

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that make life worth looking at.—O. U. Holmes

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1918

HURRAH FOR HOOVER

SAID Herbert Hoover when he refused to discuss food conditions in Germany with Dr. Reith and Baron von der Lancken: "You can describe two and one-half years of arrogance toward ourselves and cruelty toward Belgians in any language you may select, and tell the pair personally to go to hell, with my compliments. If I do have to deal with Germans it will not be with this pair."

President Wilson's greeting in London displays as nothing else could the friendly feelings of the English people for America.

SAILING CLOSE

THE end of the war finding the United States still on a Democratic tariff basis, we are reminded of its depressing effect on American production by the estimate of Willitt & Gray on the beet sugar crop for 1918-19 in the United States, which shows a decrease of seven per cent. compared with 1917-18, or from 683,000 to 635,000 tons.

German profiteers, a cablegram says, are taking their booty out of the country by airplanes. The airplane hasn't been built that would carry the loot of some American profiteers.

TOO LATE

THE War Department very seriously announces that when hostilities ceased the American Army was "being prepared and equipped to hurl ten tons of mustard gas into the German forces for every ton the Germans could deliver."

Very accurately stated, no doubt. And it would have been possible to have mentioned other particulars in which when hostilities ceased the work was being prepared for the army it should have been doing before the hostilities ceased. If we had put the promised airplanes in action when promised, we should have saved thousands of lives and months of time.

WISE BEYOND YEARS

THE men who provided some ten or eleven years ago that the revenue received by the State of Pennsylvania from the registration or licensing of motor vehicles should go to the maintenance of highways were wise beyond their years. And the officials who fought to a successful conclusion the political scheme to divert the millions to the general fund will some day get a tardy appreciation.

due from automobile registration during 1918 will approximate \$4,000,000. That is the assessed valuation of a whole ward in Harrisburg, the cost of the construction of the Capitol building without the furnishing or the price of an ocean liner. It is an imperial revenue. And this policy of putting it into road maintenance enabled the State to spend three-quarters of a million dollars on the Lincoln highway alone last summer and not feel embarrassed by the expenditure which was necessitated by the demands of the Army to move long trains of trucks.

A WORKING CHAMBER

THE brief outline of the activities of the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce, published elsewhere in this issue of the Telegraph, illustrates the important part that body has in the life of the community. The Chamber is a working organization. It spends its money for the benefit of the community. It does things worth while.

Last year the Chamber was busy with all sorts of war movements, almost to the exclusion of other forms of work, but nevertheless it found time and opportunity for community service of a very practical and useful character. The headquarters of the Chamber have been the offices of the federal food and fuel administrations, of the war garden committee, of every Liberty Loan campaign and many of the expenses of other patriotic movements were either borne entirely or guaranteed by the Chamber.

The members look back with pride on the part they had in the creation of the new Penn-Harris bank, now so rapidly nearing completion, the plans for which were developed during the administration of J. William Bowman as president, under the guidance of Chairman E. Z. Wallower, and which had the hearty backing of the Chamber from the very inception of the movement. If the organization had done nothing more than this, it would have justified its existence. But it has done so much more that it has become an absolute necessity to the progress and development of the city. So much so, indeed, that one wonders how we managed to get along with a less active organization for so many years.

GET RID OF REDFIELD

FROM Washington comes the report that President Wilson has approved the recent recommendations of Secretary Redfield that business advisers be attached to American legations and embassies as one of the government's moves toward aiding American manufacturers and merchants in their after-the-war campaign for foreign trade. Is this an attempt on the part of Mr. Redfield, through his prolific, tax-supported publicity bureau, to retract his recent utterances with respect to our foreign trade? Only a few days ago he was telling us that we "should not present such fierce competition that the European countries will be unable to rehabilitate themselves industrially," and we were told that "to further this policy import and export control will be continued for a considerable season." And the Publicity Corporation of Washington, in an authorized interview with the demoralizing Secretary of Commerce, quoted him as saying:

"We have a great decision to make. It is either we shall take this opportunity and the immediate rich profit it offers, or whether we shall restrain our energies for a while, giving France, England, Belgium, Italy, even the neutrals and even Germany's re-born people, a fair and free opportunity to get on their feet."

Wasn't that a fine attempt at plenary abolition of the Hun on the part of a member of the President's Cabinet? It is apparent that the re-born people of Germany are this very minute plotting to create dissension between our European Allies and the United States, and it is known that they are doing all the mischief they can in Russia and the Baltic provinces.

It has been quite impossible to keep up with Brother Redfield since his apotheosis to the presidential cabinet, because he changes his mind as frequently as does his chief and with less apparent reason. Mr. Wilson's changes of mind are dictated by political expediency, Redfield's by a seeming perversity of logic, or more probably because he is incapable of logic. Like the celebrated sen-gull, he just flits and flits along the shore. But the sure is the man who puts the "trial" in industrial America! We should get rid of Redfield. These are not the days for senility in the Cabinet.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The rush for the drafting of bills for the General Assembly of 1919, which will meet in Harrisburg on Tuesday, January 1, is in full swing. At least fifty bills have been drafted at the State Legislative Reference Bureau, where such service is given to legislators and at least fifty are in measures awaiting the re-writing in legal form. Inquiries which indicate that more are coming have been made. Most of these have been drafted at the Bureau, which, however, does not make public the subject or terms of any measures it handles.

The Bureau will not submit any codes to the Legislature as it has done for the last three or four sessions, owing to the fact that the state commission in charge of revision of the banking, insurance and penal laws will submit either codes or a number of bills for extensive alterations and groupings of laws. Several other commissions provided by the last Legislature are also in the hands of the Bureau, and with what the new administration may have in the way of changes in the state governments, the outlook is for plenty of legislation.

Plans for the ceremonies attending the inauguration of Governor-elect William C. Sproul are rapidly taking shape and by the time the Legislature meets the program will be mapped out for the consideration of the inaugural committee of the legislators. This committee is headed by Senator William E. Crow, who is the senior senator when Senator Sproul becomes governor. The details of the inaugural parade, which will be probably the most extensive ever seen here, are being arranged for a large military representation. Captain Frank H. Hoy, Jr., is arranging to care for the men who will parade during their stay here.

Studies of the effects of big trucks moved over state highways in Pennsylvania the last two years will probably result in the early introduction of a bill in the Legislature to limit the weight and size of operation of vehicles which have gross weight of 24,000 pounds or twelve tons, but it is declared that some roads have been cut to pieces in such a manner as to indicate that much heavier trucks have been employed. Notwithstanding the effort to make deeper foundations highways which have much truck traffic have been cut up and the assertion has been made here that some of the trucks in use weigh over 30,000 pounds. The weight of the latest trucks are wider than any seen heretofore the problem of width of roads has also arisen. The trucks passing came the sides of a road to be damaged and when a wide truck has the road other traffic has to wait. The bill to require lights on all vehicles at night will also appear early.

Pennsylvania's primary election next year, the most important local primary in many counties and municipalities in years will be held on the third day of September, according to an announcement by George D. Thorn, of the State Department. Literally thousands of offices will be filled next year and the number of candidates ready being made about the date and whether any laws to change the laws can be expected. The new state administration has given no intimation as to its election law plans.

Such attention is given in morning newspapers of Philadelphia today to interviews given yesterday by Governor-elect William C. Sproul in which he says that he is favorable to the adoption of a new charter for Philadelphia, but that he thinks that people urging it and opposing it are "reasonable." The newspaper notes that he is for a "suitable" charter and that there should be "no serious differences" as to the essential features.

The Fifth ward trials cost the county of Philadelphia \$5,000.

Friends of ex-governor Edwin S. Stuart today telegraphed him congratulations on his birthday.

David L. Lawrence, Pittsburgh registrar of commissions, is back from the Army as a sergeant major. He rose from a private.

Pittsburgh city planners are asking \$12,000,000 to improve city streets.

The Philadelphia Record says today that Governor-elect Sproul yesterday practically placed his stamp of approval upon Representative Robert S. Spangler, of York, for speaker of the General Assembly.

There seems to be a great deal of interest in the "trial" in industrial America, says Fullerton L. Waldo in his latest book, "America at the Front," just published by E. P. Dutton & Company. "Was amazed when a boy from Maine showed him a picture of the antlered monarch he had seen in England and told him it was a moose. 'A moose, mon? A moose? In the dell's name, hog big air yer rats.' Mr. Waldo's book starts on a transport from New York, crosses the ocean with the several thousand soldiers gathered from all the sections of the union, goes with them to England and France, visits them on the front lines, in the trenches, in the hospital, in the 'Y' huts, and gives many vivid pictures of our boys in khaki, salivated and endless anecdotes and incidents, in all manner of wartime occupations.

THAT GULTIEST FEELING

TAKING YOUR GOLF THINGS? WHY?



YOU'VE DECIDED TO MAKE A "BUSINESS TRIP" THROUGH THE SOUTH AND THE WIFE DISCOVERS YOUR BAG WITH THE REST OF YOUR BAGGAGE. BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW, AS YOU DO, THAT THE BIG TOURNAMENT AT PINEHURST IS DUE, WHICH IS THE REAL REASON FOR YOUR GOING NOW

THE GREAT DELUSION

[From the New York World.] The correspondent of the London Times with the British army of occupation on the Rhine reports that agents who have lived in England are at work disseminating Bolshevism among the troops. The fact may be accepted without attributing any of the responsibility to the present German government which is battling for its life against Bolshevism at home. It is not necessary for the Germans to preach Bolshevism to the British troops. There are plenty of British Bolsheviki to do the work willingly and gladly.

Bolshevism is the one overshadowing issue which Europe now confronts. It cannot be checked by German militarism has been destroyed, but it was not destroyed until Europe was exhausted economically, and Bolshevism is the direct result of economic exhaustion. The Central Powers broke down before any of the Allies, except Russia, went under; but the difference in time was not so great as it might appear. Except for the economic power of the United States, the Allies would have collapsed first and Germany would have been nominally the victor; but even in that case the Bolsheviki problem would have been the same.

Civilization cannot destroy all its accumulated wealth and wreck all its resources without paying the price. It will inevitably be the price unless there is enough statesmanship in Europe to deal wisely and sanely with a situation that increases in gravity daily.

Bolshevism cannot be checked by impassioned harangues about the sacredness of property. Millions of men have been engaged for more than four years in destroying both life and property under the banner of their governments, and they are no longer impressed with the sacredness of either. No government anywhere has as yet presented a real appeal to them. The one definite thing that they understand is that food is scarce and that some people are much better off than others.

It was a desperate German autocracy which first invoked the spirit of Bolshevism, aided and abetted, by the diplomatic stupidity of those who backed the Russian revolution; but no German autocracy was needed to spread the fire. The danger has steadily increased since Junkertum was overthrown. Bolshevism in Germany the Ebert government is performing as great a service for the British, the French and the Italians as it is performing for the Bolsheviki in Russia. In the broadest sense it is universal and is making itself the common issue of the war.

There is not a responsible statesman in Europe who does not realize the gravity of the situation; but neither is there a responsible statesman who has yet formulated a delimiting program for dealing with it. The problem belongs to the people themselves that if they can gain enough economic advantages out of the peace conference the danger will disappear so far as their own countries are concerned, and the rest of the world may safely be left to shift for itself.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

"The Silent Watchers," Bennet Coplestone's dramatic narrative of the spirit and the work of the British navy, which E. P. Dutton & Company published recently, has gone into a second edition. It gives us the most readable and illuminating account of what the British navy has done during the war and of the spirit that animates it and makes it what it is that has appeared in this country.

Price Readjustment

By B. M. ANDERSON JR., Ph. D. of the National Bank of Commerce in New York

PRICE-FIXING in this country has served its purpose and should be abandoned at the earliest possible date. It was a temporary subversion of principles of free enterprise that only the war emergency justified. But like press censorship and other necessary measures incompatible with the general American institution, it should be done away with. A medicine in war, it would prove a poison in peace. There may remain, for a few months, good reasons for a continuance of price-fixing in especially scarce foods, as normal food conditions must await new harvests in Europe. But permanent price-fixing is no more to be desired than a permanent standing army of four million men.

Particularly unsound is the form of price-fixing for which a demand has arisen in some quarters—a demand for nothing less than price-fixing designed to keep prices up against the inevitable drop that will come with the return to conditions of peace. The notion is based on the fallacy that a fall in prices is undesirable. The fact is that a drop in prices to stable levels is exactly what is desired. Such a drop is the prerequisite to satisfactory business conditions.

Price-fixing is only one of several plans suggested by those who are apprehensive as to the effects of falling prices on business. It has been proposed to prevent the fall in prices: (a) by price-fixing; (b) by continuance of heavy loans by the government; (c) by reconstruction purposes; and (d) by an organized policy of liberal lending on the part of American banks.

Two comments are in order. In the first place, these policies, while they might for a time retard the fall in prices, could not prevent it. It will never affect future prices, but part of that past demand for clothing and many other things, is water which has gone under the mill. It will never affect future prices, but part of that past demand for clothing and many other things, is water which has gone under the mill. It will never affect future prices, but part of that past demand for clothing and many other things, is water which has gone under the mill.

Falling Prices Stimulate Demand There is nothing in the argument above to justify the suggestion that a period of slack future prices be prevented. There is a tremendous volume of unsatisfied demand waiting for both labor and goods at lower prices. There is, in fact, a scale of demand for both labor and goods for goods at which supplies will be taken off the market as they come. A given manufacturer will take on ten more men if he can get them at a slightly reduced wage, and he will take on twenty if he can get them at a still lower wage, he will take on thirty. With copper and steel at present prices, he will buy only moderate amounts; but with each drop in the prices of these commodities, he will increase the amounts which he is ready to purchase. As prices drop, the more urgent demands will be satisfied first, and then as prices drop still further, less urgent demands will be satisfied. When levels that are generally regarded as reasonably stable are reached, a very great volume of demand will take up all supplies that come into the market. No arbitrary action should be taken to hasten this process, but none should be taken to impede it.

In the interests of active business, it is desirable that this relatively stable level should be reached, and it is undesirable that palliative methods should be used unless actual unemployment appears. Summary: Artificial control of business and prices should be dispensed with as rapidly as possible. At the earliest possible date, the business man should be free to make his plans and contracts with reference to accounting principles rather than under government direction. Neither price-fixing nor a forced extension of credits can prevent the fall in prices which is inevitable to peace conditions inevitably

Evening Chat

By BRIGGS

Rapid progress in the preliminary operation of the State of Pennsylvania in the construction of the Commonwealth's Memorial Bridge to the soldiers and sailors of Pennsylvania in the great House has been made this last week and the co-operation of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which will pass under two of the spans of the monumental structure has been assured. The city authorities have enacted legislation to make funds available for changes of two of the boundary streets on the Capitol Park including the extension and committee of real estate experts is making estimates of possible damages. The making of the detailed plans for the landscaping and terracing is under way. One of the projects to be undertaken will be the improvement of the western front of the Capitol for which an early appropriation will be asked. This is the plan which was adopted in which it was left in 1906 and it is planned to enlarge the plaza and change the terrace and then construct the formal entrance to the Capitol. The plan will be shown him. The Governor is ex-officio chairman of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, which will have charge of the construction of the project. The enactment of an ordinance to submit to the people of Harrisburg the question of transferring the loan for the Walnut street bridge to the construction of the Memorial bridge will be taken up by the city councils early in the new year.

Trapping of quail and ring-necked pheasant so that they can be fed and cared for during the winter and liberated in the spring in districts where the birds have been scarce is encouraged by the State Game Commission and it is likely that a guarantee of cost of feed and possibly something in the way of bonus for care will be offered. A stipulated sum for each bird, but nothing has been announced on this subject, and it may not be done. However, people interested in the life of the birds are urged to be sure that the cost of feeding upon giving notice to the game protectors and agreeing to have the birds liberated under supervision of the state in the spring. In some counties of the state the quail were almost wiped out by the severe weather of last winter, just as were the snows. This fall there have been a number of quail taken on the rabbits which were caught by the state authorities have shown forms of traps for the birds. A number of boys have engaged in this work and have shown a very careful attention to that wheat, buckwheat or cracked corn be fed to the trapped birds. The point is that game protectors should be notified promptly.

World's Greatest Problem

[Mark Sullivan in Collier's Weekly.] Anyone with an open mind who goes deeply into the huge volume of argument about the League of Nations comes out with a feeling of diffidence. For one thing, we don't know yet just what the league is to be. We can't tell what things it will include until the debates in the peace conference have thrashed it out. What is said by a recent circular of the National City Bank of New York is a literal fact: "This decision that the world must make regarding the future among nations is the most tremendous problem in political economy that the world ever knew."

And that is just where the difficulty lies. Primarily, the League of Nations is an institution to prevent future wars. So far as that aspect of its goes, the Detroit Saturday Night says, "that the heart and mind of humanity are set on it is undeniable." But the League of Nations involves also the biggest problem of the peace time relations of the peoples of the world. For other than that has ever been brought before the world, and on this latter aspect of it, anyone who can take a final position on it in advance of the peace conference deliberations which alone can reveal what the details are, is more self-confident than the writer of this article finds it possible to be.

The question whether we go in or stay out, America is bound to be in the new world a figure of unimagined power, moral and material. In any future war the contestants will be exactly as they did in this. They will appeal to our moral judgment, and in future cases, as in the present case, the side whose moral undertakings are most clearly defined we approve will be known to be the victor from the moment we draw the sword.

Make Bells From Hun Guns

J. Marion Shull, a Washington artist, writes as follows to the Boston Transcript: Silent are the church towers of Flanders and Artois, the bell-towers of the most of Europe. They have been robbed of their treasures, those bells that for hundreds of years have pealed forth the hopes and aspirations of the surrounding countryside. These bells have suffered desecration, their noble metal cast for purposes of war and their erstwhile melodious tongues constrained to speak the raucous tones of battle in behalf of the barbarian hosts. But, now that it is within our power, let us give them back to civilization. From the metal of captured enemy cannon let there be cast the most wonderful carillon bells of which the world's best makers are capable, and let these be duplicated in sufficient numbers that the capital city of each of the great Allied nations may be provided with a set of these "Peace Bells." The architects of all the world would wish to see one to see that in each of these cities should arise a magnificent bell tower to house this carillon, a splendid example of fitting architecture, worthy of the theme commemorated.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—David A. Reed, Jr., who served as chairman of the State Commission which drafted the compensation act, is now a major in army service in France. He is a prominent attorney of Pittsburgh.

—James H. Burke, former Congressman, is making speeches for the war savings stamp movement in Western counties.

—George H. Earle, Jr., of the Philadelphia bar, is most of his sons and sons-in-law in the army.

—The Rev. Dr. James B. Ely, well known as in charge of various churches in Philadelphia, is back in that city after some tours of the army camps, where he did welfare work.

—Col. H. R. Laird, the Williamsport publisher, presided at the Christmas ceremony on the Emplart at Williamsport on Wednesday.

—Eugene H. Fellows, well known here, will be secretary of the Associated Charities of the Lackawanna county. He has been secretary of the county council of defense.

DO YOU KNOW

—That some cities far away from Harrisburg get their bread from this city?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG With the old State Capitol was dedicated the whole town marched to the Capitol as escort to the Legislature.

AN INVALUABLE BOOK

Every Journalist should be familiar with the Old and the New Testament especially with Jeremiah and Job and with the Gospels. The Bible is often a wonderful help in an argument, giving you a suggestion or text that is admirable and effective.—Youngtown Vindicator.