

The Star-Independent (Established in 1876) Published by THE STAR PRINTING COMPANY, Star-Independent Building, 225 Fifth Avenue, Chicago, Ill. Every Evening Except Sunday. Officers: BENJAMIN F. METERS, President; JOHN L. L. KUMM, Vice President; WM. W. WALLOWER, Secretary and Treasurer; WM. W. WALLOWER, Business Manager; V. HUMMEL BERGHAUS, Jr., Editor.

DECEMBER calendar table with columns for Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. and rows for dates 6 through 27.

MOON'S PHASES: Full Moon, 2nd; Last Quarter, 10th; New Moon, 16th; First Quarter, 24th. WEATHER FORECASTS: Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair, continued cold to night with lowest temperature about 5 degrees. Sunday fair and somewhat warmer.

CHORAL SOCIETY'S TWENTIETH SEASON Persons who recall with pleasure the musical treat afforded by the Harrisburg Choral Society's work last season, under the direction of Dr. J. Fred Wolle, will welcome the announcement made today that this conductor of the famous Bach chorus, of Bethlehem, Pa., is to direct the local organization's work again this winter.

THE REAL CHRISTMAS SPIRIT Unofficial reports from local charitable organizations are that Harrisburgers never before were so generous as in this Christmas season in the matter of giving to the needy. Not only has the total value of gifts to the poor at home and abroad been far greater than usual, but the donations at home, standing alone, exceed by far the usual number, which is the more remarkable from the fact that the requirements of Belgians and the other sufferers from the war in Europe constitute an extraordinary drain on the resources of those who are charitably disposed in this city.

CHRISTMAS TREES IN HOMES It would be difficult to compute the number of Christmas trees that are to-day brightening homes in this city, yet there are enough of them to have exhausted the local supply, and the supply was not a small one. In many homes, it appears, where trees were wanted badly at the last moment, they could not be had. The demand for pines and spruces at Christmas time is hardly diminishing. And why should it? The municipal Christmas tree idea is spreading rapidly throughout this country. On Christmas of last year there were more than a hundred cities in the United States which had celebrations about municipal trees and there are many more this year.

DEATH OF A SCOFFER An account of how an educated Chinese strangely met his death not long ago, after scoffing at the superstitions of his people, is coming through the avenues of publicity from a seemingly reliable source. There is something very mysterious about it, bordering on the supernatural, hence the attention it has been attracting. A rich young Chinese we are told, who had been educated at Cambridge University and therefore knew a thing or two, was one evening taking a walk with a friend through a forest in his native land, and noticing some joss sticks burning at the roots of the sacred trees to which the faithful coolies were paying homage, he contemptuously kicked aside the little tokens of devotion.

Tongue-End Topics Dog Saves Lives After Battles More than twenty lives already have been saved by a black collie dog belonging to a German ambulance corps on the East Prussian battlefield. In peace times the animal is a humble watch dog in the railway station at Halle. The dark winter nights and the snow make the work of finding the wounded especially difficult but since the ambulance parties began using dogs in their search, few wounded men have been overlooked. The dogs carry a red cross on both sides of their collars. As soon as night comes, generally the only time in which the wounded can be searched for, the leashes are slipped and the dogs are sent across the battlefields. Instead of barking when they find a wounded soldier, they bring back some article of the victim's equipment, such as a cap, helmet or glove. They are then put on the leash and they lead the ambulance men to the spot where the wounded soldier lies. In this manner hundreds have been saved on the different battlefields. At first some of the animals led the searchers to men already dead, but they learn with surprising rapidity to confine their attentions to the living.

Jap Soldiers for Europe? The project of sending a Japanese army to Europe is gathering force in Japan. It is understood that France and Russia favor the idea, but that Great Britain hesitates to call upon her ally to go to Europe. It is estimated that an army of 300,000—the number under consideration—would cost 5 yen per soldier daily, or about \$1,500,000 for all. The fleet of transports would go by way of Suez and, in addition to a total equipment of arms, would have to convey food for many months, including vast quantities of rice. The idea is that the expenses would be covered by a European loan. Baron Kato, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is quoted as being opposed to the project.

Says War Is Unting the Classes Mrs. Waldorf Astor, wife of the member of the House of Commons from Plymouth and formerly Miss Nancy Langhorne, of Virginia, was among the women who greeted the American Christmas ship Jason upon its arrival at Plymouth, England. Mrs. Astor also made an address at the opening of a relief fund bazaar at Laura Wesleyan church. "I hope hatred will go out of the world," Mrs. Astor said. "A soldier once told me that he once believed in God, but since he had been in the trenches he does not. I told him that it was not God who put him in the trenches. This war is bringing all classes together, and in that way it is doing much good. If we could only make up our minds to replace hate with love and endeavor to think that our neighbors are doing their best, we would all be happier."

Told in Lighter Vein WHEN THE TIDE COMES IN Congressman Henry D. Clayton, of Alabama, on many occasions delights his friends with humorous tales of his personal experiences and otherwise. Here is one he told recently: "A Confederate reunion was in progress in Savannah, and among those in attendance were two Kentuckians who, by way of variety strolled around, finally visiting the shores and viewed the Atlantic ocean for the first time. "Say, pard," one of them remarked, "what ought I carry home to the children for a souvenir? "Why, cap'n," it "pears to me that some of this here ocean water would be right interestin'." "Just the thing," exclaimed the captain, delightedly. From an inner pocket he produced a flask, and, with the assistance of his friend, soon emptied it. Then, carefully treading his way down to the water's edge, he proceeded to fill it to the neck and replaced the cork. "Hi, there!" yelled the other, from his position on the bank. "Don't do that! Pour out about a third of that water. If you don't when the tide rises she'll sure burst!" —National Monthly.

THE LORD NEEDS HELP A certain preacher, in one of the Southern States, was preaching away one Sunday night when a fire alarm broke the attentive stillness of the sanctuary. "Sit still!" he cried to his disturbed congregation. "If there is a fire, the Lord will take care of His own, and not let anything happen that shouldn't." Just then two children, who had stepped outside, shrieked: "Oh, it's the parsonage! It's the parsonage!" Without a word of farewell that preacher made a wild bound from the pulpit and struck out for his burning residence. "They is times, it seems," said a lean member of the congregation, "when th' Lord needs he'p." —National Monthly.

NOT OVER THERE An old couple emerged from the station and started up the street. As they passed up the great headlines of the papers, his wife pulled insistently at his sleeve in a vain endeavor to lead him on. Finally he turned toward her. "Mary," he said excitedly, "the papers say there's a big war going on in Europe!" "Well," she replied, "they're having fine weather for it!" —Exchange.

Investigator Tells Service Board How to Eliminate More Dangers on Railroads 13,361 PERSONS HURT N YEAR Report Shows That Commission Is Taking Active Steps in the Direction of Reducing the Number of Grade Crossings in State While recommending no drastic legislation in his report issued to-day to the Public Service Commission for the period between July 28, 1913, to June 30, 1914, John P. Dohoney, Investigator of Accidents for the Commission, makes suggestions in the direction of the conservation of human life with special reference to protection of railroad workmen, passengers and the general public. He presents interesting figures regarding accidents on the rail, especially to railroad workers. Mr. Dohoney's work was taken up when the State Railroad Commission went out of existence and was succeeded by the Public Service Commission. The newer Commission, in the matter of railroad accidents, has continued that phase of the work instituted by the original Commission. The report is a voluminous one dealing with all of the accidents that have occurred, and as briefly summarized in the letter of transmission from Mr. Dohoney, is as follows: "This report shows that during the time indicated 13,361 persons were injured on the steam railroads and the street railways of this State. There were 10,190 persons injured on the steam railroads. Of this number 991 were killed. The latter embraced 328 employees, 15 passengers, 555 trespassers and 93 others. "There were 3,161 persons injured on the street railways. Of this number 170 were killed, the fatalities including 15 employees, 19 passengers, 20 trespassers and 116 others. "79 Killed at Grade Crossings "Included in the total number of accidents are 79 persons killed and 222 injured at grade crossings of railroads and 2 killed and 70 injured at grade crossings of street railways. "According to the accident reports of railroad companies, 53 trespassers struck by cars were under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and of this number 24 were killed. The street railway companies report that 9 intoxicated persons were killed and that 80 were injured. "The above summary will give the Commission an idea of the vast field for activity along the line of protection and the necessity for the adoption of every practicable method with this end in view. It is more important to safeguard the lives of people than it is to determine whether a passenger is overcharged or whether a shipper is unjustly assessed for the transportation of his goods. "There are approximately 10,000 public crossings of steam railroads at grade in this State and it is gratifying to know that the Commission has begun the work tending to their elimination. Watchmen, gates and bells do not constitute absolutely reliable protection. "Our reports show that during the period embracing January 1st and June 30th of this year 44 accidents occurred at protected crossings, by which 15 people were killed and 34 were injured. During the same period 17 were killed and 58 injured at unprotected crossings. "Urges Safer Street Cars "Since the public service company law came into full force and effect the Commission has issued protective orders that have doubtless brought beneficial results. The requirements that the cars of street passenger railway companies be equipped with jacks, that conductors precede the cars over the tracks of steam railroads and that passengers be not allowed on the front platform of street cars are being observed. There was an apparent disposition on the part of some of the employees to disregard these regulations, but when informed that the orders were issued to be obeyed their indifference was no longer displayed. "There are other measures, however, concerning the operation of street cars the adoption of which are essential to the comfort and the safety of passengers and employees. "Complaints have been received that the steps and running boards of the cars of some of the lines are too high and are not only the cause of accidents, but are a source of inconvenience. Investigation shows that these grievances are well founded. I have, in consequence, held conferences with representatives of the Pennsylvania Street Railways Association with a view to the adoption by the Commission of such regulations as will remove this objection and will make further provision for the enclosing of the front platform of cars so that the employees may have that measure of protection to which they are entitled. "The equipment of all cars with power brakes, as well as hand brakes, and the daily operation of both brakes; the installation of automatic couplers; a safe and proper method of heating cars, and the maintenance of lights at highway crossings and at points on the line of the railway, such as the approaches to sharp curves, bridges, steep grades, etc., in country districts, and a reasonable control of the intensity of headlights of cars on public highways will all contribute to the elimination of elements that figure in accidents of various kinds. "The Problem of Tunnels "The accident which recently occurred in the Philadelphia tunnel on the line of the Philadelphia and Reading railway emphasizes the necessity of giving the matter of tunnels our prompt and serious consideration. I have, therefore, sent a communication to the steam railroad companies operating in Pennsylvania, requesting them to furnish information regarding dimensions of tunnel, with degree of curves and percentage of grades; when constructed; character of construction as to interior lining, bracing, etc.; method of

Turkish Banks in London The two Turkish banks in London, the Imperial Ottoman bank and the National Bank of Turkey, which were placed under government control at the outbreak of war with Turkey, have now been granted an extended license. They will, therefore, be treated as ordinary banks so far as business outside Turkey is concerned, but will still be under a supervisor of the British government.

What Lacked Buttons An English colonel at kit inspection said to Private Flanigan: "Ha! Yes, shirts, socks, flannels, all very good. Now, can you assure me that all the articles of your kit have buttons on them?" "No, sir," said Private Flanigan hesitatingly. "How's that, sir?" "Aren't no buttons on the towels, sir?" —Kansas City Star.

PURE RICH BLOOD PREVENTS DISEASE Bad blood is responsible for more ailments than anything else. It causes catarrh, dyspepsia, rheumatism, weak, tired, languid feelings and worse troubles. Hood's Sarsaparilla has been wonderfully successful in purifying and enriching the blood, removing scrofula and other humors, and building up the whole system. Take it—give it to all the family so as to avoid illness. Get it to-day. Adv.

DAUPHIN DEPOSIT TRUST COMPANY Do Your Part IF YOU would be a success in life you must contribute your share of effort and hard work. Most prosperous people owe their success to habits of thrift—to a system of saving that meant many sacrifices. We are now in the season of good will and while wishing everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year suggest that if you do your part by saving regularly—the little amounts as well as the big ones—prosperity will be your inevitable reward. Certificates of Deposit are a popular form of saving—they pay 3 per cent. interest for periods of four months and longer. 213 Market Street Capital, \$300,000 Surplus, \$300,000 Open for deposits Sat. evening from 6 to 8

THE WAR OF THE WORLD A Wonderful Film Showing Recent Battles in Europe. Special To-day Hogan's Annual Spree—Keystone Comedy

Handel 'SAMSON' CHOSEN FOR THE CHORAL SOCIETY Continued From First Page. operation ended in a blaze of glory. And after the splendid achievement of last April it would be strange indeed if we do not find ourselves in this, the twentieth season of the organization, moving on to even greater things than have been done in the past. "The call has now gone out for the resumption of work. No singer of Harrisburg, worthy of the name, can well afford to refuse this summons. I am glad to learn that former members are

AMUSEMENTS VICTORIA 228 MARKET ST. Hogan's Annual Spree—Keystone Comedy

AMUSEMENTS The War of the World A Wonderful Film Showing Recent Battles in Europe. Special To-day Hogan's Annual Spree—Keystone Comedy

DAUPHIN DEPOSIT TRUST COMPANY Do Your Part IF YOU would be a success in life you must contribute your share of effort and hard work. Most prosperous people owe their success to habits of thrift—to a system of saving that meant many sacrifices. We are now in the season of good will and while wishing everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year suggest that if you do your part by saving regularly—the little amounts as well as the big ones—prosperity will be your inevitable reward. Certificates of Deposit are a popular form of saving—they pay 3 per cent. interest for periods of four months and longer. 213 Market Street Capital, \$300,000 Surplus, \$300,000 Open for deposits Sat. evening from 6 to 8

OFFICE--TRAINING SCHOOL Develops Accuracy and Efficiency WINTER TERM BEGINS MONDAY, JANUARY 4 Day and Night Sessions Get the Education that will Get You the \$ MONEY \$ POSITIONS SECURED FOR ALL GRADUATES School of Commerce 15 S. Market Sq., Harrisburg, Pa.

A Testimony From Experience and Observation If every man, woman and child knew the satisfaction and real happiness of having money at a specified time—accumulated by small and regular savings made each week and not missed—they would join the Security Holiday Savings Fund and have money for Insurance, Taxes, Coal or any other needs, and not be worried when these payments become due. If you have spent, during the year, money that you really have nothing for, which is an experience of many, don't do so the coming year. Make up your mind to have something at the close of 1915. If you listen to this you will have. Join now. SECURITY TRUST COMPANY 36 and 38 NORTH THIRD STREET Open Saturday Evening Near the Postoffice

AMUSEMENTS VICTORIA 228 MARKET ST. Hogan's Annual Spree—Keystone Comedy The War of the World A Wonderful Film Showing Recent Battles in Europe. Special To-day Hogan's Annual Spree—Keystone Comedy

DAUPHIN DEPOSIT TRUST COMPANY Do Your Part IF YOU would be a success in life you must contribute your share of effort and hard work. Most prosperous people owe their success to habits of thrift—to a system of saving that meant many sacrifices. We are now in the season of good will and while wishing everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year suggest that if you do your part by saving regularly—the little amounts as well as the big ones—prosperity will be your inevitable reward. Certificates of Deposit are a popular form of saving—they pay 3 per cent. interest for periods of four months and longer. 213 Market Street Capital, \$300,000 Surplus, \$300,000 Open for deposits Sat. evening from 6 to 8