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Philadelphia, Wednesday, July 23, 1919

POLITICAL MACERS AT WORK

WE HAVE been waiting for some explanation of that demand by the secretary of the Democratic state committee on federal officeholders for 2 per cent of their salaries, but none has been forthcoming.

The only comment from official sources is that made by the federal district attorney, Francis Fisher Kane, who said that he was in the habit of paying his political assessments and that it was customary to assess officeholders, and that it was all right. And he cited the practice of assessing firemen and policemen.

But it is not all right. The new charter absolutely forbids the assessment of policemen and firemen, putting teeth in the old law that was supposed to forbid it. And it is contrary to law for any political committee to levy an assessment upon a federal officeholder. Mr. Kane, who used to be a reformer, once appealed for the votes of decent people as a candidate for Mayor of this city. It is puzzling to account for the change in viewpoint.

But, regardless of Mr. Kane's attitude, the Civil Service Reform Association ought to call the attention of President Wilson to the macing letter of the secretary of the Democratic state committee.

GEESSE AND GANDERS

ITALY and Rumania are reported to have entered into a treaty against the Jugo-Slavs. Such a treaty will be immediately regarded as a menace to the league of nations. It is indeed a menace, and it will be denounced as the beginning of a sort of intrigue that yet may wreck the whole structure of the Paris peace.

Yet we cannot complain. We ourselves are seriously considering a separate defensive treaty with France and Great Britain. What is good for the geesse is good for the ganders.

"MISS BROWN, GO TO THE DOOR"

MISS STEARNS, of the Y. W. C. A., thinks she has solved the domestic-service problem by abandoning the common practice of calling a maid Mary or Jane or Anna and substituting for it the practice of the employer of young women in offices where they are called Miss Brown or Miss Harrison or Miss De Peyster. She also calls the maids "home assistants."

In proof that her plan works she says that she advertised for a home assistant who was to work eight hours a day for six days a week and get a salary of \$15. She had eighty applications and gave the job to a college graduate.

But has it occurred to Miss Stearns that it would be much easier for the average housewife to say "Miss Brown, go to the door," than to get the \$15 a week to pay to a maid for six eight-hour days? And has it occurred to her that the wages offered may have had something to do with the number of applicants?

WHEN BOLSHIEVISTS LAUGH

BEHIND every ugly riot that has occurred in this country since exaggerated war sentiment first began to color or distort public opinion—in New York city, in Bisbee, Ariz., and latterly in Washington—there has been in the background an officious "citizens committee" with jumpy nerves, a self-appointed and self-directed band of aggressive persons obsessed with a belief in their right to supersede the police and afflicted with the delusion that they are good Americans.

The city of Washington, like every other community near the Atlantic seaboard, drew in many undisciplined negroes from the southern states when war industries and war wages were upsetting the industrial balances of the country. Like other cities, it is experiencing the logical aftermath. Negroes out of work or drunk and without the habitual restraints of their familiar environment have run amuck. And in consequence a "citizens committee," with the aid of soldiers and sailors irked by long inaction, proceeded to make war upon the negro population of the city.

Race riots seething in the very shadow of the Capitol and gunplay within earshot of the White House will cause ardent laughter in Moscow and grief among all Americans who have pride in their national traditions. What will Caranza say of this when next we order him to put down lawlessness in his mountains?

The record of the Washington riots shows whites and negroes injured or killed. But not one of the negroes who were originally at fault has been caught, punished or even identified.

Until now there has been serious

"race question" in Washington. A "citizens committee," organized in secret after the manner of the Bolshevists themselves, has managed to create one that will last painfully for many years.

The District committee of Congress has permitted a condition that involves damage for itself and for the people of Washington. The city has an elaborate police and detective force. The brutal crimes of irresponsible and homeless negroes against white women have gone unpunished. It was a lawless mob that sought to visit vengeance indiscriminately upon negro families in their homes.

Soldiers who engaged in that sorry pastime disgraced their uniforms. Had they done similar violence in France they would have been court-martialed. And now the world is treated to the spectacle of a Congress which, while it is telling the world how to behave, is unable to keep peace at its own doors.

An investigation of the whole police administration in the District is imperative, and if impartial justice is not done to whites and blacks alike we might as well stop talking of our superior civilization.

WHAT ARE JAPAN'S PLEDGES?

"INTIMATIONS" are still transpiring from the White House instead of straightforward, frank statements. The President is not doing much to help the cause of the peace treaty and the league of nations covenant by his confidential confabbing. On the contrary, he is weakening it by raising doubts and suspicions where probably none should exist.

If it is true that Mr. Wilson himself dictated the clause handing over the Shantung concessions to Japan in conformity with the Allied secret treaties—which is the latest explanation why the subterranean route from the executive offices—there is a thousand times more reason than ever for immediate and unequivocal explanation from him, not to the Senate alone, but to the public generally, why he should have taken such an apparent ab-face on a matter where he had irrevocably committed himself and this nation to the side of the weaker people.

If it is true that Mr. Wilson took this action only after obtaining some sort of pledge from Japan for the return of the concessions to China, he has lost much time and gravely imperiled the treaty upon which the hope of the world, as he says, depends, by not making the facts clear at once.

The quick and emphatic refusal of the Senate foreign relations committee to sanction the appointment of an American member on the reparations committee, the restive attitude of the senators under the President's rather discourteous failure even to acknowledge receipt of formal requests for papers and documents corollary to the treaty and the evident hardening day by day of the determination of the radical opponents to fight to the bitter end ought to indicate to Mr. Wilson how the wind is blowing.

The situation both at the Capitol and the White House at present is distinctly disquieting to those who believe that the treaty ought to be ratified in the best form possible at the earliest possible moment. There is too much feinting and sparring for position at both places.

NOW IS THE TIME TO "CATCH THE ELEPHANTS"

For No One Believes the North Penn Bank Was Looted by Mice

NO ONE believes that when Ralph T. Moyer, the cashier, was arrested the sole offender in the wrecking of the North Penn Bank was secured.

Moyer is said to have confessed guilty knowledge of what was going on. He is charged with malicious perjury, with receiving money from depositors when he knew the bank was insolvent, with appropriating to the use of other persons funds belonging to the bank and property left with the bank as special deposits; with rehypothecating without the consent of their owners securities left with the bank and with intent to defraud by mutilating and falsifying the books of the bank.

These charges describe the processes by which the bank was looted of \$900,000. Moyer's friends deny that he profited by anything that he did. This denial amounts to a confession that he consented to be the tool of others and actively assisted in covering up their misconduct. But the law holds the tool responsible along with the principal and Moyer, if the charges against him are proved, will have to pay the penalty for his acts.

What the public wants to know is who is the head offender. Some one in the bank besides Moyer must have known what was going on. His identity ought to be disclosed through the further investigations of the receiver and the examiners.

The men responsible to the depositors and in whose integrity they trusted are the president, the vice presidents, the cashier and the directors.

These men are not in an enviable position, whatever the facts may be, for nearly a million dollars entrusted to their care has disappeared. There is only \$300,000 with which to make it good—that is, the capital of the bank, amounting to \$150,000 (if that be unimpaired), and the liability of the shareholders, amounting to a similar sum.

When the cure of abuses in the government of this city was under consideration last winter Governor Sproul remarked that he did not think all the evils could be remedied, "but," said he, "we'll catch the elephants and let the mice escape."

The job before him and his banking department just now is to catch the elephants.

He discovered early in his administration that something was wrong with the method of handling the funds of the state. This North Penn Bank with a capital of only \$150,000 had \$400,000 of Insurance Department money placed there by Charles A. Ambler, Governor Brumbaugh's insurance commissioner. Governor Sproul removed Mr. Ambler from office forthwith and he has frankly said that the reason was because Ambler risked so large an amount of the state funds with so small a bank.

Men are now asking why this bank was favored. They want to know whether any politicians were using its funds as they used the funds of the defunct People's Bank years ago. In the light of the facts, they want to know whether the removal of William Smith, a capable and efficient banking commissioner, by Governor Brumbaugh several years ago and his replacement by a politician has new significance.

Who are the looters? This is the question that is crying aloud for an answer, and this is the question which Governor Sproul is likely to insist, with all the emphasis at his command, shall be answered.

Our courts in the past have not hesitated to pursue the guilty even in the highest quarters. The politically powerful have been compelled to stand before the bar of justice and have escaped only through the grace of the statute of limitations.

If any little politicians are back of this looting their chances of escape are slight. Fortunately, the statute of limitations will not run in their favor, as the looting apparently did not begin more than two years ago.

But whether the elephants are politicians or just everyday crooks, the public will not be satisfied till they are brought out into the open and haled into court. If they have the money they must disgorge. And whether they have it or not, they should stand before the bar along with the arrested cashier.

The disclosures have just begun. The whole truth must out for the sake of the good name of the banking institutions of this commonwealth.

LOOKING OUT BELOW

AMONG Europeans, whom we like to consider backward, the regulation of air traffic was being seriously considered years ago. In the United States the matter is one that has been left until now to dilettantes and jokemakers. The tragedy at Chicago may bring Congress and the state Legislatures out of their trance.

An airplane when it crashes in the open will kill only the occupants. If it crashes in the city it may kill a hundred people. What a falling airship can do was shown in the Chicago disaster.

The general public is protected by military regulations from danger by army and navy dirigibles and planes. Pilots are compelled to operate their machines with plenty of leeway.

But what of the thousands of amateurs who are now taking to the air in various types of flying machines? A manufacturer's report shows that within the last year five hundred airplanes have been delivered to civilian fliers in this country. Five hundred additional orders are being filled. The civilian flier will be a serious problem, and since Legislatures never think rapidly they ought to begin to think about air traffic regulation now.

Perhaps if all officers of the law were paid salaries and all fees according to their offices were turned into the treasury, fewer traps would be laid for unwitting motorists.

President Wilson is inclined to revise the old law to read, "A man convicted against his will may be of the same opinion still, but what difference does it make so long as he votes the way desired?"

Our soldier boys proved in France that they were the best disciplined men in the world; but we bettle the man who imposed on them! The position of "Hard-boiled" Smith, the American officer convicted by a court-martial in France of brutality to soldier-prisoners, is not one to be envied.

Once upon a time joyous fans hid themselves to a ball park and had their faces tanned by the sun. They ate peanuts and ice cream cones and drank lemonade through long straws. They watched sturdy players disport themselves on the diamond and had fun with the pitcher and with the umpire. But that was before rain became a habit.

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THE BATTLE OF THE WHEAT

MOTHER NATURE is wise, but any student will tell you she is reactionary. Every step civilization has taken has been against her protest. She seeks an injunction to restrain every effort to harness her forces. She would let the weak die; and would have humanity feel the full effect of flood and drought, of

heat and cold. But everywhere man's brain has been winning the battle for civilization.

In the circumstances it is strange that in the oldest battleground of all, the wheatfield, man is least successful. Wheat has been grown for countless centuries—and it still ripens in the sun and, when cut, is left to the mercy of the rains.

This week's rain has cost the farmers of Bucks and Montgomery counties not less than a million dollars.

Nature has won the battle so far—but, sooner or later, man will rob her of her victory, and no food grown will be allowed to go to waste.

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Some Novel Physicians' Prescriptions for Whisky—The Dye-stuff Situation—Washington Gossip

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DEMOCRATS imagine they have had the Republicans on the run during the last ten days and in the House it has been suggested facetiously that an S. O. S. call should be sent out for the former Republican leader, James R. Mann, who is now browsing on his Chicago city farm. But the jubilation of former Speaker Clark and his associates is not deep-seated. They are making a great show of supporting the President, but they are getting no closer to him personally than they have been at any time during the last six years. The President has his hands full trying to explain his treaty negotiations to the senators, and the two cracks he has taken at Congress since his return from Europe, viz. the daylight saving and the soldiers' rehabilitation vetoes, have been fairly well neutralized. The Republicans, who are trying to prevent a duplication of appropriations for soldier rehabilitation, which gave President Wilson the department chiefs had asked for in their estimates. In vetoing the daylight-saving bill the President incurred the bitter opposition of the farmers' representatives in Congress, who were so indignant that they insisted upon sending the daylight repealer back to the President as a positive political challenge. They were powerful enough in conference to be able, both Democrats and Republicans, to secure a rule making this proposition in order. When, however, under the rule, the repealer again came up on its merits, the inevitable question of environment arose and lines were drawn between city and country, the Democrats being compelled to go back on their country districts which demanded the repeal of daylight saving in order to stand with the President. The motion to strike out the repealer, which saved daylight saving, was made by a Pennsylvania Republican in the country districts are in a position to hold the President responsible for their defeat, and the working men desired daylight saving, are in touch with their constituents.

ALTHOUGH the Senate is still holding up the confirmation as attorney general of A. Mitchell Palmer, of Pennsylvania, and an investigation of the alien property custodian's office, under Mr. Palmer, is threatened, the House committee on ways and means in its inquiry on the Longworth dye-stuffs bill has brought out some interesting facts which have not found their way into the newspapers. For three days straight running Francis P. Garvan, who succeeded Mr. Palmer as alien property custodian, and who had been serving under Mr. Palmer as a dollar-a-year man since the office was organized, was on the stand. He proved to be one of the keenest witnesses yet appearing before any congressional committee. His testimony showed that there had been an almost complete lining up of Philadelphia dye-stuff and textile men for and against the licensing system which the Chemical Foundation, Inc., of which Mr. Garvan is president, desires to have installed in the United States. Mr. Garvan, who is now in the position of the government of the Chemical Foundation, Inc., which took over from the alien property custodian at private sale for \$250,000 German patents of great value, nor did he regard it as unethical to hold the offices of alien property custodian and president of the Chemical Foundation, Inc., at one and the same time, nor to continue to hold the latter position after he becomes assistant attorney general, to which Mr. Palmer has announced he will appoint him. The dye-stuff hearings constitute a liberal education with regard to lawyers, accountants and methods employed in taking over German-owned property and interests in the United States.

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 Some Novel Physicians' Prescriptions for Whisky—The Dye-stuff Situation—Washington Gossip

Washington, July 23.

DEMOCRATS imagine they have had the Republicans on the run during the last ten days and in the House it has been suggested facetiously that an S. O. S. call should be sent out for the former Republican leader, James R. Mann, who is now browsing on his Chicago city farm. But the jubilation of former Speaker Clark and his associates is not deep-seated. They are making a great show of supporting the President, but they are getting no closer to him personally than they have been at any time during the last six years. The President has his hands full trying to explain his treaty negotiations to the senators, and the two cracks he has taken at Congress since his return from Europe, viz. the daylight saving and the soldiers' rehabilitation vetoes, have been fairly well neutralized. The Republicans, who are trying to prevent a duplication of appropriations for soldier rehabilitation, which gave President Wilson the department chiefs had asked for in their estimates. In vetoing the daylight-saving bill the President incurred the bitter opposition of the farmers' representatives in Congress, who were so indignant that they insisted upon sending the daylight repealer back to the President as a positive political challenge. They were powerful enough in conference to be able, both Democrats and Republicans, to secure a rule making this proposition in order. When, however, under the rule, the repealer again came up on its merits, the inevitable question of environment arose and lines were drawn between city and country, the Democrats being compelled to go back on their country districts which demanded the repeal of daylight saving in order to stand with the President. The motion to strike out the repealer, which saved daylight saving, was made by a Pennsylvania Republican in the country districts are in a position to hold the President responsible for their defeat, and the working men desired daylight saving, are in touch with their constituents.

ALTHOUGH the Senate is still holding up the confirmation as attorney general of A. Mitchell Palmer, of Pennsylvania, and an investigation of the alien property custodian's office, under Mr. Palmer, is threatened, the House committee on ways and means in its inquiry on the Longworth dye-stuffs bill has brought out some interesting facts which have not found their way into the newspapers. For three days straight running Francis P. Garvan, who succeeded Mr. Palmer as alien property custodian, and who had been serving under Mr. Palmer as a dollar-a-year man since the office was organized, was on the stand. He proved to be one of the keenest witnesses yet appearing before any congressional committee. His testimony showed that there had been an almost complete lining up of Philadelphia dye-stuff and textile men for and against the licensing system which the Chemical Foundation, Inc., of which Mr. Garvan is president, desires to have installed in the United States. Mr. Garvan, who is now in the position of the government of the Chemical Foundation, Inc., which took over from the alien property custodian at private sale for \$250,000 German patents of great value, nor did he regard it as unethical to hold the offices of alien property custodian and president of the Chemical Foundation, Inc., at one and the same time, nor to continue to hold the latter position after he becomes assistant attorney general, to which Mr. Palmer has announced he will appoint him. The dye-stuff hearings constitute a liberal education with regard to lawyers, accountants and methods employed in taking over German-owned property and interests in the United States.

A NINETEENTH WARD dealer in old "J. R." who still thinks there is a property right in stock on hand, has forwarded some illuminating documentary evidence with respect to the manner in which the "nationals" may secure the liquid whereupon an epidemic of influenza during "flu." The material added in time to be considered when the "drys" were debating the physicians' clause of the new bootleg water-tight, hog-tied enforcement law which is to put the "demon rum" forever out of business. About 100 prescriptions in blank, some of them on physician's pocket notebooks, indicate the method employed by the sick to obtain liquor. The average certificate ran like this: "Give John Brown one quart whisky, illness in family." "Spiritus frumenti, one quart, John Robinson, account of sickness." Among them were several running like this: "Mrs. physical only." The physician prescription license is likely to be continued in the enforcement law, although some additional safeguards to prevent deception have been provided.

IN A roundabout way Thad Varney has been heard from. Colonel Varney was a stalwart friend of General Sewell when the latter was United States senator for New Jersey and frequented the Union League about lunch time. Thad became county clerk in Camden and was an active figure in political life there, but suddenly dropped out and is now located on the hill tops in the vicinity of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Washington connection? Here it is: Stephens, Ohio is a new member of Congress. He has been receiving letters of congratulation and among others is one from Colonel Thad, who at the same time desired to be remembered to the representative of the First New Jersey district, Uncle Bill Browning, and to others of his old-time friends in Washington.

CHAIRMAN E. C. STOKES, of the New Jersey Republican state committee, is the first state chairman in Washington with a declaration of Republican principles. Through State Secretary William H. Albright, who by the way is a son of the editor of the Woodbury Constitution, Republican senators and congressmen are asked to "get the New Jersey idea" under their craniums with the view of nationalizing the best there is in it. It is observed that Governor Stokes puts in a strong likelihood for waterway development in the United States and particularly for the improvement of the Delaware river and the cross-state canal. Senators Egan and Frelinghuysen are pledged to the canal project, but down here in Washington the wheels are big in the public mind at home is sometimes forgotten in the crush of other important public matters.

THE CHAFFING DISH

ONE of the most disappointed organizations we know of is the St. Helens Rotary Club. Those alert business men confidently expected that Mr. Hohenzollern would have been on the island long before this, and we are informed that they have spent over half a million on hot dog stands for the expected tourist trade.

Henry Ford is really a public benefactor for having permitted his mind to be overhauled and tinkered with in public. Henry's vagueness as to what is an anarchist or an idealist is no worse than the vagueness of almost all of us on many matters. And at any rate Henry is not vague in his sincere desire to make humanity happier, which is a thing that most cross-examining lawyers never even think about.

What is really the matter with Henry's mind is headitchitis, which afflicts those who merely read the headlines and nothing else.

We hate to think what would happen to us if we were cross-examined in the Chicago fashion on almost any subject. Take Batik, for instance, which we see mentioned in the Women's pages every day or so. Our ideas on Batik are so vague that it would really be very amusing to be questioned about them.

One of the first territories that will have to be pacified by the League of Nations is the District of Columbia.

Still thinking about Henry's mind, it occurs to us that it is one of the few that might really and dangerously let out of its depth in a newspaper paragraph.

We advise our clients to keep an eye open for "The Young Visitors," a novel by Miss Daisy Ashford, which is soon to be published. Miss Daisy wrote this entertaining tale when she was nine years old. Unhappily she has since grown to years of maturity, which is a pity. This is how Daisy wrote when she was nine:

Next morning while imbibing his morning tea beneath his pink silken quilt Bernard decided he must marry Ethel with no more delay. I love the girl he said to himself and she must be mine but I somehow feel I cannot propose in London it would not be seemly in the city of London. We must go for a day in the country and when surrounded by the gay twittering of the birds and the smell of the cows I will lay my suit at her feet and he waved his arm wildly at the gay thought. Then he sprang from bed and gave a rat tail at Ethel's door.

Are you up my dear he called.

Well not quite said Ethel hastily jumping from her downy nest.

Be quick cried Bernard I have a plan to spend a day near Windsor Castle and we will take our lunch and spend a happy day.

Oh Hurrah shouted Ethel I shall soon be ready as I had my bath last night so went wash very much now.

Be quick said Bernard and added in a rather fervent tone through the chink of the door you are fresher than the rose my dear no soap could make you fairer.

From bed he dashed off very embarrassed to dress.

The Politest Man

The politest man we have ever heard of was the Philadelphian who was riding on a crowded car on Market street. After considerable buffeting he turned to a lady and said, "I'm sorry, madam, you'll have to pardon me—there's some blood from my eye on your hatpin."

The Knock-Out

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter rec'd. I guess the joke I sent was too respectful. I told it to Hal first and he said "That's a good one my grandpop will laugh every time it was pulled." Hal's grandpop was a minister too. I don't see as how Hal remembered the because his grandpop died before he was born. guess his mother told him.

Well I know they would try out a few subs if you average didn't been filing your guns. The old chaffing dish been on the side line because some body else been filing your guns. He sent an original as you tho as he calls his stuff "Gum Show" "Aine Trest" other rubbish what don't mean nothing. Chaffing other means lots and get pep and just to it. I catch you on it as you mean subtle like he smacking you by high-browed and gentler folks.

Well as long I'll end you one what will knock you for a long next time and keep you on the paper a while longer.

Yours truly,
 RING HARDER

LOVE'S IMMORTALITY

WHEN our gay hearts have laid their glories down;
 When our young bodies mingle with the dust
 From which God made them tender and august;
 When I my singing robe and you your crown
 Have yielded up to wasting moth and rust;
 When even in our own familiar town
 Men mind not our mortality, I trust
 Our lives to live in more than their renown.

For in our children's children love shall be
 Nobler for all the mighty love we knew;
 Hoiler for pity that has stirred in you;
 Stronger for patience that has grown in me;
 In unborn lovers shall our love renew