

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 22

Our wants have all been felt our errors made before.

-MATTHEW ARNOLD.

ALL FOR ONE; ONE FOR ALL

AMERICANS are prone to family quarrels. We have our differences—political, industrial and personal, and we some times come to blows. But let anybody from the outside threaten to get into our own private little melee and lo, what a remarkable change comes instantly to pass.

No better illustration of this very admirable national trait may be found than the appointment yesterday by Governor Brumbaugh of a committee of prominent Pennsylvanians to mobilize the industries and resources of Pennsylvania for the defense of the nation.

UNIVERSAL TRAINING

MUCH has been said for and against universal military training—mostly for—in the series of interviews and letters now running in the TELEGRAPH.

Another objection that has been raised is that such an army might be rushed into war at the behest of any hot-headed President so minded.

These things cannot be decided in a day. There will be many differences of opinion. Debate is to be expected. Snap judgment is not to be countenanced.

PIFFLE!

OF all the piffle that has come out of Europe since the beginning of the great war—and there has been enough and to spare—the press agent story from Berlin with which some newspapers decorated their first pages yesterday is the worst.

might the more easily go forward to Paris. The tale is preposterous; just how much so is shown by to-day's dispatches showing that the French have forced the Germans to what they have long avoided—open field fighting.

SOME ACTION AT LAST

THE proclamation of the President advancing the special session of Congress to April 2 is a step in the right direction.

The decision of the President to get Congress together earlier than was intended looks very much like a sop to popular clamor. Wisely or unwisely, the executive has been much slower than the country to respond to the intolerable conditions brought about by German disregard for American rights on the sea.

But there is no good in fault-finding, except as newspaper criticism unquestionably has had a large part in spurring President Wilson to hasten somewhat his dilatory preparations for war.

Aside from the declaration that a state of war exists—a mere formality to give national recognition to a condition that even now exists—Congress in extra session will be called upon to decide questions of even more far-reaching importance than armed conflict with Germany.

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OH, MAN!



Labor Notes

Toronto cloak cutters are 97 per cent organized.

Union painters in Chicago got 70 cents an hour.

Greece has enacted civil service retirement legislation.

Tunnel workers in Arizona have an eight-hour day.

Increased pay has been granted Toronto (Canada) policemen.

Kansas had 54 coal mine fatalities last year.

Many Canadian manufacturers have agreed to give preference to returned soldiers in filling vacancies.

A West Virginia law provides that checkweighmen shall be placed at mine tips.

President William D. Mahon, of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, has been selected by the executive council of the A. F. of L. as successor to the late Dennis A. Hayes.

Kansas City (Mo.) local central body favors the principles of trade unionism being taught in the public schools and has asked every member of organized labor to petition the board of education to this effect.

A bill has been introduced in the California Legislature that would increase wages of compositors, pressmen and bookbinders employed in the State Printing Office from \$5 to \$5.50 a day.

The international executive board of the United Mine Workers' union has inaugurated a vigorous organizing campaign in the coal fields, and has placed this work in charge of a permanent committee on organization.

The United States produced 477,000,000 tons of coal in 1912, though employing only 723,000 men in the industry, while Britain, with 1,069,000 coal miners, brought only 260,000,000 tons to the surface.

In Arabia the pay of cooks and house servants runs from \$8.30 to \$12.50 per month. Other daily wages are as follows: Carpenters, 50 to 55 cents; masons, 35 to 50 cents; coal coolies, 25 cents; day laborers, 10 to 15 cents.

Officials of the New York State Federation of Labor are arousing trade unionists to the danger of a constabulary bill being passed at this session of the State Legislature.

The Locomotive Engineers' Mutual Life and Accident Insurance Association, conducted by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, protects its members at a less cost than old-line companies.

For An April Inauguration

Every four years an agitation is started for changing the date of inauguration, without result.

There is no reason whatever for continuing the present date, and there are plenty of good ones for a change to April 30, when Washington was first inaugurated.

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Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Stories that in spite of the apparent "harmony" existing between potential State senators, and the intimation from Senator Penrose that he is going to await developments, some quiet investigations are under way on Capitol Hill, have excited more than one man active in the politics of the State and Democratic leaders are reported to be tearing their hair because they fear someone is going to turn up something which they would like to employ for campaign thunder.

The general "probe" is on the table in the Senate, where it went when the Governor sent in his veto message, and no action has apparently been taken by standing committees to make inquiries into the conduct of any of the departments. The legislators have been letting out their feelings in regard to factional politics in debates on bills, such as that on the Philadelphia measure to take the police and firemen out of politics, while the leaders have been going around arm in arm.

Late last night it leaked out that one of the reasons for the feverish night work in some of the departments was because the appropriations committees had adopted John R. K. Scott's famous method in the session of 1915 when every dollar of each contingent fund was spent. It was a rare occasion for Scott, who was then off the reservation, but his plan has been put on rubber tires and worked behind closed doors this winter.

Some time ago it was openly declared by Penrose men that they were going to cut contingent appropriations down to the bones. Having the power in committees, they could do so without much trouble, but administration men promptly came back with the assurance that they would interfere with the public business if they persisted in punitive measures.

The latest information is that the pruners and cutters of contingent funds have been seeking justification and from some reports have turned up very interesting matters which will be made public one of these days. The Economy and Efficiency Commission in making up the budget has been careful in dealing with contingent funds, too.

Governor Brumbaugh is still sitting tight on his appointments and although he has been in conference with senators on the situation in regard to recess selections, not sent to the Senate he has not indicated what he will do. The senators, however, have said what they are going to do. The Governor would like to get his freedom of appointment, but he dislikes to have them embarked upon an uncertain sea.

Auditor General-elect Snyder, who was inclined to be belligerent some time ago over the failure to send in appointments, has decided to wait until he is the man on the watch tower. It is possible that something may happen between now and that first Monday in May when Snyder will succeed A. W. Powell. The Legislature will not adjourn until after Snyder takes his new office.

Auditor General Powell says he will make his report to the Senate and House on the employment of experts in his office and that he will show all this to his constituents. It is said that \$100,000 of the \$29,000 secured by Powell in the deficiency bill will be spent for the experts.

The Copperhead

His name is lost to history, but he deserves a monument. I mean the man who first nailed the word copperhead to a traitorous act.

The word came in during the Civil War, and, as everybody knows, was applied in the North to Southern sympathizers. The word has slept for thirty years or more, since reconstruction days. Now copperhead bobs up again in type and cartoon. It is the most bitter political epithet used anywhere in the world.

The copperhead is one of the three fatally poisonous snakes in all North America. It is especially prevalent in Pennsylvania. Early settlers called it the pilot snake. They insisted that the pilot or copperhead always traveled ahead of the rattlesnake, and hence the name pilot.

To be a human copperhead has a particular reason for loathing the copperhead a little more than he does the rattler. The latter sounds his venomous and hissing alarm before he strikes, but the copperhead attacks in stealth. One is an open foe and the other, which is quite as deadly, a hidden and so more treacherous foe.

To be a human copperhead thus signifies a degree of loathsomeness never contained in the name Tory of Revolutionary times.—Girard, in the Philadelphia Ledger.

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

MUSICAL HARRISBURG

To the Editor of the Telegraph:

As a loyal Harrisburg, I was shocked recently to overhear a conversation of two men sitting behind me on a train Philadelphia. They were evidently musicians, possibly improvisers, and were discussing the drawing qualities of various great artists. Finally, one of them said, "Kreisler! he'd pack his houses anywhere. He's such a wizard."

"Except in Harrisburg!" replied his companion.

"Harrisburg!"—and the tone made me wince. "You never can tell what that town will do. I'd rather take chances with places half its size when it comes to making good music pay. Blank (naming a famous improviser), says he'll blacklist them soon."

I indignantly entered the conversation and told them a few home truths on the audiences we had given at Gluck, Paderewski, Gogorzi and Eames, Nordica, and other great artists, but I fear I left them unconvinced of the real musical appreciation in Harrisburg.

This comment so often heard has become a reproach to us. We stand for such big things in civics and philanthropy that we cannot afford to fail in the best music.

I, therefore, ask the TELEGRAPH to help in a crusade to reverse this judgment.

There is an opportunity at hand this week. We have the privilege of hearing three of the most popular and pleasing grand operas, "Rigoletto," "Tales of Hoffman" and "Il Trovatore," presented by the San Carlo Grand Opera Company, an organization which has had the unique experience of being the one traveling grand opera company that has not filed lamentably in one, or at most two, seasons.

When the immense cost of producing grand opera is considered, also the increasing intolerance of any but the best music, the San Carlo Grand Opera company grows in favor each season is surest proof of the kind of opera it gives. Owing to the European war the cost this year is stronger than ever before.

There is no question of the merit of the opera to be given; the only question is: "How will Harrisburg welcome it?" With such crowds as in Washington after six days of the San Carlo repertoire, compelled an extra performance last Sunday night at the Belasco Theater? With such eagerness as in Pittsburgh, turned eight hundred disappointed music lovers from the doors when Rigoletto was played? With the packed houses that in York, Altoona, Johnstown showed the appreciation of the people for high-class opera?

I hope so. We do not want the distinguished singers who form this company to feel that our city is musically backward—or six days of the San Carlo repertoire, compelled an extra performance last Sunday night at the Belasco Theater?

We want the opportunity to hear good operas well sung; and we want those opportunities to be recurrent.

FROM ONE WHO KNOWS.

"Boche"

The proclamation by a Munich newspaper of the German purpose to murder American sailors serving as gun crews on American ships is interesting and educational. It is interesting as it discloses the German mind anew, and educational as it explains much in the European point of view that has puzzled many Americans.

The war has enriched the vocabularies of civilized nations with a new word. The adjective "boche" means in French and in English alike a characteristic German thing done in a typically German way.

By way of example, one might speak of the destruction of Louvain the atrocities committed upon Belgian and French women and children as deeds essentially "boche." The Lusitania was a "boche" performance in the most unmistakable degree.

The appellation "Hun" claimed for the German people by the Kaiser and temporarily adopted by some Englishmen tends to become obsolete. London, like Paris, now invariably refers to the German as "boche." Evidently there is a desire on the part of Germans to establish the term in America.

This will not be difficult. A few more murders, a little more barbarism, and "boche" will be as well established in the United States as in Western Europe. And it will be for us, as it has been for the French and the British, a new word made necessary by the appearance of a phenomenon unknown to recent generations. C'est boche, the French say of certain things otherwise indescribable. As usual, they have found the necessary word.—The New York Tribune.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

SECOND CHOICE.

Is your husband interested in the war news?

Yes, indeed. He always reads it the very first thing after the baseball scores.

PLAYING SAFE.

It isn't easy to talk to a pretty girl in leap year.

Huh! You want to say something tender and at the same time non-committal.

NEUTRAL.

I understand McCole's matrimonial difficulties have been settled.

Yes, his wife's relatives have agreed to maintain strict neutrality.

Evening Chat

One of the things which must have impressed people who attended the hearing held yesterday afternoon on the Vickersman local option bill, and there were a number of Harrisburgers in the audience of the nine speakers on the measure, was the general recognition that prohibition is coming.

For years the advocates of legislation to further restrict the liquor traffic have been coming here advocating local option. For a time the small units were favored. Lately the county unit has been to the front. In fact, ever since the appearance of the Fair bill some years ago the local optionists have been committed to the county as the unit—two years ago the suggestion that prohibition either in the form of a general law for the State or by districts or an amendment to the constitution was not well received. Everyone was then for local option by counties. Yesterday speakers openly declared that prohibition was the solution and some of the speakers said it was coming within a few years. It sounded rather strange to hear local option advocates saying that. There were intimations from some of the speakers against the spread of prohibition and that they considered such an issue one which should be fought out rather than local option.

The arguments heard yesterday were different from those with which advocates of local option have regaled legislators for years. To begin with the Anti-Saloon League, for the first time in years, had no conspicuous place in the list of speakers. The addresses of Secretary Landis, of the State Sunday school association, the biggest and most effective organization of its kind in the country and of Governor Brumbaugh were most effective. This Governor took occasion to pay his regards to those who have hinted that he has grown lukewarm and his declaration of advocacy of local option was about all that any one could ask for. Charles P. O'Leary, a Scranton lawyer, who closed for the opponents of the bill, made the best of the wrong side of the argument as Harrisburg people familiar with his legislative and legal work would be sure to note. It was unfortunate that the feelings of the advocates of local option got away with them when Mr. O'Malley was speaking and they hissed, but his rebuke made even the speakers and leaders of the temperance movement smile. He said that people who hissed put themselves on the level of those who would not give the measure a chance as a means of making themselves heard—the snake and the goose.

Local option will be fought out about Tuesday. It is the plan to make the fight on it on second reading in the House and the "wet" element insists that its fate is certain. Local option has not been the feature of the session that it was last year when it was the big thing about the Legislature until child labor and workmen's compensation bills got under way. This is largely due to the result of the legislative elections. The advocates of the bill awaited developments and when none came decided to have a hearing. The hearing was really more to start things moving for next year's campaign and some legislators sat up and took notice when J. Denny O'Neil announced the other evening that he proposed to introduce a bill on local option before the primary election was held next spring.

When the local option bill is out of the way legislators and those who follow the Legislature know that the turn in the session has been reached. For years the advocates of local option have kept it up in the air and in the ground. They have been a constant interest and in some cases pressure on legislators. The bill has generally been allowed to slumber for a few weeks at a time. The hearing has been held. Local option will be out of the way soon and the business of the present session ought to start to shape itself, for which many will be thankful.

In connection with local option it is interesting to note that one of the speakers on the measure was John A. McParan, master of the State Grange. McParan spoke on three bills here this week and two last week. He has been an advocate of local option for years and is the Grangers' representative here. "I have to keep posted on most half of the bills introduced and be ready to speak on almost anything at the drop of a hat," he said. "This session I spoke on dairy inspection and local option within twenty-four hours."

One of the funniest Capitol Hill stories came out yesterday. A man met a deaf and dumb man in the corridor. The man wrote down where around again when he struck the other found that the man in charge had poor eyesight and not having the glasses he needed with him could not read what the deaf and dumb man wrote in the form of a request for information. So the man who had volunteered to act as escort had to take what the mute wrote and read it to the man with poor eyes.

Search of old law books shows that restrictive measures on liquor have appeared in the Legislatures regularly for fifty years. Ever since the Civil War there has been a gradual move to check liquor sales and this State has had a varied amount of legislation.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Nathan T. Folwell, prominent manufacturer of Philadelphia, is being congratulated upon his 75th birthday.

—P. Ker, head of the new Western Pennsylvania and Ohio steel combine, is an enthusiastic golfer.

—W. H. Donner, the steel manufacturer, is planning big things for one of his plants near Buffalo.

—Ralph M. Campbell, of New Castle, is being boomed for president of the State organization of the Sons of Veterans.

—Congressman H. W. Temple in his address at Pittsburgh upheld the right to arm ships. He is a college professor and a years' student since the Civil War.

—George Wharton Pepper, chairman of the defense committee, is a Plattsburg graduate.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg is one of the State's big centers of distribution of foodstuffs?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

The first firehouse in Harrisburg was located on the river front.

Misanthropy

"You always speak kindly of the absence of,"

"Yes," replied Miss Cayenne; "some tiresome people's absence is so desirable that I am willing to offer inducements."—From the Washington Staq