Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
CYRUS H. K. CURTIS, PRESIDENT
Charles H. Ludington, Vice President; John C. Martin, Secretary and Treasurer; Philip S. Collins, John B. Williams and John J. Spurgeon, Directors.

EDITORIAL BOARD:
CYRUS H. K. CURTIS, Chairman
DAVID E. SMILEY.....Editor
JOHN C. MARTIN...General Business Mgr.

Published daily at PUBLIC LEDGER Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia
ATLANTIC CITY.....Press-Union Building
NEW YORK.....364 Madison Ave.
DETROIT.....701 Ford Building
ST. LOUIS.....1008 Fullerton Building
CHICAGO.....1302 Tribune Building
NEWS BUREAUS:
WASHINGTON BUREAU, N. E. Cor. Pennsylvania Ave. and 14th St.
NEW YORK BUREAU.....The Sun Building

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
The EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER is served to subscribers in Philadelphia and surrounding towns at the rate of twelve (12) cents per week, payable to the carrier.
By mail to points outside of Philadelphia, in the United States, Canada, or United States possessions, postage free, fifty (50) cents per month. Six ($6) dollars per year, payable in advance.
To all foreign countries one ($1) dollar per month.
NOTICE—Subscribers wishing address changed must give old as well as new address.
BELL, 3000 WALNUT KEYSTONE, MAIN 3000

☞ Address all communications to Evening Public Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

Member of the Associated Press
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published therein.
All rights of republication of special dispatches herein are also reserved.

Philadelphia, Saturday, August 7, 1920

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA

Things on which the people expect the new administration to concentrate its attention:

The Delaware river bridge.
A drydock big enough to accommodate the largest ships.
Development of the rapid transit system.
A convention hall.
A building for the Free Library.
An Art Museum.
Enlargement of the water supply.
Homes to accommodate the population.

SOMEBODY BLUNDERED?

THE Public Service Commission apparently thinks it has some legal rights that the courts are bound to respect. A special meeting has been called for next Tuesday to consider Judge Linn's order, which in effect forbids it to consider the leases of the underlying companies operated by the P. R. T.

The question of jurisdiction is raised. But it is now pointed out that under the law there can be no appeal from an order of the commission until notice of the appeal has been filed with the commissioners. No notice was given of the motion for a writ of supersedeas granted by Judge Linn.

The call for a special meeting indicates that the commission is likely to fight for its rights. It undoubtedly understands that if its power to inquire into all the elements involved in fixing a reasonable rate of fare is denied it might as well go out of business.

HOME ART FOR ENGLAND

PHILADELPHIA has a sufficient claim upon Dr. R. Tait McKenzie to be entitled to congratulate Cambridge for having secured his services to design the war memorial for that English university.

The Whitefield statue and the boy Franklin, both in the grounds of the University of Pensylvania, are typical specimens of Doctor McKenzie's sure and fluent art. Sculpture as excellent is rare enough in Britain, one of the world's chief repositories of stodgy memorials.

There is, of course, a certain balm for British pride in the fact that Doctor McKenzie is by birth a Canadian, but the local associations are indelible and so varied that his rank as a physician and director of physical education at the University presses hard upon his distinction as an artist.

TIME IT WAS STOPPED

IT IS about time that the police department began to give a little more serious attention to the bandits who are robbing people in the street at night. The criminals get an automobile and lie in wait for their victims or hunt them down, rob them and then escape.

Thursday night four of them in a car operated on North Broad street and held up five men within an hour and a half. The amount of money they got was not large, but they ought not to have been able to operate at all.

This is only the latest instance of outlawry of this kind. Hardly a day passes without reports of one or more such robberies. The robbers are usually young men or boys who have stolen a car. A little skillful detective work ought to disclose the haunts of these youths.

A PICKWICKIAN COMEDY

THE humor of American politics is intensified by the fact that the staunchest partisans are often so oblivious of its presence.

Governor Cox's supporters who, according to their critics, have been engaged in offering appealing inducements to corral a sufficiently large crowd of boosters from Marion to make in front of the Democratic nominee's home in Dayton an effective scene for the movies today, are obviously taking themselves very seriously.

Not to be outdone in solemnity, the Republican Marionites have been lashing themselves into indignation over the undertaking. "The entire movement," thunders the Harding headquarters, "is characteristic of machine politics." True enough, perhaps, and yet the enterprise is typical of several other things, and especially the amusing side of a presidential campaign.

With appreciation of the respect due to candidates for the highest political office, it may not be wholly unfitting to reread that famous Pickwickian chapter about the Eatanswill editors. If the cinema had existed in his day, Dickens would assuredly have enriched his classical political comedy with that "motif."

FLOATING FAIRS

ALMOST simultaneously Italians and Americans have hit upon the novelty of itinerant expositions. The former German raider Von Steuben, recently sold by the shipping board, is to be refitted as a floating fair for the display of home-manufactured products. The Italian trade ship, the Trinacria, will carry its attractively arranged cargo of samples to the principal Mediterranean ports.

Upon the fate of these ventures the germs of a revolution in trade expansion perhaps depends. The stationary fair, expensively organized and often ending in financial failure, has within the last quarter of a century been carried to unmanageable extremes.

The seas dotted with expositions of diverse national origins should not be lacking in appeal to a restless age. In any event, a nautical business campaign of this type is free from the familiar objections to some other kinds of trade penetration. The propaganda, for such it really is, will be frank and explicit, and with these virtues special pleading dulls the edge of suspicion and criticism.

If the ship fairs of the future may be inclined to get jammed and perhaps bid frantically for advantageous anchorages in foreign ports, the two pioneers are unlikely to crowd each other. The cruising radius of the Trinacria will be relatively small. The Von Steuben is scheduled for a world voyage, beginning with South America and then turning to the Far East. American trade can hardly fail to be stimulated by the interesting venture.

GOVERNOR COX'S ACCEPTANCE

CHIEF interest in Governor Cox's speech of acceptance, of course, centers on what he has to say about the League of Nations. It must be admitted that his statement of views on this question is much more definite than that of Senator Harding. He favors entering the league and he believes in the ratification of the treaty with such reservations as will secure the support of the necessary two-thirds of the Senate.

This is the attitude of substantially all of the friends of the league in the Republican party. There are a few Republicans who are opposed to the whole undertaking and there are many Democrats who object to all reservations save those which will please the President.

As we pointed out the other day, the treaty cannot be ratified by either the Republicans or the Democrats acting alone. Reservations must be framed which will satisfy members of both parties. Twenty-one Democratic senators voted for the Lodge reservations and only a small handful of Republicans voted against them. If the Democrats in the Senate had entertained the view which Governor Cox sets forth in his speech there could have been agreement on such reservations as would have commanded the support of two-thirds of the senators and this country should have been at peace long ago.

The reservations suggested by the governor do not differ in essence from the greater number of the Lodge reservations. They are intended to make it clear that this country in fulfilling the obligations under the league covenant must act in accordance with the constitution. Yet in spite of everything that Mr. Cox says, it is clear to those familiar with the subject that there can be no ratification of the treaty, with or without reservations, until the attitude of the Democratic senators is changed.

Of course, Governor Cox attacks Senator Harding's intimation that he would make a separate peace with Germany. It ought to be attacked and the plan ought to be repudiated.

A large part of the speech is occupied with noncontroversial matter. The governor favors better treatment for the farmers and the laboring men. He believes that illiteracy ought to be discouraged and that the foreigners should be Americanized. He favors development of transportation by land and water and he advocates the industrial rehabilitation of the soldiers wounded in the war. And he holds that the budget system ought to be adopted by the national government in the interests of economy.

Every one is in favor of all these things, just as every one favors honesty in men and virtue in women. It is really a waste of time to discuss them. If specific propositions were advanced for securing the ends sought, there would be some excuse for debate, but the governor confines himself to generalizations.

Mr. Cox does claim credit for his party in passing the Federal Reserve banking law, and he would have failed in his duty as a party advocate if he had not claimed it.

But the Democrats are only accidentally responsible for this excellent legislation. The groundwork was laid for it by the Republican Aldrich Monetary Commission, which studied the banking systems of the world and drafted a bill for a federal banking system. The nation was ready for the legislation, and if the Republicans had been in power it would have been passed just the same.

The only credit that the Democrats deserve for it rests on their acceptance of the general plan outlined by the Republicans in the Monetary Commission report. But if it had not been for the assistance of the Republicans in correcting errors in the Democratic bill as originally drafted we should have had a much less satisfactory law than we got. In the interest of historical accuracy these facts should not be overlooked.

But Governor Cox insists that the Republicans fought the Federal Reserve banking plan, when as a matter of fact they did not fight the plan but fought the mistaken methods which the Democrats were trying to adopt to carry out the plan. This is a distinction with a vital difference.

The candidate ought to have been better advised than to attack the failure of the Republicans to modify the excess profits tax laws. He charges those laws with responsibility for all sorts of abuses, including high prices and business extravagance.

But he seems to forget that every charge against these tax laws is an accusation against the legislative competency of his own party. These laws were passed by a Democratic Congress and signed by a Democratic President in spite of the defects in them pointed out by the Republicans. It was known that their effects would be pernicious, but the Democratic demagogues insisted that they were going to make big business pay the cost of the war, and they were indifferent to everything else. They had the votes and they carried their plan, *and they voted it for two years*, so that there could be no possibility of letting big business off.

And now Mr. Cox is damning the Republican Congress because it did not correct the blunders in the Democratic legislation as soon as it came into office. The popular memory in this regard is not quite so short as he thinks it is. And even if it were short, the Republican campaign orators will not allow the country to forget that the Democratic Congress is responsible.

There still remains time for the Republican Congress to change the tax laws before the bills for 1921 are made out. The real reason for Republican inaction on revenue laws, however, lies in the fact that there is in the White House the President who signed the pernicious Democratic bills and who is altogether out of sympathy with the Republican taxation theories. The ways and means committee has long been working on revenue bills, and as soon as there is a Republican President it will make its report and ask Congress to go ahead with a thorough revision of the statutes which the Democrats passed and are now condemning.

The governor is silent on two notable questions. He does not say a word about the splendid work of the food administration under the direction of Herbert Hoover, one of the achievements of a Democratic administration of which the whole country is proud. It must have been an oversight, for it cannot be that he would ignore Mr. Hoover merely because he happens to be a Republican.

And the prohibition issue, which the Tammany Democrats of New York have met by demanding the right of the state to fix the alcoholic content of beverages, he has treated as though it did not exist. Neither the wets nor the drys can get any comfort out of him.

THE BARRIER TO PEACE

THE latest Soviet note transmitted to Lloyd George through Leo Kameneff is much more explicit and intelligible than its immediate predecessors.

Denial is made of any intention to deprive Poland of independence. Boundaries more liberal than those indicated by the supreme council are promised. Request of a general conference to consider the international status of Russia is repeated. The guarantees sought from Poland are the chief features which reflect the swift success of Bolshevist arms. Desire for Polish disarmament and the cessation of recruiting of both volunteers and conscripts is expressed.

It is the position taken on this subject which inevitably constitutes the barrier to Entente acceptance of the whole proposal. Against the prospect of a Poland rendered even more helpless than she is at the present critical moment must be weighed the thoroughly distasteful prospect of a new war by the western powers against bolshevism. The peoples of England and France are unquestionably sick of fighting, sick enough in some instances even to fight against a large-scale resumption of hostilities.

The most disquieting feature of the entire situation, however, is the mutual suspicion of both sides. This obstacle is foremost in the way of removing a crisis by negotiation. Upon the sentiment now prevailing in the opposing camps wars thrive and wax unmanageable. Of this fact the world conflict was a sinister instance. But in the early part of the struggle, at least, war weariness had not overcome the belligerents.

Little as is actually known of Bolshevist Russia, it is impossible to conceive that unremitting military campaigning is its ideal. The further the Red army advances into foreign territory the more it will be embarrassed by its remoteness from the home bases of supplies and the accelerating difficulties of transportation. The war, should it be expanded in a way that sane civilization dreads, will then become an uncontrollable juggernaut crushing the instinctive desires of both combatants.

The folly of such an outcome is so ghastly that it may possibly give pause to heated councils and undoubtedly a great deal of bluster in both the Entente and the Soviet chancelleries. To avert a hideous catastrophe a certain amount of mutual credence seems indispensable. Without it negotiation becomes a futile instrument of peace and war becomes interminable.

Lenine and Lloyd George are alike facing these alternatives, whatever their disparities of character and ambitions may be.

SUFFRAGE PROSPECTS

EQUAL suffragists are discouraged over the prospects for the ratification of the constitutional amendment by the Tennessee Legislature, which meets next Monday. The Legislature has been polled and a favorable majority is lacking in both houses.

Mr. Harding has been asked to urge all the Republicans to support the amendment, but he has refused, in accordance with the policy which he announced as soon as he was nominated. He holds that the Tennesseeans must decide the question for themselves. He has said, however, that he favors the ratification of the amendment.

If Tennessee failed the suffragists they were counting on North Carolina, but it is now said that the Legislature of that state will not consider the amendment until it meets in January.

The women are saying that "some sinister and hidden influence is at work to prevent the ratification," and that the opposition in Delaware to the suffragist feeling "has never been completely unearthed."

As to sinister influence we know nothing, but the women cannot be ignorant of the reasons offered for the failure of the Delaware Legislature to ratify. A complete explanation has been made in private conversations with men familiar with the conditions there, but for lack of positive proof the explanation has never been printed.

If the amendment does not go through this year by the action of a Democratic state it is likely that the thirty-sixth state will be provided by the Republicans next winter. But the women wish to vote in the presidential election this year and they are naturally indignant at the delay in ratification.

NO CHANGE NEEDED

THERE is probably no document of which the politicians know less than the constitution of the United States. The delegates to the New York Democratic "conference" in Saratoga Springs were unfamiliar with its provisions or they would not have adopted a platform in which it was demanded that the constitution be so amended as to provide that all subsequent amendments should be submitted directly to the voters for approval before becoming effective.

No such change in the constitution is necessary. Two ways of amendment are already provided in that document. The amendments must first be approved by a two-thirds vote in Congress. Then they may be submitted to the Legislatures of the several states or they may be submitted to conventions in the several states. If three-fourths of the Legislatures or three-fourths of the conventions approve, then the amendments become part of the constitution.

A convention, the delegates to which are elected on the issue of the ratification of an amendment, will serve every purpose of testing popular sentiment. It will do more, for in convention there can be debate and delegates unpledged can be won over by one side or the other. It is not necessary to change the constitution in the way the New York Democrats propose.

HILAIRE BELLOC

This is the second of the new series of essays by this celebrated writer.

ON INACCURACY

THE other day I was writing in other fields than these, plowing another land, which for the honor I bear it I will not give by name, and I had occasion to speak about the Nereids who swim about in the sea. I very pompously announced their appearance in the Sixteenth Book of the Iliad. I should have said the Eighteenth Book.

Why did I say the Sixteenth Book? I cannot tell. I have been awaiting since the appearance of that article letters written to me privately, letters written to the paper itself, written to other papers, all saying: "Why do you talk about things you know nothing of? You call it the Sixteenth Book; it is the Eighteenth Book."

So far no letters have come either to me or to the paper in question. Nor has any one even written to any of the great daily papers on the subject. So perhaps it will blow over. But my mind returns to the matter. Why did I write "Sixteenth" when I meant "Eighteenth"? What is inaccuracy? What are its sources? Whence does it spring? What makes one man more inaccurate than another, and why is one inaccurate in some things and not in others? What the devil is it all, anyhow?

I KNOW very well why accuracy is such an anxious matter with men. It is because, alone of all the factors of learning, it is easily and mechanically attainable. It is no good a man trying to be just in judgment about a thing which he does not really know. It would be no good, for instance, my trying to look learned through a just judgment of Russian poetry, because I cannot read Russian. No man can mechanically and as a matter of course set himself right in all the major factors of learning. But both he and others can get references right, now that there are so many printed books of reference. And therefore men study accuracy because they say to themselves: "Fool I may be, and ignorant I may be, but anyhow I can be accurate—with the help of a public library." And at the same time they say to themselves: "If I am inaccurate the biggest fool born can find me out."

So far so good. I know well enough why one bothers so absurdly about accuracy in such details, or, to put it otherwise, why mere slips of the pen and misspellings frighten us so much. But what I do not understand is how and why they take place.

I remember once writing a long book about Paris—a long, long book to pay my first quarter's rent as a young man. And in that book I found myself perpetually saying "north" when I meant "south" in the matter of the immortal hills—in the matter of the hill of the university. I always talked of going up that hill as going "north," whereas if you go up that hill you walk due south.

And again, I once wrote a very nice, little, well limited, accurate and lucid account of the Battle of Naseby (or Marston Moor—I forget which, but anyhow it was one of those two battles). I knew the ground well, and none the less I put "left" for "right" and "right" for "left" all through.

And I knew a man once who, whenever he went into a shop to buy razor blades for his patent razor, always said "railway blades." Yet in other respects he was an ordinary man.

I WILL not attempt to solve the problem. It is not fatigue that does it, still less it is real ignorance; for you will notice that a man is inaccurate about things that he knows thoroughly well and that the mistakes he makes are always of an absurd kind, which he would be the first to spot in others; for instance, calling Nottingham Northampton and the other way about. All one can say is that it happens as variations happen in the generation of animals or any other fluke happens. Some god guides it.

Inaccuracy is a very powerful and fruitful creator of things. It not only creates legends; it creates words. There are hosts and crowds of words which have come in through the talent of men for inaccuracy and through the inspiration of inaccuracy, which is blown into men by this god of whom I speak. Hence, what is called metathesis, the very fruitful parent of many admirable words from turmeric to Hercules. Hence, also, the naturalization of French and other foreign words. It is a pity, I think, that so much printing and the foolish pride of those who can read checks the process nowadays. I live in hopes that it will not check the process for long and that our coming barbarism will return to these popular words.

"Chauffeur" should be "shover," and "asparagus"—which I like to hear called "grass"—has, I hope, taken root forever as "sparrow-grass"; a very good name for it, for it is not a grass and sparrows have no particular bond with it. They well might have if they only knew how good it was, but they are stupid little beasts and good for nothing. And if you tell me that thus to branch off upon the matter of sparrows is disturbing to the reader, and that one ought to keep the main thread of one's discourse, I answer you with a book always well praised, and in parts quite on the highest level called "The Book of Job." If you will read "The Book of Job" you will find that in the catalogue of strange beasts which the writer brings forward in defense of the majesty of God he gets to the ostrich. But hardly has he mentioned the ostrich when the inane habits of that enormous fowl prove too much for him. He forgets all about God and creation and the rest of it and allows himself a little separate diatribe against the idiocy of the ostrich before getting back to his theology. So I with sparrows.

And now that I have taught you this lesson from Job I will return to the matter of inaccuracy.

INACCURACY is also the breeder not only of good native phrases, but of excellent tales, like the well-rubbed, polished, ancient and now immutable story of the boy in buttons who got nervous at the grandeur of the bishop and said when the sleepy bishop asked who was knocking: "It's the Lord, my boy."

And inaccuracy is the parent also of that still older and still more immutable story about the Pyramids of Egypt and their builders, which I cannot print here.

It was inaccuracy which made the guide-book man so angry at the phrase, "Our Lord God the Pope," his translation of "Divus Papa" put before the title of some canonized pope of the past.

And it was inaccuracy which made the medieval story-teller talk of the "Emperor Pliny" and of Virgil's brazen tower. And what a picture I get of the Emperor Pliny sending for the Magician Virgil, who builds the brazen tower. It is a mighty mother of works.

It pleases me also especially in this—that you cannot teach it; you cannot make a man inaccurate. There is no way of becoming inaccurate by industry, and if you deliberately try to be inaccurate you fail. Inaccuracy is perhaps the most spontaneous and the freest of the gifts offered by the Spirit to the wit of man. It is even more spontaneous and more free than the gift of writing good verse, or that rare gift which I have also written of here (or shall write of here, according to the order in which the editor puts this paper)—the gift of writing really abominably bad verse; criminally bad verse; execrable verse.

And inaccuracy is a great leveler—like love and death and other less commonly quoted levelers; like wine and war and repentance. For there is no one, whoever he may be, however learned or however ignorant, who may not suddenly be found inaccurate. And, what is more, the same man will be inaccurate in one period and accurate in another, entirely as the Spirit chooses, and not as he chooses.

LASTLY, inaccuracy has this great and noble quality attached to it, that it breeds real tragedy, and that is a finer thing than breeding mere stories or even noble words. Try shouting "port" down the decks when you mean "starboard" in some narrow, crowded fairway against a racing tide and you will find out what I mean; or, again, inaccuracy in the setting of a range, repeating (as I heard a man do at Chalons) 113 millimeters for 1.3 millimeters—and they plugged a village church miles and miles outside the camp.

In these matters that which was but a trifle or a comic accident takes on majesty.

And of all the forms in which inaccuracy builds up tragedy the best I know is that form whereby the god causes two letters to be put each into the envelopes meant for the other. Out of one such moment as that you might get the Trojan War!

Copyright, 1920, by New York Evening Post

SHORT CUTS

The Bug river appears to be living up to its name.

Wets discovered that the Cox speech lacked kick as well as punch.

Oklahoma cleared her skirts by ripping out the Gore.

Ever so many political planks seem designed for bunk houses rather than for platforms.

Tomato pickers are getting $12 a day in New Jersey. These are salad days for brawn workers.

The President's objection to the dotting of an "I" is due to his belief that "I" should be capitalized.

Szczvczyn, Poland, has been attacked by the Bolshevists, but looks as though it had been worsted in a crap game.

As we understand it, Mr. Cox is peeved because the Republicans neglected to repair the errors the Democrats made.

Accounts of the third degree being administered to The Crank may cause the woman in the Coughlin kidnapping case to give herself up.

Perhaps Governor Cox expects Ty Cobb to show him how to make a home run, forgetting, for the moment, that a home run will take him back to Dayton.

Ludendorff's offer to help fight the Bolshevists is somewhat marred by Reventlow's suggestion that Germany make an alliance with them to attack Rumania.

Increased freight rates are bitters designed to improve the country's blood circulation. A people should not only be willing to take its medicine but to pay for it.

New York Democrats are divided in the matter of a beer plank in the platform of the state convention. They are in doubt as to whether it will prove a gangplank or a skid.

More than a million acres of agricultural land in Alaska will be opened to settlement by the new government railroad, and in the course of a few years the population may be complaining of a car shortage like the rest of us.

Kentucky's governor has announced that henceforth those who tote pistols will be imprisoned. The writer has seen stalwart friends of Colonel Jack Chinn rally to his defense in dramatic fashion. This is enough to make them froth at the mouth.

Chicago's chief of detectives says that if his cops don't soon make a better showing by arresting auto bandits he will recruit some cow cops from the lariat belt. But what chance will a cow pony have with a flivver?

"Pascol's parents are French. They came to this country from Bridgepart, N. J."—New York Times. Entirely French and entirely funny. We particularly like the Bridge part. And the whole thing gives a new angle to the ancient quirk concerning "The United States and New Jersey."

After a Sunbury (Pa.) painter had been shocked by electricity and tumbled into the river a fellow worker, himself slightly dazed by electricity, jumped into the water and rescued him. That's the kind of incident that makes one realize that human nature is a mighty fine thing and that this is a pretty good old world after all.

The State Department of Agriculture
Notes the fact
That apples and peaches
Are plentiful this year.
Let us, therefore,
Give a toast
To Cider, Flappers and Free Verse;
Which is as near as we can come
In these days of near-beer
To Wine, Woman and Song.

Senator King thinks the President should call an extra session of Congress. He is apparently willing that the President should throw a couple of monkey wrenches into two smoothly working political machines. And not the least interesting phase of the matter is that the President, under certain circumstances, is quite capable of doing that very thing with his eyes wide open.

"It is easy enough to get a line on a man's character by considering whether he would be elevated or pulled down by being elected Vice President."—New York American. An excellent example of pure piffle. He ought to be a big man so that he may fit into a big place in a dire contingency. In many cases he proves his bigness by his willingness to serve his country in a more or less thankless position.

THE LAWNMOWER

OLD Mr. Wobble-wobble travelin'
'crost the lawn
Sometimes beats the robin bird at welcomin' the dawn.
There are barytones and tenors gayly warblin' round the place,
Old Mr. Wobble-wobble sings a little bass.

Old Mr. Wobble-wobble when the twilight fails
Thinks he sings as sweet as any mockin' bird that calls.
I'd like to hear his music underneath the sun or moon
If he didn't undertake to keep me dancin' to the tune.
—Washington Star.

"SMALL-CALIBER STUFF CAN'T DO REAL DAMAGE, JIMMY!"

MAYOR URGED TO SUPPORT MUNICIPAL STREET CLEANING

Expert Claims It Is Practicable as Well as Necessary and Gives Reasons

BY AN EXPERT ON STREET CLEANING

ON JULY 30 the Mayor exercised his optional right expressed in the new charter and advertised for contract bids for street cleaning and the collection and disposal of municipal wastes. He also asked for prices on new and used equipment. Proposals will be opened on September 15.

Contract work is based on a new division of the city area into thirteen instead of the former nine districts. Printed specifications have been issued to prospective bidders on three schedules. Schedule 1 covers street cleaning by districts for 1921; schedule 2, the collection and disposal of ashes and rubbish by districts in 1921, while schedule 3 includes two plans for the collection and disposal of garbage: First, collection and disposal in one contract for the year 1921; and second, separate collection by districts or for the entire city in 1921, with disposal alone in one contract for one or five years. Schedules covering the furnishing of equipment have not yet been issued.

THE most important change in the specifications is the rearrangement of the existing nine districts into thirteen districts. Of greatest interest is the dismembering of the happy hunting ground of the "largest street-cleaning contractor in the world," the present third and fourth districts, which are cut in twain by Broad street and, with a strip of territory added that now lies north of the fourth district, are made into four new districts, the third, fourth, fifth and sixth. This is probably less disconcerting to the proud possessor of the above title, Senator Vare, than might be at first imagined, because the specifications permit as many as four districts to be given to any one bidder; and the four new districts are larger than the present districts which he holds.

Among the other changes in district lines, it is of interest to note that Roxborough and Mannyunk together form a new district, the twelfth, separate from Germantown and Chestnut Hill district, while the sparsely settled northeast territory is set apart as the thirteenth district, as distinct from the Frankford area, which now becomes the new eleventh.

IT HAS been intimated for some time at City Hall that the districts were to be increased in number to provide greater competition in bidding. Whether new competition will enter is doubtful, in street cleaning at least, in view of the certainty that municipal work, if postponed in 1921, will surely come in 1922. Furthermore, the specifications provide that the contracts may even be terminated on October 1, 1921, at the option of the city. Under such conditions new contractors may be unwilling to enter the field and to invest in plant and equipment for only one year's work.

Evidently the city is not definitely counting on the entrance of new competition. With four additional districts to handle by contract, the city has apparently sought to avoid any of the work going begging by permitting more than the customary two districts to be given to one bidder.

Such an arrangement was probably necessary also to insure that the "largest contractor" would put in a bid.

The rearrangement of the districts is a logical development in the work. It is doubtless advisable for matters of administration to keep them within certain population or street mileage limits and to maintain the several districts at approximately the same values. It is to be hoped, however, that this new arrangement of districts indicates carefully prepared plans for municipal operation, since it is much less important to increase the number of districts if contract work is to be continued than if municipal work is to be undertaken. And it is advisable to secure contract prices, so long as they are being asked, on the same areas for which municipal operation is being planned.

THE detail specifications issued for street cleaning work in 1921 are relatively uninteresting. A discussion of such specifications is quite aside from the main issue and might throw a fog around more important considerations. Previous experiences with contract work have demonstrated all too forcibly that it is impossible to draw specifications that will hold water. The heated discussions of the past are easily recalled, while the report of the Mayor's commission of engineers leaves no doubt of the truth of this statement.

The public doesn't want contract specifications at all any longer than they are necessary. Municipal operation has been written into the law and the new administration is looked to for early compliance with the mandatory provisions. The Mayor has been unwilling, apparently, to make a stand for municipal operation until certain information has been collected as to plant and equipment. A statement from him that he supports municipal street cleaning on principle would greatly clarify the situation. That decision would not interfere with his plan to proceed cautiously in formulating a program for 1921 and thoroughly to demonstrate the practicability of municipal operation before deciding to follow the charter provisions next year.

It is his duty as administrative head of the city to undertake only practical measures. The city does not ask him to do the impossible, but it does want him to support municipal street cleaning because it is the proper method. If he supports municipal street cleaning, a delay in its initiation would no doubt be sanctioned, if it were demonstrated to be necessary.

Concrete information will probably be received on September 15 concerning the availability and cost of new and used equipment. The Mayor has commendably advocated the appointment of a citizen commission to appraise the contractors' plant and equipment. This work should be begun at the earliest opportunity. It would undoubtedly save much effort and worry to accept the street cleaning bids that have been invited. Since an easy road is open, it is particularly necessary to bend all efforts to the determination of the practicability of municipal street cleaning so that the administration will not be open to the criticism of not having made a thorough investigation of the case.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Which one of the four gospels is said to have been written by a physician?
2. What was the real name of the leader of the first expedition to circumnavigate the globe?
3. In what year was this great voyage of discovery begun?
4. In what famous battle in the New World were the commanders of the opposing armies killed?
5. Who was Philip Freneau?
6. What was the nationality of Alfred Stevens, the noted modern painter?
7. What President of the United States had the shortest term in office?
8. Who wrote the English novel, "Tom Jones"?
9. What is a hemistich?
10. What is the meaning of the word lupine?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Saghalin is an island in the sea of Okhotsk, east of Siberia, divided between Russia and Japan. The latter country has recently occupied the Russian section.
2. Senator Wadsworth is from New York state.
3. Felicia Hemans is the author of the poem beginning "The breaking waves dashed high on a stern and rockbound coast."
4. Queen Victoria was the grandmother of William Hohenzollern.
6. Antoine Barye was a famous French sculptor. He died in 1875.
6. John Bartram founded the first botanical garden in America in 1772.
7. It was located in Kingsessing, now included in Philadelphia.
8. One of the great discoveries of Pasteur was the inoculation treatment for hydrophobia.
9. The Columbia successfully defended the America's Cup in two series of international yacht races.
10. Virginia and Maryland originally ceded territory to form the District of Columbia. The Virginia section was subsequently receded to the state.

DRY AGENTS WOULD END WHOLESALERS

Business May Be Eliminated Altogether, Federal Commissioner Intimates

By the Associated Press

Washington, Aug. 7.—Elimination by the government of the wholesale liquor dealer as a means of simplifying prohibition enforcement appeared a possibility last night with the announcement by Prohibition Commissioner Kramer that the issue of wholesale permits in the future would be "rigidly restricted."

Mr. Kramer declared that the wholesale traffic presented the greatest problem with which enforcement officials were confronted. Wholesale dealers, he asserted, resorted to subterfuges which perplexed government agents and which made the dry law difficult to enforce. This phase of prohibition enforcement was said to have developed consideration by officials of the internal revenue bureau of a plan by which the quantity dealer would be driven out of business entirely and the liquor transfer made direct from bonded warehouse to retailer or consumer.

Although no decision has been reached and none probably will be immediately, the approaching period when wholesale licenses are reissued for the next calendar year is expected to bring the question to a head. Applications for wholesale licenses must be in the hands of federal officials by October 1, giving the govenment the three months prior to January 1 in which to investigate the responsibility of the applicant. Officials said that regardless of the bureau's decision with respect to elimination of the wholesalers the number of licenses issued for the ensuing year would be smaller. In event the government permits the wholesalers to continue in business, it was said, a policy of investigating the record of applicant "and all of his affairs" would be employed.

Treasury records reveal that more wholesale licenses are in existence now than immediately prior to the effective date of the Volstead act. Commissioner Kramer said that while the wholesalers were being watched closely drastic action had been made necessary in certain localities.

The situation in Baltimore resulting from the ruling of Attorney General Armstrong that no Maryland state or Baltimore municipal official could aid in dry law enforcement work has compelled the transfer of additional federal agents to the Maryland district, Mr. Kramer announced. He added that enforcement work would be pushed everywhere regardless of local co-operation.

NEW PHILA. PHYSICIANS

State Bureau Gives Out List of Those Who Passed Examinations

Harrisburg, Aug. 7.—Names of those who passed the recent state medical examinations were announced yesterday by the State Bureau of Medical Education and Licensure. Successful Philadelphia medical candidates are H. T. Antrim, Henry Barenblatt, Joseph P. Besser, Stanley E. Bittle, Elsie Blanchard, H. A. Bogaw, Harold W. Bottomley, Harry L. Brockmann, Louis Brody, Mary Ester Burns, Frank M. Condron, C. A. Copeland, Matthew F. Czubak, Herbert J. Darmstadter, Joseph A. di Medio, Charles W. Dunn, Milton B. Emanuel, C. R. Entwistle, Martin J. Farrell, George D. Geckeler, Ellis B. Gray, Dwight C. Hanna, Jr., Henry B. Harvey, H. R. Hawthorne, Isidore Hendel, Clinton S. Herrman, Charles V. Hogan, N. S. Houseman, W. F. Jerrick, Maude M. Kelly, Baldwin Z. Keyes, Henry L. Klein, F. W. Konzelmann, Francis J. Kownacki, Frank H. Krebs, Robert S. Kropp, Benjamin Leff, Moses J. Lein, L. E. McCrea, James H. Medell, Theodore E. Orr, Clarence A. Patten, N. F. Paxson, A. A. Pless, Marguerite E. W. Scott, John S. Sculler, Morris Smith, M. A. Steffin, A. J. Strikel, Herbert W. Taylor, R. A. Tomassene, Carl V. Vissche, James E. Wadsworth, Thomas J. Walsh, S. D. Weeder, Joseph B. Wolffe.

Nishan H. Bayenderian and Floyd H. Randall, Philadelphia, passed the bedside examinations and Bessie C. Friedmann, George A. Helfand, D. H. Kine, Mrs. Arleane L. Manley, L. L. Mayer, S. C. Rex, George K. Schacterle, Philadelphia, passed the chiropody examinations. Russell T. Barr, Earl L. Compton, Frank F. Friend, Matilda Friend, Margaret Anna Langley, Donald C. Littlehales, Philadelphia, passed the examination in massage and allied cranches.