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THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 18.

Whatever a man saith, that shall he also reap.—Gal. 6:7.

PENNSYLVANIA CITIES

MUCH has been said during the last few days concerning the constructive program for the Legislature in which both Republican factions propose to have a part. While no definite statement has been made as to the nature of the proposals which will be submitted to the Legislature it is intimated that the bills to be introduced contemplate important reforms in many directions.

May we not suggest that now is a good time for those who are preparing measures which will benefit the State at large and its several municipalities to give serious attention to the question of home rule, not only for the cities, but for the boroughs and lesser communities.

Pennsylvania has been checked in its development by general laws restricting cities to the things specified by the Legislature, when these cities should be permitted to do anything and everything legitimate for their advancement not prohibited by the State constitution.

Local charters are more satisfactory than general laws affecting all communities. Under present conditions these communities are restrained at every turn and the power of self government has been withheld, so that no progressive move can be made without encountering a constitutional or statutory obstruction.

Harrisburg frequently has been confronted by problems which seriously interfere with its advancement and the time of the Legislature is constantly taken up with local legislation in the form of general laws which should not for a moment encumber the calendars of either Senate or House.

Responsibility should be placed upon the cities and when this shall have been done by a wide measure of home rule men of civic pride and public spirit will be glad to aid in the solution of the local problems, which are never the same in any two cities. The State at large demands the entire attention of the Legislature and yet about seventy-five per cent. of the time of every session is consumed in the consideration of bills designed to relieve this or that municipality when these same municipalities should be disposing of their own matters without hindrance to the Commonwealth.

REVISING UPWARD

ABOUT six weeks ago, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo issued his annual report which predicted a deficit of about \$185,000,000 for the fiscal year to end June 30, 1918. Now he is out with a statement to the effect that \$379,000,000 of additional funds must be raised for that year. It will be noticed that although the Wilson administration revised the import taxes downward, every time they revise their estimates of expenditures, they revise them upward.

CRIME AND THE SCREEN

TWO moving picture theaters at Uniontown were robbed during a fierce blizzard this week. Three safes were blown open and the robbers escaped with \$1,500 and valuable papers. These theaters are within 1,500 feet of each other.

Thus the film lessons in burglary bear fruit in the moving picture theaters, illustrating the force of publicity and the menace to public safety of many of the so-called dramas now presented upon the screens.

much more drastic supervision of the films will be necessary to prevent a serious depreciation of public morals. What has happened at Uniontown is likely to happen elsewhere and the blame must rest upon those responsible for educating the youth in crime.

WHAT ABOUT THE SQUARE

THROUGH the introduction in City Council of an ordinance providing for the employment of an expert to prepare plans for rerouting of traffic, an issue of safety and public comfort facilities in Market Square, the people of Harrisburg are squarely confronted with a proposition that has been incubating several years. It should now be threshed out and definitely settled. The people authorized an item of \$25,000 for this purpose in one of the earlier loans, but public sentiment has always been opposed to a public comfort station as the most conspicuous object in the city's main plaza. Until this week the municipal authorities have declined to take action.

City Commissioner Lynch, however, has finally been persuaded—but with a wry face—to start the ball rolling, and it may be imagined how cheerfully he presented the ordinance for an expert's services. Commissioner Lynch is not always strong for experts, albeit he recognizes their value in public comfort matters. Several experts have tried their hands on the Market Square problem, but when the final solution shall have been reached it will be through the counsel and experience of practical traffic authorities.

For after all, the people must understand that it is not a public comfort station in Market Square that must be provided; what is demanded is relief from intolerable traffic conditions. Whether the street cars shall run around an oval—otherwise an isle of safety—or in some other scheme of track rearrangement is the problem.

But popping up at every conference held under the auspices of the executive committee of the Municipal League is the little public comfort joker—the scheme for an overhead or underground, or partly overhead and partly underground, station with toilet facilities.

Shades of John Harris! The memory of the good old founder is perpetuated in the finest open plaza dedicated by him in the very heart of the city, not by a statue or other suitable memorial, but by a public comfort station! Under the circumstances, let us hope that Commissioner Lynch's ordinance may be made comprehensive and specific so that the expert engaged shall suggest an appropriate design for the thing to which our people will always be delighted to point with pride when showing visitors about the city.

All that aside, however, we should have some sane treatment of Market Square as to traffic provisions and an isle of safety. These ought to have been provided long ago; but why the "public comfort" rider is always attached to the propositions in face of public disapproval is difficult to understand.

Many admirable things have been done by the Municipal League. It has had an honorable part in all the public improvement work of the last sixteen years. There is yet an inviting, not to say clamorous, field for its important activities, but the urging of a public comfort station as one of the features of the proposed changes in Market Square is, in the judgment of many thoughtful citizens, a serious mistake.

Public comfort facilities are sorely needed, of course; but let these be provided in convenient locations where they will not evoke public ridicule. Council will do well to stop, look and listen before reaching a conclusion in this matter.

GETTING TOGETHER

FROM Albany comes news of a reconciliation between Governor Whitman and Colonel Roosevelt. Reconciliation among men who once bore the Republican name in common and have again taken up political comradeship has been fashionable since last June. It is a good example to follow.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Harmony in the Democratic State organization, which has been growing more or less obtrusive in the last month, seems to be on a fair way to be broken out among the factions over vacancies in the Federal service and some postmasterships which have not been agreed upon because bosses could not agree upon a selection. The State leaders were able to pacify the local leaders and in spite of the multitude of applicants for places managed to get a selection. The various meetings last year. They even kept the liquor question down and men who had been deadly rivals united under the stimulus of a national campaign.

When the Republican state leaders started to row over the speakership the Democrats fairly threw themselves upon the scene. The various meetings last year. They even kept the liquor question down and men who had been deadly rivals united under the stimulus of a national campaign.

The Philadelphia Press, always friendly to the reorganization crew, has this time taken a life in the Democratic ranks between the Old Guard and the Reorganizers, never actually concluded, although apparently paid in Spokane. The head of the Old Guard and State Committee Chairman Roland S. Morris retired as leader of the Reorganizers, his broken out against the struggle for the \$4,000 reappraisement post recently made vacant by the retirement of W. W. Roper. The slated candidate was announced by The Press, A. L. Moise, law partner of City Committee Chairman Edgar W. Lank. He has the backing of A. Mitchell Palmer.

Vigorous opposition to the Moise appointment, which his backers tried to have made before knowledge of his widespread, has broken out since publicity was given to it.

The Philadelphia Inquirer of to-day says: "A Penrose move to win the co-operation of the Democrats in the reorganization of the several departments in the Executive branch of the Government disclosed yesterday when Senator Penrose admitted that a proposition had been made that there be at least one Democrat appointed to the committee from the House upon the commission of the General Assembly to conduct the investigation. 'I think this is an eminently fair and proper suggestion,' said the senator, 'and believe it will be carried out.' The senator added that there had been no agreement as to the number of Democrats to be appointed on the commission. He said it was his intention to have the commission as small as possible, the exact number to be determined before Monday next, when the resolution will be voted on by the Senate. There are ten Democratic members of the Senate and thirty-seven Democrats are on the roll of membership of the House. The attitude of the Democrats has been clearly defined by the action of their caucus which was followed by the introduction of a resolution in the House by Representative Senator Frank B. Rowland, calling an investigation of the various charges made by Senator Penrose and others affecting the State administration and the Democratic party in full. The Democrats have not been in a categorical out of the probe that will aid them in the next gubernatorial campaign."

—Democrats in some of the cities of the State are not showing as much eagerness to spend their money for trips to the Wilson renaissance as they did four years ago and there are fears that the Philadelphia Inquirer, who has been a leading champion of the cause, that there will be a startling contrast between the Keystone State paraders of March and those of four years ago. Philadelphia is a city where the jobs are nearly all given out, there is little interest, and the Lackawanna and Luzerne contingents will be more of compliment to the men who worked them up in 1915 than in 1916. —Another thing which is disturbing the Democrats is that there is a pronounced division among some of them on the rank and file. The State leaders have no hope in the Democratic red-hot declarations of some candidates two years ago are not echoed by the rank and file. The fact that the Democratic party is divided on the proposition at the recent caucus in the Capitol is regarded as significant.

—The city of Uniontown has solved the much vexed question of where to locate its garbage plant by buying a plot some distance from the town. Altoona will probably do the same.

—The formal resignation of Banking Commissioner W. H. Smith was issued last night. It is less than twenty words.

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A Pittsburgh dispatch says: "All of the Allegheny county representatives who voted for the Republican caucus, and probably more, will back Senator Penrose to the limit in his announced plan to investigate at the State Capitol. Public Service Commissioner William A. Magee, ex-mayor, and chief Brumbaugh supporter here, is carefully laying lines to capture the majority for President J. E. Kerr. Pittsburgh's city council of nine at the nonpartisan primaries, in opposition to the regular organization forces headed by Mayor Joseph G. Armstrong, a staunch supporter of the senior senator. An investigation of the Public Service Commission, which would have to do largely with the political and other activities of Commissioner Magee, the anti-Magee people here figure, would keep Magee busy enough in Harrisburg so that he would have little time to direct the mayoralty campaign of his friend, Dr. Kerr."

A joint resolution of the General Assembly such as is proposed for the creation of the investigating commission requires the signature of the Governor to be effective. "I assume the Governor will affix his signature to the resolution," remarked Senator Penrose in Philadelphia last night, "as he has said he welcomes an investigation of his administration."

BUBBLES—THAT'S ALL



News Note.—Dr. J. T. Spangler, professor of philosophy at Lebanon Valley College and former pastor of First United Brethren Church of this city, says this is the age of frivolity.

COLONEL PRAISES STATE POLICE

PENNSYLVANIA will feel a thrill of pride in reading Theodore Roosevelt's introduction to "Justice to All," the story of the Pennsylvania State Police, now written for the first time and issued this week by a well-known publishing house. "This is a volume so interesting," says Colonel Roosevelt, "and from the standpoint of sound American citizenship, so valuable that it should be in every public library in the land." After reviewing some of the achievements of the force during the past ten years and commenting on the vividness, interest and accuracy of the work of the author, Miss Katherine Mayo, he speaks of his personal acquaintance with the rank and file of the force and concludes with exceptional praise of the entire personnel. "In 'Justice to All' the author has made the presentation of the facts relating to the organization and service of this alert and hard working department of the State government as interesting as the most thrilling detective story. Newspaper readers have heard of the acts of courage and heroism which have made a similar organization, the Northwestern Mounted Police of Canada, so well and favorably known, but few people realize that within Pennsylvania's own borders there is a force with an equally splendid record of every public work well done. The book will prove not alone entertaining but enlightening to thousands of these quiet businesslike men going about their duty of upholding the law. Major John C. Groome, Superintendent of the Department, says of the book: "The general public knows so little of the organization and daily work of the State Police Force that I am grateful to Miss Mayo for having presented the facts in such an accurate and interesting manner."

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Eggs mailed C. O. D. may reduce the H. C. L. but probably not P. D. Q. —N. Y. Sun. In justice to himself, ought Mr. Lawson to keep that secret corked up longer? Isn't he afraid he is going to burst?—Kansas City Star. The dollar that the merchant saves by not advertising is usually spent paying interest on the note made necessary to carry over the goods.—Chester Times. An ounce of preparedness is worth a barrel of pork.—Brooklyn Eagle. A plowshare beaten into a sword can not so easily be beaten back again.—Brooklyn Eagle. Admiral Dewey is 79 years old, but still looks like a lion in a den of Danieles.—Wall Street Journal. The Cause John Masefeldt, the famous English poet, has sent the United States a fact year's message, in spite of the fact that his services with the British Red Cross at Gallipoli and at the French front have been almost incessant, and he has had scant time for writing. Masefeldt has contributed a poem, "The Choice," to the January number of Contemporary Verse, issued January 18, the Philadelphia magazine devoted wholly to poetry, in which he prophesies the ultimate overthrow of all non-scientific forms of government and which concludes with an expression, well fitting the dawning year, of his courageous faith that the soul of man will soon weary of "the sack of many-peopled towns" and experience a new spiritual birth. Masefeldt's reception by audiences in this country, which he visited last year, during his convalescence from a fever contracted at the Dardanelles, was one of the most remarkable ever given a poet. All the halls at which he spoke were crowded to the doors and in Philadelphia the crush of his admirers was so great that his lecture had to be postponed until a larger auditorium could be found. His new poem follows: The Kings go by with jewelled crowns; Their horses gleam; their banners shake; their spears are many. The sack of many-peopled towns Is all their dream. The way they take Leaves but a ruin in the brake, And, in the furrow that the plowmen make, A stampt penny; a tale, a dream. The Merchants reckon up their gold; Their letters come; their ships arrive; Their freights are glorious. The profits of their treasures sold, They tell and sum. Their foremen drive Their laborers do but make the earth a live Of stinging stories; a tale, a dream. The Priests are singing in their stalls; Their singing lifts; their incense burns; Their praying clamours. Yet God is as the sparrow falls. The ivy drifts. The votive urns Are all left void when Fortune turns. The God is but a marble for the kerns To break with hammers; a tale, a dream. O Beauty, let me know again The green earth waters, the April rain, The quiet waters figuring sky, The one star risen. So shall I pass the feast Not touched by King, Merchant or Priest; Know the red spirit of the beast; Be the green grain; Escape from prison. —Copyright, 1917, by Contemporary Verse.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Boys at the Border To the Editor of the Telegraph: Please print the following in your paper and oblige Paul R. Miller, Company D, Eighth Regiment, it having been sent me by George H. Myers, of West Fairview: While tenting to-night on the Rio Grande Our boys of Company D Are anxious for their old home land, Their friends they long to see. Yet, there are prayers from their home land To guard them one and all Who volunteered with heart and hand, They answered to the call. May God's great blessing, great and small, Be with our boys, both short and tall, And may our blessings from home land Rest with our boys on the Rio Grande. A Cycle 'Tis Springtime in the heart When baby comes. The buds of love peep out, The birds sing round-a-bout When baby comes. 'Tis Summer in the heart When baby laughs; The flowers of joy unfold, The sunshine is pure gold, When baby laughs. 'Tis Autumn in the heart When baby weeps; Life's joy all turns to tears, It's loving hopes to fears, When baby weeps. 'Tis Winter in the heart When baby goes; The chill blasts of despair Strike life's tree, cold and bare, When baby goes. EDNA GROFF DELBERT, Paxtang, Pa. Written for the Telegraph. OUR DAILY LAUGH CUT FROM MENU. What are you paying for eggs? Nothing. They're too blamed high. MERE MAN'S OPINION. The average bachelor dinner, Or so one man decides. Is apt to be a winner And a better than a bride. DIVIDING THE SPOILS. Bug Burglars: Hey Squirrel!—crack this safe for us and we'll give you half!

Evening Chat

According to reports which are being received at the State Department of Agriculture attendance at the farmers' institutes this winter is greater than it has been for years, records being broken in some counties and even in severe weather the number of persons reported at meetings has been ahead of the average. The attendance in York and Lebanon counties was very high, while in Somerset county 8,000 persons attended the sessions. Dauphin reports a record-breaking attendance with big figures from Crawford, Fulton, Franklin, Schuylkill and Washington counties. In Lancaster county the attendance jumped from 5,400 to 7,400. State officials say that the increase in attendance is largely due to the interest in the propositions for forming co-operative associations for marketing of products in large lots and soil conservation.

It's odd how men will be in politics together for years and be active in the same part in the same district and yet never meet. Yesterday Fire Marshal G. Chal Port, who has been a figure in Huntingdon county politics for years, and D. Edward Long, the new superintendent of public printing and binding and leader in Franklin county Republican politics, for both were chairmen of their respective county committees at the same time and in the same congressional district.

A good story is being told about a visitor to the Capitol. This visitor came from the country and he looked the part. He asked to be shown the paintings and appeared to be specially interested in the series in the Governor's reception room. He stopped for some time in the big apartment and finally sat down to study the panels. A man came along and asked if he could tell him anything. The visitor remarked that the paintings interested him greatly and the other man started to tell him all about them. Then the visitor unlimbered and gave dates, facts and incidents of the life of William Penn. It turned out he was a Quaker and had made a study of the founder of the Commonwealth.

Lieutenant-Governor Frank B. McClain likes to keep things moving in a rapid and dignified way at the State Board of Pardons and yesterday he expressed his impatience with lawyers who moved simply to gain time. "It should be understood," said he, "that this board will not tolerate time-wasting tactics and that lawyers who file half of the papers in the case and then try for a continuance will find their cases stricken off the list. And they will not be restored except for good reasons."

Judge H. A. Miller, who figured in an interesting story from Wilkes-Barre the other day is well known to many here. The judge is one of the most painstaking of men, as people, who came in contact with him here during the stormy session of 1913 well know. But the latest incident must have riveted him. He was hearing a case when called to the telephone at the morning session as it was represented to be. It turned out to be a woman of whom he had never heard and she asked him how to make her son get up in the morning. The judge in a somewhat surprised, but advised the mother to throw water on him and courteously bade her good day. Then he went back to the trial of the case.

There is a sign at Fourth and Strawberry streets that announces that vehicles must not enter Strawberry from the west. It is a one-way highway. The other day a driver of a truck started in when he saw the sign. Instead of going around a block he ran the truck into the sign and was around. Then he backed into the smaller thoroughfare as far as the rear of the majestic theater.

There is no doubt that the old men who have taken the messenger boys' places are just as efficient and perhaps more so than the erstwhile boys, but have you ever noticed the change of attitude of the average businessman toward the new "boys"? Have you ever been in a busy crowded office when a messenger came in with a letter and the desk called out, "Well, couldn't you hurry that a little." Then did you ever watch his tone and manner change as he notices that instead of a messenger boy, an old man stands respectfully at his desk? How quick the tone changes as he asks, "Why, hello, Dad, how are you to-day?" Especially is this true if the waiting messenger wears the little button of the civil war veteran as some of them do. We as a nation are not any too much inclined toward respectful patriotism in our treatment of the old men coming to include in our ritual of reverence the "Boys who wore the Blue."

Ex-Senator C. R. Lantz, of Lebanon, who died in the State House before the State Board of Pardons. It was his first appearance before that tribunal in a long time.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—H. H. Mercer, who made the tile floor of the State Capitol has been re-elected president of the Bucks County Historical Society.

—United States District Attorney Kane as chairman of the State Board of Censors, is a historian of note and a personal friend of the Governor.

—Major R. W. Montellus, who resides from the National Guard, spent almost 22 years in the service.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg is rapidly coming to the front as a big car repair point?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG The first blast furnace in Harrisburg was built along Paxton creek.

Pennsylvania's Reforestation [New York Sun.] Pennsylvania has been making more progress, perhaps, than any other State in reforestation. Last year it planted 6,000,000 trees, almost as many as were planted upon denuded lands within the national forests. The result of careful planning is shown in the oldest plantation, made in 1902, 90 per cent of the trees, white pines, are alive, the largest being twenty feet high throughout the State 75 per cent. of the trees planted are alive, some of them having made the remarkable growth of forty-nine inches in a year. The averages are said to compare favorably with those of German forest which have been for a century or more under intensive management. The results have been so satisfactory as to establish the fact that reforestation solves the problem of reclaiming the 5,000,000 acres of barren land in the State.