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Let us dream of noble things, and then work for them, too.

Tho' we may not attain to them quite;

Unless we shall plan grander tasks than we do.

We shall not climb as high as we might.

—Nixon Waterman.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1919

GRATEFUL REPUBLICS?

THOSE responsible for the order suspending all promotions in the army on the day the armistice was signed will be remembered by the fighting forces and the folks back home for an ungrateful and wholly inexcusable act. The signing of an armistice had nothing whatever to do with the crushing of the hopes and aspirations of our fighting men. It should have been instead a reward for the ending of the war, instead of penalizing them for achieving victory over the Hun.

There have been many blunders at Washington during the war, but none has been so cruel in its effect as this order stopping automatically all promotions with the signing of the armistice. Harrisburg soldiers who had been recommended for commissions two or three months before the cessation of hostilities are denied promotion because some board higher up figured that a few thousands of dollars would be saved through refusal of promotion to men who had fought for months that justice might live in the world.

There are already signs of weakening on this impossible position at Washington, but whether the present administration chooses to rescind its unfair and wholly inexcusable order or not it is certain that the time will come when the men who were entitled to promotion will receive the consideration which is due brave soldiers who have served their country gallantly and without thought of their own personal reward.

Placing bravery on the firing line in the scale with expenditure of money is about what might have been expected of the inefficient, four-flushing individuals who have mistaken high-sounding phrases for constructive thought and the expression of ideals.

The Telegraph has been advised through a letter from overseas of a young Harrisburg lieutenant who had been recommended for promotion three months before the armistice was signed and who is only one of the many young officers in whose face the door of natural ambition was closed by an ungrateful government in the very hour of victory. These men have long memories and they will not forget who were their real friends in the great crisis.

Auditor General Snyder is said to favor a fine bridge over the Susquehanna river at State street, as part of the comprehensive plan to create an imposing entrance to Harrisburg from the east over the monumental viaduct at the eastern front of the Capitol. It is quite as important to

approach the Capitol from the west over a dignified structure as it is to enter the city from the east amid splendid surroundings. In short, the splendid Capitol should be the outstanding feature of the highways from the east and west and north and south—a sort of hub from which all these radial routes should extend to every part of the State.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

HAVING rounded the annual mile-post the various civic organizations of Harrisburg are now looking forward to the activities of a new year. These organizations embrace a wide latitude of usefulness in this community and each in its own way is performing important public functions.

Having emerged from a great war which involved the thought and energy of all good citizens, young and old, we are now free to resume the enterprises of peace which are more important than the activities of war. War is a crime which must be punished, and most of us have been engaged on that job, but the undertakings of peace involve in a larger way quite as much of constructive effort and entail manifold greater blessings in ever-increasing circles.

Starting with the municipal administration down to the most humble organization there is much to do. But in the doing of these things there must be cheerful cooperation to the end that the purposes in mind may not be lost through friction or the failure of one to help the other in the achievements which count for the welfare of all.

With the incoming of the Legislature next Monday and the discussion of measures which are designed to promote the prosperity and happiness and safeguard the material interests of all the people of Pennsylvania, there may be a tendency in local circles to mark time. But instead of this attitude we should be pushing forward at every point that the State officials and the makers of our laws may realize that here at the seat of government of the Commonwealth is the most active city of all the State.

Many commendable things have already been accomplished, but there is much awaiting action and aside from earnest co-operation with the State in the development of the splendid scheme of Capitol Park improvement there is that other part which has nothing whatever to do with the Commonwealth save as Harrisburg must maintain its prestige as a progressive community.

There is general approval, of course, of the proposed combination city hall and city hall on the proposed civic center, the erection of a modern high school in the same place and the working out of other plans which will mean a most attractive and wholesome city.

City Electrician Diehl will have the general approval of all citizens in his consistent and constructive effort to improve the electrical service in the city. He expects to wipe out another considerable section of this unsightly system during the next few weeks and in this work will have the cooperation of all civic bodies.

FOR A CLEAN NATION

THE war has wrought many tremendous and far-reaching changes in American character and American thought. It has been a great awakener to duty; it alone to the great outstanding duties of raising billions for the Allies, of creating an Army out of nothing, of depriving ourselves of food so that Europe might not starve. These were big duties, unselfishly performed.

With the coming of peace there has come, too, a realization of the smaller, but none the less important, duties we owe ourselves. One of the greatest of these is being pointed out by the United States Public Health Service, and backed up by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretaries of War and the Navy. It is the duty of clearing the Nation from vice diseases, which war concentrated to us all were the prime causes of inefficiency within the Nation.

Before the war it would hardly have been possible for the newspapers to discuss such a theme as venereal disease; the narrow, shortsighted view was that such a subject was shocking, immodest, disgusting, not fit to be discussed. The result has been that ignorance of the extent to which these venereal diseases were menacing the Nation has allowed them to thrive and multiply until, when for the first time in our history, millions of our young men were forced to submit to expert medical examination, the percentage of men found to be infected with one or the other of these diseases was appalling.

It was estimated that five-sixths of all the venereal disease in the Army was brought there from civil life. Such revelations as this add terrific poignancy to President Wilson's grave note of warning: "It is not an army we have to make fit; it is a Nation."

American communities. Prostitution is being suppressed; laws requiring the reporting of venereal diseases, just as other communicable diseases are reported, are being passed by many States. Clinics for the skilled treatment of venereal diseases are being established.

In this work, which has for its object a clean America, every citizen must help in his single strength. The false modesty which has prevented a free discussion of this menace to the Nation must be brushed aside, so that everyone may know and realize the danger to be fought against.

Never again can we as individual citizens be content with an attitude of indifference toward such a subject as this. The war has opened our eyes; we must keep them open until the danger is past.

BAKER BUNGLES AGAIN

IMMEDIATELY after the signing of the armistice, Representative Addison T. Smith, of Idaho, suggested that in demobilizing troops the War Department arrange so that the men would be given transportation back to their home communities and that the final act in their honorable discharge from the army should be the signing of their papers by the local draft board. Thus would the government muster them in—it would put them back exactly where it found them.

One of the arguments advanced by Representative Smith was that although most of the men, if mustered out at concentration camps, would use their transportation money to go back home, many of them, just free from military discipline, would spend their money in having a good time and would be unable to pay their way home. But the War Department did not act on Smith's suggestion, and experience has shown that he was right.

Among the first troops to be demobilized were those engaged in spruce production for airplanes. Reports show that in a very large proportion of cases the men spent their transportation money and then went back to camp "broke."

Under Smith's plan the men would have been given nontransferable railroad tickets and would have had to get back to their local draft boards before they could complete their papers showing their honorable discharge.

Harrisburg is now at the threshold of another important epoch of its growth and development. Officials who have a real interest in the city and State are working with all others in making the city the foremost municipality of its size in the country.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Republican leaders are in Philadelphia to-day holding conferences upon legislative patronage and the distribution of committee chairmanships in the House and Senate. Rival candidates for the chairmanship of the appropriations committee of the House, one of the most important of all legislative committees, appeared yesterday at the Bellevue-Stratford. They are Duncan Sinclair, Fayette county, and William J. McCaig, Allegheny county.

Accepting a seat on the Philadelphia, was Secretary of Internal Affairs-elect James F. Woodward, of McKeesport. Woodward for several sessions was chairman of the House appropriations committee, and his appearance here with McCaig is significant. Allegheny county's delegation in the House is favorable to McCaig.

McCaig, who was in the Speaker's chair for a few days, claims the support of Republican State Chairman Crow, and Crow is expected to arrive in Philadelphia to-day. The State chairman in the past has had a great deal to say regarding the legislative patronage. Sinclair, although regarded as a "Pennsylvania man" in the form of the Vares, and yesterday joined with the Vares legislators at the city committee headquarters. He is said to be preferred to McCaig by most of the Vares representatives.

THAT GUILTIEST FEELING



Teachers Must Have More

THAT teachers have been outrageously underpaid, that to prevent disintegration and confusion in the schools, salaries must be largely increased; that as a first aid measure, the state must supplement present salaries at least 25 percent; that the taxing system must be made over on modern lines to accommodate this increase; that continued neglect will cost the state and its children. What is far more vital than money—these are the outstanding facts in a statement made today by the State Board of Education following an address by Marcus Aaron, a member of the Pittsburgh Board of Education and the State Board of Education, speaking before the Pennsylvania State Educational Association convention here this week. Mr. Aaron declared that sources of revenue other than real estate must be found before full justice can be done to the schoolchildren of the state.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

In connection with the recent Red Cross drive officials at Washington have been much interested in what Captain Carroll Swan had to say in his book "My Company" (Houghton Mifflin Company) concerning the overseas work of the Red Cross. His book commented frequently upon the excellence of that work. "It was dark, raining, and very hard fighting," he wrote. "The boys were doing over there showed to full advantage that night. At about two o'clock in the morning, when everybody was waried and cold, these Red Cross boys brought out big cans of hot cocoa and fed everyone of those twenty-five hundred men."

Colonel Harvey Says, Sez He

"You can return with heads erect!" cried Herr Ebert, the head of the Hunnish provisional government, as he returned to Berlin, and with hands imbrued with the blood of murdered babes and ravished women, and pockets bulging with loot. Such are the heroes of England, and such is the head of the government with which we have been chiefly a change of name in swapping a Hohenzollern for an Ebert.

Breaking the News Gently

While crossing the street at Tenth and Polk streets Thursday evening Miss Lola Brethour was struck by an automobile driven by a real estate agent whose name began with R.—From the Topeka Capital.

AMERICA'S TASK

[From the Manufacturer's Record] Millions of men have died and millions have suffered permanent invalidism to save the world's civilization. These men will have suffered and died in vain unless from the National Treasury for income, excess and war profit taxes, and he will likely conclude that the problem is not difficult. A little study will lead to the conclusion that in Pennsylvania have the ability and inclination adequately and generously to support public education.

LABOR NOTES

Bridgeport (Conn.) employes of the Remington and Union Metallic Cartridge Co. have elected themselves to work only on an eight-hour basis.

THE LITTLE TOMNS

Oh, little town in Arkansas and little town in the mountains and little sheltered valley town and hamlet on the plain, Salem, Jackson, Waukesha and Brookville and Peru, San Mateo, and Frontview, and Lake, and Waterloo. Little town we smiled upon and loved for simple ways. Quiet streets and garden beds and friendly sunlit days. Out of you the soldiers came, Little town of homely name. Young and strong and brave with lighted bugles. They saw truth and followed after. Little town, the birth of them. Makes you kin to Bethlehem!

Evening Chat

"With the first cold snap will come the usual newspaper reports of fires caused by 'over-heated' flues," said State Fire Marshal Howard E. Butz. "This should not be. Dirty chimneys and flues are responsible for many fires. This can and should be prevented by properly cleaning all chimneys and flues at frequent intervals, and if done would result in the saving of thousands of dollars."

Col. Harvey Sez, Sez He

As a matter of courtesy, after having slept in a royal bed at Buckingham Palace, the President will be expected to accord particular consideration to King George's recommendations. Perhaps that was the idea.

Soft Snap of Winter Wheat

(New York Sun) The fierce gales whistled. The snow storm howled. White as snow. The winter wheat. It has no worries. No cares to dance. Its price is promise. By Uncle Sam. Its lot we envy. Without hitch. To sleep all winter. And wake up rich. McLandburg Wilson.

Heroic Treatment

In Siberia they are lining up Bolsheviks and shooting them. In has been applied a permanent cure followed.—Houston Post.

One Way to Write It

Nothing pleases a man who is intending to quit smoking January 1 quite so much as a box of fine cigars.—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

The End Not Yet

And sometimes when one reads the day's news dispatches he wonders whether the war is really over or has just commenced.—Utica Observer.