

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 18

NOW FOR REAL WORK

W HATEVER may be said for or against the changes made by Council in the municipal working forces, the new governing body of the city has at least now gotten down to a practical working basis. It has reorganized the city service along lines laid down by itself according to its own views of efficiency. Its own appointees will take their places in every department on March 1. Councilmen will no longer find themselves besieged by job-hunters. That phase of the new government was settled finally when they passed the Lynch resolution yesterday.

The people of Harrisburg are much more deeply interested in how their city government is to be administered than as to who administers it. What they want is results, and they will look to the commission to produce them. The councilmen have all the opportunity in the world to make such improvements in the municipal service as they may deem desirable. They are bound by no precedents and they are to a very large degree a law unto themselves. By their accomplishments they must be willing to be judged, so it behooves them to bestir themselves in undertaking the serious work that confronts them.

It is true that considerable has been done along this line, but the new form of government is still very much in its experimental stage, and while a majority of Harrisburg people accepted it under protest they are anxious that it shall be given a fair trial under the most favorable circumstances. Harrisburg bore a good reputation as a well-governed city under the old two-council system and the cities of the State have their eyes on us now.

Big tasks loom up before the new Council. There are streets to pave, the river bank and parking to complete, the Hardscrabble problem to solve, the Paxton creek improvement to complete, sewers to be constructed to the amount of \$100,000, parks and playgrounds to be extended by the expenditure of a similar amount, an issue of safety and public comfort station to be erected in Market Square, \$25,000 worth of new fire apparatus to be purchased and a number of bridges to be erected. A city planning commission is to be created, the work of the Health Department extended and improved, a new building code adopted and scores of other things to be done incident to the change of government that will require the careful and constant consideration of the commissioners if they are to be done as the people expect them to be done.

It was natural that there should be changes in the city's working force under the new commission form of government. The councilmen have settled that question and there should be no more occasion for bickering or controversy over the matter. It has been settled according to the views of a majority of the councilmen and it should now be forgotten. The time is here for real action and not a moment should be lost in taking up the important work of the year.

The Electrical World is discussing the "possibilities" of a servantless home. Evidently the printer made an error. It should have been probabilities.

GOOD ROADS; GOOD SCHOOLS

T HE United States Department of Agriculture is engaged in an effort to illustrate the relation between bad roads and poor schools. In a voluminous report just issued it is shown that the rural population is more willing to support better schools to-day than at any previous time. It is being realized that all educational activities or agencies must be more or less correlated, and more than all else, that they must be made accessible to the children.

In many counties where bad roads prevail, most of the schools are of the antiquated one-room variety. They are usually located along bad roads which, during the winter, when the schools are usually in session, become so nearly impassable as to make it difficult for the children to reach

them. This condition causes irregular attendance and restricts the educational opportunities of the child.

Not only this, but it often impedes the economic consolidation of these smaller schools into larger, stronger graded schools, with high school courses, directed by a competent principal and corps of teachers, according to the Office of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture.

On the other hand, in counties which have improved their roads, the schools are easily reached, the average attendance greater, the efficiency largely increased and economic consolidation made possible.

Regular attendance at school means consistent and regular growth of both school and pupil, and consolidation of schools means a maximum of efficiency at a minimum of cost.

It is also noteworthy that there is a marked tendency for the consolidated school to become the social and intellectual center of the community. Most modern rural school houses are so constructed as to serve the community as gathering places for various kinds of public meetings, and where vans are used to convey the children to school during the day they are frequently pressed into service to haul the farmers and their wives to institute work, lectures, or entertainments at the schoolhouse.

The consolidated school becomes a sort of community center where all educational and social activities converge, and in order that it may properly perform that function all of the highways leading to it should be so improved as to render it readily accessible throughout the year.

Oh, come on out, Mr. Groundhog. We're satisfied. You're vindicated. We were only joking about it. Honest we were.

THE LITERACY TEST

A LL good Americans will approve the reported intention of President Wilson to veto the new immigration bill if it comes to him with the literacy test clause attached.

In all Washington there is possibly no greater or more sincere advocate of education for the masses than the President himself. His long identification with college life would naturally lead to the supposition that he would place educational qualifications on a very high scale, and doubtless he does. But evidently the President is not quite ready to take the position that they are all in all; that they offend good character, a strong body and a determination to "get there"—"qualities that a very large number of our illiterate immigrants unquestionably possess."

Such a test as those who are back of the clause in question propose might bar from our shores the father of a Lincoln. It would certainly keep out hundreds upon hundreds who are looking to this country as the haven of their hopes, as the one spot in all the world where their children may have the education and the opportunities for advancement which they themselves have never known.

The United States is not in need of clerks or bookkeepers from abroad. We have an overstocked market of this kind at home. But we do need sturdy men to till our soil and strong muscles to take up the manual labor that our own people decline to do, and we ought to stand ready to exchange for these the advantages of our country to the individual and the educational facilities of our schools to his children.

It begins to look as though a certain eminent forester will have to take to the woods.

CARE OF HORSES

T HE Anti-Cruelty Society of Philadelphia has caused to be widely published a list of "Don'ts" for those who care for or drive horses during cold weather. Here they are:

- Don't use cold bits in cold weather. Heat the bit before putting it in the horse's mouth.
Don't clip the horse when weather is at the freezing point.
Don't fail to put a blanket on your horse when he stands in cold weather.
Don't force horse to back a heavy load over a snow bank. A shovel and a little energy will make it easy for your horse and your conscience.
Don't try to convince your horse that he is on skates when his feet strike the slippery asphalt.
They apply quite as well to Harrisburg as to Philadelphia. Too often we forget that dumb animals, like ourselves, are extremely susceptible to hardships of the weather. The dog is left to sleep in a cold place or the cat is allowed to face the snow and gale of a winter's night, not because we would have them suffer, but because we do not think of them at all.

In the case of horses there is a purely selfish reason why they should be cared for to the best of their owner's ability. If they are cold, or sick, or beaten, or poorly fed they are inefficient and the owner loses thereby. The best cared for horse is the horse that will be able to work longest and hardest and for which there is always a ready market at a price no half-famished or ill-cared for beast would bring.

If this growing use of concrete fences continues, what will the rail-splitting candidates of the future do for material?

"Railroads require large quantities of sand," says the Electric Railway Journal. In which they differ in no wise from men.

A NEW BUILDING CODE

B UILDING INSPECTOR GROVE is unquestionably right in his opinion that the building code of the city is in serious need of revision.

The rules governing architects and builders are so voluminous as to be cumbersome. Their very number militates against their usefulness. They are so minute in detail as to be practically impossible to follow. No building inspector could be expected to master them in their entirety. The builder or architect who consulted them in every point of construction

would find little time for anything else. The result has been that instead of being generally obeyed, they have been generally violated, except possibly in their essentials.

There is no reason why a code of building rules for Harrisburg should be other than very simple in form. The building inspector should be given wide powers of discretion. The designer and contractor should be permitted scope in which to work out their own details, always subject to the approval of the inspector.

The underwriters have had a good deal to say recently concerning fire and building conditions in Harrisburg. The National Board of Fire Underwriters has devised a code of its own for cities the size of Harrisburg. In view of this, might it not be well to have this set of rules at hand when the work of revision is undertaken?

EVENING CHAT

Thomas H. Harter, publisher of the Bellefonte Keystone Gazette, the first man in Pennsylvania to bring Pennsylvania German into the modern newspaper's columns and whose Bonisteel letters have furnished delight to thousands, has condensed his knowledge of the vernacular into a paper recently presented before the Bellefonte Club. Like every other man versed in the study of languages, he calls attention to the confusion in the popular mind between the German and Dutch elements in Pennsylvania and, remarking that while the excellent Germans we know came from the Palatinate, their dialect came from northern Germany, says: "Had Luther translated the Bible into the dialect of lower (or northern) Germany, the Pennsylvania German would have been classical, or, putting it better, the dialect of lower Germany, instead of southern Germany, which has been the literary language of the great German-speaking people." The literature of the Pennsylvania German, hence, has been "scant and altogether local, confined mostly to newspaper and periodical publications." Mr. Harter pays a high tribute to the Pennsylvania German in the Keystone State, to his character and to his sense of squareness. "Take the Pennsylvania German out of the history of the State and you remove Hamlet from the play," says he. And then following out this idea he takes the dialect of Polonius, one of the greatest characters of the Pennsylvania German measures up, in the course of his remarks, the Bellefonte editor says: "He has never proclaimed his deeds from the house-tops, and perhaps, until very recently, has regarded the record of his ancestors as not calling for particular mention. While the Puritan, the Cavalier, the Knickerbocker, the Huguenots and the Scotch-Irish have each had their praises sung by writers, the field is still open for a no less interesting story: that of the 'Pennsylvania German,' mis-called the 'Pennsylvania Dutch.'"

The meetings of Harrisburg's new City Council, although it has been in existence for almost three months, continue to attract public attention, far more so than in the days of the old councils. In those times no one appeared to have much interest in the doings of the lawmakers except when some big proposition would come up, meetings of the new Council, aside from the political features, attract a number of people to every session.

Harrisburg people will be interested to learn that T. Larry Eyre, the Chester county Republican leader and former superintendent of public grounds and buildings, has been awarded the sale of all of his properties in the vicinity of West Chester, valued at over \$100,000. The sale will include Mr. Eyre's handsome home, the Village Record property, the farm which has been Mr. Eyre's hobby and his stock and machinery. No reason is given for the prospective sale, but friends of Mr. Eyre say that he is away from home a good bit and wants to reduce his holdings.

State Zoologist H. A. Surface expects a unique convention to be held at the Capitol within the next few days when the State bee keepers gather. He says that the ordinary person does not have much idea about the size of the bee industry in the State and that instead of it being a side line it is a business in which farmers have invested thousands of dollars and they are building up a trade with the large cities that is to be despised. The zoologist is the originator of the investigation to show that stings are good for rheumatism, and while that has not been heard of much lately the honey industry is coming to the front.

Memphis, Tenn., the largest city governed under the commission system in the United States, issues an official magazine every month that is unique among publications of its kind. Literally speaking, the paper is the city's official organ; it is attractively bound and profusely illustrated with cuts of the city commissioners, the police and fire stations and other public buildings and views of the parks.

Official city government news that is of particular interest in municipal circles is reprinted in tabloid form, reports are tabulated and condensed, and there are some helpful hints and suggestions as to future operation of various branches of the city government.

WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE

George Wharton Pepper, the Philadelphia lawyer, has been honored by Yale by appointment to a lecturer in the divinity school.
Mayor John P. Longenecker, of Lebanon, has warned all merchants in his city to do away with slot machines.
Congressman William S. Vare has gone to Florida.
James M. Swank, the iron and steel historian, has offered his fine library to the Johnstown Public Library.
Mayor Blankenburg was seventy-one on Monday.
George A. Huhn, the Philadelphia banker, is ill.

W. L. Connell, the Scranton capitalist, is head of a company which has been formed to handle 30,000 acres of coal land in West Virginia.

William G. Hower, Bryn Mawr newspaper man, has been appointed sealer of weights and measures for Montgomery county.

Of especial interest is the announcement of early publication of Nat C. Goodwin's recollections. Probably there is no more popular actor on the American stage to-day and the story of his life should rival in popularity even that of the late Joseph Jefferson. In fact it will be the book of the year.

It is surprising to note the widespread interest in comparatively modern warfare as shown by the large sale of Rear-Admiral Mahan's new and thrilling account of our Spanish War published under the title of "War Time in Manila." The Government has recently recommended the book for purchase for all crews' libraries.

AN EVENING THOUGHT
Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.—Rev. 2:10.

FLINN NOT LIKELY TO VISIT CONFERENCE

Will Stay in Florida and Let Bull Moosers Fight It Out Next Week

RYAN IS THUMPING PALMER Says Sharp Things About the Veracity of the National Committee Member

William Flinn, chairman of the executive committee of the Washington party, will not attend the second conference of the State committee on February 25 for the purpose of making a State ticket and there is a possibility that a big fight may be made by the advocates of an open field instead of an agreement upon any candidates.

The men mentioned for Governor at the conference, with the exception of Congressman M. Clyde Kelly, who has been possibly elected Charles N. Brumm, of Pottsville, who won't run, are expected to meet in Philadelphia within a few days to discuss the situation as they are expected to do by the resolution of the conference. This meeting is for elimination purposes and things will narrow down to three candidates—Lewis, Young and English. While Young says emphatically that he never has sought and will not seek the nomination, his friends are mighty active in the central portion of the State. English is regarded here as a compromise candidate in the event of the rivalry between the partisans of Young and Lewis getting too hot and he has the blessing, Kelly has been "persuaded" by Flinn to run for Congress again.

Flinn is at Palm Beach, where he plans to stay until March.

Michael J. Ryan, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor in his own right, as his friends put it, intended to drop out of the Democratic camp yesterday by going to meet Ryan Hits Palmer On Car Fare home community, and saying he had the good taste not to talk politics, but he did some tall mixing among the Democrats in that district where Palmer failed to get across his candidate for Judge last year. Mr. Ryan also challenged Palmer's veracity, saying that in spite of the national committee man the Democratic party for Wilson, which Palmer, in spite of speeches, failed to do. Mr. Ryan also said he considered it improper for the national administration to butt into Pennsylvania Democratic affairs and added, "I contributed to the Democratic committee for the election of Woodrow Wilson \$200, but I never collected from a Democratic national committee, a Democratic State committee or a Democratic city committee railroad fares or telephone bills and if I were intrusted with the leadership of my party I would not further deplete a bankrupt State committee by so doing."

Miles B. Kitts, who aroused the ire of the ringmasters committee of the Democratic State machine last year because of his refusal to take orders, has announced that he will be a candidate for renomination to the House from the Second Erie district, comprising a part of the city of Erie. Kitts says that he is a Democrat and proposes to run on the Democratic platform. He has started on his campaign and thus far the reorganization gangsters have not put up anyone against him. The Erie campaign is his fair to be not as the Republicans are united and the Democrats are split between Ryan and McCormick. Ryan's backers have gotten busy and formed a committee.

Lebanon county people without regard to politics appear to be encouraging the candidacy of Grant W. Nitrauer, the Lebanon attorney for the Legislature and he is said to be assured of considerable support in advance of the primaries as everyone concedes that he will be nominated. Mr. Nitrauer, who is a member of the Panama Pacific Exposition Commission, comes of an old Lebanon family and is widely known throughout the county by reason of his law practice and ability. E. E. McCurdy, former district attorney, who announced himself as a candidate some time ago, and Dr. I. K. Ulrich, of Annville, are making a campaign for other nomination. The county is entitled to two members. The Democrats are up in the air as their strongest man, Henry C. Snively, member for two terms, is ill. The Bull Moosers have Harvey K. Bomberger, livestock man; C. A. Bowman, college professor, and F. S. Kaufman, physician, as their candidates thus far. Kaufman is a former member and wants to come back.

Up in Clearfield county, where the Democrats would like to take each other out and run a ducking stool, steps are being taken by the republican and Washington parties to get together. For years the Clearfield county has been debatable and last Fall the Democrats profiting by the con-

Clearfield Democrats Wide Apart

Plan Held Late Ohio Headquarters Department of West Virginia, Wednesday, February 17. It was whispered among military men that there would soon be a raid made into Ohio, and that the pontoons referred to would be drawn overland to either the West Kanawha river, and that the point would be crossed at two points one column going by way of Barboursville and Guyandotte.

Many Deserters Cumberland Gap, Tenn., Feb. 17. Captain J. B. Watkins, provost marshal at this post, says the average number who report to him, is five per day. All complain of being heartily sick of the war. Their accounts corroborate the officer's account.

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tentions among the Republicans elected some officers. This has caused men active in the other two parties to seek some ground of combination and meetings have been held at Clearfield and DuBois with that end in view. With the Dimeling faction in control of the county organization and the boy scout Democracy trying to pry it loose the chances are that there will be few Democrats on speaking terms with each other this year.

POLITICAL SIDELIGHTS

Candidly, how would the Democrats have acted had they secured control of Council?

Mr. Ryan seems to have turned the tables on Mr. Palmer.

Ex-Governor Stuart continues in the role of sphinx.

P. C. Evans is after Congressman Palmer's seat in Congress.

The new issue of presidential intentions promises to loom large in the Democratic primaries.

Ansel Ulman, member from Williamsport, is out for renomination.

Finchot went to Waynesboro to speak yesterday, the snow having prevented Waynesboro men from going to hear him.

Palmer's Democratic friends are worried over the Ryan sentiment in his district.

Jefferson Democrats are in a fight over control of the county machine.

Dimmick continues to put out a fresh statement every day.

State Chairman Prugh is addressing Prohibition meetings up the State.

But for Henry Houck's age he would be in the thick of the running for Governor.

Grover C. Ladner is a candidate for senator in one of the Philadelphia Districts.

Three Democratic clubs in Philadelphia have endorsed Ryan.

One M. F. Doyle is about to form what he calls a "Commoners" club in Philadelphia for Vance C. McCormick.

The Pottsville Journal does not think Dimmick is much of an improvement over Penrose.

Some of the Democrats are inclined to Ryan, according to late reports.

Mr. Ryan Hits Palmer On Car Fare

Legislators in Sight in Old Lebanon

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HARRISBURG-FIFTY-YEARS-AGO-TODAY

From the Telegraph of Feb. 18, 1864.]

250 Men Wanted The highest cash bounties paid as soon as mustered into the service. Men can enlist in any arm of the service. For particulars inquire of Eugene Snyder, Attorney-at-Law, Third street, near Market.

Reward for Incendiaries One hundred dollars reward is offered by Messrs. Price and Hancock for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who set fire to the oil office of the Harrisburg furnace, yesterday.

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HEADQUARTERS FOR SHIRTS SIDES & SIDES