

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

Published evenings except Sunday by THE TELEGRAPH PRINTING CO., Telegraph Building, Federal Square.

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Member American Newspaper Publishers' Association

Entered at the Post Office in Harrisburg, Pa., as second class matter.

By carriers, ten cents a week; by mail, \$5.00 a year in advance.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEB. 10.

An hour of solitude, passed in sincere and earnest prayer or conflict with, and conquest over, a single passion or subtle bosom sin, will teach us more of thought, will more effectively awaken the faculty and form the habit of reflection than a year's study in the schools without them.

EFFICIENT CITY GOVERNMENT

HARRISBURG is just beginning to get awake to the importance of the work of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research now going forward in this city under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce.

Through these surveys our citizens will have an opportunity of a more intimate view of conditions as they exist and it were folly for the Chamber of Commerce and the public-spirited men who have subscribed to the cost to expend the effort and the cash without definite results.

Harrisburg is ready for another long step forward and this step does not involve additional expense; it simply means that the people must take a hand in directing their own public business.

There has been a good deal of deception in the campaign for elimination of fraudulent food products, and it will soon become a question whether we shall be able to tell the true from the false.

PROPOSED VALLEY TERMINALS

IT is such friendly conferences as that held this week, with city officials, officers of the Municipal League and officials of the Valley Railways Company present, when the solving of traffic difficulties in Market Square was under discussion, that preserves public faith in the willingness of corporations to go a step beyond the actual necessities from their own point of view to co-operate for the best interests of the community at large.

The suggestion developed at that conference for the erection of a terminal station in Walnut street will benefit the public for the present at least far more than it will the company. Such a depot as will have to be erected will cost many thousands of dollars.

On the other hand, the city is wise in doing anything that will develop the West Shore as a residence district. If those who have their homes there can get to and from the big stores of the city easily, quickly and frequently, there will be no reason for the devel-

opment of a great central business section opposite Harrisburg. Always there will be the kind of stores and other business places that now exist and thrive there, and these should be encouraged as meeting urgent community needs, but if Harrisburg desires to remain the dominating business center it is to-day it must do just what is proposed—make some arrangement whereby 'cross river people can get into Harrisburg and out of it as easily and as cheaply as they can from any point within the city limits, Steelton or any of the other towns adjacent.

It is a happy condition when corporations, civic bodies and city officials all work together for the betterment of the municipality and it is hoped that nothing will arise to mar the present very pleasant relations in working out the problems at issue.

Monday evening an interesting ceremony will take place in the Senate Chamber, when Governor Brumbaugh, for the Commonwealth, will accept the mural paintings of Violet Oakley. These paintings have been veiled since placed in position, a few days ago, and there has been great interest in the showing of these unusual works of art.

WHY NOT HOME RULE?

SENATOR BEIDLEMAN introduces an amendment to the Clark act to correct an obvious defect in the jumble of legislation designed to regulate Harrisburg and other third-class cities, a member of the House introduces a bill further amending the act to permit cities to appropriate money for public band concerts, another legislator proposes in a third amendment that city controllers must sign all warrants and a fourth member wants to get through an amendment to allow cities to engage in the milk and coal business.

Surely the time has come for such home rule provisions as will give Harrisburg and other progressive cities the right to adopt their own charters, which will enable the municipalities now cramped and hindered to develop along legitimate lines, instead of halting and hesitating over legislative barriers which long since should have been removed.

HARRISBURG A STRATEGIC POINT

THE development of trans-Pennsylvania thoroughfares during the next year or two will place Harrisburg in a very enviable position, inasmuch as automobile travel toward this city will be increased in an extraordinary degree.

The William Penn Highway passes through Harrisburg. Travel over this road last year was 50 per cent. greater than in 1915. The Lincoln Highway passes through Lancaster, thirty-eight miles away; and this city and Lancaster are connected by an all-seasons road which Governor Brumbaugh believes should be called the "Penn-Lin Pike."

Both the Lincoln and William Penn Highways will receive added travel when the proposed Perry Highway is completed from Erie to Pittsburgh. There will be a continual procession of cars through this city on their way to and from New York, because the William Penn New York Extension, from Reading northeast through Easton to Newark, is a crossover of great merit.

The Pike's Peak Highway now proposes a Boston road, starting at Easton and passing through Stroudsburg to Goshen, N. Y.; thence north to Hartford, Conn., and Boston.

"UP TO THE KAISER"

THE Telegraph has received the following letter from one who signs himself "Pro-German":

Dear Sir: I don't like the unfair attitude of the German authorities toward us in the fact that they have warned us they will feel at liberty to do as they please and our own belief that they will, indeed, pay no regard to the ancient friendship between their people and our own or to the solemn obligations which have been between them and destroy American ships and take the lives of American citizens. The willful prosecution of the ruthless naval program they have announced their intention to adopt.

MARKET DAY IN HARRISBURG



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASHMAN AGAIN FALLS ASLEEP

Dear Sir—Space in your paper is quite valuable nowadays, but in view of the fact the Telegraph has done a great deal to make Harrisburg a progressive city, I believe it might be well to again give the city officials a tip that the ashman has again fallen asleep and some of the back yards on the Hill are again in position to take prizes. It is only a question of a few months till the City Health Department will bring to our attention the importance of having our back yards cleaned up. Now is a good time to clean up, if they will see the ashes are taken from the back yards now, it will be an easy matter to comply with their request in the spring. Let us hope this important matter will soon be adjusted. TAXPAYER.

Now For Real Preparedness!

[From the Kansas City Times.] Congress has the same duty to-day that it had before the country time—many that event has done no more than to make it clearer. A national defense law that will provide a first reserve of trained men, a trained reserve of citizens has been all along a necessity. It is not a question of whether we have an adequate army reorganization plan. Congress rejected the advice of the military experts and a year ago adopted a plan resting on a national militia upon a force that was neither national nor regular nor militia, a force under divided command, and not trained as a unit nor incorporated with regular army.

Breaking Down Roads

[From the Kansas City Times.] Nobody can watch a heavy truck pass over a city street or a country road without being impressed by the strain that the load imposes on the paving. Often the bucking is apparent to even casual observation.

Army Truck Like Tank

A half brother to the British tank is being used by the United States Army on the border to provision the troops in isolated districts. Two caterpillar engines of the type used in trench warfare on the west front in Europe have taken place of the mule train in the bad lands of the Bend district of Texas. One of the engines, which has a capacity of 120-horsepower, pulls five trailers, each of which carries ten tons of supplies, over a 66-mile route of the worst road in the Southwest, from Marfa to Presidio, Tex. A smaller tractor of 75-horsepower is used on the same route. Together they do the work of thirty-two transport wagons and carry 140 miles.

Eve's Skirts

Perhaps the language of oriental symbolism was never better imitated in the Anglo-Saxon tongue than when one of our prominent Bible students referred the other day to old Adam as hiding behind his wife's skirts.—Ohio State Journal. Man alive! It could not be done even in these modern times.—Toledo Blade

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Chances that the consideration of the Sproul resolution for the investigation of the State government might be laid aside on Monday night out of consideration for Lincoln's birthday rather detracted from interest in the probe to-day. Speaker Baldwin is said to be favorable to devoting the evening to a memorial to Lincoln rather than to a battle.

The State administration leaders will meet in Philadelphia to-day to decide how to meet the resolution on second reading, its next stage and the Penrose people are also having a council of war to push the matter. Reports that Penrose men contemplate dropping the resolution in favor of probes by fixed committees which could take up departments and suggest legislation have been denied. Senator Vane said yesterday that there were not enough votes in the Senate to override the Governor's veto, in case he disapproved of the measure. Penrose has been denied yesterday they believed the Governor would sign the measure. The Public Ledger says: "Senator McNichol is one of those who think that the Governor 'cannot afford' to use his veto power. He told members of the Senate at Harrisburg that the resolution, having been amended so that the commission would report by June 1, had been brought into line with the Governor's views."

Plans for some material changes in the methods of making appropriations for consent funds are being made by legislators. The chairman of the committees have been analyzing the figures submitted by Harry S. McDevitt, counsel of the Economy and Efficiency Commission, and it is likely that the mileage bureau suggested for the Auditor General's Department may be brought before the Legislature. The contingent funds may be put under general control of the fiscal authorities and drawn upon as needed instead of being parcelled out among departments and accounted for long after being used.

It is a well-known fact that audits of some contingent funds are not made for six months after the bills are paid. Of course, the State has a check in the surcharge system, but such funds have been the prime cause of most of the complaints about the State government.

Governor Brumbaugh is expected to make an appointment of a judge for Schuylkill county very soon. There are fifteen or sixteen men whose names have been under consideration.

Old John Barleycorn is getting his raps. Eight saloons are to be wiped out in Philadelphia because of the parkway and will have no place to go. Miffin and Junata hotel men will not ask licenses. Snyder county sales are as restricted as in Bradford and Lackawanna liquor men are getting after their own people who do not observe the law and in Sullivan and Columbia counties the move against liquor will crop up again in court.

The belief is that Chairman Wagner, of the House law and order committee, who has decided to report out the local option bill with a negative recommendation, will be prevailed upon to change his mind about not giving a hearing. The local option hearings in recent years have been much the same and nothing that can be said by local option men this session can change things, but a hearing will give a chance to get on record and to start all over again for 1919, forgetting the blunders and the snafus of local option last year. What local option needs is nonpartisanship, say observers, just as the liquor people are nonpartisan in their opposition to local option. When advocates of local option start to play partisan politics they rock the boat.

India's War on Rats

In India the unions have committees to look after the grounds of a church to beautify the graveyards where their comrades and elders sleep, to care for the famine sufferers out of their own scanty supplies. In the time of the great plague, so-called "rat-tan" committees were formed, composed largely of the boys of the societies, whose duty it was to kill as many rats as possible getting the blunders and the snafus to house, and to produce, as proofs of their faithfulness to their task, the tails of the rats that they had killed.—The Christian Herald.

MISS CLEVELAND AT THE FRONT

German Shells Burst Around the Late President's Daughter; Managing Institute For Blinded Soldiers

How Miss Esther Cleveland, daughter of the late President, has fared on the Somme front, where she saw the war at first hand in company with Miss Winifred Holt, is told for the first time by Miss Holt, who has just returned to New York City after spending a year and a half in relief work in France. The following interview, with her appears in the New York Journal:

I believe that we were the only women to get on the firing line along the Somme," Miss Holt said. "It was a thrilling sensation. With special passes we motored to the Somme sector under the safeguard of the general commanding, and with a staff officer went to the great headquarters of that district. Just as we arrived the news came of the recapture of Vaux at Verdun, and the general told us that we were the emissaries of good fortune. We went out into the trenches under fire. I saw one huge shell burst a short distance in front of us, killing several men. We were taken through the trenches and saw all the wonderful system of carrying on war, being shown about everywhere. Miss Holt gave some interesting details of the work done at the Phare de France, in Paris. "Three hundred men have been taught useful occupations at the Phare," Miss Holt said. "We have helped three thousand more partly blinded men and men suffering from wounds in the head, and we have helped the blind in fifty other hospitals, besides co-operating with all the other institutions. Contrary to reports that have been given out there are only two thousand men in France that have been totally blinded by wounds received in the war." She said that many men who in the first stage of their blindness were in utter despair and even threatening suicide had been reassured that life still held something worth while for them, and were now useful citizens, self supporting and working hard for themselves and for France. She added that she was over here for a short vacation and would then return. Miss Holt said that she had left Miss Cleveland, who has been acting as her secretary, in charge of the work in Paris.

A Sailor's Song

My ship's in the harbor, I'm home from the sea; I'm glad to be home, But the winds that blow free From the ocean Are bidding me roam; My ship's in the harbor, I'm glad to be home. And yet the dry land Is a cramped sort of place To one who can roam O'er a limitless space; The sunshine seems brighter Out there on the foam My ship's in the harbor, I'm glad to be home. My ship's in the harbor, I'm home from the sea; And yet—am I home? When the winds that blow free Keep calling me, calling me, Bidding me roam? Ah, God of the ocean, —Margaret E. Sangster, Jr., in The Christian Herald.

Sadness of a Wedding

There is something sad about a wedding. The young groom is leaving a home in which he always has had his way, and is going into one in which he never will have his way. Although his parents do not go through the formality of giving him away at the altar, they know well enough that in a few minutes he will be a son-in-law to another woman, while to them he is nothing but a son. There he comes, with another man holding to his arm. It looks as if he might have made an attempt to escape, and that the strong best man captured him and brought him back. He is as happy as he is nervous, and so trustful that he has no fear for the future.—Claude Callan in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Sidelights on History

A girl was required to write a brief sketch of Queen Elizabeth. Her paper contained this sentence: "Elizabeth was so dishonest that she stole her soldiers' food." The teacher was puzzled and called the girl. "Where did you get that notion?" "Why, that's what it says in the history." The book was sent for and the passage was found. It read: "Elizabeth was so parsimonious that she even pinched her soldiers' rations."—New York Tribune.

By Your Good Works

Dear loved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that whereas they speak against you as evil doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.—I Peter 2: 11-12.

Evening Chat

Few hotels in Pennsylvania occupy sites so long used for tavern, inn or hotel purposes as the Commonwealth, which is announced as soon to be converted to general business uses. Under various names the corner of Market Square and Market street has had a hotel site for probably 125 years. In some of the older cities of the State there are plots which have been continuously occupied by hotels for possibly a longer period. One of the rural taverns near Philadelphia can show longer histories under their own names and in one location. But sites in cities continuously used for one establishment were not common. The first building on the site of the Commonwealth was a store which had attached to it a warehouse where iron made at Cornwall was stored. Henry Belton, a rural tavern near Philadelphia, was the first ancestor of the Commonwealth was probably the Indian Chief. Later there was a hotel known as the Dauphin on or near the site. But the tavern became best known after the visit of George Washington to this city on his way to Western Pennsylvania to quell the whisky insurrection. This was early in October, 1794. In honor of the event the hotel was given the name of Washington and the swinging sign showing the general, which is mentioned in some early description of the town, was then erected. Washington addressed the people from the Market street side of the hotel and the stepping stone or horse block where he stood was secured some years ago and placed in the custody of the Dauphin county historical society by the late William A. Kelker. About the time of the Washington Centennial Andrew Lee took charge of the hotel and being a gentleman of many social qualities he made it so noted that it was well identified by travelers and in the conversation of the townspeople as Lee's hotel as much as the Washington. The old brick building endured until after the War of 1812, when it was the headquarters of officers who came to organize the defense against the British in case they got above Baltimore. Tradition says General Jacob Brown, the Pennsylvania volunteer who commanded the American army, stayed there. The Washington House was the headquarters for many prominent State officials and legislators when William Henry Harrison was numbered among the men who stopped there. It was a political headquarters then as now and survived a few more names until the fifties when it was rebuilt as the Lee Hotel. It entertained General Zachary Taylor and Albert Edward, when Prince of Wales slept there. The visit of Abraham Lincoln is part of the history of Harrisburg and the stirring events of his sojourn and the council presided over by Governor Curtin and its sequel are well known. In the eighties the hotel passed into the hands of one of the Leids, a family noted hotel people, and bore that name until 1891 when the Fleming estate, its owners, remodeled and enlarged it and gave it the name of the McCormick estate acquired the property in 1903.

To enumerate the part the Commonwealth has played in political life in Pennsylvania would be to reprint the politics of the State for the last forty years. In our time it has been the headquarters of most of the leaders of the party, the Hunter regime, Senator Cameron and Senator Quay clung to the Lochiel. The Jones, as it was then, was sort of the headquarters of the party. When it was enlarged and named the Commonwealth it soon became the center of political activity in times of conventions, meetings of State Conventions and the like. Nos. 21 and 23 have been the headquarters of Senator Penrose and of many men who have won in strenuous battles of the historic and their work could tell the story of politics, while the registers of the hotel for the last quarter of a century contain the names of the biggest men in Pennsylvania and many visitors of national fame.

The hotels on that corner have had some famous landlords. Captain Lee was a revolutionary soldier and came here when the town was laid out. He made his tavern the center of social life and the dances and entertainments given at Captain Lee's. Various famous names have been held regularly and the social activities of the old Washington or Captain Lee's as it was often called, may be repeated at the Penn Hotel when it rises to its former famous old hotel corner. The captain was a man of much enterprise and was as noted as a hotel man in the closing days of the eighteenth century when his successor of the nineties—James Russ.

During the recent convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at Washington several Harrisburgers employed their leisure moments in practical jokes at the expense of each other. One of these pranks involved the sending of a considerable telegram marked collect by a prominent Harrisburger to one of his associates in Washington. But the joke proved a boomerang for the Harrisburger since the collect message, as the telegram was not delivered to the victim in Washington, but was returned to the sender in Harrisburg "collect." This incident has furnished a lot of amusement for the group which is in the secret.

In his delightful lecture at the Y. W. C. A. building the other evening Mr. Ellsworth, president of the Century company referring in complimentary terms to the place which Helen H. Martin had carved for herself in the temple of contemporary authors. His tribute was the occasion of a lively salvo of applause from Mrs. Martin's friends in the audience.

Admiral J. William Bowman, of the Harrisburg Navy, will be receiving a lot of advice from his friends in Harrisburg regarding a probable marine campaign in the Susquehanna basin. Mr. Bowman is somewhat of a practical joker himself and has accepted with resignation the suggestions which have reached him in one form or another.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—State Librarian Montgomery has been asked to make a series of addresses before state historical societies. —Senator F. D. I. is being urged by business men's associations than any man in Philadelphia. —Postmaster A. S. Guffey, of Pittsburgh, is trying to find places to establish new parcel post stations. —Wayne Fry, Washington county banker, is home from a trip to the war zone in the interest of foreigners employed by companies in his district. —The Rev. H. S. Durring, of Philadelphia, well known here, is seriously ill.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg sells tons of hay for export purposes every year? HISTORIC HARRISBURG French traders were so indignant that Harris should take the ferry here 200 years ago that they stirred up Indians to pick fights with Harris' men.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

SWIMMING TIME. Mr. Waterbug: Come on in, fellows, the coffee's fine.

WORK vs. PLAY.

It didn't work. What didn't? My scheme for playing the stock market.

THEIR DESTINATION.

Where do you suppose baseball umpires go when they die? It depends largely on whether they follow the advice of the bleacherites.

WHY?

Mike: My lungs are very bad. Every time I breathe it hurts me somethin' awful. Dennis: Why d'ye do it, then?

GOOD SHOT.

Mr. Bug: Roosevelt ain't the only fellow who can snoot lions. See me pop that dandelion.

BROKE.

Come on Bill. Join us in a little game of poker. Sorry, boy, but I can't. Why not? Your wife is in the country. Yes, so is my salary.

By Your Good Works

Dear loved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that whereas they speak against you as evil doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.—I Peter 2: 11-12.