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Philadelphia, Saturday, December 30, 1922

THE OLNEY AVENUE PLAN

MR. MITTEN'S announcement that the Rapid Transit Company would make an agreement to operate its Broad Street subway if it is extended to Olney Avenue, but that a subway under Hunting Park avenue would not [illegible] be considered seriously before the city commits itself to anything [illegible]

Mr. Mitten [illegible] He is familiar with the [illegible] future possibilities of [illegible] He is under obligation to his stockholders to refrain from engagements which do not show a reasonable prospect of yielding a profit.

If the high-speed line to be built by the city does not show a profit it will be impossible to [illegible] operate them. The [illegible] tion between the city and the Rapid Transit Company.

The advantages of a [illegible] high-speed line extending as far [illegible] as Olney avenue [illegible] one who looks at a [illegible] Express trains [illegible] to Market street would [illegible] time that people living in the [illegible] avenue terminus would transfer from the surface lines to the [illegible] business for it from the north. A [illegible] of surface lines converging [illegible] whereas no such [illegible] Hunting Park avenue.

Then, too, if construction [illegible] at the northern end of the subway were [illegible] it would be possible to work in [illegible] cut, there would be [illegible] saving of money, for as [illegible] end of the line was built, [illegible] would be the most expensive [illegible] begin to run at once.

There are great practical advantages in the suggestions of Mr. Mitten. Whether they are [illegible] Mayor and the Director of Transit are not yet apparent.

DREXEL HILL IS DRY

JUDGE JOHNSON, [illegible] County, has [illegible] wishes of the residents [illegible] refusing saloon licenses.

Drexel Hill is a residential [illegible] much charm. The [illegible] saloon in it even if [illegible] stimulating [illegible] but near beer might be [illegible] no more stimulating than [illegible] sold over the soda [illegible] store, it is difficult to see why any one should [illegible] It cannot be assumed that the [illegible] would be used as a cover for gambling operations.

Judge Johnson has [illegible] with his fixed policy of [illegible] where the people of [illegible] object. This [illegible] is keeping [illegible] Delaware County [illegible] city line.

JERSEY'S DEATH TRAPS

THOUGH [illegible] Jersey [illegible] open and [illegible] public of [illegible] hysteria [illegible] dent is [illegible] drastic [illegible] record [illegible] equanimity.

Inland [illegible] part of the [illegible] forces for [illegible] ties Commission [illegible] railroad [illegible] gates at all [illegible] rail lines and [illegible] ment will [illegible] familiar with the [illegible] tices of England, [illegible] grade crossing [illegible] since the first days [illegible] tation.

WORSE AND WORSE

STRUGGLING to escape [illegible] that it has created in Europe and elsewhere the Ku Klux [illegible] and deeper. There are signs of [illegible] in Atlanta. There it is announced that extensive reforms are contemplated within the order and that certain prejudice is to be put aside. The Klan of the future, we are told, will be dedicated solely to the cause of white supremacy "since all the world."

An "intensive campaign for membership" will be started at once in Europe! Europe will read this news with a sigh of amazement and unbelief. The proposal of a European Ku Klux suggests a sweet prospect for peoples who learned long ago that the humane and wise adjustment of racial differences, rather than continued suppression in regions inhabited by about two-thirds of the earth's population, is necessary to prevent an explosion that some day might rend the world in two.

MR. HARDING MAKES USE OF SOUND HOME REMEDIES

It Is a Domestic Issue in Procedure Rather Than a World Problem That Is Cleared Up in His Letter

SO MANY interpretations of American foreign policy have lately been dependent upon the taste and fancy of the interpreter that it is a relief to find Mr. Harding engaged in applying a specific remedy to a specific issue. His letter to Senator Lodge contains no panacea for world ills. His theme, notwithstanding a background of international problems, is primarily domestic, establishing a contact with administrative questions that must be maintained if the Government of the United States is to function.

In fixing the powers of the Senate the Constitution created what were designed to be salutary checks upon the Executive and his official staff. The machinery was fashioned as a limitation upon absolutism. The theory was admirable, and there are, indeed, numerous historical instances proving that effective policies have been born of conflict between these two sources of authority.

The policy [illegible] in cases [illegible] the President has lost party support [illegible] The most striking examples, of course, are provided by the world's Peace Treaties and the Treaty of Nations. Despite some honest opposition, those instruments were defeated on inherently partisan grounds.

Under somewhat analogous circumstances Jay's treaty with Great Britain, [illegible] to Washington, barely escaped [illegible] more than a century ago. The [illegible] and they are [illegible] a certain [illegible] the logic [illegible] if you will—underlies the conflict of party warfare.

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[illegible]

MR. DIX'S EXPERIMENT

PROGRESSIVE [illegible] with [illegible] experiment of transferring the Dix factory in Millville, N. J., from its present owners to a group of their employes.

The factory which is [illegible] is said to be worth $1,000,000. It is to be taken over by the employes, who are to pay for it out of the profits of its operation. They are to receive a loan of $250,000 as working capital, and Mr. Dix is to give to the new owners the benefit of his advice.

It might be said that this is a shrewd plan of an old man to protect the value of his estate for his heirs by arranging to get a group of men to agree to pay for the factory what it is worth as a going concern while he is still alive. But Mr. Dix insists that his purpose is entirely different. He thinks the men who have assisted in building up his business should be allowed to share in its profits, and his plan was conceived with that end in view. It will work successfully if the men to manage the business have in some degree the qualities of initiative and aggressiveness that enabled Mr. Dix to build up a large fortune.

A TRUE BILL FOUND

THE Grand Jury presentment on conditions at the Holmesburg and Moyamensing prisons is a calm and unimpassioned justification of the charges made through this newspaper.

It finds that there are dark cells in which prisoners are confined for twenty-four hours because they have violated the rules against smoking. The same punishment is inflicted for more serious breaches of discipline.

It then says: "Perhaps some men regard the use of dark cells unusual and cruel; if so, their use ought to be abandoned."

This is putting it mildly. Dr. Baldy, of the Public Welfare Department, has condemned this form of punishment.

The Grand Jury also recommends that the rules against talking and the use of tobacco be relaxed; that arrangements be made to give more exercise to the prisoners, and that workshops be built to give employment to the men now forced to be idle.

It also condemns the treatment in Moyamensing of persons awaiting trial or held as essential witnesses, and recommends that a House of Detention be built for the confinement of witnesses and the accused awaiting trial. These persons are now subjected to substantially the same treatment as the convicts. They are confined in cells and they live on prison fare.

Judge Audenried has announced that the recommendations will be submitted to the proper authorities for action. The City Council will have to appropriate money for the House of Detention and for the workshops at Holmesburg if it is thought desirable to erect more shops. The Board of Prison Inspectors will have to modify the rules permitting punishment in dark cells, and if it does not make this and the other changes in the regulations the head of the State Department of Public Welfare will be under a moral obligation to call the attention of the District Attorney to this dereliction in duty.

A more humane and intelligent treatment of prisoners ought to result at once from the investigation.

A NEW DEAL IN OIL?

OIL concessions in foreign territory have been the source of so much trouble and the cause of so much diplomatic friction in this country and abroad during the last years that Americans are inclined to look with a twinge of nervous dread on the news of further large concessions of American interests in Mexican petroleum lands.

But, if [illegible] California oil kings [illegible] Northern Mexico is being told in [illegible] dispatches, this is not that of [illegible] as special [illegible] prize to be the beginning of a new and better era of what is [illegible] commercial politics [illegible] and the solution of the problem [illegible] delay. American recognition of the present Mexican Government [illegible] the national aspiration of the two countries.

The significant thing about the concession granted to Los Angeles capitalists [illegible] is that it is made under the terms of Article XXVII of the Mexican Constitution. This means that the people of Mexico, through the agency of their [illegible] will be participating part [illegible] the new concession [illegible] and percentages of the profit [illegible] be opened in [illegible] Article XXVII [illegible] American [illegible] in Mexico [illegible] Wilson [illegible] by President [illegible] Government. The term [illegible] the subject [illegible] Mexico [illegible] Mexican [illegible] Mexico [illegible] Article XXVII [illegible] Mexican petroleum deposits are among the richest known. The nation as a right receives a share of the earth's hard gifts up [illegible]

[illegible] Article XXVII [illegible] Mexican Congress are [illegible] by the Mexican Supreme Court. The fabulous profits [illegible] suggest that objects and prospects could run what they call a combination [illegible] and all prosper greatly. It is a fact, however, that efforts to evade this law have left a trail of extremely unpleasant political consequences in international Mexico as well as in the United States.

It is interesting to observe that President Obregon himself apparently had something to do with arranging for the huge concession, one of the biggest ever made. Should the operating company be successful it will appear as a matter of course that the principle embodied in Article XXVII can be made to work without undue hardship to other oil interests.

CHARLIE ROSS AGAIN

Death of the Man Who Killed the Boy's Abductor Recalls a World-Famous Kidnapping—Mystery of His Fate Never Fully Solved

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

ALBERT VAN BRUNT died in Brooklyn on Wednesday, aged seventy-one years.

His death attracted only a paragraphic notice in the metropolitan dailies, yet he was the connecting link in a tragedy whose story will never die.

It was through a well-directed shot of Mr. Van Brunt forty-eight years ago that the mystery of Charlie Ross' abduction was solved—or at least believed to have been solved.

The abduction of Charlie Ross still remains the most sensational incident in the annals of American crime.

Mr. Van Brunt was a retired farmer when he died.

Nearly all, if not all, the other principals in the heart-breaking Ross affair have also passed away.

Christian K. Ross, the father of Charlie Ross, died years ago after spending his entire fortune running down clues.

To the older residents of Germantown, despite all revelations and theories, the fate of Charlie Ross is still an involved enigma.

There is now little if any doubt that a gang of detectives for a great reward sealed the fate of the little Germantown boy.

ON JULY 1, 1874, Charlie Ross, a handsome, curly-haired, four-year-old boy, was playing with his older brother Walter in front of their home on East Washington lane, Germantown, when two men in a light spring wagon came along.

These same men had passed that way before and had given the two boys some candy and a ride.

This time Charlie asked for a ride.

The men promised them candy and some firecrackers after they got to the top of the hill.

After walking to the top the boys climbed into the vehicle when the strangers told them they were going to take them to "Santa Claus," a mythical personage.

While feeding the boys candy the wagon was driven rapidly toward Kensington.

After a while Charlie began crying and begged to be taken home.

At Palmer and Richmond streets Walter was given a quarter and directed to get some fireworks in a cigar store.

When he returned the wagon with the men and his little brother had disappeared.

H. C. PEACOCK, a friend of the Ross family, was among those attracted by the cries and tears of Walter Ross.

He took him to his parents' home. Mrs. Ross was ill in Atlantic City at the time, and there the facts stated above were elicited from the lad.

The lad was able to give a clear description of the abductors, and it was corroborated by various persons.

Apparently the police were helpless.

Not a single clue was obtained until July 4, three days after.

On that day a letter purporting to come from the kidnappers was received by the father of Charlie Ross.

It was badly written and badly misspelled.

A big ransom, they said, would be demanded. The letter also said that the boy was held so securely that no power on earth could rescue him.

Meanwhile, a reward of $200 had been offered for the return of the boy, and advertisements were sent broadcast announcing this offer.

Two days later a second letter from the kidnappers was received.

This demanded a ransom of $20,000.

Friends of Mr. Ross promptly subscribed the sum.

But here the police stepped in and took over the handling of the case.

Mayor Stokley offered a reward of $20,000 for the return of the kidnappers and the return of the boy.

Little doubt now remains, in the light of subsequent events, that had the original proposition of sending $20,000 to the criminals been carried out Charlie Ross would have been returned alive.

MONTHS [illegible] around [illegible] Station [illegible] Charlie Ross were presumably [illegible] parts of the country.

[illegible] Charlie Ross were [illegible] the country [illegible] the boy [illegible] the country [illegible] German [illegible]

[illegible] Charlie Ross [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the