

The Star-Independent

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Friday, March 26, 1915.

MARCH

Calendar table for March 1915 showing days of the week and dates from Sun. to Sat.

MOON'S PHASES

Full Moon, 1st, 31st; Last Quarter, 8th; New Moon, 15th; First Quarter, 23rd.

WEATHER FORECASTS

Harrisburg and vicinity: Partly cloudy and much colder to-night with lowest temperature about 25 degrees. Saturday fair, continued cold.

Eastern Pennsylvania: Partly cloudy and much colder to-night. Saturday fair, continued cold.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURE IN HARRISBURG

Highest, 54; lowest, 36; 8 a. m., 37; 8 p. m., 49.

WHEN WAR WILL BE NO MORE

When the idea that might makes right is obsolete;

When financiers see so clearly war's bad effect on business conditions that they flatly refuse to lend to governments for war purposes the gold without which fighting men could not be maintained and other fighting men destroyed;

When universal brotherly love takes the place of the world's numerous racial antipathies;

When patriotism is an affection for all that is great and good in a country in time of peace instead of an unreasonable, blood-thirsty passion;

When the education of childhood concerns itself with the heroes of peaceful fields of activity more than with the heroes of fields of battle and inculcates broader love of country than that which carries with it hatred for other nations;

When women of the world are driven by the anguish which the clash of arms brings them to take a united stand for lasting peace;

When treaties between nations are so framed as to exclude clauses through which future misunderstandings and antagonisms may originate;

When national self-control ever gets the better of national excitability;

When the fact is fully realized that "no war is inevitable;"

When ambitions for conquest, for glory, for power are unthought of;

When all governments take the attitude of serene unguardedness rather than of expectant defense;

When the principles guiding nations and human beings are completely changed;

When, in short, all the world is revolutionized. Then and then only will war be no more.

WATCH FOR MORE POISON, GOVERNOR!

Pennsylvania still is without a state flower. Governor Tener, during his administration, ruthlessly swung his veto axe on the roots of the gentle violet after a bill designating it was passed by both branches of the Legislature, and yesterday Governor Brumbaugh with a scratch of his pen put an end to the plan to make mountain laurel the state's official floral emblem.

Of course it isn't going to make a great deal of difference in the peace of mind or happiness of the people of Pennsylvania whether mountain laurel, or the sun-flower, or the night blooming cereus, or just plain yellow pumpkin blossom ultimately is selected for the state flower; or whether we have any state flower at all, for that matter. The idea of having one is a pretty bit of sentiment which might give a little pleasure to some people at times or which might even increase florists' sales on state occasions. On the other hand if laurel had become the state flower and if its leaves are poisonous, as Governor Brumbaugh says some authorities declare, then a few more Pennsylvanians than now might suffer from time to time with inflamed fingers due to handling it more frequently.

But all things considered it does not matter much whether there is a state flower or not. Yet the Governor's veto message on the subject is not without some rather important significance. For instance it indicates beyond all doubt that Governor Brumbaugh is giving the closest sort of scrutiny to every proposed law that comes to him from the Legislature.

The facts that Governor Brumbaugh found out that mountain laurel is believed by some botanists to have poisonous leaves, that he learned from another source that another state has laurel for its

official flower, and again that he has ascertained to his own satisfaction that there is no very great amount of public satisfaction in favor of laurel for the state's official posey, prove that the Governor made most careful research in at least three distinctly different directions before he made up his mind on the subject of signing or vetoing the laurel bill.

Such thoroughness in considering such a comparatively harmless measure as the bill designating an official state flower at a time when it is known the Governor is giving most serious and thoughtful consideration to legislative matters of most vital importance to the state, may be taken as an indication that all bills, whether important or otherwise, will be scrutinized with the utmost thoroughness and caution when they reach Governor Brumbaugh. Assuming, then, that all bills are to be examined as carefully as the mountain laurel bill, it is pretty safe to conclude that none of the more important measures will get by the gubernatorial dissecting room without the poisonous virus being extracted from their views.

ANOTHER GENIUS DIES POOR

The fact that Morgan Robertson, prolific writer of stories of the sea, who died on Wednesday, had been in straitened circumstances in recent years, is not surprising.

Even before the death of this remarkable character had called special attention to his poverty, the facts of the matter were publicly known. The author of two hundred stories not long ago told of his financial circumstances in an unsigned autobiography. His friends were at the time of his death making efforts to aid him and his publishers had been endeavoring earnestly to increase the popularity of his works in book form and thereby increase his royalties,—royalties which, no matter how large they become, will be of no earthly or un-earthly use to him now.

The fact that Morgan Robertson did not profit financially from his literary work to a sufficient extent to keep him comfortable in the closing years of his life is not surprising because it is so usual for a man of his occupation. A business man or a man engaged in some other profession than that of authorship may receive substantial rewards for his services during the period of his activity and be able to retire on a steady income in after life. A man of literary genius, however, must often be content with comparatively small receipts from his labors while he labors, run the risk of dying poor like most of his predecessors in his profession and depend for his reward on the vagaries of Fame. In a recently published treatise on Robert Louis Stevenson it is said that this gifted writer was earning less than \$1,500 a year when thirty-three years old, which was in the latter part of his short life.

Some present day men of letters are of course making fortunes through their typewriter ribbons. They are exceptions in their profession. As a rule they are prospering because their books are temporarily popular and are having big sales. At all events they are engaged in honorable work and their industry, if not always their genius, deserves to be liberally rewarded.

Morgan Robertson certainly had genius but he lacked steady industry. He was reckless in his literary work. He wrote from inspiration, it seems, rather than from necessity. He was not apt to engage in the occupation of a literary hack, and to "saw wood," as Eugene Field would say. As a consequence another addition has been made to the roster of destitute geniuses.

There ain't going to be no state flower.

Any how it is likely laurel will keep right on growing in Pennsylvania.

Perhaps the Governor will be able to detect poison in some other pending bills.

Taft is reported to have lost 80 pounds by a process of "reducing." Must be training to run in 1916.

The girl who told the President to "quit your kidding," did not know she was talking to the President. She will be more cautious in her telephone conversations hereafter.

TOLD IN LIGHTER VEIN

BREEZY TALE "There was just two blows." "Yes, yes; go on!" "First I blew de safe an' den I blew de town."—Buffalo Express.

SURE SYMPTOM Mary—"I'm positive Fred loves me and intends to make me his wife." Helen—"Why? Has he proposed yet?" Mary—"No; but he dislikes mother more every time he sees her."—Liverpool Mercury.

PLAYING IT SAFE Farmer—"When's the next train north?" Station Agent—"In an hour." Farmer—"When is the next train going south?" Station Agent—"Fifty minutes." Farmer—"All right, Mirandy, we can get across the tracks."—Kansas City Star.

LITERARY PERPLEXITIES "How is Scribbler getting on with his new historical novel?" "Very badly. The scenes are laid in Poland and East Prussia, you know, and Scribbler can't make up his mind whether the Grand Duke Nicholas or Field Marshal von Hindenburg ought to be the hero."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

EQUAL RIGHTS ON THE FARM We are for equal rights to this extent: A farmer should let his wife retire from the strenuous life at the same time he does.—Acheson Globe.

ONE OF THE PENALTIES A State that puts the children in the mills has to keep on building hospitals and institutions to shelter the results.—Philadelphia Ledger.

AT THE FANCY-DRESS BALL She—"These functions are so unnatural—people pretending to be something that they really aren't." He—"Well, that's natural."—Puck.

Easter's Fashion Parade Begins at The Globe. EASTER Sunday is recognized throughout the civilized World as SPRING AWAKENING. TO YOU Spring should mean a CLOTHES AWAKENING—an awakening to the fact that it's time to put on new "follage"—to DISCARD THE OLD and put on the NEW. BUT don't wait until the day before Easter to buy your new clothes. WHY there's not a man living who cannot find here a suit or top coat to his complete satisfaction and fancy! Look them over and see for yourself, HOW DIFFERENT our clothes are from those shown in other stores at even higher prices than these— \$15—\$20—\$25. That's My Boy— Boys' Sturdy Suits With 2 Pairs of Pants, at \$5.00. THE GLOBE "THE FRIENDLY STORE"



Tongue-End Topics

Just Two Years Late "Two denominations of the Panama-Pacific Exposition postage stamps have been received at the Harrisburg post-office," and furthermore two other denominations will shortly make their appearance, according to a "news" item in "The Patriot" this morning.

The Governor's New Footman The new footman on the Executive Mansion automobile, which carries license number 1, is an object of much curiosity to those who have business at the capitol. Every day, as the hour of 1 o'clock approaches, the automobile swings up the driveway from Third street to the south-wing door and takes position in the small alcove at one side. The liveried footman hops out, advances with measured stride and much dignity to the front of the entrance, takes up position, assumes a military attitude and awaits the appearance of Governor Brumbaugh to be taken home for luncheon.

While standing in position this new footman is oblivious to everything in the vicinity. Those who see him know that the Governor will soon appear, and begin to fringe the curb along the flower bed. The footman does not see one of them. He never bats an eye. He looks neither to the left nor to the right. His gaze is riveted on the door whence the Governor will soon emerge, and he has no time for anything else.

War Closes Butcher Shops Two thousand butcher shops have been closed in England since the beginning of the war. The increased prices of meat and the effort in most households to economize closely have been the cause for the decreased consumption, which has hit the retail butcher very hard. Probably more meat than

ever before is being imported into the British Isles, but a large proportion of it goes immediately into the hands of the government for supplying the soldiers at home and abroad. The business of the average retail butcher, according to trade journals, has decreased 20 per cent.

German Students in the War Complete statistics of the German and Austro-Hungarian universities and technical institutes show that out of a total of 93,446 students, 49,720 are in the war. In Germany 56 per cent of the university students and almost 62 per cent of those at the technical institutes are in the war, and already 1,081 of them have fallen. From the German universities and technical schools 1,585 professors have gone into the war and 35 have been killed. The percentage of Austro-Hungarian students under arms is not so high as that of German students, somewhat less than 50 per cent, having gone to the front. These figures reach to December 15.

Getting Color for War History For the purpose of supplementing the routine history of the "world-war"—when the time shall have come for it to be written—with a colorful account of details, Dr. Witkop, professor of history at the University of Freiburg, is making a collection of letters from university students in the field. Relatives of such soldiers in all parts of Germany are being requested, for this reason, to send to Dr. Witkop copies of



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communications from the trenches, excerpts of which will later be reproduced. Professor Witkop believes that these war letters will form an epic supplement to the rich lyric poetry of the conflict, the more valuable because of their spontaneity, color and objectiveness.

Seized for Selling "Traitor Powders" Five persons are under arrest in Paris, charged with participation in a conspiracy to supply soldiers at the front with the means of tricking the army surgeons and getting themselves sent home as no longer fit for military service. Several days ago the postal authorities opened an envelope addressed to a soldier, and found four packets of a grayish powder, wrapped in a sheet of notepaper which bore the following message: "Dear Husband—I have at last discovered a powder which will give you such palpitations of the heart that the surgeons will send you home."

The police immediately arrested the writer of the note, and her confession resulted in the arrest of a gang of five, whom it is alleged, had been driving a lucrative trade in the sale of the "traitor powders" to soldiers at the front. Whether the powders were really efficacious is not stated by the police.

IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS.

Squaring the Circle, Perpetual Motion and Defying Gravitation. The circle has never been exactly squared. They have been trying during 6,000 years and have not yet found the length of the side of a square equal in area to any given circle. The reason of this is because the area of a circle has never been found, and this because the ratio of the diameter to the circumference is yet unknown. The first eleven figures of the ratio, 3.1415926535, are a mere beginning. They have been computed out to 635 figures without the decimal coming to an end—that is, the figures representing the length of the circumference and of the diameter are known to be incommensurable, or impossible to express by two whole numbers. The enormous labor of carrying out this dividing of 635 integers could have as well been saved, because the higher mathematics has proved that the ratio cannot be expressed in a finite number of terms. Hence the work of attempting to square the circle is wasted, likewise the useless labors of perpetual motion seekers, searchers after the square root of one-half and overthrowers of the law of gravitation.—Edgar Lucien Larkin in New York American.

Will Take Western Trip Dr. and Mrs. Wayne E. J. Bomberger and Dr. and Mrs. John A. Sherger, of this city, and James F. Cline, of Steelton, will be among the occupants of the Shrine special, which leaves Reading June 19th on a 10,000-mile trip through the West. The trip will include San Francisco, San Diego, where the expositions are being held, and Seattle, Wash., where Imperial Council, A. A. O. N. M. S., will be held July 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Dr. Smucker Will Address Meeting Dr. Clayton Albert Smucker will be the speaker at the afternoon service in the John Y. Boyd hall, Y. W. C. A., on Sunday. Dr. Smucker will give a Palm Sunday address and there will be singing by the male chorus of the Stevens Memorial church. Mrs. J. W. Bitterman has charge of the meeting.

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