

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

Published evenings except Sunday by THE TELEGRAPH PRINTING CO.

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Member American Newspaper Publishers' Association

Member of the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa., as second class matter.

By carrier, ten cents a week; by mail, \$5.00 a year in advance.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1918

God doth not need Either man's work, or his own gifts; who best Bear his mild yoke, they serve Him best.

—MILTON.

POLICE INCOMPETENCE

If Harrisburg is placed within a five-mile "dry" zone as a result of the sale of liquor to soldiers and to persons who became disorderly upon government work in this vicinity, law-abiding liquor dealers will have nobody to blame but the comparatively few saloon men and others who are understood to have been selling whisky illegally and to the police who have countenanced the practice.

The Army officers, in charge of operations at Middletown and New Cumberland, have been most considerate. At the very beginning they might have regulated the sale of liquor in this whole district. They might have closed scores of drinking places and they had authority to place the local police department to all intents and purposes under their own direction, so far as liquor and vice control is concerned. But they did not choose to disturb local conditions. They tried to live in harmony with the civil authorities. The manner in which this proffer of good will was met may be judged by the occurrence of Saturday night, when a local city detective beat up with a blackjack a Federal officer who was bringing two prisoners to the county jail and would have allowed the prisoners their liberty had not they had more sense than their would-be liberator and decided to remain.

This is not the first complaint against the police department. It is generally inefficient and has been. It is larger than ever and more costly than ever, but it is not so effective as it was when it was smaller and there was less red tape in its conduct. Civil service does not appear to have wrought any reform. Instead, conditions grow worse. There are able and conscientious officers on the force—men who would be a credit to any police department—but they are not in the majority; neither are they intelligently or ably directed. No matter what the War Department may do in the matter now at issue, city council owes it to the public to go thoroughly into the faults of the police department and correct them.

The Kaiser's personal press agent is very silent these days; probably trying to think up a few new excuses.

JUST IN TIME

WE are just in time in Russia. President Wilson did not act a moment too soon in approving allied intervention for the protection of that sorely beset country from further German invasion. Trotsky and Lenine have fled to Kronstadt from their capital at Moscow, in order to escape the rising wrath of their deceived fellow countrymen. Perhaps the coming of the allies from the north and east hastened their downfall and will precipitate the new revolution that has been brewing ever since the Bolshevik leaders sold out the nation to Germany.

AS TO HOUSING

The point has been made by persons who do not fully understand the Harrisburg housing problem, that materials are so high now and labor so scarce that houses cannot be built and rented with profit. It is also contended that we should advertise the advantages of the town as a shipping and manufacturing center and let the housing situation take care of itself.

The answers to these arguments are obvious. To the first it may be pointed out that if we are to await a period of low prices for building materials we shall doubtless refrain from construction for a period of at least five years after the war, for all builders and dealers in supplies agree that the demand will be increased rather than diminished by the reconstruction that will take place in Europe immediately following a declaration of peace.

Secondly, we have already lost one industry which would have employed some 5,000 hands because we have no houses to offer, and this month before any public mention was made of the house famine here.

No, we cannot wait until the manufacturer or the shipper comes to Harrisburg to build, for the simple reason that the time is past when business men select locations for branch houses without first making a complete survey of local conditions. Labor is too difficult to hold under any circumstances to risk losing it by placing an industry depending upon manpower in a locality which does not provide sufficiently for its working classes. Housing has ceased to be a mere matter of supply and demand, where anything with a roof between earth and sky can be classed as a house and rented as such. Working men demand good homes. They are entitled to them and they will have them—if not in Harrisburg, then in some more enterprising city.

As to the inadvisability of advertising Harrisburg as a town in which houses are scarce, that appears to be the only way the present trouble can be removed. You cannot pass a life insurance examination by assuring the physician that there is nothing the matter with you, nor can you cure a cancer by hiding the sore. The same may be said of trying to make the outside world believe what is not true with respect to housing.

Beside, the housing problem is not one of merely building more houses. We might possibly worry along in a fashion with the houses we already have, if all of them were put into proper condition for human habitation. But all authorities testify to the fact that hundreds of our dwellings are not fit for stables, and a way must be found to correct these conditions.

The Telegraph entered upon this campaign after due consideration of the entire situation. It did not suppose for an instant that the movement would receive universal approval. It proposes to continue along the lines laid down until some improvement has been wrought.

A Democratic correspondent writes that the Republicans have made a target of the President. In public life targets are not made; they make themselves.

AN AMAZING REVELATION

THE report of the sub-committee named to investigate the delay in aircraft production to be made public this week, it is to be hoped, will clear up the beclouded situation and place the blame where it properly belongs. The announcement that members of the committee quarreled because Secretary Baker declined to answer their questions is a most amazing revelation. Mr. Baker should have been the last man to hold anything back from the investigators. In the last analysis failure of the air program must rest on his shoulders as the responsible head of the War Department and it might have been supposed that he would have been extremely desirous of doing anything possible to assist those whose purpose it is to speed up the construction of aeroplanes.

Another "retreat for victory"—for the allies.

If you want to know why the Telegraph thinks something ought to be done about housing, go to Ann alley, or Seventh street, or Marion street, or Wallace street, some sections, and take one good look.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Course of the leaders of the reorganization faction of the Pennsylvania State Democracy will be determined at a meeting to be held in Philadelphia within the next week. Under the leadership of the Democratic State Committee when it adjourned its June session the committee was to be called together before September 15th to discuss the platform and to adopt a platform and to arrange other details of the campaign. Since that time both the official end of the State Committee and the friends of Judge Fulton C. Bonnell, the gubernatorial nominee, have been playing a waiting game and the next move seems to be up to the State Chairman.

It will be determined at the meeting in Philadelphia when the candidates shall be called together to select the campaign committee, the selection of whose chairman will be tendered to Judge Bonnell and at the same time the committee in charge of the platform will submit proposals to the Governor's office. It is that the State Committee will meet here about August 28.

The Republican State Committee, place and time of meeting, have not yet been determined. It is reported that the State Chairman William E. Crow, but prospects are that the committee will meet late in the month, either here or in Pittsburgh.

A policy of silence seems to have been adopted at the State Capitol in regard to the charges against the Board has been undertaken to establish rules for the guidance of the newspapers. Advertisements must not be interfered with, but reading matter must be curtailed. If a newspaper has been in the habit of giving fifty columns or less of reading matter a day, it must lose five per cent. Fifteen per cent. less is made mandatory between fifty and seventy columns, thirty per cent. between seventy and ninety, and so on.

It is an intricate scheme and a thoroughly unsatisfactory one. Since it is paper that the War Industries Board wishes to save, why should it be so particular as to the precise manner in which the saving is to be made? Everything that is not paid for is to be eliminated as reading matter, and this reading matter must go out by the column, although a publisher might prefer, in times of government emergency, to sacrifice advertising rather than curtail essential information that the public should have.

If it is necessary to reduce the output of paper, the proper course to pursue would be to put it up to each individual newspaper to use less tonnage to the extent required, leaving the problem to the newspaper itself to work out. Some days more white paper is needed than on others. Some days paper can be saved without detriment to the public. But to insist that a certain percentage of space devoted to news shall be eliminated without the slightest regard to the necessities of the days is absurd.

The government would be very foolish to hamper any industry engaged in manufacturing ships or war material of any sort. While the newspapers are not the output of a government bureau or commission, they are very closely related to the prosecution of the war. They are the vehicle through which all information is conveyed to the public. They are engaged in a tremendously patriotic enterprise. It is through them that enthusiasm is maintained. They are expected—and are performing well—to stimulate the purchase of War Savings Stamps; to raise immense funds for the Red Cross and all other relief projects. They are expected to encourage the government in every war undertaking; to make known the government's policies; to insist that there shall be no peace short of a complete triumph over the enemy; to grapple with pro-German lies and sentiment.

Alcohol Hinders War Making

Just imagine what it would be like if there were no newspapers. Why, the prosecution of the war would be simply impossible. How could the President's patriotic address be spread abroad? How could the demands of the government upon the newspapers for the circulation of government propaganda be met? We believe that that is the proper word—enormous. It seems to us, therefore, to be pretty proper policy to clap upon the newspapers hard and fast rules which require the radical elimination of space and thereby necessarily interfere seriously with the great work which the newspapers are carrying on for the government.

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE

By Briggs



PRAYER OF A SISTER

It's worse for mothers, God, Oh, help them first.

But after you have comforted each other In all the land, then heart I dread the worst. Oh, send me news, good news from him, my brother!

OUR DAILY LAUGH

BEHIND THE DROP.

Miss Giggles—Ain't you a little too heavy to draw down big money for a trick bicycle? Miss Ponderosa—Oh, I don't get much from the show shops but I'm being well paid for advertising a strong wheel.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Francis J. Torrance, reappointed to the State Board of Public Charities, has given years to the service of that Board and is a recognized authority all over the country.

James Robinson, the Philadelphia superintendent of police, who becomes an officer in the United States Guards, used to be in the National Guard. Postmaster Percy Faust, of Weathersville, has sent his third son into the service and is proud of it. Senator Boies Penrose and District Attorney Samuel P. Rotan, of Philadelphia, are on a fishing trip off Atlantic City. Major William P. Clarke, Williamsport guardsman, is the post-adjutant at the rifle matches camp. The major is a newspaperman and has been in militia affairs for many years. Fred C. Newell, the Canton editor, who had been ill, is back at his desk.

Evening Chat

While they are not in the same class with the soldiers as a popular attraction the fact remains that the men who almost overnight replaced the soldiers who were patrolling bridges, viaducts, water works and other works of vital importance to the nation are doing a tremendous lot of work and doing it efficiently right in this city and nearby. Importance of Harrisburg as a railroad center which is something which William T. McAuley's use to urge upon the people of this city during the days when he was superintendent and which railroad men from J. Edgar Thompson said down here have realized has called for the organization of a corps of men who are scarcely known. In fact until you happen to bump up against them in the dark you hardly know that men are on guard. A year or so ago soldiers from Philadelphia and New York regiments came here to guard the bridges and buildings which are places necessary to the scheme of train movement and growled over the duty and longed for action. They went away about as suddenly as they appeared and a good many people thought that the bridges were not guarded. But they soon got over it. Through the good word of last year, the chill nights of last spring and the alternate rains and hot periods of this summer every yard of the great yards about here, the bridges and buildings have been under watchful eye, and the men walking tracks would amaze the average man if he could get to see a schedule of what is done at night and in sunshine. It is about as hard to get into the yards at Enola, Lucknow, Rutherford or near Maclay street as it is to get into the Governor's office and any one who lingers near a bridge is politely asked to move on. Between electric lights and watchmen things are pretty well taken care of around here.

While we have no means of saying what was the total trout catch in the season which started with July 1, I feel safe in saying from what I have heard from wardens and fishermen and those who follow the sport that we have the largest catch in several years. This was the opinion expressed by Nathan R. Buller, state commissioner of fisheries, in regard to the first trout season under the new plan. He said that he had just home from visits to hatcheries and various points where he got the reports and the fishing was so good in many localities that fishermen got the limit daily and beside they got good sized fish. I am sorry there were some people who took undersized ones, but never seemed to have plenty of the size capable of taking care of themselves to go around. The northwestern part of the state seems to have done exceptionally well. The reports we have indicated extensively in that section and I think the results told. This year's trout season was an exceptional one. It was a good one to start with, but the fishermen made up for it in the last eight weeks. I would consider it a very successful season. We are going to start to put up our trout crop this week. We have to survive, before the end of August," continued the commissioner. "We have got to start this early because we do not have the time to make up for what such as we used to have before the war. We are also up against some transportation difficulties. Hence we will make an early start and are able to do so. We are not going to put out as many trout as we did for the last season. Remember we got close to the 3,000 mark and we had the hatcheries making a most successful season and a complete force of men. But we are going to make the best of what we have. We will have the trout fishermen to help us." Commissioner Buller said that bass and salmon fishing reports were fair, but catches being good where streams were right.

Judge Charles B. Witmer, of United States court, gave up his position as superintendent of police, to handle business in his court. The judge likes to take to the woods and to fish and every time he has started off something has happened and he has to go to about his district to hold court. The special session being held here this week grows out of the war and the judge fixed the time to hold court.

James E. Lentz, the recorder of deeds in this county, is a competent man for the thorough manner in which he has organized the government's work for instruction of drafted men in the upper Daubigny district. This board has been reported to Washington as about the first to carry out the ideas of the provost marshal general. There were many questions as to whether the board could get the men out. It was put up to Mr. Lentz. He got the boys out and they are so keen about drilling that they have been ordering books of drill regulations and asking the men of military experience in their home towns to give them pointers in the evenings.

Horace A. Beale, the Parkersburg ironmaster selected as the chairman of the subcommittee on iron and steel of the War Resources committee of this section of the state, used to be at Steelton. Years ago he was stationed at the Pennsylvania Steel Works and played football about here.

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HISTORIC HARRISBURG Dauphin and Lebanon county militiamen in the War of 1777 are commemorated on the Harrisburg river front.

Aliens In American Industries

FIRST of all, take a census of all employees and divide them into four classes: native born, naturalized citizens, friendly aliens, alien enemies. If they are naturalized citizens of enemy alien descent they had better be classed industrially with alien enemies until something of their history and record is known. Let us insist frankly that a man born on another soil has to prove himself for America. A certificate of naturalization granted under our inadequate requirements, where often a job is the goal, is not enough to class him with a native American.

Second—make an analysis of a map of your plant showing its vulnerable spots. Where all a fine do the greatest damage, where is waste accumulated, what hydrant is most vital in extinguishing a fire, where is the control of your lights, systems, and how a job is your sure tax bond; where will an explosion cause the most damage; what machines are most vital or difficult to repair; for another step—the systematic removal of every possible cause for unrest, dissatisfaction, disloyalty and disturbance. This will require a close contact with the workmen, and another analysis of the plant, if not a map. Is it wages, or hours, or foremen or the employing and dismissal method, housing, substitution of women? What else is it, it constitutes the medium through which the German agents work, and it is their chief stock in trade next to the love for the fatherland. In dealing with German spies, a plant has to be fool proof as well as bomb proof. The man who strikes may think it is bad housing or treatment; the German propagandist knows it's German efficiency playing through. American negligence and carelessness. — From American Industries.

Republican Conventions

At the different conventions of the Republican party that are now being held in many states the same keynote is very much in evidence. The members of them meet together as representatives of the minority party nationally, not to find fault, not to hinder the wheels of progress, but to bring that stability and poise in this dark hour that a party of construction and progress can bring in times like the present. They meet in thoughtful, helpful, mood, because the history of achievement in this country since the days of 1861 is the history of the Republican party. The Republican party is a war party, a fighting party, a party that always has and always will strike in the open.

representatives of the Republican party can in good conscience meet at this time to discuss and consider matters with a view to perpetuating the party in its usefulness. Republican votes and leadership in Congress are entitled to full credit for the more than a million men that have died in France. Men of the Republican faith in Congress have, in spite of Democratic handicap, weakness and indecision, insisted upon an adequate army, properly equipped, determined to fight for final and unconditional surrender of the common enemy. When the administration faltered, obsessed with the idea that the war was three thousand miles away, the Republicans stood firm.

Republican leadership insisted that we raise and equip an army competent to do the American part along with France and England. It was in response to this insistence of Republican leadership that the preparation we now have was brought about. The Republicans have insisted since the war started upon preparing to aid the Allies with the greatest speed possible. In all of our war activity, Republicans in Congress have never been critical or fault finding in a partisan way. But they have insisted as patriots that the greatest possible efforts be put forth to enable the soldiers of America to sell their lives as dearly as possible. This is reflected in the platforms and in the atmosphere of the Republican convention. There is no disagreement as to the Republican attitude. There is no belittling either of men or of the task before us. But there is the firm opinion that no one man nor one political party is big enough to carry the whole burden of this war or to solve all of the intricate problems that will arise in connection with the great world conflict.

LABOR NOTES

The aid of the movies has been invoked in the farm labor campaign. Two War Savings societies have been formed by Providence, R. I. municipal employees. A. G. Babcock, aged 97, has returned to his old trade, shipbuilding, at Tacoma, Wash. Texas is to import Mexican labor until the end of the war to overcome the existing shortage. M. G. Scott of New York has been re-elected president of the International Typographical Union. Work in Victoria (B. C.) shipyards will be carried on by returned soldiers till the end of the war. American Wire Weavers' Protective Association will convene at New York city on July 20.

THE LORD IS WITH THEE

Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. — Joshua 1:9.

Since patches have become honorable, says O. M. Doodie, you can tell by a man's patches whether he is addicted to praying much or just sitting around. — From the Chicago News.

AN INDEX

Big Bug—Say gimme a match old top. Fred Firefly—Sorry, I haven't got one, but I can give you a light if you wish.

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