

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1919

Let me not think it strange, Or far from powers above, That he, whom height nor depth can change, Is changeless in his love.

GETTING UNDER WAY

THE organization of a permanent committee, representing all the civic organizations of the city, is a long step toward getting under way the plan which Colonel Martin, State Health Commissioner, has suggested for making Harrisburg a model city from the standpoint of public health and sanitation.

The program which this committee has formulated for itself cannot be carried through in a day. There must be a campaign of public education along some lines and of promotion along others. Custodians of public funds are always slow to accept ideas for improvement involving the expenditure of large sums, no matter how praiseworthy the objects, and those who have undertaken to make the city a better place in which to live should understand that they have their work cut out for them.

At the same time, the program as announced to-day is of such vital importance and so free from the unnecessary and the impractical that it ought to be possible to put it through bodily within a reasonable time. It is most encouraging to note the readiness with which the men and women assigned to the contemplated improvements have accepted the tasks assigned.

With the passing of the wet season and the starting of outdoor operations in every direction, it would seem that the State and the city should lose not an hour in arranging for the important Capitol Park undertakings. These involve the widening of Third and Walnut streets, the reterracing of portions of the park and the construction of a memorial bridge and other features of the park plan.

OUR SCHOOLS

ARSON STAMM, in a remarkably clear and straightforward statement published elsewhere in this issue, sets forth the reasons why the school board of Harrisburg finds itself facing an increase of the mill rate.

Mr. Stamm makes a good case for the board, which as it stands to-day consists of men whose integrity cannot be questioned and who are above the average in business ability. These men cannot be charged with mistakes of the past, if there were such. Nor can they be held responsible for the vast increases of expenses thrust upon them by advanced costs of coal and all manner of supplies. They are also face to face with the up-keep of the new high schools, which, willy nilly, must be met.

A comparison of the expenses of running the school district to-day with those of the system as it stood a few years back, shows that very much special work of vast importance to the masses of the people has been undertaken. The special schools, the delinquency schools, the open air schools, the night schools and the Americanization schools, not to mention the continuation schools, have been developed into successful enterprises that nobody acquainted with their work would think of abandoning. We are simply face to face with an expense that must be met. There is nothing else to it and no use raising a disturbance about it.

PREMIUM ON STOP-OVERS

IN THE storm of protest directed at Mr. Burleson's management of the postal service and wire systems, we must not lose sight of the shortcomings of the other Federal managers of public utilities, some of which are quite as ridiculous as those charged against the Postmaster General. Just at present, commuters in the vicinity of

our big cities are voicing their opinion of the Director General of Railroads for an order he issued a few weeks ago. The experience of a resident of a small town near New York City, on the main line to Philadelphia, illustrates the absurd working of the new regulation.

This man commutes between his home and New York. The other day he was in Philadelphia, and wished to go from there directly to New York. He bought a ticket to his home town, intending to use his commutation ticket from that point to his destination. When he reached his home and presented his commutation's coupon he was politely told by the conductor that a full cash fare would be required under the new ruling of the Director General that commutation could not be accepted from a through passenger for part of the distance traveled. If, instead of remaining on his train, he had stepped off and waited for the next train, his commutation ticket would have been accepted.

Here is a case where a premium is placed on stop-overs. There has been a regulation in effect for some time that stop-overs will not be permitted on through tickets, but in this case a man had in his pocket what amounted to a through ticket, bought and paid for, which he could not use unless he stopped over enroute. Could anything be more absurd?

GERMANY CAN PAY

THE Germans complain that they cannot sign the peace treaty because it would ruin the country to pay the damages demanded. Do the Germans forget that previous to the war each German workman "carried a soldier on his back," in other words that the load of the Kaiser's military machine on the taxpayers was equivalent to the support of one soldier for each man engaged in industry?

Now, under the terms of the peace treaty, the German people are relieved of the necessity of maintaining a military establishment and so the money they so cheerfully used to spend on their army and navy they can now pay toward liquidating the debt the army and navy created, and still have enough left for general purposes.

Has this been made clear to the stiff-necked delegates from Berlin, or must Marshal Foch demonstrate for them that the Allies are in earnest?

According to what is being heard about the Capitol an effort to get the Philadelphia charter revision measure before the Governor is to be made at once and they may start on their final lap in the next ten days. The Philadelphia Press says Senator George Woodward has fallen out with some of the revisionists. Such a change of heart has been prayed for by the Vore people.

Woman suffragists are commencing to make a noise for some action in the Senate on the woman suffrage amendment resolution. They hope for a report from committee next week.

The Senate will have a lively time in the next few days on the Eyre bill to repeal the nonpartisan act as it applies to judges. The Chester senator has taken the lead. If the Governor signs the bill to repeal the nonpartisan feature for third class cities the Eyre bill's chances will be much improved.

When it comes down to closing up the headquarters of the State draft system, it is seasier said than done and there are now crates and boxes at the old Board of Trade building, about a couple of papers and records or which some one has to be found. Tons of papers and records have been sent to Washington and when it came to working up the remainder, it was discovered that they were covered by a card index as souvenirs. Just exactly where to store them no one seems to know. Storage is a valuable thing in Harrisburg now and yet the records of the men who went into the army or were drafted and must be kept.

"Bedouins" was the nickname given to the squadron of the Royal Flying Corps by Lieutenant Robert H. Reece writes in "Night Bombing with the Bedouins" (Houghton Mifflin Company) because the members came from all over the world and because night bombing involves so many long flights. The greatest distance the squadron ever traveled was 400 miles to Cologne—the machine used being the famous Handley-Page.

"Types of Pan" (Houghton Mifflin Company) is off the press says a writer in the Chicago Sunday Tribune, "and here I am still sitting on the doorstep waiting for the postman to bring me a copy. I'd hate to miss him." Think Keith Preston is the funniest funny man that ever looked a book straight in the eye and told it what he thought about it. Mr. Preston is a contributor to the famous "Line o' Type" newspaper column under the hitherto well-guarded pseudonym of "Pan" as well as conductor of a column of his own in the Chicago Daily News.

WHEAT [E. Davenport in the Saturday Evening Post.] I demand an abili for wheat when the high cost of living comes up for indictment. Wheat is the source of the staff of life; the cheapest and best of all our American foods; the deciding factor in the war; the greatest single element in the conclusion, and to-day the strongest bar against Bolshevism! Wheat, the great staple food of man, the civilizer of humanity, the greatest single food of the earth, excepting, of course, the Stone Age and the Lake Dwellers, man has worked and fought for wheat as the most precious of all his possessions. He forgets it from time to time in the ways come back to wheat and to the land for its production.

That is why there are grown to feed the earth less than a billion bushels annually, produced upon a greater variety of soils and under a wider range of climatic conditions than would be possible with any other crop. Four billion bushels of wheat, with half a million seeds in every bushel! About two bushels a head for all the earth, when there should be six.

A solid trainload reaching around the world! Rivers of wheat—for, in motion, these four billion bushels would make a stream over twenty feet wide and a foot deep, flowing four miles an hour continuously, year in and year out, forever and a day, for the feeding of the nations! Blessed be the Wheat!

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The high councilors of the liquor interests in Pennsylvania are working over time in an effort to evolve some plan whereby they can tie up the Ramsey bill designating how much alcohol must be in a drink before it is a drink to the Vickersman and Fox prohibition enforcement bills. All three bills are special orders of business for Monday night in the House and the advocates of prohibition that they have the votes to put through the measures, especially as the Governor is known to favor such machinery as will enable the State to enforce the law.

The alcoholic content bill has appeared in various forms and the liquor interests have finally decided to make their drive for the Ramsey bill. The Governor is on record as saying such a thing is a matter for Congress.

One of the schemes of the "wets" prevails here and that is the FOX bill, such as the "search and seizure" provision which was the object of an unsuccessful campaign this week. They are said to have some additional "riders" under discussion, but the "dry" element says that it is ready for them.

Some of the "wets" are industriously spreading the story that the Fox and Vickersman bills will have priority in the Senate, but the "dry" says that they are confident of passing the bills and that the Governor will take a hand for them. There are a number of measures pending in which influential senators are more interested than the Governor.

The Governor will see a number of men at Philadelphia over the weekend in regard to revenue measures and a drive is being made to prevent any tax on manufacturing capital, which Auditor General Snyder is said to hold unnecessary if the legislation asked to improve collection methods is adopted.

The fact that the big Democratic party here did not result in any reference to the conduct of the minority in the Legislature was much commented upon. The Democrats have not been heard of in the Legislature this session and have left the opportunity to the "dry" in 1919, they have been busy getting in on everything.

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WONDER WHAT BABE RUTH THINKS ABOUT WHEN MAKING A HOME RUN?

By BRIGGS

Evening Chat

Humorous cartoon panels with baseball-themed puns and jokes. Text includes: 'WELL HERE I GO - IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I'D HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY - GOSH HOW I DREAD IT', 'ONE OF THESE DAYS I WON'T MAKE A HOME RUN - JUST TO FOOL 'EM, I GET ALL TIRED OUT', 'GOSH IT GETS THOSE FIELDS SORE ON ME TOO - I WISH I DIDN'T MAKE SO MANY HOME RUNS - I'M GOING TO PRACTICE ON SINGLES', 'I HOPE JOE WILL SLIP ME THAT TEN SPOT HE OWES ME - BELIEVE ME I CAN USE IT', 'I COULD EAT A BIG STEAK IF I HAD THE CHANCT. I'VE GOT A APPETITE LIKE A FLOCK OF HORSES', 'WELL HERE I AM ROUNDING THIRD BASE AND THE DAYS WORK'LL SOON BE OVER - OH BABY', 'HERE'S HOME PLATE - HELLO HOME PLATE - TA TATA TTA TTA', 'THERE'S OLD HARRY STEVENS - HELLO HARRY - WHAT SAY, YEH - IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES!', 'NEW BOOKS', 'This Will Rebuild Europe', 'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR', 'SHELL-SHOCK', 'Making a Nation Fit', 'The Laughter of the Gods', 'Sunrise From a Balloon', 'LOST \$7 PER HEAD', 'TWO FUNDS', 'SPRING TIME', 'The Valley of Decision', 'Great Prosperity Ahead', 'LABOR NOTES'.

Some of the older people in Harrisburg to-day recalled in talking about the great parade in Philadelphia yesterday that in the famous centennial parade in Philadelphia in 1876 the City Grays of Harrisburg was the only military organization outside of the Legion to march in the parade. The Legion was made up of a select representative of each of the original States. The City Grays wore their distinctive uniform, which included the bearskin shakos and the gray coats which gave them the name which clings to Company D after forty years or more. That they marched in accordance with the traditions of the men of the old Guard is shown in ratings for years and made the organization one in which everyone took pride goes without saying. These are not many men left who took part in that great demonstration in Philadelphia. Among them are Joseph E. Rhoads, George S. McLean, William C. McFarland, Ezell A. Staebelen, Philip German, Charles P. Meek, Christian Nauss, Isaac H. Poffenberger and Theophilus F. Zimmerman. Many of these men served in the same commands in the National Guard and are still active in the veteran organization of the Harrisburg militiamen.

In speaking of the wonderful way in which the State paid tribute to the fighting Keystone Division yesterday in the city where the Nation was born, there were a good many inquiries heard as to what steps were being taken to welcome home the men of the old Governor's Troop and other units who were called to come home and what will be done for the drafted men who went out and won glory in the 73rd Division from Camp Meade. The same inquiries from companies had splendid welcome, but thus far plans for the troop and the other organizations seem to be lagging. It is hoped that the men of companies D, and I frankly say the city should not stop short when it comes to welcoming home the men of the old Guard. The example of the great demonstration of last Fourth of July should not be forgotten either.

Al. K. Thomas, cashier of the East End Bank, told a funny story of his school days at the Rotary Club luncheon the other noon. "We used to have a boy in school, the son of a baker. His father had a very good bakery and I've ever eaten. To get some of those Scotch cakes we'd use every rube under the sun. In arithmetic and grammar the boy was a first class teacher would ask him a question. If we pulled his coattail twice, while whispering the answer to him, he'd get a good scolding. One day we were particularly hungry, and I pulled four times 'My Lord' the boy exclaimed aloud. 'You're taking all the Scotch cakes out of the shop, you had to explain to the teacher. No more cakes!'"

Some funny combinations of signs have been encountered in the restrictions which have had to be placed at the Capitol. At the big side doors the signs were found to read:

CLOSED FOR REPAIRS Inside the corridors the signs have been found to read: CLOSED TO VISITORS. It so happened that in placing the standards for the signs they were placed at the points where corridors branch off from the main corridors. Some of the signs were found to be placed behind the line. So the sign established the limit at the fountains.

Colonel Keefer, speaking in Harrisburg, the other day outlined the program which the Government is providing for wounded soldiers. Almost any of the practical branches of study and mechanical instruction are given in the hospital, each wounded man being permitted to take up what suits him best, providing it fits in with his physical condition. About fifty per cent of the wounded men have taken advantage of the opportunity and will come out of the hospital better able to make good wages and a comfortable living than when they entered. The school course has met the soldier more efficient, and many of the lines of work taken up are designed to fit the man who has lost an arm or a leg. An arm or leg less will not be a great handicap to his earning capacity.

Colonel Keefer said that he is very glad to have the men who ride across the country in the Pennsylvania. It invites people from Harrisburg who have cars to go to Carlisle, stop at the entrance to the hospital grounds, where a Red Cross nurse in charge of this end of the hospital is in charge, and they will be accommodated with as many wounded soldiers as they can accommodate, providing of course, that their sudden application does not interfere either with physical treatment then under way or with the study periods provided under the instruction program. Colonel Keefer said while permission to permit men to go out for dinner, ordinarily men under hospital care require hospital diet and for that reason the invitation list has been greatly restricted. The Colonel hopes to have the roads in the hospital grounds improved very shortly and then folks going up in automobiles will be able to go directly to the hospital headquarters. Under present conditions it is far safer and more comfortable to stop at the gates.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Colonel E. S. Greble, commanding one of the Pennsylvania regiments is a regular and a Pennsylvanian. Governor Sprull will speak at the reunion of the Pennsylvania Historical Society to General Mul. Speaker Spangler, who is stirring up the animals over the McCall's Ferry bill, has been in the legislature for a long time. F. W. Reese, the new head of the Knights of Columbus in this State is a prominent Pittsburgher.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg has already voted considerable money to carry out its share of the Capitol park improvements? HISTORIC HARRISBURG - Harrisburg soldiers have marched in every big national pageant in Philadelphia since 1812.