

The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 1, 1919.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED.

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

THE CHANGE AT CITY HALL.

TODAY Fairmont's municipal government passes to new men who will operate under a new charter which in certain particulars will permit of a wider range, but which is nevertheless sufficiently like the ordinance under which the city has been governed during the past five years to make it possible to say that the best chart the new government can take will be one based upon a careful study of the record made by the old government—avoiding, if possible, its mistakes and short comings and emulating its successes.

From a purely business standpoint the government which has just gone out of existence was the best Fairmont ever had, and the record is a credit alike to the city and to the four retiring city commissioners. During the five years, this government was in control at city hall the nation passed through an extremely trying time. Business conditions changed so rapidly that it was impossible to foresee from month to month what was going to happen. Yet in spite of this the municipal corporation was managed with conspicuous success, and few large private corporations hereabouts can point to an equal degree of actual development and satisfactory day to day functioning. Along that line the retiring commissioners made a record of which they and their friends may well feel proud; one which entitles them to the gratitude of their fellow citizens. Their responsibilities and labors were much greater than they had reason to anticipate when they went into office, and they retire with clean hands and the knowledge that as a going concern Fairmont is much better off than when they took over the management of it.

True their positions have never been easy. There has been much outspoken complaint, but for practically all of this they have been themselves to blame. Their conspicuous shortcoming consisted of a lack of firmness and of grasp upon the details. They did big things well, but all too often gave but indifferent attention to the little things. And it is the little things that determine the attitude of the public toward a city administration. It is perhaps natural for men who are striving with all their might to keep a municipal government with stationary revenue going ahead at a time when prices are mounting and demands are increasing to fall into the habit of thinking that complaints of citizens about poor service, unsatisfactory street conditions, bad sewers or indifferent policing are matters of small moment, but citizens who complain cannot be made to see it in that light.

So, the new administration will do well to give at least as much attention to the little things as a business man gives who is dependent for success upon the good will of the public, and to drive with a tight rein, especially in the police department. The public expects there will be a cleaning up of the town and greater attention to the details of the departments with which it comes in direct contact, and if it does not get these things its disappointment is going to be keen.

WELCOME, TEACHERS.

TODAY Fairmont again has as its guests the school teachers of the county, and the convening of the annual institute marks the opening of a new school year, a year which opens under much more favorable circumstances than the last one did. At that time the country was still in the war and it was only with the utmost difficulty that the county school authorities were able to furnish teachers for all the schools.

This year the situation is much easier, but there is still a dearth of good teachers. It is believed, however, that in Marion county the outlook is very favorable and that when the country schools open there will be a competent instructor in every place.

The teachers of any county are an exceptional body who even when they are well paid give much that they get no

return for other than the satisfaction of performing well a highly important service to the public and to humanity. Fairmont always is glad to greet them and it is to be hoped that their stay in the city this week will be as pleasant as it is certain to be profitable to them and to their young charges.

GROCERY STORE PRICE LIST.

WOMEN who have been investigating food prices in Fairmont are reported to be anxious for the merchants to have a price list blackboard at their store entrances. That ought to set the merchants who deal in food stuffs to thinking, for it indicates a very natural desire upon the part of the housewives.

A blackboard with the current price of standard articles and mentioning the specials which the merchants have for that particular day doubtless would have a tendency to simplify the process of buying food and also stimulate trade, but a much better application of the theory would be to advertise regularly in the newspapers making a point of quoting prices.

This would be a double convenience to the women, for it would enable them to make up their lists before they left their homes and would thus save them lots of steps, but it also would have a tendency to bring prices to a uniform level.

Grocers as a rule are not advertisers. This applies especially to those who enjoy good patronage. The feeling is that it does not pay. But that is a very short sighted policy. Those grocers who have tried it, and in some towns there is a great deal of grocery and meat shop advertising, have found that it more than pays its way. Here it would have the added value of increasing the good will of the people who already are regular customers, and this is a very important consideration as every one knows who is familiar with the way in which food store patronage ebbs and flows, simply because the customers feel that they are not being treated with the consideration they deserve.

Race rioting in Knoxville in which seven persons have already lost their lives pretty effectually disposes of the contention that outbreaks of this magnitude occur only in northern towns. The truth seems to be that they are apt to occur in any town where there are a considerable number of negroes.

President Wilson's Labor day message in which he assures that in the near future he intends to call a conference of representatives of labor and industry is an indication that he has adopted the suggestion which originated with Basil Manley that capital and labor ought to get together in this country and talk the situation over in the American way. The same idea is embodied in resolutions which have been introduced in both houses of congress and it now seems that something will come of it.

The New York Telephone company which serves the city of New York informed the Public Service commission the other day that it is willing to make rate reductions which lessen its revenues by 5 per cent, only to be told by the chairman of the commission that such a reduction was rather moderate and that the company should see if it could not make it ten per cent. This is in striking contrast with the situation which exists in West Virginia, where the telephone company is asking for a steep increase over the rates set by the Burleson increase of only a few months back. Telephone attorneys when they appear before the West Virginia Public Service commission should be prepared to explain why the citizens of this state are asked to pay more while the citizens of New York are going to pay less.

The British are kicking up a great row regarding the extravagance of their government. Yet if the amount of money they spent on the war and in their reconstruction is any indication they have been very careful as compared to the government of this country. For downright extravagance there never was anything to equal the government of the United States not only during the war but in ordinary peace times.

Labor day will be more generally celebrated this year than ever before. Since the states began to make this day a legal holiday the labor movement has traveled a long distance, and practically all of the solid gains have been due to the work of organizations which early adopted conservative policies.

August Circulation

The actual paid-for circulation of The West Virginian for the month of August, 1919, is given in the tabulation below.

All copies to advertisers, correspondents, employees, etc., are eliminated.

1	4,888	17	Sunday
2	4,872	18	4,988
3	Sunday	19	5,012
4	4,865	20	4,826
5	4,925	21	5,023
6	5,009	22	4,956
7	4,960	23	5,034
8	4,942	24	Sunday
9	4,255	25	4,935
10	Sunday	26	4,908
11	4,958	27	4,968
12	4,806	28	4,762
13	4,890	29	4,887
14	4,914	30	5,088
15	4,915	31	Sunday
16	4,887		

Total for 26 days 127,471
Daily Average for August 4,902
Daily Average for July 4,695

These figures represent only the circulation which the Audit Bureau of Circulation rating. The actual total distribution for the month was 139,583 and the average daily distribution was 5,386.

Practically all of this circulation went into Fairmont and Marion County homes, the natural field for the Fairmont merchant.

RUFF STUFF

Nothing is ever perfect, but some things are rarer than others.

For instance the guy who picked on Monday as the time for a holiday should have provided that barbers must not celebrate.

Isn't there something in the constitution which guarantees the right of any American citizen against having his barber shops closed two days a week and running?

But maybe this outrage won't worry most of us next year.

Putting the price up to 25 per cent on the papers.

If they try that down here the safety razor market ought to boom.

So, the new city government has dandelions on the question of who is to be mayor.

And about two months from now the guy who finally gets it will wonder what sin he committed that he should be condemned to such a fate.

That food poisoning case over in Ohio is becoming more interesting as the investigation progresses.

First discovery was that it was not cold storage turkey but olives that turned the trick for the seven victims.

Now they have discovered that the olives were prepared with a dressing which contained garlic.

Whereupon the folks who use the interurbans probably will say—

"Well, that settles that," or "no

wonder they did," or something to that general effect.

"Noisy men were arrested by the B. & O. police."—Headline.

If noise ever becomes a crime the whole bally Bando will be sent up for life.

As a matter of fact some one ought to be made to loop the loop for some of the noises B. & O. engines make at night.

Lot of them are absolutely unnecessary.

TRUTHS AND TRAVESTIES

By th' Bard.

(Continued)

FANCY FALL FICTION.
Episode No. Five.

Martha adjusted her saucy little hat by the mirror in the hall and with a basket on her arm tripped down from the little house on Vason avenue. She had a dollar in her pocket-book and she was off to purchase for Sunday dinner.

She was attracted at Martins by a display of nice cooked ham, ten cents a pound was the price marked on a tag. She purchased a pound. She also bought a half dozen eggs, giving the clerk fifteen cents in all.

"How much is your celery today?" she asked.

"The celery is not very good today," said Mr. Martin. "You may have these three bunches if you care to take them home."

"Oh thank you," said Martha as she tripped out and toward the butcher shop.

"Have you any spring chickens?" she asked the butcher.

"Yes indeed. Just got some in. How would these two suit?"

"Splendid," said Martha as the butcher wrapped them up. She gave him a half dollar and received fifteen cents in change.

She bought some olives, five pounds of sugar, a can of corn, two tails of peas, a jar of bread, some pickles, a pound of cheese and a bunch of raisins and had a nickel left with which to pay her car fare home.

(Parade Rest)

The leaves are falling from the trees it's time to can the B. V. D's.

—Browning

Present Arms!

"The Girl in the Office says she was at church last night with Clara Rusk and she told her she was absolutely incorrigible and she rather thought herself that her new gown was becoming."

Ground Arms!

The summer time is nearly gone. Go get your overcoat from pawn.

—Cokeridge

All Hands On Deck!

In my studies and observations of the so-called human race there is one quality which I find to be prevalent in the species which, if it were possible, I would have corrected. I refer to that propensity or natural tendency, found, or possibly it is cultivated, in probably two thirds, which you will observe is more than half, of the residents of this worldly sphere of our.

If it were possible I would incite, or impress upon their minds, by frequent and continued admonitions, the faculty of such a practice, performed habitually and repeatedly, I assert incontrovertibly that it is not only a grievous waste of energy, a profligate discrimination of forces, but is, in the majority of instances as futile a performance as the proverbial, and oft-times deceiving cackle of certain oviparous birds who desire that the impression be given that they have laid an egg. As a rule, exceptions of course serving but to prove it, such persons are of a high degree of permeability. It is with great perturbation much mental agitation and disquietude, that I contemplate this

unfortunate shortcoming. I refer to the use of superfluous words in the expressing of a thought!

Return to Charters!

The season for the nuts is here! I wish I was a squirrel this year!

—Kipling

MONONGALIA MUSINGS

***Someone with his share of wickedness and wit proclaims the expected tidings that the bartenders have all found work! but the reformers haven't yet discovered anything to their liking.

***Will some wise man inform us whether H. C. L. represents high cost of living or Henry Cabot Lodge.

***The New York Sun has dug up a few unpublished verses of Byron's "Don Juan" which it says will appear in its columns as soon as the weather becomes cooler. They can scarcely surpass the ones which have so long charmed the world. "Don Juan" is an accurate picture of the manners and customs of English society in the days of Byron.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)

I SAY A BIG CROWD WAS THERE LAST NIGHT!



A BIG CROWD WAS THERE LAST NIGHT!!



I SAY I KNOW YOU'RE HARD OF HEARING, MISTER BROWN, AND IF YOU THINK EVERYBODY IS GOING TO CARRY A MEGAPHONE BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO VAIN TO CARRY AN EAR TRUMPET, THEN YOU'D BETTER HAVE SOME RE-WIRING DONE!!!!



Courtneys' Store

Honest Values 108-110 Main St.

Something New Every Day and in Every Section of This Store.

The Incoming Season Invests

Our Showing of Autumn Apparel

With a New Smartness

Suits, Coats, Dresses

If its style and Goodness of Fabric you look for in the apparel you need, then this Comprehensive Assortment We Are Now Showing will make a deep impression upon you. If its Price too, that you consider, then Courtneys' Prices will irresistibly appeal to you!

SUITS—range from \$29.50 to \$115.00

COATS—range from \$18.50 to \$135.00

DRESSES—range from \$18.50 to \$67.50

The much-discussed bugaboo of greatly advanced prices, has been reduced to a Minimum, by our ordering much in advance and now makes, it possible for you to Choose the apparel you fancy at A Price to Suit You! A Visit Will Be Most Convincing.

Truthful Advertising Courtneys' Store Dependable Merchandise

Almost Ten Thousand for 45 Head of Cattle

***Even Mary and her little lamb are receiving a share of criticism.

Hear a wailer bemoan:

Mary had a little lamb.

But here the story stops.

For Mary profited in wool

And profited in chops.

***Few snakes are seen in this county this year and it is thought that prohibition is sufficient explanation.

***Alas, the poor postoffice department, it would test the patience of Job and give a wart hog nervous prostration. The lowest bid for carrying mail from Small to Lowesville daily was deemed too high and the department is asking for bids for three days a week service. Ain't it awful Mabel? Ain't it a burning shame Burleson?

S. C. MUSGRAVE.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Aug. 30.—The Farm Bureau of West Virginia are doing much to educate its members to the value of raising fine bee cattle. Better cattle are bringing better prices. G. W. Miley, of Moore field, a member of the Hardy County Farm Bureau, seems to have set a record price for beef cattle. He has just bought 45 cattle from Joseph S. Pancake for 15 cents a pound. The cattle averaged 1.38 pounds a head or \$222.08 each, or a total of \$9,993.60 for the entire lot. The cattle are being shipped to eastern markets.

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H. J. WILSON
Fairmont Representative

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