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THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 27.

LET US BE FAIR

SINCE the change of our form of municipal government a year or more ago most of our citizens have maintained proper attitude of open-mindedness with respect to the new system of commission control. They have manifested determined to give the five commissioners in charge of the several departments a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate the advantages or disadvantages of the new municipal system. But there are those who have just as manifestly made up their minds that there is nothing to praise and a great deal to condemn. This is an unfortunate attitude and means in the end the breaking down of that spirit of popular support which is absolutely necessary to government anywhere.

Harrisburg was getting along quite comfortably under the old system and a large majority of the people of this city were satisfied with former conditions, but they cheerfully accepted the new order of things and have been watching with interest the development of the commission system here. An honest investigation of the things achieved during the last few months will satisfy the average citizen of the earnest endeavor of the department heads to discharge their obligations to the people to the best of their ability and with an eye single to the best interests of the people as a whole.

Political considerations are bound to find their way to some extent into any form of government, but the record of substantial achievement of the last year in the improvement of this city, in the economy of operation and in the general administration of our municipal affairs must stand as an answer to the unfair criticism of those who are not disposed to give credit where credit is due.

Fair play is necessary to the best results in any system of government and the people owe it to themselves and to their city to inform themselves so that they may understand what are the actual conditions and not be misled by misrepresentation of facts. Reasonable criticism of public acts is always expected and should not be withheld, but censorious and persistent croaking is a positive menace to good government.

City Council has done well in re-electing Francis J. Hall as a member of the City Planning Commission. Mr. Hall has been identified with the movements for the improvement of his native city and we are glad to note that he proposes with his associates to give considerable attention to the general care and planning of those things which affect the river basin. This will include the erection of boat houses, the treatment of the island shores and other matters affecting this important feature of the city's aesthetic resources.

There may be many blistered hands and sore feet and aching backs as a result of the Good Roads celebration yesterday, but we cannot doubt that the inspiration and momentum which has been received in the modern highway development will send the movement booming.

PARTY HARMONY

SENATOR PENROSE in Philadelphia yesterday expressed the hope that harmony would prevail in Republican party politics in this city and throughout the State in the coming elections, and he added that as the result of a trip through Central Pennsylvania last week he found Republican prospects bright and members of the party everywhere encouraged.

There would seem to be no good reason for any serious differences of opinion in party ranks next Fall and the victory of last year naturally puts the county leaders into a happy frame of mind concerning the immediate future. It is desirable, as the Senator says, to put forward a solid front on the eve of a presidential election, and there is no reason why Republicans should not be victorious all along the line next November. The issues are largely local, those of counties and municipalities. It is all a matter of nominating good, strong candidates, men of clean personal habits, honest

and able. In Dauphin county such a course will result in an overwhelming majority for the Republican ticket.

Governor Brumbaugh is so deeply interested in everything that concerns the State and is so loyal to the best things of Pennsylvania that we may confidently look to him to provide, through proper agencies, for a careful study of the landscape treatment of the district east of the Capitol which is now being cleared for park purposes. Harrisburg is doing its part in creating a suitable environment for the Capitol and there is no reason to believe the Commonwealth will fall short in its share of the work.

HARRISBURG TAX COLLECTION

OF course it is too late to talk about a change in the system of tax collection for another period of two years, or during the term of the present City Treasurer. It is not too soon, however, to begin a serious consideration of this important matter. Twice Senator Beidleman has introduced in the Legislature a bill creating the office of Receiver of Taxes, but with discouraging regularity the lawmakers have refused to obliterate the present obsolete and extravagant laws regulating the collection of taxes. Few taxpayers really understand how expensive the present system is and how inconvenient and unbusinesslike.

Under the present system it costs Harrisburg over \$22,000 to gather in the city, school and county taxes every year. It is the opinion of those who are familiar with the system that at least \$13,000 in round figures could be saved annually without in the least impairing the efficiency of the tax collection department. Surely this is a sum sufficiently large to justify serious consideration of the matter.

Under the present arrangement the City Treasurer receives a salary of \$1,500 and the commissions in 1914 were on city taxes \$6,140, on school taxes \$6,800, a total of \$12,940, and there was paid to the collectors of county taxes in Harrisburg \$8,125, a total of salary and commissions of \$22,565. In addition to this amount the Commonwealth paid for the collection of State tax on loans \$1,900, a grand total of \$24,465 for gathering in the taxes. This is a pretty stiff figure for services which do not involve anything more than expert clerical ability even though the City Treasurer pays his clerks from this.

It is pointed out that a repeal by the Legislature of the several acts of assembly now governing tax collection would effect a tremendous saving through the cutting out of a large percentage for collecting the taxes. Through the proposed creation of a receiver of taxes, whose duties it would be to collect all city, school, county and State taxes, the whole operation will be more economical and convenient. It has been suggested that there should be an allowance of say \$4,000 as salary for the City Treasurer, who should be designated as the receiver of taxes, a chief clerk at \$1,500, four additional clerks at \$1,200 and one additional clerk at \$900, making a total of \$11,200, which would represent the expenses of a department fully organized for this important work. There should also be deducted from the total of \$11,200 the sum of \$1,900 paid by the State for collecting the tax on loans. This would go to the city and would mean a net cost to Harrisburg of \$9,300 per annum instead of \$22,565, an actual annual saving of \$13,265.

For years there has been talk of changing the laws and providing for a receiver of taxes for cities of the third class, but the old theory of patronage at the expense of the taxpayers has restrained the lawmakers from doing what is manifestly the right thing to do. Nobody censures the official or officials who may be benefited through the operation of the law. They are entitled to their legal compensation, but it is the fault of the people themselves if they permit such a system to go on indefinitely.

We believe the third class city authorities should make a stand at the next session of the Legislature so firm that the desired changes will be granted. We know of no better way to get at the facts than through the provisions of a bill now in the Governor's hands providing for the collection of statistical information of cities of the third class through the Department of Labor and Industry. So long as the people are ignorant of the real conditions they are not likely to demand a change, but with the facts before them, there will be little time lost in forcing legislation that would mean economy and convenience for all taxpayers.

A man who voted for the nomination of Woodrow Wilson at Baltimore, yesterday was given a fat Government job in Philadelphia. From the number of national delegates who have been so rewarded it would seem that whatever faults the President may have displayed since his election, gratitude is not one of them. Apparently every Baltimore delegate is to have a Government position. This ought to make Dr. Wilson pretty popular at the next Democratic convention.

What Dr. Dernberg is thinking just now would be in all likelihood far more interesting than the things he was saying a few weeks back.

WHERE THE LAW HITS A SNAG

IF it is true that at Erie twenty foreigners employed on fishing boats have been discharged at the order of a State fish warden since the act prohibiting foreigners from fishing in the waters of the State became law, it is altogether likely that trouble is in store for both the law and the warden.

It is one thing to discriminate against the unnaturalized foreigner in the matter of taking either game or food fish for personal consumption, but it is quite another thing to legislate him out of a job on the pretext of conserving natural resources for the benefit of citizens.

Viewed from any angle, this kind of legislation is contrary to the spirit of broad toleration and equal opportunities and blessings which has been the boast of Pennsylvania since the days of William Penn, and if it is going to have the effect this report from Erie

indicates it is quite possible that it comes in sharp conflict with the treaties between the United States and some, or all, of the countries of Europe.

At all events, fish wardens will do well to be sure of their ground before they cause loss of wages and privation by ordering the discharge of foreigners engaged in an ordinary commercial pursuit because of this law. Manifestly, decisions of the appellate courts on the hunting law do not cover such cases.

The police are after the cabarets in New York, but we suppose their owners will try to "wiggle out."

Perhaps Messrs. Coombs, Bender and Plank are pitying Mr. Mack's hard luck this season. And then, again, perhaps not.

At any rate Italy has saved us the explanation of having been "forced into this war."

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION

THE drowning at the spillway of the sanitary dam this week emphasizes the need of continuing the swimming lessons which have become a part of the park department and playground work during the summer. It is only reasonable to assume that a knowledge of swimming prevents many drowning accidents. Most boys learn for themselves, but they often imperil their own lives and those of their comrades in so doing. Under the direction of a competent instructor there is little or no chance of danger.

One of the most valuable features of the municipal swimming school is that the boy and girl are carefully instructed as to their own limitations. They are cautioned against going too far, attempting too much and so venturing beyond their powers and to the disaster that has befallen so many expert swimmers who overestimated their ability to care for themselves in the water.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

STATUS QUO DISTURBED

[Chicago News.] Every once in a while something happens to disturb Mr. Bryan's serenity and lecture programs.

MOST EVERYBODY'S A HEATHEN

[Chattanooga Times.] It is rather discouraging to note that the heathen nations of Asia are no better than those of Europe.

BUT GEORGE IS BACKWARD

[Philadelphia North American.] British clergymen who refuse to take the pledge just say, "Let George do it!"

QUEER OLD CUSS

[Toledo Blade.] Socrates found there were many things in the world he did not need. If he were living now probably a 1910 model runabout would satisfy him.

Doesn't Prohibit

[From the Toledo Blade.] One man was killed on the streets of Toledo Saturday night. The law prohibiting murder doesn't prohibit.

All In

[From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.] Pretty soon the Turks will be in the dilemma of the automobile owner who after replacing the wheels, engine, transmission and the body of his car, is asked whether he is still driving his original machine.

How They Talk

[From the Milwaukee Sentinel.] A young man has filed a divorce action because his wife cannot cook like his mother used to. Most young men who talk that way have been raised in an orphan asylum.

Boiled Cabbage Victim

[From the Marion Star.] It wouldn't be anything more than what we would call retribution should a certain Columbus paragon, at present living off his wife's relatives at Cleveland Heights, be sent home full of boiled cabbage.

Vice Presidential Charm

[From the Houston Post.] Moreover, Vice-President Marshall passed through Houston with that sweet calm and unpretentious simplicity which invests vice-presidential obscurity with so much charm.

"I'll give you something to eat if you'll chop wood for me." "Yes, lady, only it will be cheaper to feed me in advance. Choppin' wood gives me a terrible appetite."—Boston Record.

SAVED FROM LUSITANIA

"It's positively unbearable," said she. "That man in the pew in front of us who would call retribution should I have a greater confidence in the correct feelings when he attempts to sing. Couldn't you devot him to change his pew?"

The good pastor was sorely perplexed. After a few moments' reflection, he said: "Well, I naturally would feel a little delicate on that score, more especially if you had a girl as this, and in my will I tell you what gives a reason. But the pastor's face became illuminated with his light. 'Right,' he might say, 'him to join the choir.'—Harper's Magazine.

TAFT AND WILSON

[From the Indianapolis News.] Had Taft's confidence in a member of the Wilson Cabinet, he could not have supported the President more heartily, or shown greater confidence in the President. Unfortunately the support is due, and the confidence is deserved. The country, therefore, is to be doubly comforted. For in Mr. Wilson it has precisely the sort of President that it should have at such a time as this, and in Mr. Taft it has an ex-President who has fairly earned their gratitude and respect by his wise and correct conduct in these critical days. Both men are bravely and conscientiously performing the duties that their positions impose on them. A nation, like a man, ought to be able to feel a sense of outrage and anger when once she has turned to arms. The war now raging in Europe ought surely to have taught us that lesson—as we believe it has.

PROGRESSIVE CALCULATION

A teacher in one of the city schools—who, to say the least, is of rather generous proportions—was trying to explain to her scholars the correct measurements of the human frame.

"For example," she said, "twice around my thumb, once around my wrist, twice around my wrist, once around my neck, twice around my neck, once around my waist. Then she paused, and a shrill voice from the back of the room exclaimed: "Twice around yer waist, once around the city hall."

NOT A GUZZLER

The Shaw family had recently taken a house in the fashionable residential section of the city. Some weeks later the family scholar was called on by Mrs. Shaw and was viewing the treasures in the library.

"Is your husband a bibliomaniac?" queried the visitor.

"Goodness me, no," ejaculated Mrs. Shaw. "He is a scholar. Oh, of course, I don't say that he wouldn't take a little at his meals if the rest were done, but that's as far as he ever goes in them kind of things."—Harper's Magazine.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

As soon as the Governor disposes of the election bills now on his desk a call will be issued for a meeting of the Democratic State committee for the election of the State committee. It is expected that A. Mitchell Palmer will accept the position of justice of the Court of Claims at Washington on June 1, returning to the contrary given notwithstanding, and that he will then resign as the official burden bearer of the Democratic patronage hunters in the election of the State committee. The boom for Vance C. McCormick, which was being exhibited around Washington last winter, will then be displayed as the President's own in the opinion of a good many Democrats, and a fight for the late candidate for Governor will be made.

Up to date no one has been spoken of for the place outside of McCormick and Congressman John J. Casey, of Wilkes-Barre. Casey is the man who put a crimp in Palmer's plan to have Governor-elect Woodward of Sunbury district, succeed him as member of the ways and means committee and has never been overly friendly with the boss of the commonwealth. If Casey decides to go into the fight it will be a real one.

Some of the Democrats are said to feel that it is not the honor given the honor because he was so badly defeated last Fall and that with him in the place there would be some chance of the party State being paid before the presidential campaign starts.

Cumberland county people are commencing to sit up and talk about the judicial election to be held in that county and about the time of wheat harvest there will be a flock of candidates for the nomination. As the non-party judges have repeatedly not got very far in the Legislature, the nomination will be on a nonpartisan basis, and some tall politics will be played.

State Chairman William E. Crow is the guest of Scottdale Elks at a Fayette county reunion to-day.

Charles H. Penrose, ex-former mayor of Williamsport, says that he is being strongly backed in all four counties of his district for the Republican nomination to succeed Congressman Edgar R. Kless.

The contest for the Republican nomination for Auditor General appears to be a rather close bit of attention among men active in party affairs and there is a disposition to keep the Bull Moose element which is endeavoring to attract voters from districts without showing many signs of repentance from making any trouble. Senators Charles H. Kline and Charles A. Snyder are both candidates for the place and James E. Woodward, ex-chairman of the House appropriations committee, is being talked of both for Auditor General and State Treasurer.

J. Lee Johnson, county chairman of the well-known Republicans of the State, will be a candidate for State Treasurer. No Democrats appear to be in the running for the nomination on their side to talk about it.

Conferences on the Philadelphia mayorality are about due to start. The usual independent movements will be heard of, but it looks as though the Republican organization would go back without much trouble.

Judge Cameron, of Toioga, will be a candidate for re-election this year, as will Judge Terry, of Wyoming.

Speaking in Philadelphia yesterday, Senator Penrose predicted that there would be harmony in the Republican party in the Philadelphia mayoralty campaign this Fall. The senator is quoted as saying in his speech, however, that we should have no factional contests on the eve of a presidential election. Harmony of action is all that is needed to prevail.

The tickets will be elected in all counties of the State normally Republican, and so strong is the anti-Wilson and anti-Palmer sentiment in many of the Democratic counties that there are good prospects of the Republicans electing all or parts of their tickets in these counties. A trip through Central Pennsylvania would probably find me in touch with the people of a dozen counties and everywhere I found Republican prospects bright and the active Republican workers greatly encouraged.

State Chairman Roland S. Morris, of the Democratic State committee, is expected to visit Europe next week. Trouble will soon start.

Judge James Gorman, one of the original members of the Philadelphia municipal court, has resigned in disgust at the failure of the legislature to enact suggested laws. His successor will be named shortly.

AN OBLIGING PASTOR

One of the wealthy members of a fashionable church in Boston approached her pastor with a complaint that she was greatly disturbed by one of her neighbors.

"That man in the pew in front of us who would call retribution should I have a greater confidence in the correct feelings when he attempts to sing. Couldn't you devot him to change his pew?"

The good pastor was sorely perplexed. After a few moments' reflection, he said: "Well, I naturally would feel a little delicate on that score, more especially if you had a girl as this, and in my will I tell you what gives a reason. But the pastor's face became illuminated with his light. 'Right,' he might say, 'him to join the choir.'—Harper's Magazine.

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THE CARTOON OF THE DAY

"COME ON IN, KID."



From the New York World.

LONE SOLDIER OF U.S.A. CHARGES FOE UNTIL BOMB ENDS DREAM

Last night I had a frightful dream: I thought we had a war.

And all the land was bracing up To soids for the blue sky. Musing on this I went to stroll Along the sandy shore.

And there I found a soldier lone, His brow was knit with care; And ever and anon he grabbed And fumbled at his hair; Yea, oftentimes he swore and stamped And oftentimes stamped and swore.

He was a well set-up galoot As any Jack or Jim; He spat with fury on the sand And his eyes were keen; He's young and strong and slim. He'd made a husky regiment Had there been more of him.

"Friend, why the tango?"—thus I made At converse mine essay. He spat with fury on the sand And threw a scowl my way. "Aw, hell," said he, "why, don't you see, I am the U. S. A."

"You, all alone?" "Not quite," said he. "I'm honest, honest, I'm some peach. There's thirty thousand men to guard 'em from Maine to Key West beach. That figures to—calculate— About five miles per each."

"But that's not half our proud array!" Quoth he, "You don't know beans. They slide the long handle coast And fill the Philippines. They dog and bun the Sandwich Isles, And fill the Philippines."

"These M'lethers when a crisis comes Is mostly on the ground. So on it is when their swords And fall'n on their ear. And sing'n' patriotic songs, And sendin' out for beer."

"That's why we scanty regulars Must hump ourselves to keep Our five-mile sections of the coast; We seldom feed or sleep."

"Right gloriously we fought that day Till murdered we did seem. A bombshell busted in my face I gave gasp and scream. Fell out of bed—and thank the Lord, 'Twas nothing but a dream!" —E. Sutton, in New York Herald.

IN HARRISBURG FIFTY YEARS AGO TO-DAY

(From the Telegraph, May 27, 1865.)

CHANGE SCHEDULE

A recent change in the schedule on the Pennsylvania railroad makes it necessary to run seven trains between this city and Philadelphia each day.

MAN'S HEAD CUT OFF

An unidentified man had his head cut off to-day at the Market street crossing of the railroads. The man was leaning against one of the cars when an engine backed up on the siding and coupled on to the car, the jar throwing the man on the track. Before he was able to get up the car had passed over his neck.

PRICE OF HAY DECLINES

Farmers report a decline in the price of hay since the close of the war due to the decrease in demand for a government supply.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

The figure of Jonathan Chapman, whose story has just been told by Eleanor Atkinson in her book, "Johnny Applesed," is so much a part of the early frontier life of the Middle West that it seems difficult to realize that there may still be a few persons alive who remember him. Only last year a centenarian died in Ohio who had known him, and who loved to talk about the life and character of the gentle "Johnny Applesed." Several societies are now in existence which are honoring the memory of the man who made orchards of the wilderness.

Elizabeth Jordan, author of "May Iverson's Career," recently received the following letter: "Oh, you precious May Iverson I've read with smiles and with dimmed eyes the full pages of your career and then turned to the first page and read straight through again. Charming, charming, wonderful, and I envy you the gift, which so graciously portrays life. And now may I cut out for you the one flaw which I've seen? Tiny new moons are safely tucked in bed before the theater-going crowds fairly enter the doors, and it is only a weary and jaded old moon which is left to gaze with envious eyes on lovers. Vide page 277. Pardon the criticism and accept my thanks for the hours of pleasure. Long may you wave."

"The Primrose Ring," a novel by Ruth Sawyer, is published this week by Harper & Brothers. A former founding of St. Margaret's Free Hospital, now grown to a beautiful, sympathetic woman, goes back as a nurse to care for the cripples there. The trustees decide to give up the inoperable ward, and then the plea of the nurse and the house surgeon to retain it is in vain. Then the fairies play their parts. From a bunch of primroses one of the little "incubibles" made a magic ring. How she transported the rest of the children to the Land of Heart's Desire, and how they found there what each most longed for; how the trustees had disturbing dreams, and how the nurse and house surgeon started on the road to Fairyland is told with humor and pathos in this grown-up fairy tale.

Evening Chat



Announcement yesterday that John S. Rilling, one of the new public service commissioners was closing his law practice and business connections at Erie and arranging to come to Harrisburg to live as the resident commissioner, was received with great pleasure by many people here. Mr. Rilling, who is an attorney of high attainments, is well-known to hundreds of Harrisburg folks and will be a distinct addition to the city. He has been among the leaders of the bar of the northwestern part of the State and has taken an active part in civic and educational movements. Years ago Mr. Rilling was chairman of the Democratic State committee and was frequently in Harrisburg. He retired from politics early in the nineties and was selected by Governor Tener to act as a member of the commission which drafted the school code, his extended legal knowledge making him one of the most valuable members of the body which framed a monumental work. He was naturally selected as a member of the State Board of Education in 1903, and his lease was the present Governor. Mr. Rilling will remove to this city next month.

Two half frozen automobile parties came into the city late last night on their way to Gettysburg. They came from the northern tier where it is ordinarily cold at this time of the year but they were unprepared for what came in the way this week. They wired home for overcoats.

One of the interesting tables of the series arranged at the Harrisburg Public Library is that containing books for ready reference and reading on trees. It has the best known and latest books on municipal and individual care of trees and some popular botanical works. In addition the State has loaned several sets of mounted butterflies and moths for identification. There is also a collection of butterflies for those who want to know the names and characteristics of the native flies.

The remark of Governor Brumbaugh yesterday, when he saw a workman along one of the State highways with a pipe in his mouth, a pick over his shoulder and a shovel in his hand, that "there are three tools I like," led a Market street tobacco merchant to the assertion last night that the Governor for action indicates the farmers' love to Harrisburg with a fondness for the pipe. "There are more men smoking pipes to-day than at any time within the past twenty-five years," said he. "The big tobacco packers are convincing a lot of smokers through their very effective ads that the way to draw tobacco smoke is through the stem of a well-seasoned pipe. Time was when you seldom saw a well-dressed man down town smoking anything but a cigar or cigarette. Now some of those whom the clothing merchants love to call our 'smartest dressers' may be seen any afternoon or evening togged out in their best and puffing contentedly away at a black little briar or a calabash."

A well-known public speaker, addressing a Harrisburg audience the other day, took occasion to tell his hearers that newspaper advertising was overdone. His audience did not know that of all those who came to Harrisburg recently on the occasion similar to his was the only one to see to it that the newspapers got in advance copious extracts of his address carefully prepared in typewritten form. And when the extracts did not all appear in print it is whispered that he was not very well pleased. Which may or may not carry its lesson.

The manner in which people interested in manufacturing enterprises are keeping on the trail of the workmen's compensation bill now before the Governor for action indicates the wide effect they will have. In many sections of the State the bills are being discussed at civic meetings and in some plants the subject has been the subject of explanatory meetings. The operation of the system will interest the whole country because of the preeminence of Pennsylvania in manufacturing.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Benjamin McKeen, Pittsburgh railroad man, has been taking a trip through the East.

Benjamin Long, the new colonel on the Governor's staff, is prominent in the provision business up the State.

James Reany, active in Crawford county affairs, has been the speaker at a meeting to connect Lake this week.

W. A. Stone, prominent Fayette county business man, is in Washington.

Mayor Blankenburg has signed the bill to appropriate \$29,000 for the Liberty Bell trip.

DO YOU KNOW

That years ago Harrisburg used to have a women's college?

HATBOX THE COMPASS

(Tacoma Daily Ledger. A straw hat tells which way the wind is blowing in Tacoma. In the East the straw hat appears when the south wind blows, but with us of the Puget Sound country the north wind that brings out the summer "lid."

Getting the Dealer's Attention

When a manufacturer advertises his product in the newspapers he immediately secures attention from the retailers. They are newspaper readers and many of them advertisers.

The retailers know that the manufacturers' newspaper advertising will be read by their customers.