

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, Bureau of Circulation and Pennsylvania Associated Dailies.

Eastern office, Story, Brooks & Finley, 157 Fifth Avenue, New York City; Western office, Story, Brooks & Finley, People's Gas Building, Chicago, Ill.

Entered at the Post Office in Harrisburg, Pa., as second class matter.

By carrier, ten cents a week; by mail, \$3.00 a year in advance.

Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

—Lowell.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1918

ANTIQUATED AND COSTLY

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Pennsylvania are evidently determined that the present antiquated system of assessment shall be abolished at the first opportunity. Under existing laws there is in each Dauphin county district and in each of the wards of Harrisburg a realty assessor for county purposes who is elected by the voters. With scores of men estimating property values, the results are just what might be expected. It is said the cost of county assessment in Dauphin under the present system is about \$15,000.

Some time ago the commissioners of the State, in convention at Pittsburgh, adopted a resolution urging the next Legislature to abolish the election by the voters of real estate assessors and substitute therefor the creation of the office of county assessor, with assistants, to be named either by the county commissioners or county court or both in joint conference. Almost any system would be better than the present crude arrangement. The same Legislature should also wipe out the existing system of tax collection, which is not only expensive, but inconvenient and unsatisfactory. Now is the time to introduce practical reforms with a view to efficiency and economy.

In order that Belgium and France should be in a position to recover from the awful devastation of the war, Germany ought to be compelled, under the peace settlement, to send back to the devastated regions all the machinery that may be necessary to give Northern France and Belgium the opportunity to restore their own industry and recover in some measure their lost industrial life. It was the full intention of the Hun not only to steal all the machinery that he could lay his hands on, but to destroy what was left in order to prevent any competition after the war. He should be made to restore the materials necessary for the rebuilding of France and Belgium, even to the demolition of plants made to disgorge every bit of the loot and buildings in Germany.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

WITH real public spirit the City Council and City Solicitor Fox are meeting the expectations of the community with respect to the great monumental viaduct at State street and the incidental treatment of the Capitol Park zone. Harrisburg is more than ready to do its part in co-operation with the State at all times. The widening of Third and Walnut streets is the first step and there is definite assurance that the utility poles and wires in the same district will go in the near future. It is a pleasure to all who are interested in the progress of the city to observe the evidences of a rapidly-reviving public interest in the undertakings which were more or less put aside during active hostilities. Hardscrabble, especially changes in the park zone, necessitate the completion of the parkway under the Reading railroad near Paxtang, and all the other matters which have been among the improvement plans will now go forward under full pressure.

While the city is preparing to speed up its civic activities so as to provide employment for all returning soldiers and those who may be thrown into idleness in the reduction of war industry, the State, through the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, has also decided to go ahead with its bridge-building program and with the construction of highways. Also, there is a disposition everywhere on the part of individuals and corporations to get busy, so that the time lost while war was the chief

business will be made up in the additional energy that should be thrown into normal activities. It is not improbable that the Kaiser has tried to end his cursed life, but it may be doubted whether he has enough nerve in his yellow makeup to kill himself. As the circle of retribution narrows about him the poor imitation of Nero becomes more and more utterly contemptible.

JOINT PUBLIC BUILDING

COUNCILMEN and county commissioners took a long step forward yesterday when they got together in a serious effort to erect a joint City Hall and Courthouse. For years the need of such a building has been evident. For a long time a joint home for the city and county seats of government has been discussed. But though there have been urgencies, there has been no action until yesterday.

The Courthouse is not only antiquated and too small for the growing needs of the community, but it is little better than a firetrap. Experts who have looked it over have expressed wonder that it has escaped so long. Fire in a single section would sweep it from one end to the other. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of records that could not be replaced if destroyed are in constant danger of flames. Every property owner and taxpayer in the city and county would be the loser if the Courthouse should be burned.

Beside, the county ought to have three courtrooms and modern accommodations for the many who use the building. The present structure is too small, insanitary and inconvenient for the county's uses, and it is a mere makeshift so far as the city is concerned.

No municipality of Harrisburg's size has offices so widely scattered. Part of the officials are quartered in the Courthouse and the remainder in office buildings for squares around. They ought to be concentrated. Hundreds of dollars a year could be saved in rentals, to say nothing of time, comfort and convenience, if they were all under one roof.

The logical solution to the problem is a joint building. Councilmen and county commissioners are on the right track. They will have the support of everybody who knows anything about the matter. The next conference ought to be most interesting and productive of helpful suggestions.

Mayor Keister will have the approval of the entire community in his determination to squelch bootleggers and the crooked trafficker in booze. It is bad enough under ordinary conditions to suffer the operations of these crooks, but it is infinitely worse at a time when soldiers are returning to their homes and should be saved the drink temptation in this period of reaction. Mayor Keister and the entire police force should be on their toes to promptly punish every infraction of the law, and, if necessary, a few additional detectives, who are not known to the bootleggers, might be employed with advantage for the next few weeks.

A JUST CLAIM

WHEN the United States entered the war the Shipping Board requisitioned about 235,000 deadweight tons of Norwegian shipping contracted for or under construction in this country. The claim of the Norwegians for reimbursement was deemed excessive and as a consequence no payment whatever has been made to them. The enormous destruction by German submarines of Norwegian tonnage makes it imperative for this country to replenish her shipping facilities as soon as possible, and the withholding by the United States of payment for the shipping that we took from her is a very great handicap.

It ought not to be difficult for the Shipping Board, with the millions at its disposal, to arrive at some sort of understanding with Norway. A considerable portion of the sum she claims should be paid here, and the balance could be made the subject of further exchange of views. The President and his Secretary of State should find time, in the midst of their peace treaty activities, to see to it that the just debts of the United States to friendly foreign Nations are promptly liquidated in order that our present amicable relations with those countries may be continued.

"Made in Germany"

Senator Lodge proposes that we shall follow the example of Canada, and compel every tradesman who sells goods obtained from Germany during the war to advertise that fact conspicuously in his shop sign or his stationery. This is an admirable plan, the only better one—perhaps not practicable—being to make it a penal offense to sell such goods at all. We already require all imported goods to be plainly marked with the name of the country from which they come. Senator Lodge's proposal would be merely a logical and highly desirable extension of the same salutary principle. Let it be enacted, and certainly should be, and the public will do the rest. N. A. Review's War Weekly

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Mercantile appraisers will be chosen in most of the counties in Pennsylvania this month, the choice in those not under special acts being in the hands of county commissioners. The appraisers will assume their duties next month and Auditor General Charles A. Snyder has given notice that he will closely scrutinize their returns on business during the coming year. The Auditor General says he will demand more than mere formal statements by the heads of firms and that he will increase the proportionate with the business believed to have been done this year in many of the counties of the state, especially where there were activities "speeded up" because of the war, he will have his own investigations made.

The mercantile licenses were a big share of the license revenue of the state last year. Men active in Pennsylvania politics say that some determination in regard to the speakership will be reached between now and Christmas. While not much is being printed in the newspapers, the tide is turning in favor of Representative Robert S. Spangler, of York. Representatives George W. Williams, of Tioga, and William A. Dickman, of Allegheny, will not be candidates, but probably support Spangler, who is a "dry." The men who fought Spangler for renomination must feel pretty cheap these days.

The speech of Governor-elect Sprout in regard to the Philadelphia city charter seems to have met with a favorable comment. The metropolitan police area has been generally commended. From all accounts the dinner given to Governor-elect Sprout at Washington last night by Congressman J. Hampton Moore was a very interesting which may have some wide effects. The new Governor intimates that he wanted an end of factionalism and that he is intending to prevent a row over the Philadelphia mayoralty. Senator Penrose was one of the chief speakers and the Vares and many of their friends were on hand.

Harry T. Willis, chief engineer of the York fire department, has been asked to resign, taking effect January 1. The principal complaint is claimed at York to have come from the State Fire Marshal's Department. Willis being a deputy fire marshal and his alleged failure to report on the fire occurring in his jurisdiction is given as the chief cause for his dismissal. His successor will in all likelihood be George S. Kroll, a former president of the York Firemen's Association, who is president of the Laurel Fire Company and a deputy internal revenue collector.

In his speech at the Five O'clock Club in Philadelphia Governor-elect Sprout, says the Philadelphia Inquirer, "took occasion to refer to the military training of all the positions which he will be called upon to fill there is none for which he has had more names submitted to him than that of Lieutenant Colonel in the military staff. There are several close personal friends of the Governor now serving in that capacity and he is confident that they will assure that there are some who may be classed as purely personal selections of Dr. Burembaugh and who are not likely to expect to be reappointed. There are others who for one reason or another may think they should be permitted to continue to wear the uniform of the military staff. Through personal considerations or the friendship of some one else who is potential politically or otherwise. They may be kept guessing for a while."

Dr. Edward Martin, much mentioned for Commissioner of Health, has been named as a professor of surgical physiology at the University of Pennsylvania. John F. Short, United States Marshal for Western Pennsylvania, who has been ill, has returned to his office. In an editorial on Governor-elect Sprout's chances for social welfare legislation, the Philadelphia Public Ledger remarks: "No Governor in recent years has taken office possessing the widest confidence of all classes and in the same degree as the Governor-elect. This confidence is based on a knowledge of his character and ability, on the confidence which he has shown in his experience at Harrisburg."

Scranton is now having its series of raids by Federal agents to clean up places which city officials did not eradicate. Norman M. Badorf has been made Burgess of Litz to succeed Wilhelm, elected to the Legislature. The manner in which the teachers in this county are going after the salary increase as a war emergency measure is commencing to make legislators sit up and take notice. It is a case of money figuring by the state fiscal officers.

Fred T. Macdonald, of the Auditor General's department, chairman of the Chester county Republican committee, has taken the initiative for the formation of a marching club of Chester county for the inauguration, and there has been a great response to his call for organization. The famous West Chester Pioneer Corps, No. 1, which has participated in many inaugural parades and took part in historic presidential campaign demonstrations has been invited to act as escort to the citizens' delegation from the city. This is recognized as one of the best equipped and best drilled marching organizations in Pennsylvania. Their uniforms are red, white and blue and back in the days of James G. Blaine, "The Plumed Knight of Maine" the West Chester Pioneer Corps cut a big figure in the important political processions held in Philadelphia and vicinity.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS ARE THE HARDEST

By BRIGGS



The Competent Farmer

The competent farmer has finished his chores. And he finished his dinner as He is through for a time with the world out of doors. And he loafs by the fire for a while. The logs crackle-crackle; the sparks fly in flocks; Aspiring smoke heavenward goes. The farmer for ease is displaying his socks. And a pair of inquisitive toes. The competent farmer has autos and a car. But he'd rather have comfort than style. In dollars and happiness both he is rich. Ay, peaceful the close of a hard working day— But out in the gathering gloom. An owl sings a mournful and sinister. That breathes of despair and the tomb. The competent farmer is making his plans. For the morrow as gravely he contemplates the application of his tools. The children's bright faces he lovingly scans. And smiles at their innocent jokes. He knows what he owns, dollars, and he loves every critter and fowl; And he don't care a darn for the holes in his shoes in the owl. GRIFF ALEXANDER.

THE PATH OF WISDOM

(From the Kansas City Star.) The appeal made by Gen. Leonard Wood in his address to the Kansas City Bar Association last night for universal military training and adequate preparation for war, was, in fact, an appeal for peace. "This is the end of the present war," General Wood said, "but I do not believe there are any so Utopian as to believe this is the last war. The trouble which this country will encounter, even in the light of the war just closed, is that there are too many Americans who are so Utopian as to believe that this is the last war. It was this dream of universal peace which found us in the unfortunate condition which General Wood pictures when the war came upon us unprepared to the point of being almost helpless. It was our failure to heed the counsel of such wise men as General Wood, and our willingness to follow the advice of those who hoped and dreamed that there would be no war, which found us wholly unfit to enter upon a war which we ourselves declared. Unless we take heed now to such counsel as General Wood gave in his address last night we will again drift into the future, aimlessly and purposeless as to any security against the conditions we faced in April, 1917, when we found it necessary to go to war and unable to meet the emergency."

LABOR NOTES

Canada has a woman professional undertaker and embalmer. It is planned to build a five or six-story modern office building at Tacoma, Wash. Office space for all the unions in the city, with auditoriums and halls for regular and committee meetings, will be provided. The State Council of Defense has issued an order fixing a daily wage scale in South Dakota. The order provides that ten hours of field work shall constitute a standard day. The order shall not apply to permanent labor hired by the month or year. The Montreal (Canada) Trades and Labor Council has protested against the opinion expressed by Sir Robert Borden, Dominion Premier, that strikers come within the operation of the liders act, and can be prosecuted. The Central States Co-operative Society has issued a call for a consumers co-operative convention to be held in Springfield, Ill., starting September 24. One of the purposes of the meeting will be to start a campaign of education among workers. Aberdeen (Wash.) Central Labor Council has asked that the State industrial insurance act be so amended that men working on boats after they are launched be given the same protection accorded workers in other industries in this state.

The New Industrial Creed

THE following creed was adopted by the business men of the country in Atlantic City last week: "The convention heartily endorses in letter and spirit the principles of the industrial creed so clearly and ably set forth in the paper read to it Thursday morning by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and urges upon all units of industry—where they may not now be employed—the careful consideration of such principles. Without approving or rejecting his particular plan or machinery, the principles advanced by Mr. Rockefeller are as follows: "1. Labor and capital are partners, not enemies; their interests are common interests, not opposed. It is the duty of each to contribute to the measure of prosperity at the expense of the other, but only in association with the other. "2. The purpose of industry is to be as much to advance social well-being as material well-being, but in the pursuit of that purpose should be carefully considered, the well-being of the employees as respects living and working conditions should be fully guarded, maintained, and improved. "3. Every man is entitled to an opportunity to earn a living, to fair wages, to reasonable hours of work and proper working conditions, and to a decent home, to the right to play, to learn, to worship, and to love, as well as to toil, and the responsibility rests as heavily upon industry as upon government or society, to see that these conditions and opportunities prevail. "4. Industry, efficiency and initiative, wherever found, should be encouraged and adequately rewarded, and indolence, indifference and restriction of production should be discontinued. "5. The provision of adequate means for uncovering grievances, and promptly adjusting them, is of fundamental importance to the successful conduct of industry. "6. The most potent measure in bringing about industrial harmony and prosperity is adequate representation of the parties in interest; existing forms of representation should be carefully studied and availed of insofar as they may be found to have merit and adaptable to the peculiar conditions in the various industries. "7. The application of right principles never fails to effect right relations; the letter killeth, but the spirit maketh alive; forms are wholly secondary while attitude is primary. "8. The spirit of fair play, justice to all and brotherhood, will in any plans which they may mutually agree upon, be mutually successful. "9. That man renders the greatest social service who so co-operates in the organization of industry as to afford to the largest number of men the greatest opportunity for self-development and the enjoyment by every man of those benefits which his own work adds to the wealth of civilization."

The Horseshoe Won

The print of a horseshoe in soft earth will always have the power to stir a young Missouri soldier, even if he lives long enough to forget the words of the old saying: "I don't know yet how I went through a shelling on Friday, the 13th, without getting hit," writes Lieutenant Lawrence Settles, of the 10th Artillery company of the 89th Division. "The Boches had been putting over a lot of high explosives. We had been digging in at night, keeping in shallow shelters all day and trusting to luck. I know one thing, however—a little jest about the superstition of the old horseshoe saved my life once on that day, anyhow. "My sergeant and I picked out a low fold in the ground for temporary shelter and were proceeding toward it when I saw the print of a horseshoe in a shell hole. "Well," I said, "as this is Friday, and the 13th, Sergeant, let's sit on the old horseshoe. "We crept in and a minute later the low fold we had first started for was blown to the winds. That was one time you can bet, I was not ashamed of having seen superstitions. No Bolshevism For America (From the New York Herald) The conviction of I. W. W. leaders a few months ago has been followed by a chastened tone among the more extreme socialists and Bolshevists, which would seem to indicate realization on their part that the United States has little use for them or their doctrines. The reason for this is plain Bolshevism has been able to gain a hold only in those countries where the governments had not at heart the true interests of the masses of the people. Why Meat Is High One does not need to be a patriot to remember the happy days when he could buy the choicest porterhouse steak for twenty cents a pound, and other meats in proportion. But those who think the war is responsible for the increase in the price of meat should realize that there has been no war at all we might be as badly off. In the last fifteen years the estimated rise in population is about 20 per cent, but in the same period there has been a decrease of two per cent in the total of beef cattle here. The result is obvious in the increased cost of meat, of shoes and leather. Nor is beef the only meat supply that has not increased in proportion to the population. It is only a part of the whole agricultural problem. "Back to the land," or import labor, sums up the possible alternative solution. And how many are really going back to the land?—Washington Star. Old Mystery Solved A commercial traveler, on leaving a certain hotel, said to the proprietor: "Pardon me, but with what material do you stuff the beds in your establishment?" "Why," said the landlord proudly, "with the best straw to be found in the whole country." "That," returned the traveler, "is very interesting. I now know whence came the straw that broke the camel's back."—Tid-Bits, London. The Law We know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully.—Timothy, i. s.

NEW ENGLAND APPLES

(From the Boston Post.) It will perhaps surprise a good many New Englanders to learn that today for the first time in 30 months a shipment of the fine apples of this section will leave for port of Boston bound for England. Owing to the embargo our government placed on the fruit in February, 1917, no apples have gone across since then. It is a goodly cargo of apples that slides out of the harbor to-day—12,000 barrels of fruit, all selected fruit.

A Crystal Trick

(From the Brooklyn Eagle) Dissolve in hot water as much alum as it will hold, and place in the solution an object you wish to cover with crystals. (Set the solution in a quiet place and in a few hours crystals of alum will be deposited on all the objects. In this way baskets made of iron wire may be covered or dried grasses may be made to look as if laden with frost.

Clear Up Cyclop's Riddle

(From Phila. Evening Ledger) The most singular of all sea mysteries—the loss of the great collier Cyclops—is dismissed in a few uninforming lines in Secretary Daniels' extensive report on American naval activities in the war. The naval department professes total ignorance concerning the fate of this valuable vessel and its human freight. Unless the government is hiding something—a proceeding wholly indefensible now that hostilities have ceased—its attitude now puts the solution of the riddle squarely up to Germany. If she knows the answer she should immediately be made to disclose it just as she has revealed the location of mines and shown her hand regarding submarines. Not only the relatives of those sailors who disappeared with the ship but the public in general has the right to information on a subject unparalleled in modern sea annals. Henry Hudson, adrift in a small boat, may that now bears his name, was presumably shipwrecked. So was Laperouse, the dauntless Frenchman, adventurously exploring the Pacific. Back fifty years ago a vessel that failed to reach port could be authoritatively asserted to have fallen a prey to the perils of icebergs, fog, reef or storm. But waves do not destroy, icebergs do not sink such a vessel as the Cyclops. Icebergs are non-existent in the Tropical Atlantic where she vanished. Echoes of a collision would reverberate. There is the possibility that she was captured, but in that case something would almost certainly have been heard from the prisoners by this time. The hope that there are survivors is, indeed, faint. But unwarrantably handling of the case, if it has conjectures it should divulge them, and following those who come right up to the acquisition of the Navy Department until the truth is known.

WISE SAM GOMPERS

(From the Philadelphia Bulletin.) Forty leaders of organized labor in New York City, including some of national reputation, listened yesterday to a protest from the lips of Samuel Gompers against the proposed plan for the formation of a Labor Party as an active force in national and state politics, and adjourned without favorable action. Federation of Labor, an American shrewdness and ability, which has been markedly developed by long years of experience, deserves attention. He is a man who is younger in their service and who are quite apt to borrow their ideas from abroad, rather than to form them in their own minds. He has a wide and best judgment as to conditions in the United States, but hardly the names are to be found on the records to-day, much less any list of industrial activities. Labor's interests, however, have not been neglected. Either of the great political factors is, in itself, a labor party, dependent upon workers for its strength, and if this were not representative of labor in their organization, it would necessarily be mindful of its cause as a matter of practical politics. The Consumers' Union knows the policy of labor as a factor in American politics, and doesn't propose to sacrifice it by the separation and isolation of the labor force for independent action.

TRADE BRIEFS

The leading Portuguese merchants of Bahia completed the organization of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The object of the association is to promote and develop commerce and industry in Brazil and to establish better relations between Brazil and Portugal. Food products and chemical products are the needs of a man in France. In the Province of Benkal, India, 26,486 animals died of contagious diseases during the year 1917-18, as against 8,115 in the previous year. Cotton and woolen clothes are the needs of a man in France. A wholesale merchant in Switzerland is in the market for cotton goods, textiles and miscellaneous goods. These goods are desired for the wholesale trade for the island of Cyprus and goods are to be shipped direct. Spark plugs and motor parts of different kinds are desired by a man in Arabia. The demands for killyugrams in South Africa is increasing. The Union Government has issued a pamphlet dealing with its character, merits and advantages as a cattle fodder.

Evening Chat

The days when the newspaperman sent to a strange town for a story bought up through a telephone or tried to buy tips from the grocer by way of opening the way for local information are passed and now a man can get a line on a community by strolling through a telephone directory. And he can get started without setting tongues wagging. Some newspapermen have told how they got to know the names of the "main people" by trying to read the telephone directory in their room in the hotel ornamenting the big town quite a few miles away from the place where they had to go to work. And by means of a can you can get a line on the way your town is growing if you only use your wits and cease thinking that newspapermen are people who know ways of finding out things because they use their eyes. It used to be said that Leonard H. Kinnard made the Bell Telephone directory here impractical by carrying a telephone because he studied the city directory first and got to know what the town looked like. Now the telephone directory gives you a pretty fair line on how the town is growing. I don't mean by the number of subscribers, but by where they live. It was quite a shock the other day in hunting a number to find alongside of a street name a name which by the simple process of recalling what numbers began at the streets which have names and putting it beside the numbered street, gave a location which was a small house in the middle of a field. And then you get on Derry street which makes you think you are out in West Philadelphia where the march of the numbered streets is slow. When you get to the engineering corps have to put on extra power in the mornings to catch up with them to start work. Or you will find that a number devoted to memories of a time when you bought some things you liked a few years ago is now a tier of flats and that a corner out on Allison Hill where you got out of an automobile one evening two or three years ago and bought ice cream at a Sunday school class festival is now a drugstore.

Some of the Biggest Magazines in the Country

Some of the biggest magazines in the country carry advertisements in the indispensable office appliances made in this country. The address given as the office to a friend last evening and he informed me that there was no such street. But there is, physically and officially, and what is more there is a plan, which is a great asset to Harrisburg and as fit a subject for local pride as Harrisburg engines, boiler plants, book binding machinery or any of the other things which we have been making here for years and which sent our fame around the world before the Columbian Exposition. People are just commencing to realize that the city of Harrisburg, Wiconisco, Mahantongo and other streets in the upper part of the city are gradually getting out of their heads and are making a mistake in plan, which is a great asset to Harrisburg and as fit a subject for local pride as Harrisburg engines, boiler plants, book binding machinery or any of the other things which we have been making here for years and which sent our fame around the world before the Columbian Exposition. People are just commencing to realize that the city of Harrisburg, Wiconisco, Mahantongo and other streets in the upper part of the city are gradually getting out of their heads and are making a mistake in plan, which is a great asset to Harrisburg and as fit a subject for local pride as Harrisburg engines, boiler plants, book binding machinery or any of the other things which we have been making here for years and which sent our fame around the world before the Columbian Exposition.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Morris L. Cooke, former director of public works of Philadelphia, has written a book on civic affairs. H. G. Hille, of the City of Harrisburg, is now working on plans to readjust the city's business to changed conditions and new laws.

DO YOU KNOW

That some of Harrisburg's plans for municipal improvements gave the idea to towns in Western Canada? HISTORIC HARRISBURG Members of the Penn family resided here for years after the French and Indian wars and were on intimate terms with Harris and Maclay.