

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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Jehovah is my strength and my shield; my heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.—Ps. 28:7.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1919

GROUNDHOG DAY

JUST about the time we had settled down to the conviction that all this talk about the discovery of early blooming hepaticas and the amount of coal our neighbors have saved over the same amount burned last year were clear evidences that the annual "January thaw" had developed into the actuality of an honest-to-goodness early spring, along comes Groundhog Day to upset our calculations and make us think twice about hunting up the seed catalogue and over-hauling the fishing outfit.

Of course this idea of the Groundhog coming out on the second day of February, seeing his shadow and dodging back for six weeks more of sleep during which winter weather shall prevail, northwesterly blow and blizzards rage is all tommyrot. We know this because Mr. Demain, our weather forecaster for to these many moons, unfailingly chides us when from time to time some mention of the G. Hog takes creeps into the columns of Harrisburg's most reliable and influential newspaper. We don't blame Mr. Demain. Why should any sane man put his faith in a mythical groundhog while ignoring the scientific sharks of the United States weather bureau? There's nothing, absolutely nothing to it, and we shall henceforth stick to the twenty-four prognostications issued each day at 11 o'clock from the little office at the top of the federal building. On that we are resolved.

W. L. GORGAS

DEATH during the past year has laid his hand heavily upon the older men who have had prominent part in the affairs of the city in the past half-century. The passing of William Luther Gorgas yesterday took from life another of these outstanding figures. As president of the old common council, as city commissioner, acting mayor and banker he had long been accorded a place among the leaders in municipal affairs. His prominence in Masonry and his part in the erection and management of the great Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown also brought him into the public eye. He lived to his allotment of three-score and ten, and leaves many friends to mourn him.

ONE-MAN PERIL

THE danger of one-man diplomacy in Europe is now beginning to be very apparent. The United States Senate is properly disturbed over the possibilities of President Wilson getting the country into a position on the German colonial question at variance with the desires of the American people, and burdensome and perilous to the extreme. The President has insisted upon acting alone for the nation. He will brook no advice nor will he accept the opinions or suggestions of United States senators who must pass upon the acceptability of the treaties and agreements which he proposes to make in France. And so upon his head alone must rest the responsibility for the outcome.

But that is a small matter beside the fact that the whole American people may be bound by this one-man diplomacy to a course of action that will lead to much expense and no end of sacrifice and danger of foreign entanglements. Senator Knox is quite right when he says the Senate wants some knowledge as to what America's share in policing African colonies would be before agreeing to go along with the pro-

gram the President is reported to have agreed upon. We went into the war for the sole purpose of beating Germany and crushing the power of the Hun to force his will upon the free peoples of the earth. Our young men are impatient to come home, now that work is done. They do not want to be sent into Africa, and the President has no right to expect it of them. Nor would it be an easy matter to recruit an army in America to hold the rifle over African savages. And so far as sending a conscript army for that purpose, the thing would be impossible.

We must know more about the whole situation before we can judge properly, but Mr. Wilson does not seem to take anybody on this side of the water into his confidence.

CONRAD SEEGER

THE death of Conrad Seeger, veteran businessman of Harrisburg, serves to illustrate the changes that have been wrought in the world of trade within the scope of one man's lifetime. When Mr. Seeger came into young manhood most of the carpets used in the households of the country were woven on hand looms from the rags sewed by members of the household. The "rag man" was an unknown institution then. Nothing went into the rag bag except to come out again in the form of carpet rags, which were carefully sewn into long strings and wrapped tightly into balls to be accumulated until the day arrived when there was sufficient on hand for the weaving of a carpet or a rug. Then the lot was carted off to the weaver's, the necessary "chain," or binder, bought, the colors selected, and the weaving of the carpet or rug begun on the big hand looms that were the wonder of every child who beheld their lumbering but efficient operation.

Nor were the products of this crude weaving apparatus artistic. Indeed, they were highly attractive in comparison with the befowered "ingrain" and Brussels carpets that drove them off the market and their weavers into other lines of trade. But Mr. Seeger was one who found it possible to change his line of operations without getting out of the carpet business when the big mills started to make competition hard and the doubtful tastes of a fickle populace began to swing toward the rainbow colors of the newer creations. He was one of the few weavers who retained an interest in the carpet business, and as president of the Harrisburg Carpet Company continued prominent in the business world long after his companions of earlier years were laid to rest and even up to the very day of his own death.

LABOR AND POLITICS

SAMUEL GOMPERS sums up his objections to the organization of an American Labor Party in two sentences that ought to convince the intelligent union man of the folly and futility of such an effort. He says: American labor during this war has accomplished three times what England has accomplished with the aid of the political party of its own. If labor goes into politics it will have to get votes and labor will decline from a powerful economic unit to a vote-catching machine.

Mr. Gompers is right. A labor ticket would not win any more in the United States than would a bankers' ticket, or a capitalist ticket or a trust ticket. We have higher ideals in this country than those based on class interest, powerful though those influences may be in our daily lives. Labor is bound to have a growing and powerful place in the councils of the nation, but it will not be through a labor party. Rather it will be through both the old parties catering to the labor vote and through the great and growing determination of the American voter that everybody, strong and weak, rich and poor, shall have a fair deal at the hands of the government—nothing more and nothing less.

A VETERAN GUARD

GENERAL BEARY'S suggestion that the Twenty-eighth Division of the United States Army, made up largely of the old Pennsylvania National Guard units, be incorporated into the new National Guard of the State, is highly pleasing from whatsoever angle it may be regarded. Very likely many of these men will have had their fill of soldiering, but there will be hundreds of others who will not want to sever their connections entirely with military life, and the thought of marching and camping once a year with their comrades of the great war would prove an incentive that would take many back into the Guard.

RESTORATION

The hearthstone's light must flame resplendent, his turkey must be fat for those who hear the bugle call no more, And throbbing hearts must know again the quiet Of the sailor boys love ever keeps in store. The blasted hills must be reset with orchards, The meadows feel the tramp of herds again, The roads and bridges must all be remembered And the fields be sown once more with grain. God's temple, too, must be reset and garnished, Rededicated to his uses with increase Of faith that needs no shallow confirmation Of his speared hands to know the truth. —Eron O. Rowland in the Boston Transcript.

Beware of False Prophets

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. —Matthew vii, 15.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeemas

As a result of the dismissals in the State Department of Agriculture Capitol Hill seems to have become firmly possessed of the idea that the Republicans in Congress with the State government must have outside connections especially interests in concerns supplying materials, implements or anything else which may come within the scope of the work of the branch of the State government with which they happen to be identified. Secretary Frederick Rasmussen today refused to make any statement about the resignations asked yesterday and the men who resigned said that they are not interested in the matter, late chief of markets, said that they would take one of some positions offered him.

The executive department has let it be known that it will not tolerate appeals from orders of heads of departments for resignations. In the case of a stenographer dismissed from a department as was an effort was made to have the order countermanded without success. Resignation of Irvin G. Reagan, chief of the department known as "Spider," will be asked soon. This is a matter for the trustees of the State Library. Reagan displaced Norman H. Gray, of the Chester, long identified with the Library and an expert in publications a year or so ago during one of the outbursts of the Brumbaugh administration. It will be necessary for the legislature to pass an act creating the office of deputy commissioner of health as a supplement to the act of the present department of health. The commissioner can be exercised by a deputy according to an opinion given to Col. Edward Martin, state commissioner of health. Col. Martin said that would be better for the party. The salaries of the commissioner in his absence and should have the qualifications of the commissioner. The opinion holds that he should be appointed by the governor.

Few things which have occurred about Capitol Hill in the last three or four years have attracted more attention than the plain statement at the governor's office the other day that heads of departments of the State government are responsible for what their forces do and that matters as to employment of a clerk or stenographer are not to be taken to the governor of Pennsylvania for approval. And that is a matter which has not interfered with removals by heads of departments for ordinary reasons. It is such a refreshing change from the method of the last three years that everybody is talking about it and expressing gratification. And there is also a great deal of satisfaction heard that talebearers are not encouraged.

One of the first things which is believed will be brought about will be the placing of every person in the State government on a fixed salary. The salaries will be adjusted to meet conditions, not war time conditions, but in keeping with common sense and a fair and honest basis. There will be a board of directors will pass upon such matters as used to be dealt with by departmental chiefs in accordance with orders from the governor's office and the size of their contingent funds. This plan was recommended to the last Legislature in the thoughtful report of the Economy and Efficiency Commission, which by the way, was juggled before it got to the public, and the legislators thought so much of the proposition that they enacted it into law. It is probable that some of the archaic acts governing certain departments will be repealed and replaced by modern ones on a basis, the department heads being given a free rein to get results. Some attempts in this direction were made last session, but they were defeated and are now in a gray in the service were deprived of emoluments justly due them.

It was a matter of much comment at the Capitol to-day that this week the State War Board abolished the war service bureau and revoked the appointment of Governor Brumbaugh's secretary, and the Governor also separated William H. Ball, the ex-governor's secretary, from the State Board of Charities.

There seems to be some heart burning in Philadelphia over the municipal court appointments. McNichol has always been regarded as a Vane man, while Bartlett has been inclined to the other way.

Charges that dead and "imaginary men" voted in Lackawanna elections were made at Scranton yesterday.

AN ANCIENT PRECEDENT

(From the Detroit News.) A historical comparison with the surrender of the German fleet has been found by the English Bishop of Durham in the pages of Livy, the Roman historian of the First Century, B. C., who describes the greatest naval victory in history by an undefeated fleet, when Carthage gave up her entire battle fleet to Rome in the last of the Punic wars.

Home was the great military power of that age, while the opposing force was the naval power, just as Germany and England were before the outbreak of the present world war. The German fleet was the Carthage, thus defeating the greatest naval power of the age. German writers, in comparing the strength of the two ancient powers with that of the two modern world powers anticipated a similar result for a war between Germany and England. Fortunately for the world it was not the sea power which surrendered its ships this time.

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MOVIE OF A MAN ARRIVING HOME IN THE DARK AFTER THE FIRST OF JULY



LEADERLESS DEMOCRACY

(From the Philadelphia Press)

The cry of the Democrats that there is a Republican conspiracy in the Senate to delay matters so that an extra session of Congress is much more amusing than impressive. The fact is that it is very doubtful whether it would be good politics for the Republicans to favor an extra session even if it were in their power to bring it about. There are many Republican leaders who believe that if Congress does not meet again until December that would be better for the party. In the meantime there would appear in very plain view the disastrous results of the Democratic policy for the past two years, so plain that the whole country would be bound to recognize both the situation and the responsibility.

There has been no evidence that the Republicans in Congress are trying to delay matters so that an extra session will be necessary. There has been no filibustering on any measure, although the opportunity is daily and hourly at hand. There have been no obstacles thrown in the way of vital legislation by the Republicans. There has been no long-drawn out debate, no discussion, no amendments, no amendment of the bills under discussion. There has been no attempt to block appropriation bills, those measures that must be passed in order that the housekeeping of the nation may go on.

The truth is that the Democrats have been very lagard in their legislative methods. One reason for this is that they have been without a majority in the Senate since the President sailed away immediately after this session of Congress began. The Democrats in both House and Senate have given no occasion for looking to the White House for orders, and to have a legislative program mapped out for them to follow, that they have been very helpless when it comes to the passing of bills when no one to give orders, and the result has been inaction. If an extra session is necessary, it will be because the Democrats in Congress have failed to do their duty in the past session, and have had no leadership capable of accomplishing results. The raising of the cry of a Republican conspiracy will not be of any benefit to the people of the country as to the facts.

BIRDS

Birds in this part of the country have a common unparted sight, no matter what the season, and it is a thing to be noticed. Therefore, the Bird Club of the Technical High School extends the following lines to the kind reader who will follow it to the end of the article which follows if he so desires.

There are many birds which one may study, but the bird which the confined city person will notice is the familiar half-tame pigeon which he sees about him from day to day. A bird is most particular where he builds his nests and it may be readily noted in the familiar house wren, which fills every cranny about the place with sticks before it selects one for the nest. Various theories have been advanced to account for this tendency in our feathered neighbor, all of which are partly plausible, but none of which account for all the facts. It appears to be a matter of pure selfishness, as if he did not want any other bird to enjoy these cavities—a sort of dog-in-the-manger spirit; but his cousins, the marsh wrens, and the tule wrens, of California, and others which do not take the time to reach the point of nest near each other, only one of which is said ever to be used.

Birds go to bed in various ways, and even in the same tree select different locations for their nests. Some turkeys seem to deliberate a long time about ying flup, and blackbirds sit around and seem to quarrel a long time about favorite berths, but a house wren jumps into a tree and when a boy into a cold coucuf, has his head under his wing, and is asleep in ten seconds. Why should not a man love a bird? If the palm of one slender finger is placed on the other, there would come together two of the greatest implements God and Nature have ever given any creature to explore the world with; and when the two blinged gaze at each other eye to eye, the intelligence in the one might well take on its hat the fable instincts in the other. —BY WM. FENSTERMACHER.

Map Law for New Era

Republicans Ready to Solve Peace Problems in New Congress

AS the result of thorough analysis of after the war conditions, the Republicans of the House and Senate, who will be in control of the legislative branch of the national government after March 4, have, in a general way, completed their program for the reconstruction of the country. The work of re-stimulating industrial energy and finding employment for the millions of soldiers returning to civilian life is considered by members of both branches of Congress that there is little doubt in their minds that an extra session will be brought about in one way or another as early in the spring as possible in order to take up all such problems which cannot be dealt with before March 4 because of the pressure of the important regular appropriation bill.

So important is the work of re-stimulating industrial energy and finding employment for the millions of soldiers returning to civilian life considered by members of both branches of Congress that there is little doubt in their minds that an extra session will be brought about in one way or another as early in the spring as possible in order to take up all such problems which cannot be dealt with before March 4 because of the pressure of the important regular appropriation bill. The tariff, the railroads, the merchant marine, military and naval protection of the nation for the future, the employment, general business readjustment, economical administration, and minute investigation of all government departments, are among the subjects which will receive quick attention in the coming legislative session as soon as the new Senate with its Republican majority of two and the new House with its Republican majority of forty-six have organized.

Despite the warning of Senator Penrose and his Republican colleagues on the Senate floor, the fact that it was the Roosevelt program of building two first class battleships a year which made the present navy possible, will build a navy as large as the results of the peace conference at Versailles indicate should be built. If the competitive struggle of history is to continue in spite of the peace conference, the Republicans declare that they will prepare to make the country ready for its full share in it, just as they argued for such preparedness before the war. Many of the military affairs committee of the House, and Senator Waldworth, of New York, the new chairman of the committee, are in favor of universal training for several months of all youths of a certain age, limited by certain exemptions, and it is likely that if the need is seen they will lead their party in putting such legislation through the House and Senate.

Last but not least, the Republicans plan to scrutinize every appropriation bill in order to keep expenditures to the most meritorious and without waste or extravagance, and to provide revenues on the most equitable basis. As soon as the two committees announced investigations will be begun of every bureau of every department and of the conduct of the army and navy at first quietly in order to determine whether or not waste and incompetence are rife, and, if so, then openly and fearlessly to lay bare the need of remedial action. They declare that their purpose to be honest government honestly and economically administered for the good of all the people, and hold it self evident that if they can unearth dishonesty or waste through their investigation, the result will promote this purpose and at the same time point out a way by which similar mistakes and malfeasance, if any, may be guarded against in future.

Appeal of the Little Peoples

Came the water sprites who live In the caves beneath the foam; From their regions underground Came the fair folk who well And the flying fays who ride On the zephyrs of the sky. All the little people joined By an ethnic impulse stirred, And they spoke of boundary lines And to mortals sent their word. Recognition they desired, In their elfin convalescent, And desired an empire fixed Where the moon would never set. —McLanburgh Wilson, in the New York Sun.

AFTER THE DELUGE

Noah sighted Ararat. "Trouble right off," he sighed; "if that is an island, it needs a navy, and if it is a mountain it doesn't!" —Perfectly Scandalous

By BRIGGS

Somewhere in France where the scenery's gay And a famous river winds its way, Through hills and ravines obscured perchance, By a bluff or a bit of wooded France, Somewhere over there, and the angels know, Is the grave of a soldier, though through and through— Of a boy who went at his country's call And in sunny France he gave his all. Did we call him a boy? Nay, he was a man And each drop of his blood American. He sprang from the race who in sixty-one Were among the first to shoulder a gun, And who at the sound of Lincoln's call Marched forth to offer their very all. So, how could he help but to go to France, When the murderous Hun was on the advance. Did he hesitate? Not for a day But volunteered and was off and away. Eager to help put an end to the war, Not counting the cost mid the battle's roar. "Killed in action!" It was thus that While doing his best in that battle hell. Somewhere in France, among the many brave Who for their country's sake have given up their hero's grave. —H. H. H.

The Cash System

(From the Chicago News) English economists have observed that while the English nation never owed more, the English family individually never owed less. The war has taught their. Let's hope that some day we have profited as much by the difficulties and hardships that we went through.

It is said that with the English housewife one reason why she is so anxious not to run up bills with tradesmen was because owing to the shortage of food she was very anxious to keep on the right side of the dealer. If she persistently did not pay her bills and there was a shortage of any sort of commodity the tradesman would naturally sell her promptly instead of to the person with a reputation for slow pay.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Senator A. F. Dix, who presented the firearms bill, is one of the active men in the Philadelphia businessmen's organizations. —Senator E. E. Jones, head of the House Committee on Agriculture, was raised on a dairy farm. —Senator W. C. McConnell comes from Dauphin county, comes near being the senior man on the National Guard list. —Senator Edwin H. Vane used to be a member of the House and resigned from it in the session of 1887. —Senator W. C. McConnell comes from Dauphin county and is now one of the big men of the Shamokin district.

DO YOU KNOW

—That the new State Capital was visited by more people than ever last year? —Historic Harrisburg —The first Senate met in the Dauphin county orphan court chamber. —Job For Crown Prince —Frederick Wilhelm is willing to do any work the government thinks fit as a member of the House and former Kaiser's grave.—Kansas City Journal.

Evening Chat

The weather may be an old and a hackneyed subject, but it is of unusual interest to many people here just now and they are greatly concerned about it. If it is going to be mild the rest of the winter they have plans to make and garments to arrange, but if the winter king is going to make up for lost time they will not buy mothballs just yet. Street car men declare that February is going to be a pleasant month, basing their contention on the fact that yesterday was a fine day. "The last day of January was the worst month," said a conductor. He said he halted from Berks county and as that is the habitat of the goosebore and other prophets perhaps he is right. The idea of the last day of January "governing" the next month is an old one and is said to come from early settlers. Next is the groundhog. His day well known here. He was one of the first to be mentioned in the Capitol investigations and is an authority on Pennsylvania, knowing every county and its towns. He knows Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware equally well. On military matters he is exceptionally well posted and attended National Guard camps and the mobilization in 1916. It was that year he accompanied the Pennsylvania National Guard and next year was at Camp Hancock.

Harry G. Proctor, who has written the first book on the achievements of the Iron Division in France, is a Philadelphia newspaperman, connected with the Evening Bulletin and well known here. He was one of the first to be mentioned in the Capitol investigations and is an authority on Pennsylvania, knowing every county and its towns. He knows Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware equally well. On military matters he is exceptionally well posted and attended National Guard camps and the mobilization in 1916. It was that year he accompanied the Pennsylvania National Guard and next year was at Camp Hancock.

There are some people in Harrisburg and vicinity who are not aware of the fact that the erection of the Penn-Harris has caused some new air currents about Third and Walnut streets. There are currents where there were zephyrs before and hats and other things have been disturbed. It is well to watch the things are going when passing that corner and to be ready to grab head-wear and garments.

It will be interesting to many Harrisburgers to know that at the annual dinner of the Pennsylvania Society at the Waldorf-Astoria the night of the procession of city flags of the State. The city was well represented at the dinner by several well-known citizens, who are members of the society. Secretary of the Commonwealth, Cyrus E. Woods, has just received a unique letter from a man who wanted the name of the man who wanted the Capitol the other day and the applicant says that he did not send in the paper earlier because he was afraid his commission to be signed by Governor Penrose would be vetoed. Mr. Woods also signs the commission. Both are required to do so by law.

Golfers are generally about as keen as any people to take advantage of weather conditions, but there has been more golf played on the links about Harrisburg the last fortnight than there has been in the middle of January. There have been dozens of men on the "winter greens," and they are talking so much about it that they are going to recruit if the weather man continues good.

During the course of an address at the D. A. R. conference last week, Mrs. Guernsey, a prominent member of the society, said that patriotic fervor had come to such a height in the United States that it was regarded in some places as unpatriotic to eat frankfurters, or Imberger cheese or sauerkraut. Dr. Robert Bagnell, the next speaker, said he begged leave to differ and offered strenuous objections to the classification of sauerkraut. He added that during a long period of years his wife had striven in vain to make him like it, and now, when he had been so convinced himself that he thought he liked it, he declined to be termed unpatriotic for eating it. Judging from the applause there were many, many others who had strong leanings toward kraut and pork.

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