

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1917

Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune but great minds rise above it.—WASHINGTON IRVING.

POOR BUSINESS

PARK COMMISSIONER GROSS has permitted Council to strike the rip-rap work along the river from the general budget ordinance. This is bad housekeeping.

The circumstances are these. Thousands upon thousands of cubic yards of earth have been filled in between the steps and the street to enlarge the park and protect the sidewalk above. A part of this "fill" has been rip-rapped to prevent floods from washing out the bank. But much remains unprotected and high water at any time may cause thousands of dollars damage.

In addition to this and as a further reason why the work should be completed the coming year, the city now has a very favorable contract for the rip-rapping: one that Mr. Gross was fortunate in procuring and which he cannot duplicate.

By permitting the rip-rap item to be dropped while every other department is receiving larger appropriations shows a lamentable lack of force on the part of the park superintendent, leaves the city liable to heavy damages from flood and abrogates the best contract it can ever hope to make for the work.

CANT GAG T. R.

SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER says "we must speed up our military effort." That is what Theodore Roosevelt, Leonard Wood, Congressman Gardner and a lot of other men of foresight said three years ago. Wood and Gardner have been put where their voices cannot be heard and the doughty Colonel would be silenced if some in high places had the power.

GOVERNMENT AND LABOR

WITH the railroads in the hands of the government the question is being asked, what about labor? And the answer is that labor should have nothing to fear and not much to expect at the hands of the government. There is no reason to believe that the President, as controller of the railroads, will be any more unfriendly to railroad employees than he has been as the figure that has stood between them and the railroad managers during their recent disputes.

If anything a more equitable distribution of joy may be anticipated. Just as there are intimations of wholesale reductions of the salaries of officials for the benefit of the rank and file, so the government may be expected to recognize first the needs of the more poorly paid classes of employees. But in both these steps there is danger, for to remove the hope of large returns for effort may take from the field of railroad endeavor scores of able exclusives who are apt to go eventually where there is more money to be earned, and to advance the joy of the humbler employees, while ignoring the claims of the skilled laborers, such as engineers, conductors and the like, would be to create dissatisfaction at the expense of the service.

The government having taken over railroad control, will nifty not accept also the railroads' problems, and it must consider without delay the labor phase of these, or like England in the early days of the war we may find ourselves face to face with the very thing we are trying to avoid—an impaired or stagnated transportation system.

How Great Britain finally solved not only her railroad difficulties, but her labor questions of all kinds, as they apply to industries affecting the war might prove an interesting study for Secretary McAdoo and the Railroad War Board. After much controversy the English government finally has specified what are the indispensable war industries, the railroads among them, and has given

employers and employees alike distinct understanding that special terms and conditions favorable to increased efficiency shall prevail there. Also, England has established a national agency of arbitration to hear and decide all major controversies between masters and men in the war industries. For the period of the war arbitration is compulsory, and strikes are thereby made illegal, which has worked well for all concerned.

The government has taken into the high government councils, into the cabinet and ministries, accredited representatives of labor, and for the lesser administrative departments has selected trade unionists as "labor advisers." It likewise has encouraged the establishment of shop committees to deal with employees in matters of shop practice, in regard to which there are sharp differences of interest and opinion, and has entered into a national agreement with the trade unions involved in the war industries to the effect that all established union standards of employment that may be abrogated during the war will be restored after the war.

And most important of all, England has fostered discussion and proposals which look to the creation after the conflict of representative deliberative bodies in each industry to consider not only problems of demobilization and reconstruction, but to continue permanently in existence in order to bring about better understanding concerning such fundamental policies as limitation of output, regularity of employment in production of scientific management and adjustment of production to demand. There has even been created a reconstruction ministry to give immediate force and impetus to the agitation for drastic industrial reorganization.

All this has been painfully evolved over the period of the years since the war began and it is ready made experience which the United States government, if it is wise, will study carefully. Much of what England is doing can and should be done here. It should be the care of the administration to make railroad men and others engaged in industries vital to the war understand that their own best interests lie in wholehearted support of the government by the attainment of maximum efficiency each in his own particular line.

DEMOSTHENES AND PACIFISTS

A WAY back in the old Grecian days there were pacifists, and Demosthenes in his famous philippic thundered against them as Colonel Roosevelt and other patriots of our day are warning against those who are even now asking why we are at war. In the current number of the North American Review a correspondent quotes the great Athenian orator as follows:

"And what can be the reason that he treated you with insolence, that he utters menaces against you, while he at least condescends to dissemble with other people and gain their good offices? Whence is it that his conduct toward you is so different from that toward others? Because, of all the Grecian states, ours is the only one in which harangues in favor of enemies are pronounced with impunity."

This correspondent suggests that for Philip of Macedon we read Wilhelm II, and then quotes further from Demosthenes this stern criticism of the enemy within:

"Since, then, you are engaged in defense of all that is dear to you, apply to the great work with an attention worthy of the importance of it. Let the wretches who have openly sold themselves to this man be the object of your abhorrence, let them meet with the utmost severity of public justice, for you will not, cannot, conquer your foreign enemies until you have punished those that lurk within your walls. No, they will even prove an obstacle to your progress and to the progress of your country. Give your enemies the superiority. Let your defenses for war which once passed, let there be no dispute whether it ought or ought not to have been undertaken."

What more significant warning than this against the pro-German propagandists who are doing their utmost to weaken the morale of this republic and place obstacles in the way of a vigorous prosecution of the war? In the fifth century, says this correspondent, Demosthenes did for the Greeks what Roosevelt has done and is doing for the America of the twentieth century. More and more the people are realizing the great service which Colonel Roosevelt has performed in arousing the people and in compelling a recognition of the stern facts which confront us.

Failing to heed the Athenian orator, Greece lost her liberty, but the trumpet call of Roosevelt has been heard and everywhere Americans are responding.

IN THE DIVVY

SIGNS that the municipal pie of New York City is about to be divided are not wanting. Representatives Daniel J. Griffin and Henry Bruckner, who spring from the loins of the Tammany Tiger, have tendered their resignations from Congress presumably to accept civic sinecures, and it is reported that several more of the brood will leave Congress shortly.

Representative Fitzgerald, it is announced, is to be associated with a law firm in the metropolis which nets a large amount of business through Tammany. For another thing, it is stated that the Tammany exodus from Washington means that the contingent is tired of presidential tyranny.

Fitzgerald, at least, may have acted upon the language of Caesar: "For my part, I had rather be the first man among these fellows than the second man in Rome."

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Prohibitionists of Pennsylvania were to-day called by State Chairman E. Prugh to convene in state convention in the Smithfield Street Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, on February 12 to outline their attitude toward the proposed amendment to the constitution for 1918 and in announcing it for Lincoln's birthday Dr. Prugh said that he called it after securing sentiment from the various Pennsylvania party and relative to election of Pennsylvania legislators pledged to support the dry amendment. The convention is the first held since the party and in announcing it for Lincoln's birthday Dr. Prugh said that he called it after securing sentiment from the various Pennsylvania party and relative to election of Pennsylvania legislators pledged to support the dry amendment.

The notice says that the convention will consider suggestions of prohibition candidates for state offices; the Superior Court judge vacancy; selection of delegates to the prohibition national convention on May 15, which will be held before the state primary day; "consideration of our attitude toward the proposed union of the prohibition party with the new National party, whose platform is to elect a conservative government in framing"; suggestions as to the financing of the next state campaign and to define our particular attitude toward the election of Pennsylvania in the matter of the drive for the election of a legislature to ratify the national constitution amendment at its next session.

While a schedule of delegates is given it is stated that all who desire may attend the convention.

Eagerness with which Democratic newspapers are decrying the record of Republican make-up in the Harrisburg Telegraph is rather indicative of what they fear it the factionalism stops. Republican leaders in Philadelphia to-day decided to await the turn of events and state administration chieftains are going ahead building up their fences. The fact that people connect with and such men as Governor Penrose and other Republicans are being sounded. Meanwhile the democratic bosses are getting ready to go to the polls and they are making a slate for the people of Pennsylvania.

The Philadelphia Record says that the Vares are getting ready to take the Philadelphia city government in the Philadelphia city government and it is expected that the demarcation will be extended to Capitol Hill, where it has been regularly staged as about to begin next year. The Vares are getting ready to take the Philadelphia city government in the Philadelphia city government and it is expected that the demarcation will be extended to Capitol Hill, where it has been regularly staged as about to begin next year.

Notwithstanding opportunities of some of his political friends at all likelihood he is not regarded as at all likely to be Governor. Brumbaugh will appoint a registration commissioner to succeed Mayor-elect A. T. Connelley for some time to come. Mr. Connelley is not regarded as at all likely to be Governor. Brumbaugh will appoint a registration commissioner to succeed Mayor-elect A. T. Connelley for some time to come.

While pre-emptions of the Town Meeting party name are going on generally throughout the state there is also a movement to make the names of Liberty, National and American for congressional and senatorial nominations next spring. If this movement goes on there will be more party names on the Pennsylvania ballot next spring than in the Roosevelt campaign and the two years succeeding it.

Senator Charles A. Snyder will return to Harrisburg Monday and prepare to go to conclusions in regard to the pay roll of the State Bureau of Prisons. He proposes to have the necessary for salary increases in salary and employees explained and is disposed to insist upon the full amount of the pay roll of the Bureau as part of the inquiry into the ability of the fund to carry additional employees. The appearance of a bill for the Bureau probably begin a big fight with the Attorney General's Department.

The State Capitol was taking much interest to-day in a meeting reported to be held in Philadelphia to-day by Governor Brumbaugh, Attorney General Brumbaugh and other men aligned with the state administration to decide upon the appointments to the Public Service Commission and the Philadelphia Judgeship. Some determination will also be reached as to the means of dealing with the State Commission of Agriculture which has defied the Governor in the past year and to E. B. Dorset as chief of markets and which may kick over the traces when it comes to confirming a chief clerk to succeed the late Dr. M. D. Lichletter.

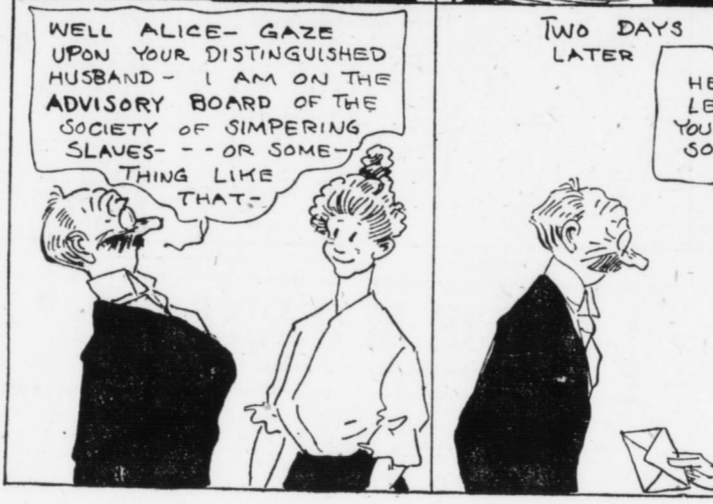
WHEN ALL DRANK MILK

In those early days, as the new-comers to the West, the milk that those who had come earlier and who had a tavern had a way of classifying the new arrivals as Northerners or Southerners. The first question that the stranger asked for sweet milk was from north of the Ohio River. From New England or one of the Middle States he called for sour milk, that identified him as from the South. Sweet milk sold in St. Louis at twenty-five cents a gallon. Sour milk was eighteen and three-quarters cents a gallon. From Missouri's One Hundred Years Ago," by Walter B. Stevens.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the Government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.—Isaiah, ix, 6.

SOMEbody IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



CONTRASTS

"There is a bitter irony in the contrast between the record of facts presented by General Crozier to the Senate committee and the bland generalities in Secretary Baker's New York address," remarks the Chicago Tribune.

There is also a "bitter irony" in the spectacle of Mr. Baker rattling off in the War Department in the name of the country, the time of war and such men as Crozier, Garrison, and Roosevelt officially unemployed.

THEY CAN'T BEAT THAT

I stood reverently on the deck of a New Jersey ferry boat with a young man, a private in the ranks, who had just returned from the camp after a short furlough. It was in the neighborhood of 6 o'clock in the evening and quite dark.

"They can't beat that," he said simply without explanation. "Not that and all that's back of it. Isn't it great? That's what we're fighting for! That down there and everything that's behind it—Chicago, Duluth, New Orleans, Cheyenne, San Francisco, the Rockies, the prairies—phev! All the people in those places. You know, when I get over there, no matter what kind of a jam I may get into some time—badly hit or stuck alone in the dark when things are coming pretty thick—if I'm alone, I'll think of all that in back of me, I'll think I'll manage to hold up fine."

PARIS WEARS A SMILE

In 1915 there was plenty of hot water in Paris. This year, except on Saturdays and Sundays, you could hold your hand to the water. Even of the Ritz this is true. Then there are two days when you get along without meat. You are asked to eat a vegetable soup, and you realize that it takes money and perhaps influence to keep a motor car full of gasoline. But, on the other hand, there was but one before. And they are up to all their status quo ante tricks.

The middle west is getting sky-line prices for grains and all other products, and the prices paid for beef and pork masterly to the order of a hundred per cent. No need to discuss this further—everybody knows the farmers' pockets are well lined. The Pacific Coast has been half way across the continent and fruit and lumber can scarcely be marketed fast enough to supply the demand. If there is a section of the country that can truthfully plead poverty, then we haven't heard of it.

LABOR NOTES

Organized workers in New York are supporting pending legislation which would increase wages of city laborers to \$3 a day.

The London (England) Society of Composers have asked their secretary, T. E. Naylor, to be a candidate at the next London County Council election.

Apportionment of labor to industries vital to the conduct of the war will be taken up by the Council of National Defense with union officials.

A tremendous rush of immigrants after the war is predicted by Frederic C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration at the port of New York.

Representatives of Street Car Men's Union in Massachusetts have organized to secure remedial legislation for workers in this calling.

Stamford (Ct.) Iron Molders' Union has presented a demand to the firm under its jurisdiction for an increase to \$5 and reduction of hours to eight per day.

The International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers has endorsed plans of its affiliates in British Columbia to secure the eight-hour day.

BY BRIGGS



EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Chaplain of the House of Representatives gave a financial touch to his invocation at the opening of Congress by praying that the nation might be united "in the bonds of patriotism."—San Francisco Bulletin.

Austria now favors a "speedy peace." As we recall it, she also favored a speedy war.—Brooklyn Eagle.

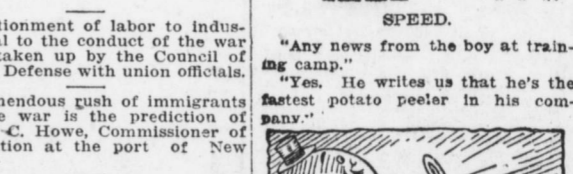
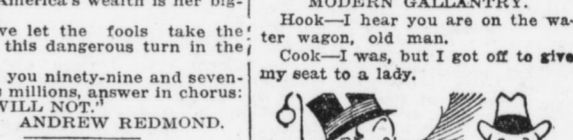
When the worst has happened Germany may gladly find refuge in the declaration of the Allies for the protection of the rights of weak nations.—Newark News.

Why not a law providing that in case the accused is pretty she shall be dismissed and the state saved the cost of trying her for killing her husband?—Terre Haute Star.

Although some people may not accept Secretary McAdoo's theory that Germans have been depressing Liberty Bonds in the market, the prevailing opinion in this country is that in due time Liberty Bonds are going to depress the Germans.—New York World.

The Appeal To Reason did not have to change its name to The New Appeal when it decided the spouse of the cause of the Allies in the war for Democracy. Any appeal to reason seems to be a new enough appeal among a large body of Socialists.—Philadelphia North American.

OUR DAILY LAUGH



—That Harrisburg wheat shipments have grown rapidly in the last few years? HISTORIC HARRISBURG This city was headquarters for wagon trains during three years of the Civil War.

Evening Chat

Four acts of 1917, all of considerable effect, will take effect next week in Pennsylvania. Two of the laws belong to the code of seven acts relative to estates of decedents, another is the state code of fish laws and the other is the code regulating keeping of dogs in the smaller cities, boroughs and townships. Some minor laws also become operative January 1, when the fish and dog codes go into force. The acts of the decedents estate code becoming effective are known as the "wills" act and the "intestate" act. They will be law December 31 and are companions to the "orphans' court partition," "orphans' court," "revised price," "register of wills" and "fiduciaries" acts, which went into effect immediately upon approval last summer. They are the codes drafted by the commission composed of Judges J. M. Speiser and T. J. Baldrige and Executive Speaker George E. Altner. Each of these seven acts contains a special clause repealing other acts, the "partition" act repealing 53; "orphans' court" act repealing 10; "register of wills" act repealing 26; "register of wills" act repealing 28, and "fiduciaries" act repealing 163. The code is the first systematic codification of the laws relative to estates since the thirties.

The "wills" act makes a number of important changes among the more important being making uniform the rights of a surviving husband and wife to take against the will of the decedent. The period before death when a will making a charitable or religious bequest may be executed is changed to thirty days. It has been a calendar month. In addition to this, which affects every one, it is in the "intestate" act that the most important changes are made. It provides the method of meeting and personal property of decedents who leave no will. A man highly versed in such matters said of the changes to-day:

"The first to be noted is that the same scheme of inheritance is provided for both real and personal property, thus ignoring the distinction that existed by which the interests of the surviving husband and wife were limited in some cases to life estates, while their interests in the personal property was absolute. This change abolishes what is known as dower and courtesy. The next important change that may be noted is that the reciprocal rights of husband and wife in each other's intestate estates are extended to the surviving spouse also provides that the estate which the surviving husband or wife is entitled to may be taken as against the will of the decedent. The allowance of \$5,000. The special allowance of \$5,000 heretofore given to the wife where there was no issue and which the surviving husband and wife in cases of actual intestacy where there is no issue. The distinction between the whole and half blood is also abolished. The right of inheritance in cases of illegitimate children is abolished. The illegitimate child and illegitimate children are legitimized by the marriage of their parents without the present requirement of a court order. Lastly, it is provided that no murderer shall inherit from the person whom he has killed."

Announcement of the appointment of district deputy grandmasters of the Masons of Pennsylvania yesterday by Grand Master James B. Whelan, of Harrisburg, was received Col. L. A. Waters, this week, calls to mind some matters of interest to Harrisburgers. This city has had two Grand Masters of the Order of the Eastern Star, W. L. Gargas. Mr. Gargas served for years as district deputy, to which place William S. Snyder has been reappointed. Frederick Godcharies, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, will complete an even dozen years as district deputy under his reappointment. Frederick Godcharies becomes the center of Pennsylvania Masonry as it is not only the home of the Grand Master, but of Col. H. R. Laird, the Grand Commander of the Order. He has held some years ago by William M. Donaldson, of this city. Detrich Lamade, the Williamsport publisher, well known here, is the new Grand Pursuivant.

Mahlon H. Shaaber, the former Republican legislator from Reading, who was a few days ago, was the tallest man in the Legislature, as he topped Ex-Speaker George E. Altner, with whom he served, by an inch. Mr. Shaaber, an old man, was once walked out of the House together. The crowd gazed. The Reading man used to head the parades around the hall at the Hotel Pennsylvania. He held the American flag, and he recited Lincoln's address at Gettysburg upon a number of occasions.

Two missionaries from the interior of China visited the Capitol one day this week. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit, as they were Pennsylvania-men, and they left insisting on giving the guide a gratuity. The guide did not want to take it. He did finally. What he drew was a Chinese dollar with a fine profile of Yuan Shi Kai worth about thirty-eight cents, net.

These are busy days for James N. Moore, the chief of the state's Legislative Reference Bureau, because everyone is asking for information on new laws. Mr. Moore sits in the House, during the making and when it comes down to the reviews he has the facts all arranged in the back of his head.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Ex-Judge Charles E. Rice, of Wilkes-Barre, is being congratulated upon the bestowal of the French war cross upon his son.

—Prof. D. L. Sweeney, of Pittsburg, Pa., says that the examinations of men for soldiers demonstrate the need for physical training.

—J. H. Sundheim, prominent poultry dealer, says that every building and loan association should sell the thrift stamps.

—Joseph Spahr, retired Pottstown manufacturer, has given good money on his fifty-second wedding anniversary.

—Hampton L. Carson, former Attorney General, is coming to Harrisburg on his way to Luncheon speeches these days.

DO YOU KNOW

—That Harrisburg wheat shipments have grown rapidly in the last few years? HISTORIC HARRISBURG This city was headquarters for wagon trains during three years of the Civil War.