATION AT BOTH ENDS

PENNSYLVANIA'S creation of a great forestry reserve and its offering of hundreds of thousands of young trees raised in its own State nurseries for systematic reforestation have attracted national attention and the results have been so successful that the great coal and water companies have established on their lands areas which are to be maintained in a natural state and are planting trees at a rate which would have astonished the coal operator of a generation ago.

Pennsylvania, which was declared some years ago to be in danger of becoming a State treeless where it should have foliage to conserve its water supply, has been making such strides that almost weekly offers to help in practical conservation are made. If the funds can be secured in a comparatively short space of years large districts will be planted with trees and water conserved and land erosion stopped.

At the same time the State Water Supply Commission is taking steps which will prevent flooding of towns and farm lands by a policy of close scrutiny of stream obstructions. It is not generally known that official permission to make fills along a dozen streams has been refused coal and manufacturing companies. The filling in, which is often the cause of disastrous movement of waters in time of freshets, is now only sanctioned where it can be shown that harm will not result to people miles away.

The State is not only moving to maintain its supply of water, but to protect its water courses. It is conservation of the most practical sort.

CHANCE OF SCHOOL RULES

THE School Board will take a long step in the direction of increased efficiency of administration if it adopts the changes of school rules outlined in last evening's issue of the Telegraph. Generally speaking, they are the recommendations of the experts who made the school survey a year ago and if nothing more comes of the survey than the revisions now under consideration the expense will have been justified.

Instead of the old half-hazard committee administration, all very well when the board was large in numbers and the city small in size, but very cumbersome and inefficient under present conditions, the various departments are to be operated each by a responsible head, all under the authority of the superintendent of schools, and he in turn at the command of the board of directors.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Charters have been issued by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to three municipalities of Pennsylvania to become third-class cities on the first Monday in January and they are now beset by financial assistance asked from the bureau of municipalities of the State Department of Labor and Industry. In addition it is likely that steps to provide aid for the yards into which the new city of Coatesville divided itself will be taken.

The new third-class cities are to be Bethlehem, composed of Bethlehem and South Bethlehem, both of which were incorporated some time ago as separate third-class cities, but legal proceedings set aside the change; Duquesne and Butler. The Bethlehem lie in separate counties, that of the Commonwealth. They vote on consolidation and erection into a city. Leaving out the old city of Parker, which practically gave up its charter when the oil boom of the neighborhood ended and Lancaster, which is under a special act of its own, although rated as a third-class city, there will be three third-class cities after next month.

Hundreds of commissions ranging from the engraved parchment certificates of justice of the peace and aldermen are being prepared for issue at the department of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. They will be for officers taking their places the first Monday in January and will be mailed from the Capitol the day after Christmas.

The Pittsburgh Gazette-Times has this to say about Congressional elections: "Temperance forces in the Twenty-second Congressional district are preparing to oppose the re-election of Representatives Stephen G. Porter and Guy E. Campbell. They provoked this opposition by voting against the submission of the Federal Constitution. While no formal action has been taken against Mr. Campbell, the machinery of the Anti-Saloon League has been set in motion to start a contest for the seat held by Mr. Porter. Members of the Anti-Saloon League in the Twenty-ninth district held a meeting yesterday afternoon in the Public House of Representatives, is considered the logical candidate to oppose Mr. Porter. For some time past the Anti-Saloon League has been discussing Mr. Alter in all parts of the district. He has not indicated that he will respond to the call."

Berwick and West Berwick are flirting and may consolidate early in January.

If Councilmen Robert Garland, J. P. Kerr and W. Y. English, of Pittsburgh, reflect the opinion of their colleagues, the Burke act, which requires the city of Pittsburgh to pay \$150 a year additional to every city employee who receives \$1,500 or less, will be totally disregarded. Dr. Kerr says he was consulted by the city and found the Burke act, had the right to fix the number and salaries of city employees, in which Mr. Garland and Mr. English have taken a strong interest. The committee will be asked for an opinion on the legality of the Burke act.

Chairman W. D. B. Alney, of the Public Service Commission, who is talked about by his friends as a gubernatorial possibility is rather quick to repartee. Meeting with Congressman Thomas S. Waynesburg, at Pittsburgh, the other day he was saluted by the congressman with "How are you, governor?"

"Do you take me for a looking glass?" the Commissioner replied. "John H. Dailey, Pittsburgh councilman and former newspaperman, is working to put the detective bureau in that city out of business."

Two separate campaigns in behalf of the Prohibition amendment to be launched at state meetings here are being prepared to start the movement for election of legislators. The amendment, Dr. E. P. Prugh, chairman of the Prohibition State Committee, several days ago started arranging for the winter meeting of the party here in the city. He is nominating the candidates who will endorse them, but that where there are "wet" candidates for the party, the Anti-Saloon League people to-day announced that Superintendent E. V. Claypool was preparing to have a state convention to receive expression of sentiment from the fifteen counties around Harrisburg. The statement says it will "sound the call for united action."

The general impression here is that Governor Brumbaugh will name Henry G. Wasson, former Republican, as his running mate in the campaign and also took part in the administration war councils. He was then talked of as sure of the next vacancy on the bench.

County commissioners are picking out mercantile appraisers at a rapid rate throughout the whole state. More sheriffs are trying to duck men who want to be appointed deputies than known for a long time.

According to Hazelton papers ex-Senator E. P. James will contest the Senatorial election from that district with his old rival, Senator Asa K. DeWitt.

The Philadelphia Record says there will be big cuts in the Philadelphia city payroll and that the Vire Christmas is not going to be as nice as formerly.

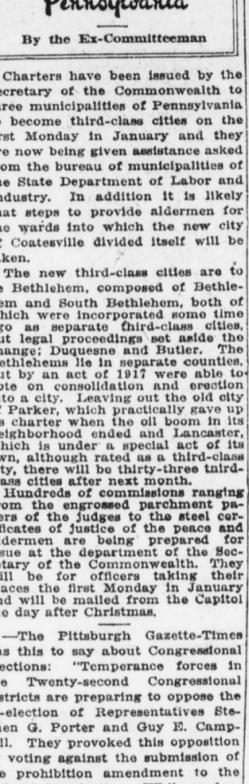
Scranton City Council settled a strike and adjusted some city matters without consulting Mayor Jermyn. The Mayor's term ends next month.

Auditor General Snyder is said to be preparing to demand resignations of a number of men connected with the office of the Philadelphia Register of Wills. The state has certain assets and the Auditor's office and the men now holding the jobs are all aligned with the state administration faction.

From all accounts some of the

IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES

BY BRIGGS



THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

A CONTRADICTION

To the Editor of the Telegraph: It has come to my knowledge that some one is circulating the story that the motor bus I run in Sixth street, is owned by the Harrisburg Railways Company.

This, I wish to deny most positively. The story is intended to hurt me in my business.

E. G. KASTNER.

THE RED CROSS

To the Editor of the Telegraph: A symbol is a sign of a thing which it represents. It is the immediate tangible representation of some event, or some thing, or some condition. The lion is the symbol of strength; the flag is the symbol of a nation; the Christmas tree and evergreen wreath are the symbols of the natal day of the world's Redeemer.

And now, the Red Cross! Why the red cross and why not a crescent or a shield, or some other sign? That at once indicates its true meaning. The cross on which the gracious Redeemer was crucified and the rugged cross on Calvary.

It means the Christian devotion of self-denial, of sacrifice, of cheerful service for humanity.

From its earliest inception during the perilous days of Miss Clara Barton up to the present time and until time shall cease to be the Red Cross is the symbol of what it represents. It represents the Red Cross movement and all its attending benignant forces and moral influences over the world.

What does it all mean? The Red Cross is as conspicuous as the twinkling stars on the darkest night. Why so conspicuous at the present time? The horror of war has called the Red Cross to tremendous service—to immediate service, to unflinching service.

Why the conspicuous display of the Red Cross symbol? Years ago while residing in Philadelphia, eight or ten days before Christmas, while riding on the trolley cars, my attention was attracted by the display in resident windows of floral wreaths or other designs.

ONE ON THE PRUSSIANS

One source of comfort to a patriot who is breaking in a new pair of shoes is that the Prussians have to walk in wadded ones.—Ohio State Journal.

THE AULD SCOTCH WIFE

They say I'm kinda crazy 'Sin' they sent me the news about him. But that I'm no hoor' o' the day. When I'm dargin' their socks I hear him singin' 'tae me.

When Jimmie was a bairnie He was the bravest singer 'Y' ever heard. His was roon' voice in his hairt wad linger; And so I'm thinkin' that's the way I'm aye hearin' him singin' 'tae me.

They said it was at Arras. As lang's he's gane—he's gane. Lying some place under sods; But when I'm washin' the dishes I hear him singin' 'tae me.

He was a bonny laddie. And I thought that he reid heid Was a glint o' God's gold glory. When I was millin' and sayin' 'God speed; Noo, when I'm greetin' about him I can hear him singin' 'tae me.

I suppose it's the best aye happens. And I'll no start findin' fault With the mercy that's been good to me. Or the bullet that said to him 'Halt!' For when we're singin' in the kirk I can hear him singin' 'wi' me.

And whether it's the kirk tunes Or some o' Robbie Burns, 'Auld Hundred' or 'Sweet Afton,' Or the heart inside o' me burns; For the I I never see him I can hear him singin' 'tae me.

And if he's near me all the days I should be glad we're no apart. And I'm thinkin' it'll no be long (The doctors say that it's ma'ly 'haint'). And maybe aye ye ken We'll baith be singin' together again.—John S. Barnett, in the New York Sun.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

IMPATIENCE.

I had a restless night. I dreamed I had an appointment with you and you were more than an hour late so I got tired of waiting and woke up.

You mean thing! You might have slept a little longer. You knew I'd be there in a minute.

OUTMATCHED

Do you think the widow is setting her cap for him? No; she tells me he is clever but impossible. Mercy! If the widow finds him impossible, he must be clever.

AFTER THE SHARE

Motorist (re smooching-up): Isn't that a pretty stiff bill, doctor? Surgeon: You don't suppose I'm going to let the other repair men do all the getting rich in this business, do you?

ESCAPED WITH HIS LOAD

Some you got home late last night without being torpedooed. What do you mean, torpedooed? Why, you were taking a zig-zag course when I saw you.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Walter H. Greevy is the major in command of Blair county's home defense organization.

Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker, of Altoona publisher, writing in a paper, says that the United States will take up the Mexican problem.

C. S. Cook, Pittsburgh electrician, says that lots of current lost in that community. He was sense and conservation.

General W. Price, a former member of the Pennsylvania artillery, is in Philadelphia on a furlough and says the men are coming on splendidly.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg has men in are on patrol duty in the real zone about the British Isles?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

Harrisburg furnished engines and machinery for the Civil War and a score of engines never came back from the south.

Evening Chat

Harrisburg policemen have been noting the accumulation of snow on the hillsides streets of Harrisburg, and are wondering what it is going to be like next week, when a cold snap will be due again and the proud owner of the Christmas sled will be "itching to try it."

"It makes me shiver to think what it will be like. The snow of sleds has been something fierce and the youngsters will be coasting everywhere," remarked a big officer to a street car conductor. The conductor said that copper, as he termed him, had it soft compared to the street car men who dread coasting time. There were many streets in Harrisburg coasting areas for coasting and people recall the days when Market street hill and Derry street used to be gathering places for throngs and when Herr, Boas, Cumberland, Calder and other up-town streets were so much frequented by coasters that policemen had to be put on guard. In those days there was no trolley line in Market street and coasters had to start as far as Tenth, while the big "hobs" used on the streets sloping off the "Ridge" would shoot down to old Pennsylvania avenue on the east side and almost to the top of the other. The construction of the Citizens line on Capitol and Seventh street ended much of the fun and the police had to frown on it the more than ever because of the growth of automobile traffic. Down town had Harris park for the kids to coast and Paxton street bridge. There used to be some coasting on Dock street, too, but Market street was the real place for a daisy ride with all the thrills. If the weather is right the chances are that Paxton street will be a coasting ground again and the memories of the days when one could start on Sauerkraut hill and whizz down by the old Reading roundhouse to the bridge at Paxton creek may be revived.

Uptown the favorite coasting hills used to be Dauphin street, between Sixth and Seventh, Peffer street between Fifth and Third and Macloy street from the top of the Macloy street bridge over the Pennsylvania railroad tracks all the way out to the asylum tracks, this being by far the best of the west end sledding places. That the coasting street cars came along to mar the pleasures of coasters. Dauphin street always was dangerous, the cars being often like an ice cover at the bottom and infrequently a misguided bobsled went straight on through a board fence on the east side of the street, instead of prescribing the desired course. In that case the man at the tiller made a hasty escape for parts unknown, providing he was physically able to do so, and if not the coasters were added to the list of those who had been killed during the days of the old wooden bridge, and for all the writer knows, still is, a speedy one and when the street was in good condition the sleds extended all the way to the entrance to the insane hospital grounds. More adventurous lads used to haul the "bobs" and even single sleds to the top of the "Crooked Hill," nearly a mile above the top of which comes down to Cameron street, past Nisley's schoolhouse and has a slope of a mile or two back over a hill to the top of the Wildwood park. This hill, a series of hills, is steep at places and at others reaches almost a level but when in good sledding condition the sleds from top to bottom, by the longest ride in this vicinity sleds used on this hill were equipped with little dark lanterns as head lights and brass trimmings. As the sleds to sound at crossings. The hill has been spoiled considerably by regrading in recent years, but ought to still provide plenty of good sport for those who have the hardihood to tote their sleds so far.

Years ago bobsledding was such a popular sport that considerable rivalry existed among owners of "bobs," which were aptly named, equipped with all manner of guiding appliances, foot rails, lamps and bells, and some of them were upholstered for the comfort of the coasters. One famous sled was named the "Snow Belle." It was owned by a well known railroad man long since dead and was painted white with gold lettering and brass trimmings. Another big red "bob" with blue and white trimmings was the property of William Decker, in his time a prominent railroad foreman. Another was the "Arctic Queen" and there were dozens of others.

"Chief" Gilnor, as Patrick Gilmore is known on Capitol Hill, which is all the way to the appointed guardian and title holder, paid an annual visit to several of the departments yesterday. Ordinarily "Chief" haunts the rounds around the only official whom he honors is Superintendent Shining, to whom he gives tips on how to run the building. Yesterday he started to make the rounds to show his new clothing and stopped at the Health Department, where he was met by Dr. He went to the Treasury and found Mr. Kephart was sick, to next he found Attorney General Brown had been called home by the death of his mother. Then he discovered Adjutant General Bea and Highway Commissioner O'Neil were away. Finally, he called at the Governor's office only to find Dr. Brumbaugh in Washington.

"Yeh, hey," called out "Chief" to one of the big ones on the job.

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