

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1917... The country is the fairest which is peopled with the happiest men.—EMERSON.

CURB THE BRIDGE

ANOTHER tragedy was occurred on the Mulberry street bridge, and it will not be the last unless a curb or railing of sufficient height and strength is erected on each side of the roadway to protect the sidewalks from the encroachment of vehicular traffic.

Without thought of adversely criticizing the designers of the viaduct, which is as handsome a piece of architecture as there is in the country, it must be admitted that the bridge is dangerous as it stands. As occurred last night, there is absolutely no protection for the pedestrian when a truck or automobile becomes unmanageable and runs over the curb.

If a low wall or strong iron railing were erected between the sidewalk and the street all future trouble of this sort would be avoided and more than one life saved. When the bridge was built the automobile had not come into such general use as at present and danger from that source was inconsiderable. But now the peril is real and growing and Council should take up at once the matter of proper protection.

The lives of thousands of Harrisburgers are endangered there every day. To-day, to-morrow, or any other day another such accident may occur as that which resulted in the death of a young woman last evening. The condition is such that it demands immediate remedy. The wonder and pity is that we have permitted it to exist so long.

But this is not the only danger from automobiles that exists in Harrisburg. Chief Wetzel has formulated a set of very useful hints for automobilists and the Motor Club of Harrisburg has had a hand in traffic regulation, but there are scores of motorists in the city who pay absolutely no attention to anything but their own desire for unrestrained speed. Unless an example is made of these, distressing accidents will result. Some of the streets are now so dangerous that old people cross them with difficulty and even men and women, strong, active and ordinarily well able to take care of themselves, are fearful every time they use them.

SOME SYSTEM NECESSARY... reports coming to this city are correct the attempt to take the soldiers' vote at the various encampments was a fair example of the hit and miss manner a Commonwealth unused to war and commotion has to adopt to meet a situation growing out of modern military conditions. It was the duty of the State to furnish its citizens with means to vote, but after the experience of 1916 in Pennsylvania a better system might have been devised. The Legislature, which adjourned last summer, stood ready to enact such laws as were needed and provided funds, but the subject did not get the attention which some people think that it should have received.

Chances are that the war will be going on when the time comes to vote for Governor next November, and it may be still going in November, 1919. If the soldiers are to be given what is termed "the inalienable right of franchise" there should be some more efficient system than that used last week. The plan was thought out and the instructions issued to the commissioners definite and complete—as far as the State Capitol was concerned. But, from what the commissioners say, when they reached the camps they had to work out their own salvation. It seems that all of the thinking about the voting was done at this end. No one appears to have taken into account the conditions at the camps, and the stress of war training; men unfamiliar with camp life trying to adapt themselves to an existence totally different from that from which they had gone within a few days, the lack of interest on the part of a large portion of the men who had made great sacrifices for the nation in the election at all and the absence of records showing where men lived. Even the candidates and their workers, presumed to represent the last word in political enterprise, were off their jobs and did not realize what things were like at the camps until too late. Then, too, there is criticism of some of the commissioners, but that is apt to be voiced about any men no matter by whom named.

As we live and learn, maybe we will be in better shape to take soldier votes next year, when the difficulties will not be so great because it will be a purely State election, and it will not be the last unless a curb or railing of sufficient height and strength is erected on each side of the roadway to protect the sidewalks from the encroachment of vehicular traffic.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The Supreme Court is once more the center of interest in Pennsylvania political affairs because of the proposition presented in a Lackawanna county appeal. Its action will govern not only in the strenuous hard coal region, but in Philadelphia and other alleged peaceful communities where contests are being made over the results. It is said among attorneys who follow election cases that the Supreme Court will probably make rulings which will not only tend to simplify matters in regard to the present laws, but plainly indicate that something will have to be done by the next Legislature toward giving the state a new code of statutes governing everything from ambitions to official counts.

The soldiers' vote, on which commissioners have until November 23 to certify returns, will probably cause additional complications owing to close contests and their uncertainties. The Supreme Court yesterday ordered a ballotbox brought into the election court of Lackawanna county and suspended pending a decision as to whether the box may be opened by the election court upon the filing of a petition alleging palpable fraud or mistake, without the submitting of evidence to sustain such an averment. One ballotbox was opened in Philadelphia on last Saturday, but only upon the affidavit of an election overseer. The court took action on an appeal from the Quarter Session of the election court of Lackawanna county. The case was argued by Thomas Thomas, of the First ward, of Dickson city. Thomas was one of four candidates for the office of School Director and his three opponents were returned as elected. A petition was filed with the court by Thomas alleging palpable fraud and asking that the list be set aside. The court granted the petition and ordered the ballots cast to be counted. The case was argued by Thomas Thomas, of the First ward, of Dickson city. Thomas was one of four candidates for the office of School Director and his three opponents were returned as elected. A petition was filed with the court by Thomas alleging palpable fraud and asking that the list be set aside. The court granted the petition and ordered the ballots cast to be counted.

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IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES

BY BRIGGS



"TRENCH GOSSIP" "Trench gossip is a fearsome and uncanny thing," says Ian Hay (Major Beth) in "All In It," the continuation of "The First Hundred Thousand," just published by Houghton Mifflin Company. "It usually begins life at the 'refilling point' where the A. S. C. motorlorries dump down next day's ration, and the regimental transport picks it up."

"Puss' Pedigree" "TAME cats are the descendants of wildcats, but apparently not of any one variety. Tabby is an animal of mixed blood, and not simply a common European wildcat, domesticated in prehistoric times, as used to be supposed. A writer in the Journal of Heredity, Washington, tells us that the probable ancestor of most domestic cats is a yellowish cat with tiger stripes, felis lybica, which still roams about northeastern Africa, hunting nocturnally at night and living in holes dug by other animals. It is but slightly larger than the domestic cat, and often marked similarly, although the coloring is usually lighter and more tiger-like than that of the 'tabby.' There is no more differentiation, however, than often appears between house cats living in the same block of a city street. He goes on: "Some thousands of years before the advent of the modern era, Egypt was a land of storerooms overflowing with the rich produce of the fertile Nile valley. Rats and other vermin, which were so available and no shelter so safe as that furnished by the Egyptian granaries, it is probable that the first attempts at domestication of the cat occurred when, specimens of felis lybica, which abounded in the region, were caught and locked up in the grain storerooms. The members of the species which were so confined, and which were as a result mummified with as much ceremony as were men, finally which lost a by death still their eyebrows and went into deep mourning. A cemetery was recently discovered at Bubastis which yielded several hundred thousand such mummies, many of them preserved with elaborate care. The present inhabitants of the country took sufficient interest in the feline remains to dispose of them as fertilizer at \$15 per ton. "Perhaps the next nation to become interested in the newly domesticated animal was Phoenicia. The Phoenicians must have been greatly troubled with rats aboard their ships, and found the cats a help in protecting the pantry. In their travels the Phoenicians evidently took the Egyptian cats to all parts of the then known world, so that many species of wildcats now existing along the Phoenician trade route are believed to be the first descendants, either direct or crossed with indigenous cats of the locality, of the Phoenician ratkillers. "The Greeks probably had no cats. The allures which they kept on board their ships for killing rats seems to have been the white-breasted martin (mustelid), although the word 'cat' is frequently though erroneously used in translating the Greek term. But the Romans evidently possessed them, and it is probable that from Rome they were carried northward. As soon as the domestic cat became established in Europe it began to cross and still does cross freely with the European wildcat (felis catus). It is probable that the cat was brought by the Romans to Britain some time before the fifth century, although the first mention of its existence occurs in the laws of the Welsh prince Howell Dhu which were enacted about the middle of the tenth century. It seems possible that the European wildcat and Egyptian cat were of much closer relationship than has been supposed, since fossil feline remains found in Britain bear just as much resemblance to the Egyptian cat as they do to the native wildcat of the present day. "From the crossing of the import 'tabby.' But the angora comes from another source, and its exact source is not positively known, but it seems probable that a cat of Central Asia (F. manul), popularly known as Falala's cat, is the ancestor of the Roman cat and the British wildcat, evidently resulted the modern tor."

"THE TEST QUESTION" [Simon Strinsky in Yale Review] The question which the Allies will ask themselves is this. Will the junkers, if we should make some kind of compromise, be able to say to the German people: "We have not quite brought you the victory we promised, but see how near we came to it, and see, at the worst, what we accomplished against the world of enemies." If the German people believe that it is the Prussian system which saved it, then the Allies dare not make peace. The world will, indeed, be unsafe for democracy. But if the German people should turn upon the junkers and quote their own words against them, namely, that the country has been saved by the devotion and suffering of the common man, then the Allies can afford to make peace. They will have brought about that fall of the Prussian system which they set out to encompass. And events at the moment of writing show that the process within Germany is full under way.

"AN UNBIDDEN GUEST" The Kaiser, holding a birthday, with feasting and revel and wine, and the roar of his cannon echoed from Riga across to the Rhine, the name of his maker, mouthing a bragrant boast. He stood at his birthday table, and called for another toast. "Here's to my gallant Allies, and here's to them every one. Since their God has been good and allowed them to share in my place in the sun! Then spite of the burst of cheering, and spite of the drunken din, There came a voice from the doorway - 'Pardon, may I come in?' "Who is it that seeketh to enter?" the wondering Kaiser cried, And "Only another Ally, the same sleek voice replied: 'Only another Ally, bringing his homage to you, And rendering every honor where honor is surely due.' Then the Kaiser looked down the table to his guests who had come at his call - Turko and arrogant Austrian, baron, and gainful Bulgarian, and an Ally - 'Have you brought me? Then so did they leap to his bidding - AND THE DEVIL STEPPED INSIDE. There did he stand in the doorway, looking around with a grin, As he numbered his newly found comrades in their brotherhood of sin. 'Sir, I am proud to toast you, for ever since hell had burst open, I had hoped to find the colleague who would open a branch on earth!' Then he snapped his wavering wings, as he swung on his heel to go. And the wine ran down o'er the damask cloth like blood on the Belgian snow. 'Brothers,' he cried, 'I leave you - but not with a final toast: Tonight I stand your Unbidden Guest tomorrow, let me be your Host!' - Trumbull Cheer.

LABOR NOTES

Street Railway Employees' International increased wages by \$10,000,000 last year.

Congress has passed the Johnson-Gard bill, which confers in Justice Court work on the result of a decision by the United States Supreme Court which placed longshoremen under maritime liability jurisdiction and not under the operation of state compensation laws. A nonunion barber shop proprietor at Little Rock, Ark., has failed to secure an injunction restraining pickets from carrying a banner reading: "This shop is unfair to union labor." The court held that unionists have the right to state facts. The military authorities of the United States are determined to get men for all branches of the service either at home or abroad and have sent out circulars to the trade unions of Canada asking for men. The latest appeal has been made to structural iron workers with an offer of union wages and free passage overseas. T. H. Johnston, Manitoba minister of public works, has deferred to the wish of the Winnipeg, Can., Painters and Decorators' Union and fixed their hours at 50 a week instead of 54. The plasterers get a raise from 45 cents an hour to 70 cents. The wages of tile setters was left at last year's figure, 62 1/2 cents, as recommended by the Fair Labor Board. Electrical workers set 55 cents an hour, instead of 50 cents. Russian radicals demand the appointment of a sufficient number of factory inspectors in every branch of natural industry and the extension of factory inspection to every enterprise employing hired labor, and the appointment of women inspectors in branches where women are employed. The participation of elected workmen and paid state representatives in the inspection of factories and also in matters involving wage lists, the receipt and the rejection of material and the valuation of the output of labor.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Major Charles T. Griffith, the new military instructor at the University of Pennsylvania, served in the Vera Cruz campaign. Mr. R. J. Black, one of the commissioners to take the soldier vote, is a former mayor of McKeesport. James H. Maurer, one of the commissioners to study the subject of the soldier vote, has already started his investigations. W. J. Schaffer, the Delaware county lawyer who was here yesterday on a case, is a former newspaperman. Judge Clinton M. Groman, of Lehigh, in a statement from the bench said that there were too many divorce applications.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg has been the home of a cavalry troop with few intermissions since the Revolution? HISTORIC HARRISBURG This city was a point for assembling munitions back in the days of the Whisky Insurrection. "We couldn't think of any historical words to pull, so I just said, 'Ready to fire.' The young lieutenant in charge of the gun firing the first American shell at the German lines wanted to say something first and he said, 'Ready to fire.' His classics out there in the rain and there seemed nothing to say except 'Ready to fire.' And that, at this distance, sounds 'historical' enough. 'Ready to fire' speaks volumes; Woodrow Wilson himself could not have said anything more appropriate. 'Ready to fire' is a proper admonition for either a battery or a nation. Couldn't think of any historical stuff to pull! Bless him! but soldiers make history, not orators. Besides, historic stuff enough has been pulled at home. The pulling here nowadays is the order of the day now. so I just said 'Ready to fire.' This is historic stuff made.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

GREAT JOB. Officer why do you arrest me? Faith, and can't a man show his authority since in a while? THE TIE THAT BINDS. Why do you and Jack still live together? The separation is decided on, isn't it? Heavens, yes, but you see, we subscribed to a magazine that has a detective story running in it, and both of us have got to finish that story.

PRODUCE MORE

With the second bond issue fresh in our mind with the first quotas of drafted men in the camps, with the first loss of our sailors and soldiers in the sinking of the Antilles last week, and the first quotas of men aroused to the seriousness and immediate needs of the war. There are duties for all classes to perform and the farmers have the most important in the production of foods. There have been differences of opinion on the matter of labor exemption, of price fixing, of percentage of profit allowed in the different industries. It is well to hold for equality of rights and equality of representation, but above all of these is the urgent necessity and the unquestioned duty to meet the first requirements of our country in war - and more food products. The Federal Food Administrator said last week that the farmers of the United States upon whom the U-hoars. They can by the exercise of the most intelligent and most energetic farming that they have ever done, and what we mean, they will.—Pennsylvania Farmer.

HOPE SPRINGS

ETERNAL. What's Dubbs hobby? A lawn. But he lives in a flat. True. But that lawn is always before his mind's eye. MODERN FARMING. Visitor—How many head of livestock you got on the place? Farmer (some-what puzzled)—Livestock? What do you mean by livestock? I got four steers and seven automobiles.

Evening Chat

"Harrisburg people are surely learning to give," said Norris S. Longaker, Division Passenger Agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at this point, "after a trip over the city yesterday as a Y. M. C. A. campaigner. I and my traveling companion made twenty-eight calls in all parts of the city and not one person of them all declined to give. Our reception was cordial and in many places enthusiastic. The people showed a keen appreciation of the need of raising this fund. In one place we found a woman who had been waiting with her money for two days and I feel sure she would have been mortally offended if somebody had not called for it. At another place we got a contribution from the man of the house and just as we were about to drive away we were called back to be informed that the wife didn't want to be left out and she duplicated her husband's gift. Harrisburg people, as I have observed them in this drive, are generous and understand to a remarkable degree."

An old colored woman of the Seventh ward added to the joy of living for Y. M. C. A. campaigners in her district. The campaigners were not going to stop at her home. But she headed the crowd of the folks that is takin' up money for the soldiers?" she asked. She was told that she had guessed right the very first time. "I said she was takin' me down for a dollar, and here it is," and she turned about, modestly and took a bill out of her stocking. "This shop is unfair to union labor," she said, "but from what I see of this here Kaiser Bill he's suttionally got it all over Simon Lagree, and I don't want none of his in mine."

"An old favorite with new words" is the way that a graphophone company advertises its new record "Uncle Sam," the patriotic song which was written by a Harrisburg man, Allen Sangree, for the Eighth Regiment. The words are set to go with the ancient but always favorite melody "The Old Gray Mare," and thousands of records will now be sent abroad for the boys in the trenches. "I was sure to take up this song with gusto," Sangree was impressed by the swinging, energizing lilt to "The Old Gray Mare," while marching in the flag day parade here. On the day of the evening which was reserved for a reception to the Eighth Regiment at the Y. M. C. A. rooms Sangree dashed off three verses and a chorus and almost new to the crowd they were lustily roared by the Eighth and the Municipal Band. Sangree immediately had the song copyrighted, and almost immediately the phonograph people were after him to sign a contract.

Among visitors to the city over the last few days has been a local lawyer, and in spite of his age interested in electrical development in the central section of the state to the south of Harrisburg. He is a man of ordinary years busy, and John F. Short, former legislative correspondent and now one of the militant editors of the "Commonwealth," Mr. Short was recently defeated for mayor of Clearfield, but appears to enjoy it as he will be still able to crusade. Beverly W. Kunkel, son of Charles A. Kunkel, the banker, who is a professional engineer, has written an interesting article to Science for November on Benjamin Franklin's observations on the trend of affairs in this state. He has also written a mailbag. The former Harrisburg says that Franklin foresaw much of the struggle we are having with population and environment in Pennsylvania today. Rivermen say that duck shooting was never as good as it used to be. The state if people knew enough get up in the morning and where to go to get the flocks. Dozens of flocks have been seen within ten miles of Harrisburg, and being the Swans and others on the Conodoguinet.

Dr. J. George Bechtel, Secretary of the State Board of Education, has a way of getting money out of the State Treasury without having to wait. The other day the doctor wanted something like \$100,000. He wanted cash of the State Board to put into the Liberty Loan. Generally, large sums are hard to pry loose, but the doctor got it by getting a warrant on the warrant and specified that it was for Liberty bonds. And he got the money.

Senator Horace W. Schantz, of Allentown, who was here yesterday, remarked upon the fact that Lehigh county, Democratic county, has two Republican county officials.

One hundred thousand dollars has been appropriated by the Mexican government for the purchase of benzine tractors. An American firm will supply the machines. Two new cottonseed oil mills have been built in Russia, and previously established plants enlarged. A market for American machinery might be established. Japanese merchandise is finding favor in the Singora district, Malaya Peninsula. American exporters wishing to develop markets in this province for nickel, enameled wares, toilet supplies, matches and photographic materials should establish agencies in Bangkok, Siam. Aden, Arabia, may become a center for the export of electrical material to the Suez Canal. Direct steamship service between this country and Aden would open a larger field for American supplies and dates could be shipped to the United States at small cost. There is an immediate need for steel wire ropes and cables for use in the coal mines of Russia. Catalogs and samples of mechanical toys are asked for by an Italian firm.