

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1932.

The Boys and a Wall.

Bridge engineers, with beauty more than utility in mind, placed an almost flat top on the railing wall of the Wissahickon Memorial Bridge, which crosses the great gorge of "the Creek", at Henry avenue.

But evidently the habits of small boys were forgotten. It is just the kind of a place that the daring thoughtlessness of youth prompts lads of early age to climb upon to walk. And this very dangerous practice is being done already, mostly by boys of foreign descent.

One youngster has fallen from the bridge to the hillside, and was seriously injured, and others are sure to follow. Watchmen are of little avail, unless they are spaced out forty or fifty feet apart, for the boys grasp their opportunity when the guardian's back is turned.

It looks as though it might be a life-saver to put a spiked device atop of the wall.

Wanderlust.

Last week several young men were heard to remark that they were "going to New York to look for work."

Foolish, indeed, must be the person who can read anything other than the pictures in a tabloid, who imagines there are not thousands of unemployed folk in "the City of Brag", as O. Henry would say it. Or anywhere else, for that matter.

Many employees of local manufacturing plants, who were transferred to Southern mills a few years ago, have returned to their homes in this section, with tales of the lack of work below the Mason and Dixon line; and how the "native sons" are naturally given first choice at such jobs as there are.

A Wissahickon youth, with the urge of wanderlust upon him, recently went South, only to run afoul of trouble, and was wounded by an officer of the law, the right and wrong of which is still to be argued out. Which will do little toward banishing the pain, or healing the wound.

The old, worn out, trite saying is recalled—"a rolling stone gathers no moss"—especially in 1932.

Another School For The Discard.

"It is interesting to know," says a Philadelphia morning newspaper, "that in the last year the Board of Education has ordered the demolition of eleven vacant school buildings,

2

and that the space left by the six that have already been dismantled in congested residential districts is to be utilized for additional playground facilities. Five others are either being razed now or will be in the near future. These old and worthless buildings have been a source of care and annoyance for a long time. The Superintendent of Buildings says that complaints have been received that some of them have been littered with rubbish, that tramps have been sleeping in them, and in other instances that they have been in danger of fire or collapse. A few of the schools had to be discarded because they were condemned by the Department of Health as poorly lighted and insanitary."

Good! Now if someone can only direct the eyes of the Board members to the Breck School, in East Falls, where quite a few taxpayers reside, they will be doing a good turn for a whole community full of "forgotten men", and their wives and children.

* * * * *

New Industries

It begins to look as if we would see a lot of new things coming into general use before long. Big business organizations, who are not afraid that the depression is going to last forever, but who are getting ready for the upturn by preparing to put new commodities on the market, are giving hints of some of the things we may expect.

First in importance among these, it seems to us, will be the new type of individual dwelling house. Engineers, architects and technical men of all kinds have been talking a great deal about the excessive cost and the perishable nature of most houses. Now a big company has been formed in Chicago to manufacture houses in such a way that they can be readily erected anywhere with a minimum of labor. This is something different, we understand, from the "ready-cut" frame houses that have been on the market for years. These new houses will have steel frames and pressed steel outer walls, with flat roofs and many windows, and will be equipped with electric refrigeration, heating units and everything complete, at around \$3,500 for a six-room house. It will take only four days to put up one of these houses, and if the owner wants a bigger one he can "trade in" the old one as he would an automobile. And after the first payment there will be only one mortgage, which can be paid off at around \$30 a month.

Another new industry of which we have seen several announcements is that of devices for "air conditioning" homes, offices and shops. This scheme of keeping the tem-

3

perature and moisture the same, winter and summer, and providing clean, fresh air all the time, works well on a large scale, so there seems to be no reason why it shouldn't work well on a one-room, one-house scale.

From Detroit we hear of something revolutionary in automobile design and construction which is expected to come out this Summer; a new type of light-weight, low-cost, high-speed car with bigger balloon tires than we have seen yet.

It looks to us as if the men who are big enough and smart enough to make money and keep it are not worrying about whether business will come back or not. They know it is coming back and they are getting ready.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1932.

We Suggest ———

It is believed that if a check-up were made—especially in the early evening, when Route "R" busses sometimes have passengers standing—it would be learned that most of those compelled to do without a seat were short haul riders in the 21st Ward.

And would, therefore, suggest an extra bus or two, being placed in service during the busy hours, to make a short run, or two, from Ridge avenue and Main street, to Spring lane—similar to the night-owl trips of the same bus line.

* * * * *

The Local Newspaper.

We often wonder how residents of any community would know what is going on around them if there were no newspaper in the neighborhood.

Charitable organizations, churches, lodges, merchants associations and individuals, week in and week out, find it necessary to have a medium of informing the public of events that are transpiring.

Circulars could not be printed fast, or cheap enough to tell large groups of people everything that is contained in one issue of a newspaper. Wedding, birth and social announcements which are mailed out by families can only reach a small percentage of their friends and acquaintances. Bill board signs are simply impression makers. But the newspaper is a real and regular information bureau and therefore the community's least costly, and generally its

greatest asset.

A newspaper with plenty of live and interesting news items should receive the utmost support of everyone it serves. Its columns are open as a thought exchange for all the people who desire to keep abreast of the times. What would you do without it?

* * * * *

Ballots, Not Bullets.

No matter how one may view the Bonus Army disturbance at Washington, which took place last week, whether sympathizing with the former service men, or not, the incident was most regrettable, and should never have occurred.

"Ballots, rather than bullets", says one Manayunk veteran, "will settle the question."

* * * * *

William H. McMoran.

In the death of William H. McMoran, which took place on Sunday, the residents of West Manayunk lose an active worker; one who was continually striving for improvements to the locality in which he resided.

It was largely through his efforts that efficient police protection was perfected, and West Manayunk people procured their playground.

Many are the friends who regret the passing of William Harry McMoran.

* * * * *

Greatest of Waterways Assured

The officials of the United States and Canada have reached an agreement for the linking of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence seaway. This treaty will be submitted to the United States Senate and the Canadian Parliament next Winter.

It is estimated that the cost of deepening the channel of the St. Lawrence River, and the engineering problems that will have to be met to secure at 27 feet depth of water—sufficient for 90 per cent of all shipping, will cost \$543,000,000. It will take ten years to complete the project. When it is done ships will depart from the most distant points of the Great Lakes—Chicago, Duluth, Superior, Washburn and Ashland—for Liverpool, London, the Mediterranean, Central and South America and elsewhere. Now doesn't that thrill you? Well, it ought to!

Linking the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans by the Panama Canal was an achievement, but bringing the traffic

of all the World to the heart of America through the Great Lakes is an event of such far greater importance that the Panama Canal, in comparison, is like "back creek." There is a "back creek" almost everywhere, so named because it is not the front-line of the waterway, such as the new seaway must become in the next decade.

A national organization has been formed to interest the citizens in their government. During the height of prosperity government costs rose rapidly. Many useless bureaus were created and the governments—local, state and national—provided services foreign to the realm of government. Taxes rose as governmental expenses increased. The people grumbled and paid. The increase in taxation was not felt to be a burden. With a change of economic conditions, it is impossible to maintain the high tax rates and carry on the many bureaus and endeavors which are foreign to the needs of government. The people are protesting mightily and demand relief. The new organization proposes to study government in all its branches and make recommendations to eliminate extravagance and to bring about fair taxation.

Farm Dollars.

Official reports show that farm wages have declined 29 per cent. last year. Farm products have been much higher during the past few weeks, with livestock leading the advance, says an official statement at Washington.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1932.

Annie W. Heidinger

Accomplishments of business, civic, religious and social leaders in a community, when they end their earthly days, are often praised in the printed word, with very seldom a line appearing to laud the women, who quietly, unostensibly, play the greater part in life.

One such woman, who on Monday was claimed by her Creator, was Mrs. Annie W. Heidinger, of Roxborough.

A wonderful mother has passed on! But her memory will live long in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved her! A mother, who in the serenity of her home, guided the destinies of her children to the point where she could look with justifiable pride on their deeds. A mother's

love—a mother's wealth of love—is so great that the power of death and the victorious grave can never extinguish its quenchless flame. A wife, who shared with her husband the sunlit lanes and the darkened paths of earthly existence. A woman who performed her allotted tasks in life, smilingly to the end. A kindly neighbor and a steadfast friend. Such was Mrs. Heidinger, and the community—as well as her immediate family—is the loser, as she goes to her peaceful and Eternal Rest.

* * * * *

The Storm Passes.

Those persons, whose eyes are not blinded by the tear-gas of Pessimism, should be able to catch a satisfaction-creating glimpse of the sun of returning Prosperity in the current statements of Roger W. Babson, who on Saturday said:

"The recent sharp up-rush in prices of stocks, bonds, wheat and other commodities emphasizes the fact that bargain days won't last forever. Those who hoard currency instead of making purchases of goods and securities will wake up to find that their currency has depreciated in value whereas goods and securities have appreciated. In other words, as prices rise, the buying power of the dollar will fail, and goods and securities will be worth more than idle money.

"Opportunity has knocked at the door of the buyer longer than usual during this depression; but those who delay too long will find the bargains are gone. The way both to render service and to get its reward is to buy when the markets are grossly undervalued and sell when they become overvalued. In this period that means to buy commodities, stocks and bonds—with discrimination of course, but nevertheless, to buy."

* * * * *

People Must Eat

Nearly half of the wholesale trade of the Nation is that composed of farm products, according to an official statement from Washington. It is pointed out that 13.8 per cent. of the total is done by the groceries and food specialties industry and 13.7 per cent. by the food products (not otherwise accounted for) industry. In the wholesaling business in these three industries are a total of 73,375 establishments.

The next highest percentage for a single industry is that of 8.6 per cent. of the total volume done by the 10,518

7
establishments in the dry goods and apparel wholesale industry.

* * * * *

Henry Ford on Alcohol

Perhaps the most important utterance from the dry side of the liquor argument is that which has just come from Henry Ford, who usually illuminates any subject he touches on. Whether one agrees with Ford's uncompromising attitude on prohibition or not, it is easy to find plenty of good common sense in what he says:

"I agree", he says, "with those who say that there is need for a renewed campaign for temperance. But they should be very sure they know what they are undertaking before they proceed, for I warn them that every temperance campaign in the United States in the last hundred years has always issued in a demand for prohibition. A temperance campaign can have no other end. So, if you are desirous of doing away with prohibition, don't flirt with temperance. Ideally perhaps, this should not be so, but practically it has always been so where alcohol is concerned."

As to the enforcement of the law, is Mr. Ford right in his statement that "it is not a problem as far as the great majority of American citizens are concerned?" Mr. Ford supports his statement with the following argument:

"Holdovers from the saloon era and the more recent dupes of the illegal liquor traffic constitute the whole problem of enforcement. That problem exists largely because financial interests provide the money and take the profit not only for this, but for other sorts of crime. The laws against kidnapping, dishonest banking, reckless driving and theft are in as bad repute among lawbreakers as the prohibition law is, and are no better enforced. It is true, as the repealers say, that law cannot rise higher than the moral convictions of the people. It is simply a question of how high or how low you rate the instinctive morality of the American people."

In a period when economic considerations are uppermost in the minds of every voter, there are undoubtedly many who will sympathize with Mr. Ford's concluding statement.

"I do not think prohibition is now one of our big issues. We should be tackling the Money System now, not talking about beer."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1932.

George L. Shirley—Optimist.

When all about us men are moaning "Depression, depression, depression" over real, or make-believe troubles, it does one's heart good to talk to a man like George Shirley, Roxborough's leading fruit and produce dealer.

For George is a battler—not a whiner!

As a merchant he has used his head more than his tongue. Three years ago he started in the fruit and produce business, and in that trying time of financial pestilence he has steadily increased his sales—through commodities of quality, consideration of his patrons, courteous service and cheerfulness under the most irksome conditions, until today he has thirty men and women on his payroll, with unreduced salaries, and a store which is open from early dawn until late at night to better accomodate his customers.

Those who are personally acquainted with this Roxborough man know full well that his life has not been exactly a path of roses.

"Onward and upward" is his motto, with a smile and a glad word for everyone. Wailers, avoid this man, if ye would not have a broken heart. Others of faltering faith, visit him, he'll bolster up your wavering courage.

For Shirley's an optimist—and we don't mean maybe!

* * * * *

The Bills May Be Lost.

A local business man, who each month consumes ten times as much of the commodity of one public utility company as does the ordinary householder, recently had his bill shoved under one of the doors of his place of business, and it was almost swept out with several circulars, which receive that customary treatment.

And so he wrote to the president of the public utility company, explaining the incident; stating that he would not pay the fine if his bill was not paid through a fault not his own, and requested that the bills be placed in a receptacle heretofore reserved for mail. The president courteously answered the missive and stated that in the future the bill would be mailed to this local business man.

Inasmuch as the delivery of bills was inaugurated since Uncle Sam raised his first postage rate, this incident brings forth an idea on how to make "the Big Fellows" be patriotic.

* * * * *

Still Unpaved

City employees make regular rounds up, down and

through the hillside streets of the 21st Ward, calling the attention of property-owners to the ordinances governing sidewalks, but here and there it is noticed that there are individuals, or corporations, which are apparently special-privileged to retain walks which in rainy weather are a disgrace to the community.

Particularly noticeable is the lack of paving along the Baker street wall, at the rear of the Reading Railroad station in Manayunk; and also the walk on the east side of Main street from Green lane to Leverington avenue, both of which were left in a deplorable condition after the elevation of the railroad tracks.

We know not who, or what, is responsible for the situation which prevails, but do know that a reasonably sufficient time has elapsed to make these sidewalks fit for pedestrian travel. Excuses are tiresome.

* * * * *

Asleep, Blind, or Satisfied?

When the new Memorial Bridge which crosses the Wissahickon ravine at Henry avenue was being planned the Art Jury delayed the proceedings, in order that the great span might conform to the beauty of its surroundings. All of which was right and proper.

But now the Reading Railroad Company, in the electrification of the Norristown Division of its lines, has planted four obnoxious-looking steel uprights, as catenary supports, atop of the heretofore scenic series of arches at the Ridge avenue entrance to the Wissahickon drive, apparently without any notice from the Art Jury.

The poles—if necessary at all—should at least be ornamental. They detract from the beauty which has greeted the eye there for many a year.

* * * * *

More growling is done around home by a man who leads a dog's life than by the dog itself.

* * * * *

The unemployment situation is a great relief to the hobo. He doesn't have to be afraid that every fellow he meets now will offer him a job.

* * * * *

Another evidence of middle-age is not being embarrassed on finding that the knot in your four-in-hand is an inch below your brass collar-button.

* * * * *

Never stop your little boy when you find him playing

with mud. He may grow up to be a successful politician.

There are only two places in Italy where Mussolini doesn't come first. In the city directory and in the telephone book.

There is probably nothing a girl likes better than to marry a self-made man and then make a lot of alterations in him.

The old world has become so brazen that about the only way anybody can be shocked is with electricity.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1932.

The Race Begins

President Hoover has been officially informed that he was nominated by the Republicans. Governor Roosevelt flew out to Chicago and lost no time in finding out from the Democratic National Convention about his own nomination. For several weeks the National committees have been setting up their machinery; and soon the air will be filled with political information to inform the voters how they should vote.

It is expected that President Hoover and Governor Roosevelt will make speeches in different parts of the country during the campaign. Likely the President will not go West, but Governor Roosevelt may get beyond the Mississippi.

Advertising Did It

Here is what happened to fifty typical business men in the retail trade:

Because "times were dull" twenty-five of these business men cut out their newspaper advertising, and like the ostrich that buried its head in the sand, they stood still.

The other twenty-five kept up their advertising, and increased their usual business "gait". Their sales stepped up from 20 to 33 per cent. Printers ink kept the "red ink" off their books.

The classical character described as a "chief's among ye takin' notes" investigated the up-and-downs of the business men, and discovered that the twenty-five who advertised

11
had concluded that inasmuch as the National Government was backing the whole Nation with its billions of dollars in resources that it was up to them to back their own communities and its institutions. So, they kept on going, as usual.

It was Wordsworth who reminded us that the man of "cheerful yesterdays" always has his "confident to-morrows."

* * * * *

Safer Highways

Automobile drivers who really care for the safety of themselves and of other folks are menaced by drivers who show utter disregard for everybody along the highways.

There are drivers who dash by at breakneck speed, regardless of the safety of others. Then there is the driver who sneaks out of line and attempts to pass everyone else. Usually this occurs at a dangerous curve or at the crest of a hill. Should another car approach in the opposite direction, then some driver who is using caution is forced to the side of (or clear off) the highway so that a collision will be averted. And again there is the driver who must drive in the center of the highway. His idea of the white-painted strips is just something to ride over.

But the greatest menace of all is the night driver on whose car the lights are not properly focussed. He tears along at reckless speed blinding both pedestrians and other drivers alike, and the wonder of it all is that more folks on foot are not victims of untimely deaths by motorists whose visions are momentarily impaired by the search-light beams of the cars as they approach.

Every modern automobile has some device for dimming the rays of the headlights, but it must be that the owners have never been instructed in its use, for it is a rare occasion when the operators dim their lights when approaching other cars.

Pennsylvania has a law which compels every car owner to keep his car in proper condition for safe driving, but after attempting to keep on the roadway at night, almost any motorist will feel that at least fifty per cent. of the cars on the highways are in need of careful inspection of headlights.

Pennsylvania's safety code should be enforced to the letter, and if it is discovered that some motorists tamper with the lights after their cars have been approved, then in every case the license to operate such a car should be re-

voked.

There were 1,081,596 wage earners who drew \$130,856,071 from the railroads of the country during the past month. The figures show what a tremendous industry the railroads are, even though employment and wages are at the minimum at this time.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1932.

The Good Samaritan.

Most of us remember the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan. He was the one who came upon a stranger lying along the highway battered and bruised from the treatment he had received at the hands of thieves. Others had passed by, not even stopping to ascertain whether or not the stranger was alive or dead. But the good Samaritan stopped in pity, placed the injured man upon his own beast of burden and carried him to the nearest inn, where the victim was placed in kind hands and even the thoughts of paying for his treatment were dispelled as the Samaritan guaranteed to care for the expenses attached to his treatment and accommodation.

That was one time when a man who was down and out received the proper kind of a break, and today that while there are hundreds who are willing to aid their unfortunate brothers, yet the nearest hospital is usually called upon to render the necessary aid, provide heat and shelter and furnish the meals for the injured.

Scarcely one person in a dozen realizes the great expense attached to successfully conducting a hospital, and while many folks seem to think that a hospital is the proper place to care for the unfortunate, yet they fail to see that every patient adds just a little bit more to the expenses of the institution.

This section is fortunate in having such a splendid and efficient institution as the Memorial Hospital. No case is ever denied admission and the question of payment is thoughtfully and charitably considered. And yet there are scores of patients who can afford to give something in return for the services rendered them, who would avoid their responsibility; and hundreds of residents who forget the thousand and one items which go toward making the Memorial Hospital so successful must be paid for by some one.

There are people who are fortunate enough to possess

wealth who have contributed of their worldly goods so that the blessed work of the Memorial Hospital can be continued, but there are still others who never think of an emergency which might come to themselves, personally, any minute of the day, when the hospital will be needed, who could contribute for the maintenance of the hospital.

We have an institution of which we are all justly proud, and in which we desire to continue that pride. We expect great things of the staff, so why shouldn't they expect great things of us? Think this matter over carefully, and the next time you want to make your heart and pocketbook do double duty, send a liberal sum of money to the Memorial Hospital. Who knows but what you, your father, mother, sister, brother, son or daughter may be being rushed to that mercy place at this very minute, and that the life of that loved one depends on the service which can be rendered there? Help financially in carrying forward the work of the local Good Samaritan.

* * * * *

Crime and Punishment

We are inclined to believe that present methods of punishment for crime are "too good" for the criminals. We have tried being tender-hearted with criminals for a good many years, in most parts of the country. The net result is an enormous increase in crime, overerowedd prisons conducted at heavy cost to the taxpayers, and the belief of every "smart" crook that he can "beat the rap" if he only gets a lawyer smart enough and crooked enough to find the loopholes in the law. We have carried to the limit of absurdity the principle that it is better for a thousand guilty men to escape punishment than for one innocent man to be convicted.

Certain facts seem to us incontrovertible. One is that the death penalty is no deterrent of murder where it is not promptly and certainly enforced. Another is that imprisonment does not reform criminals nor the fear of it frighten them. Other methods of punishment, other means of preventing crime, must be discovered and applied.

Let sociologists deal with the causes of crime, the influences that make criminals out of boys. But let us all take a practical, common-sense view of the punishment for crime. At all costs let us back up our law-enforcement agencies, let us clear the statute books of the laws which protect the criminal, let us speed up our criminal trials and place men on the bench who will show no mercy to those who deserve none, and then let us consider whether the

14
old-fashioned whipping-post, the stocks and the pillory, which held the convicted criminal up to public disgrace and shame, may not be as effective deterrents of crime as the gallows, the electric chair or the penitentiary.

The outstanding characteristic of the modern gangster is his vanity. Destroy that and you have destroyed his chief incentive to crime. "Two-Gun" Crowley went to the electric chair a hero on his own eyes and in those of his child-minded admirers. Gerald Chapman, murderer, is a figure of greatness among youthful crooks because he smiled when the trap was sprung. Would crime seem heroic, criminals heroes, if Crowley had been flogged in public and Chapman exposed to public contempt in the stocks? We think not. We think that punishments to be effective should be so shameful that dread of their disgrace will deter even the most hardened.

* * * * *

When some women celebrate a birthday they don't take a day off. They take about four years off.

You can always tell whether or not it was a bad collision. If it was neither driver gets up to argue about it.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1932.

Annie G. Hunter.

We remember her before her face was careworn and her brow wrinkled. A comparatively young mother, then, facing the trials and vexations of life to render a service of love to her husband and children, so that their lives might measure up to her ideals. Years of struggling, days and nights of sickness and worry, stole the freshness of her life, but like the matured rose, the perfume of her love grew richer than when in its first bloom.

And now she has gone! To the Land of Peacefulness and Rest. But we still recall our admiration for her in the days when she was young and active.

"There is no picture of it; if there were they'd have to paint

A picture of a woman mostly angel and some saint,
And make it still be human and they'd have to
blend the whole

There is no picture of it, for no one can paint a soul.

No one can paint the glory coming straight from

15

Paradise,
The dauntlessness that lingers in a mother's love-
lit eyes."

* * * * *

They Borrowed Money

Publication of the loans made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation banks, building and loan associations and others has served to satisfy the curiosity of a lot of people. President Hoover and Atlee Pomerene, Chairman of the Corporation, were opposed to this publicity provision forced into the bill by Speaker Garner.

Government and banking officials have been emphasizing the fact that the money borrowed from the Government by banks and others was backed up by ample securities.

Banks throughout the country, through the money they have borrowed from the Government, have been able to loosen up their credit facilities to the benefit of their communities. Evidently the fear that banks would be weakened when it became known that they had borrowed from the Government is proving groundless. The different communities have been quick to understand how their banks have tried to help them and they apparently are encouraged that the Government is with them in such a practical way.

* * * * *

Turning the Tide

On a momentous occasion a former President of the United States declared that the "way to resume is to resume," and one industrial leader has put that formula into actual practise.

In an open letter to Roy D. Chapin, the new live-wire who has entered President Hoover's Cabinet as Secretary of Commerce, the president of a company, which makes typewriters, accounting machines and everything else for office appliances, says:

"In answer to the appeal you have made to American business and business men for courage, foresight and faith in this Country and its future, I am happy to inform you of a decision which may help to 'turn the tide in the right direction.'

"Our Company, has today, issued instructions to its purchasing department to buy immediately four million five hundred thousand dollars worth of raw material and supplies for use the balance of this year. And, in addition, wherever possible at present prices, contracts are to be placed covering all our requirements for the entire year of 1933, such contracts to be based upon an anticipated busi-

ness increase of 25 per cent over our 1932 requirements.

"In taking this step we are motivated by the desire to sell our products by helping to increase general business activity; also, by the desire to take advantage of current prices of raw materials, many of which are the lowest in our 55 years of business history."

Delaying Opening of Schools.

Increase in the number of cases of infantile paralysis has caused school authorities in many sections to delay the opening of schools as a precautionary measure. Philadelphia's public and parochial schools have delayed their opening and action will be taken by the local school board tomorrow evening as to the advisability of postponing the opening of the schools for a week.

There are few cases of infantile paralysis here at present but it is considered to be dangerous to have the children congregate in large numbers and be confined in class rooms in the extreme hot weather. It is accepted there is less danger from infection in cooler weather. The next few days should bring an end to the spell of extremely hot weather. There will be no loss in the school work by reason of delaying the opening as children confined in class rooms, after being in the open air for the past two months, would accomplish nothing endeavoring to work in oppressive heat.

Wall Street, Limited

Within the narrow confines of Wall Street new antics are being performed by the bulls and the bears. At least they furnish evidence that there is a new spirit of confidence in securities.

When a vehicle zipped past you in the old days it was a sign some horse was feeling his oats. Now it's a sign that some jackass is feeling his rye.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1932.

The Work Belongs Here.

There appears to be no logical reason why this "neck o' the woods", which is just as much a part of the United States as is Ambridge, Pittsburgh, or other western Pennsylvania communities, should not receive some of the benefits of President Hoover's employment plans, by having the iron and steel material for the new Philadelphia Post Office fabricated at Pencoyd.

The Pittsburgh area, it is understood, profited to no

17
small extent when the Franklin Memorial Building contract was filled in the western part of the state, from funds donated by Philadelphians.

Information, from reliable sources, tell us that the Pencoyd plant is fully equipped for fabricating all the Post Office steel work, and also sufficiently capable of rolling a great part of the metal.

Republican leaders should grasp this splendid opportunity to reclaim thousands of votes, which will otherwise go to their opponents in November, through the dissatisfaction caused by the financial depression.

This locality is in more need of employment, than of charity. For the self-respect of men and women who are worthwhile, is of more value to civilization than all the benignity in the world, and the work which should rightfully come to Pencoyd will provide months of work for men whose families are in dire need at this time.

* * * * *

The Symphony Orchestra.

Music and speech, it is said, are coeval, and it is doubtful whether the latter has done any more to express the temper and refinement of mankind than has the former.

The 21st Ward, therefore, is to be praised over the formation by a group of enthusiastic local musicians, of a symphonic orchestra which is destined to add to the cultural advancement of the community and to attract favorable attention to this portion of Philadelphia.

The part of sponsoring the orchestra has been assigned, as in other worthy projects of like nature, to the 21st Ward Parents' Public School Association, that organization which has ever been in the van fostering the esthetic enterprises of various individuals and groups, for the benefit of all the people who reside here.

Music of the better kind; carefully selected; artistically and sympathetically offered, will be provided for the people of Roxborough, Wissahickon, Manayunk and their environs, through the efforts of the Roxborough Symphony Orchestra, and the Parents' Association, and there is no reason to believe that the High School Auditorium will not be crowded to the doors on the night of October 3rd, when the inaugural concert will be given.

* * * * *

On The Way Back

Prominent industrialists, economists and employment managers have expressed the belief that a turn has come in business affairs in Philadelphia, and that a more wholesome situation has developed in employment conditions.

Ernest T. Trigg, chairman of a committee of the Chamber of Commerce said on Monday that there was definite indications of a pick-up in business running beyond a seasonal improvement, and with a beginning in sight of much new work that would tend to stimulate employment.

"No student of business conditions anticipates a great rush of business at this time," said Mr. Trigg. "However, from all sides we have had certain indications that old employees are being taken back to work in a number of lines of industry and that working schedules in many cases are being lengthened. It will be some time before the slack in industry is so taken up that the public will really appreciate how great the improvement has been in recent weeks. It must be borne in mind that employers who are taking men back are relying largely upon old employees and are not broadcasting the fact because they are besieged by great numbers of others seeking work."

It was pointed out by other members of the committee that retail trade is increasing in volume, and the lack of stocks in industrial plants is being felt with rush re-orders from retailers.

* * * * *

Banks Out of Trouble

Official information at Washington shows that there are now very few bank failures and that those institutions that were solvent and were compelled to close their doors early in the year are reopening for the purpose of continuing their business, or liquidating their affairs. Thousands of banks have been saved by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The Corporation merely lends to banks and takes over some of their collateral securities, thus relieving the banks from shortages of ready money, due to the depression. The Government gives nothing to the banks, as many people seem to suppose.

* * * * *

Maybe if the Roxborough girl of today used the same old harrcloth sofa her mother used, she'd wear six petticoats, too.

* * * * *

And come to think of it, many a man has a kick coming that never reaches him.

* * * * *

One way of cutting down the wheat acreage would be to teach more farmers how to play golf.

* * * * *

The reason some local girls don't blush all over is because they can't carry that much rouge around in their compacts.

Advances Community's Interests

- From every section of the territory it serves The Suburban Press has received congratulations for the manner in which it has supported the worthwhile interests of the community.

Especially true, is this, concerning the publicity given to the activity of leaders relative to Pencoyd and the Philadelphia Post Office contract last week, and the paving of Ridge avenue in Roxborough.

But this was only one of many such instances. Invariably The Suburban Press has supported every move made for the betterment of living conditions here, and occasionally has made the initial stirring of sentiment for improvements.

The Suburban Press, people have found out, does more than take—it also gives, in return for the support given it by the advertisers, subscribers and readers. It is the only institution of its kind, in this vicinity, which goes out after and prints the news of the locality from an unbiased viewpoint. Readers are therefore requested to patronize the advertisers of this newspaper, as generously as possible, in order to build up the strength of an arm which is theirs by being the only means of public expression which exists here.

When one considers the creditable projects which have succeeded here within the past three years, the files of The Suburban Press are mute evidence of its worth to the people who reside in Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon, East Falls and West Manayunk.

* * * * *

National Economy.

A group of nationally prominent citizens headed by Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd have organized the National Economy League which will seek "to revive and restore the American principle of representative government for the common good, and to secure the elimination of wasteful or unjustifiable governmental expenditures, Federal, State and local."

Ex-President Coolidge has advised Admiral Byrd of his hearty cooperation in the purposes of the new organization and he has become Chairman of its National Advisory Council whose membership includes former Governor Alfred E. Smith, Newton D. Baker, Elihu Root, General John J. Pershing and Admiral William S. Sims.

The League seeks the elimination of the growing annual

expenditures by the Federal Government, already in excess of \$450,000,000 for benefits to veterans of the Spanish and World Wars who suffered no disabilities through war service. This expenditure is in addition to and entirely apart from "bonus" payments. The elimination of it will in no way interfere with a national policy of just and liberal treatment of veterans actually disabled in war service, or of the dependents of those who died in the service of their country, which policy the League vigorously supports.

Former Governor Smith is actively participating in the movement because he believes that a large part of the trouble we are going through at the present time is due to excessive taxation, which he believes could be cured to a great extent by the "elimination of every form of waste in the expenditure of Governmental funds to the end that taxation may be reduced, capital may more freely flow into trade and commerce and that widespread unemployment may be relieved.

Admiral Byrd has performed magnificent services for his country in recent years. He has given up his contemplated expedition to revisit the South Pole because he believes that he can do more good by helping to head off the raids on the public treasury, attempted in so many ways last winter.

Births Decline

According to the bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, there has been a great decline in the number of births in Pennsylvania during the first half of this year. The number of births for the first half of the year is given as 84,616 and the deaths as 58,178 leaving an excess of births over deaths of 26,438 and the estimate for the year is approximately 54,000. In 1931, the excess was 68,000 and in 1925, it was more than 100,000. With the number of births declining almost fifty per cent. in seven years, the matter becomes serious as there has been a steady decline since 1921 when there were almost 230,000 births, a rate of 25.9 against the latest indicated rate of 17.3.

A progressive decline in the birth rate is a serious matter for the Commonwealth, weakening the State by decreasing the normal growth in population, which in time will slow every progressive activity and decrease the earning and purchasing power of the people.

The Public Debt

The United States Treasury shows a National indebted-

ness of \$20,504,700,000, which is the highest point since June 30, 1925. The per capita indebtedness is \$164.11.

Uncle Sam is hard up, and is still too poor and too proud to fight.

* * * * *

The campaign has gotten under way in Montgomery County. The Democrats have held their first big rally and the Republicans have met it by Leader Johnson and Senator Boyd settling their differences and uniting to pile up a big majority for the entire Republican ticket in November.

* * * * *

It isn't the styles that are ridiculous. It's the stuffing that's in them.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1932.

Surprises Ahead

The Presidential campaign is now in full swing and the voice of the spellbinder is heard in the land. Wherever two or three are gathered together politics will be the main theme of discussion for the next five weeks. All the signs indicate that more words will be split on behalf of the rival candidates this year than ever before.

All signs point also, to the belief that there are going to be a lot of surprises at the coming election. It is our opinion that the general run of people are giving much serious thought to politics in all its phases than ever before. That is quite natural, considering the seriousness of the conditions through which the nation has been passing.

We have an idea that 1932 is going to turn out to have been a pretty bad year for a lot of the old-fashioned, four-foot-in-the-trough kind of politicians in both parties. Regardless of how the Presidential election may go, we have a notion that there are going to be more new faces in both Houses of the next Congress than have been seen there at once in many years. We have a notion, too, that there will be a lot of new blood in State and county offices all over the country.

We see no reason to expect that any of the smaller parties will poll enough votes in any State to affect the general results of the election as between the two major parties, but we have a strong suspicion that there will be more votes cast for Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate, and for other candidates of the minority parties, than have ever been polled at any preceding Presidential election. The people are in a state of political unrest, and nothing that

might happen on November 8 would surprise us.

Prices Are Going Up

The upward movement in commodity prices has begun. That is what all the economic authorities have been saying must happen before prosperity can come back. Cotton is up, wool is up, hogs are up, rayon is up, and silk went up so high and so rapidly on the Japanese Silk Exchange the other day that the authorities closed the exchange to prevent a riot.

With raw materials rising, it follows that the prices of goods manufactured from them must speedily rise, and that brings the matter right home to everybody in this vicinity.

Now is the time to buy.

Commodity prices are not going any lower. They have touched bottom. People who have been waiting to make their purchases until they were sure that the bottom had been reached had better dig into their purses now and buy while the merchants' shelves are still stocked with low priced goods. They are not going to remain on the shelves very long, and the next lots which our local dealers buy are going to cost them more and will have to sell for more.

We have a distinct feeling that we have turned the corner on hard times. We find that all over the country almost everybody shares the same feeling. We all want prosperity back, and we want it back as quickly as we can get it. The quickest way to bring it back is for everybody who has an unfilled want and any money whatever with which to supply that want, to spend that money now. Dollars are going to get cheaper, as goods go higher in price. It has been many, many years since the dollar would buy as much in clothing or fabrics or groceries or hardware, in shoes or household goods or furniture, as it will today. It will be many, many years, we hope, before it will again be possible to buy such bargains as are available all around us today.

The people who have been wise enough to hang on to their money during the depression are setting the example for all the rest of us. They are buying in the stock market, they are buying in the grain market, they are buying in the wool market, they are buying in the cotton market, they are buying in the silk market. That means that "big money" has got over being afraid, and we think it is time for lesser people with little money to overcome their own timidity and begin to spend.

Senator Norris, of Nebraska, a Republican when he is

23

a candidate for office and an Insurgent when he is in office, will campaign for the election of Governor Roosevelt. Norris campaigned for the Democratic Presidential ticket in 1928 and the Republicans not only permitted him to remain in the party but reelected him for a full term in the senate. The Senator has turned against his party in a most critical time and his bolting and being permitted to still be designated as a Republican may encourage other Insurgents to follow his lead.

* * * * *

Last Week for Inspection.

It is probable that many motorists will be unable to use their cars on the highways for the remainder of the year. Friday is the last day for the semi-annual inspection of motor vehicles and all motor vehicles not bearing the "approved" sticker will be barred from the highways. Violators of the law are subject to a fine of \$10 and costs or five days in jail, in default.

The police are likely to have a busy time as on September 12 there were approximately 900,000 motor vehicles that had not been inspected.

It is known that many cars now on the roads are unsafe for operation and cannot stand inspection. Many motorists will take a chance and operate their cars without the "approval" sticker. The police must be vigilant to see that the law is obeyed and keep the streets and highways clear of vehicles that menace the public safety.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1932.

Rounding Out a Century.

In the area covered by The Suburban Press we have apparently reached the period where churches and varied organizations have been in existence an hundred years—and are likely to take such occurrences for granted. But when a man reaches the century mark it is time we paused to offer our congratulations.

And this we do to Jacob Wright, of Fountain street, Roxborough, who, on Wednesday of next week, will be feted on his one hundredth birthday anniversary. Born in Montgomery County, on October 12th, 1832, Mr. Wright was brought, by his parents, to Roxborough when but two months of age, and has continuously dwelt here since that time.

Master of a remarkable memory, this grand old man can relate from his personal observations, the progress of

the 21st Ward through the years which had fled since Manayunk was but a small country village, and Roxborough but farmland, bi-sected by the Ridge road, and a few lanes. And many important national and international changes have occurred during his lifetime, in living, economic, historical, industrial and scientific conditions.

Curious folk are inclined to ask questions as to what aged people attribute their lengthy lives, but in the case of this local centenarian—as with all other people who have lived as long—there is little doubt that the reason can be found in a naturally strong physique, careful habits and moderation at all times.

* * * * *

The Spiritual Power

Eugene Morris, vice president of our local banking institution—disclosed a generally hidden side of the financial man, on Monday, while discussing the economic condition of the country, which it is confidently believed is slowly beginning to right itself.

“The experience which America has gone through in the past two years,” said Mr. Morris, “clearly demonstrates that the spiritual nature of the men and women here has sustained them splendidly during a trying crisis. Credit must be given to the church, which has provided a force that carries human beings over the roughest places in life, when dollars and cents are forgotten.”

Think that over! Ye scoffers!

* * * * *

Tweedledum and Tweedledee

Intense activity is seen recently in the suppression of lotteries, though there is none against “speculation” either in the financial marts or on race-tracks. Yet it is surprising how the spirit and desire for gain remains one of the predominating traits of human nature.

The ancients considered lot or chance to be under “Divine guidance” and in that way made important decisions, selected public officials and even divided property. Venice made herself rich by lotteries and today they are operating in Italy and elsewhere under government supervision.

Washington, Jefferson and other men famous in our national history recognized the national lotteries as convenient method of raising funds for making roads, bridges, building schools and other public institutions. Many of the States did the same thing. Virginia is reported to have authorized no less than seventy State lotteries prior to 1820.

Gradually, however, the system fell into disfavor as the

25
theory grew that it was the duty of the State to preserve the morals of the people by suppressing gambling. Yet they had to recognize that all barter and sale is but a legitimized form of gambling in the last analysis.

Today huge sweepstakes are run for charitable purposes. One, managed by the Canadian Army and Navy Veterans for the benefit of disabled ex-soldiers and their dependents, distributes large sums both in prizes and in charity. It has a tremendous following and its subscriptions are located in all sections of the United States and Canada. Its "sweeps" are based on great English races, such as the Derby, the Grand National and the Cambridgeshire, to be run late in October. The magnitude of this Canadian sweepstakes is but another manifestation of the unconquerable desire for gain, especially where the small sum risked is partly a contribution to some worthy cause.

The ups-and-downs of the Stock Exchange and the misfortunes of a United States Senator placed on trial for his alleged conviction with a lottery plan to aid a fraternal organization have brought many persons to moralize on the speculative tendencies of human beings, and to express their preferences for the ancient game of lotteries, and betting on their modern ponies.

John Byron wrote classical lines into poetry about two centuries ago when he observed: "Strange all this difference should be, 'twixt tweedledum and tweedledee."

* * * * *

Poison Gas.

A "poison gas" wave is still menacing the return of confidence and prosperity in America. False rumours, sly whispers, and idle gossip have hung like a blight over certain communities of the country.

Some of our strongest institutions have been the subject of insidious gas attacks. Forewarned is forearmed. The responsibility rests upon every one of us to be wide awake and on guard against vague flying rumors of every kind. Let us not be too quick to accept them. Let us trace them down, verify them if we can, or prove them false. The finger of suspicion should be laid upon anyone who repeats a harmful story not backed by solid facts.

Taxes.

Where is the much-wanted wisdom and ability of the men we elected to high office, at this time, when their only apparent resource toward eliminating the depression is by increasing the tax burden on us poor goops who put them in office? Blood cannot be squeezed from a stone. And even those who may still possess the means to pay taxes have resorted to the practice of doing without as many non-essentials as they can, in order to avoid paying the added costs. All of which limits the manufacture and sale of many commodities because of lessened demands.

Uncle Sam, in his post office department for instance, made a sorry mess of things when he increased his first class postage rate to three cents. Large companies, which formerly mailed out millions of bills each year, now deliver their monthly bills by one of their own low-wage imbursed employees, considerably cheaper than by using even the old two cent rate. Local lodges, and other organizations, which formerly sent statements and meeting notices out in sealed envelopes, now pay a couple of their own unemployed members to deliver the bills, and then send the meeting notices out on one cent postal cards. The revenue from the first class mail has therefore decreased alramingly—in this section at least. With a consequent reduction in the working time and therefore the pay of the mail carriers, which doesn't help to deliver a knock-out blow on the chin of Old Man Depression.

Some of our councilmen would raise our water rates and other municipal levies, when there are thousand of arrearages already. The post office example will more than likely be repeated.

Straws, nowadays, will just about break the camel's back. Or choke the goose that gained fame by laying golden eggs.

But, it would be just like some worried-for-fear-my-own-job-will-be-affected tax increaser to rise up and say, "We're not thinking of boosting the tax on camels or geese."

* * * * *

Heedless Boys

A feeling of horror swept over the people of this section on Saturday evening when it was learned that a lad, in daring play, had lost his life by being buried under tons of coal, at Ridge avenue and School House lane, earlier in the day.

Boys, since the beginning of time we imagine, have

27
taken risks such as this youngster took, never realizing the fatal danger which lurked in the practice. Parents cannot be always held responsible for deaths or injuries which occur in this manner; police are unable to cope with every like situation; and safeguards cannot always be readily placed around hazardous places such as the Queen Lane Pumping station coal chutes.

But a "Look Before You Leap" attitude can be given to these people of little experience, and their play directed along safer lines, by older persons who have a genuine interest in the protection and development of human life.

* * * * *

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1932.

Louisa J. Kerkeslager.

With the demise of Mrs. Louisa J. Kerkeslager, which occurred last week, the 21st Ward lost one of its prominent women.

Born in the state of Kentucky, which boasts of its splendid daughters, Mrs. Kerkeslager lived a long and useful life among us to justify all the laudations of a proud people.

Charitable to the extreme, she was a faithful and sympathetic wife, a kind and loving mother, and a true friend and neighbor.

Girls and women, of the present generation, would do well to accept Mrs. Kerkeslager's life as a pattern for their own.

* * * * *

Beer!

"Jimmy" Beck, who is rated by a good many people of Pennsylvania, as the Congressman de luxe, believes the next session of Congress will legalize 4 per cent. beer.

And, for once, we wouldn't be surprised that he is right. He contends that the Supreme Court may hold such a measure constitutional, leaving it to the assumption of legislators that 4 per cent. beer is not intoxicating.

Whether we are wet, or dry, it will be interesting to note how good a prophet Mr. Beck is.

* * * * *

Books That Helped "Cal"

Famous men always have to tell what books they read when they stole away into a haymow in the golden days of boyhood. Abraham Lincoln was inspired by Shakespeare, the

28
Bible and the life of Washington. So Calvin Coolidge reveals the books which the boyhood Calvin pondered.

Did he read "The Bloody Butcher's Bride," or the Demon of Dandelion Den," and other thrillers of our youth? Not on your life. No, Cal read meaty stuff, "Livingston Lost and Found," "Washington and His Generals," Cicero's orations.

While other boys were dreaming of hunting pirates and shooting bears, Little Cal was storing his mind. Boys who store their minds with useful information are considered a bit priggish on the ball field. But the business and political world finds large places for them.

* * * * *

Playing Their Cards

Card players, from all over the 21st Ward and its vicinity crowded the P. O. S. of A. Temple, at Krams and Manayunk avenues, to its capacity last night, to enjoy an evening of pleasant pastime.

But the huge affair, promoted by the Roxborough-Manayunk Den of Lions, had a greater significance than that of a social nature.

For the funds which were derived in the card party will be devoted to needy children of the neighborhood who require attention to their eyes. Glasses, examination and corrective treatments to improve the vision of these youngsters will be provided through the money which was collected for admission to the party.

Everyone who was approached - merchants and others for prizes, - professional men, artisans and the women of the community all gave their whole hearted assistance to the committee in charge, which proves that when it comes to worthy causes, the people of this vicinity know how to play their cards.

* * * * *

A Big Work

In these trying times the popular greeting, of one person to another, on the street, seems to be "How are you doing?", with the answer usually being a lot of moans and groans.

But occasionally we run across an individual who appears to be able to take circumstances as they come, and accomplish great deeds which would be impossible in normal times.

One such person is Bartley J. Doyle, publisher, and executive of one, or more, of the Philadelphia writers' clubs, who is a resident of St. Bridget's parish, in East Falls.

Once a month during the fall and winter season, Mr. Doyle sponsors, and we understand foots the bill, for a

29
vaudeville entertainment for the men of the Holy Name Society, and their wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and sweethearts, for which an extremely moderate admission charge is made. These are no small-time affairs, but are featured with some of the finest vocal and instrumental artists and specialists that can be obtained, and have become so popular that on Monday night of this week, despite the heavy rainfall, some five hundred people attended the first of this season's entertainments.

The proceeds of these concerts are contributed to the church building fund.

Here is an instance where the depression has urged an individual and his associates to put forth an effort which would probably, at other times, be futile, with the result being a welding together of the people of the parish in a stronger, friendlier, more spiritual unit.

This is, indeed, a big work, and deserving of more praise than we can humbly bestow.

With Bartley J. Doyle, it isn't "How are you doing?" but "Let us be doing!"

* * * * *

Building Operations

If you want to know how big the United States is just analyse a statistical report like the following:

Construction costs last year were more than \$7,000,000,000 which provided employment for more than 1,000,000 workers.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1932.

A Billion for Homes.

The Home Loan Bank System is one of the activities of the Government which is of immediate concern to all American families, to save their homes and to enable them to build new ones.

* * * * *

Combating Juvenile Crime.

President Hoover said in a recent speech that the saddest memory of his childhood was a Christmas when he had no toys and appealed for the protection of children's right to recreational educational play. This appeal involves more than sentiment. According to the Nation's leading authorities, juvenile crime is prevented when children have the playthings they long for. It is up to every citizen with a heart to get back of the nation-wide drive to provide every child with the toys and games that are a necessity of well

adjusted life, regardless of how the depression has affected parents.

* * * * *

Guarding School Health.

School leaders in a large city, who believe that "health education" should be practiced as well as preached, point with pride to figures which prove that last year more soap and towels were actually used by the school children than ever before. The increase was effected in spite of depression conditions and a generally reduced budget.

Why are washroom supplies receiving attention now, when many children must be fed at school, and when new books seem to be out of the question?

Because the child who is under-nourished has lost one of his defenses against disease. Communicable illnesses are much more likely to gain headway in a school where children are underfed and badly housed than in one where good living conditions are the rule. The plagues of history have followed periods of bad economic conditions. Let us not lull ourselves into unwary complacency by the fact that the death rate has continued to decline during the current depression. Perhaps we have only been profiting from the high living standards of recent years, and want is even now sowing for a bitter harvest in months to come.

Cleanliness is a wise guard against the spread of disease at all times, but particularly is it important in schools where many children are gathered together. Hands should always be washed before food is taken and after toilet, health authorities tell us. The school cited above secured more supplies and more handwashing not by spending more money, but by good management, economic purchase, and by teaching children to use and not abuse the equipment. Other schools can do the same. If supplies simply can not be purchased this year, a community organization may well step in and help. Protecting children's health is the business of every citizen.

* * * * *

No Revolution.

These are turbulent times. From almost every part of the United States we get reports of groups of distressed and indignant citizens taking the law into their own hands for various purposes. Bonus-seeking veterans march on Washington to demand relief from Congress. Farmers of the Middle West blockade the highways leading to the cities to maintain the price of farm commodities.

In this country we understand such manifestations.

They occur whenever we have a serious industrial depression or whenever the return to the farmer for his produce continues below the level of profit for any considerable time. It does not take a long memory to recall the tobacco war in Kentucky when the "Night Riders" destroyed the seed beds of planters who would not join the equity. Coxey's Army of 1893, the Pullman strike of the same year and, going farther back into history, and the riots in the Pennsylvania coal and iron country, were alarming manifestations of unrest in their time.

European observers read reports of these things in the cable dispatches and conclude that the United States is on the verge of revolution. Revolution, to the European, means only one thing, the forcible seizure of the government by a desperate populace. What Europe does not realize is that in the United States, where every citizen has an equal voice in the government, it has never been necessary for any group with an honest grievance to resort to armed rebellion.

In one sense, we are in a constant state of revolution in America—that is in the sense that our governmental policies and methods are constantly undergoing change. One has only to read the political and economic history of the United States intelligently to realize that we have advanced, by this process of social evolution, faster and more certainly in the direction of universal liberty than any other nation has ever advanced by revolution.

* * * * *

Economists tell us the depression is slowly ending and since late spring the trend of business has been upward. The advance has been slow but steady and most of the gains have been retained. Raw materials were the first to reveal the upward trend and the advance was followed by better prices in the bond and stock markets. The increase in values greatly aided the banking and insurance situation and brought a better confidence among the people, who are slowly placing hoarded funds into sound investments.

Another sign of the upward trend is an advance in prices in several lines of manufactured goods. This advance will later become general and passed along to the retailer, which is considered to mark the end of the depression and a return to better times.

The road to prosperity is still a difficult one but the high ground is in sight. Railroad earnings have increased and consumption of goods is now exceeding production, necessitating a gradual increase in employment.

Acquiescence—Or Protest?

Property owners in the 21st Ward should be aroused as never before by the recent action of the tax-levying officials of this city, in increasing the assessments on land and homes in Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissahickon.

A new system of land valuations is proposed for operation throughout Philadelphia, it is said, which is to go into effect 14 months hence. But it is to be tried out on the 21st Ward—beginning in another two months! 1933—as far as taxes are concerned—is to be a sort of a three ringed circus for 47 other wards to look upon, with the residents of the 21st Ward in the roles of trained animals.

Last week the assessors listened to protests of property owners in the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Wards, who wanted their assessments, which had been lowered, reduced still more. Central city owners, too, asked to have a "fairer valuation" put to their holdings.

And yet there are many 21st Ward folk who sit idly by and take this imposition—calmly—without a word.

Thinking people are unanimously of the opinion that other sources of revenue—or economy in city operation—must be found, as the limit has been reached on the burden of taxation now carried by the property owner, which is estimated at about 85 per cent of the total cost of municipal government.

A meeting of local residents, to discuss and hear explanations of the assessment and tax situation which has arisen will be held at the Kendrick Recreation Centre on Friday evening, and it behooves every adult in the 21st Ward to attend it, as a demonstration of the public opinion against what appears to be unwarranted unfairness to the people of Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissahickon.

* * * * *

The Memorial Bridge.

From plans which are progressing rapidly, the dedication of the new memorial bridge over the Wissahickon Creek, at Henry avenue, will be at once a sacred and spectacular affair.

The great span, which was flung across the rugged gorge after many years of effort on the part of prominent men of Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissahickon, is to be a giant memorial to the men and women who served the United States Government during the World War—soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses from the 21st, 22nd, 38th and

The formal dedication of the bridge—as a matter of course—will be directed by the municipal authorities, but the military and memorial rites are being arranged by a committee of service men and civic leaders in this vicinity.

Army and Navy officers, details of soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses, airplanes, artillery units, delegations from the various veterans' posts, and civic groups will be in a huge parade which will traverse the streets of Roxborough.

The bridge is to be appropriately marked by a bronze tablet, with the names of the various communities in North-west Philadelphia included in the wording.

All in all, the services promise to be an occasion which will live long in the memories of the people of this locality.

* * * * *

The Voting Machine.

Voters of Philadelphia will be asked—on the ballots—next Tuesday, the following question: "Shall the use of voting machines be discontinued in the County of Philadelphia?"

Why the query has been written as it has so that those who want the fairest method of voting yet devised to be retained in operation may be confused, is left to the judgment of the open-minded.

People who vote "No" will be expressing a desire to keep the machines the city already obtained and to get more for the wards which have not yet been provided with them.

The silence of the politicians about the voting machines now, is something which shouts that the average man and woman who wants clean and honest elections had better vote "No" on this subject.

Don't make the mistake of marking "Yes" through the misleading manner in which the question has been worded!

* * * * *

Seventeen deaths in week-end automobile accidents, in this section, established a record that should be a warning to every motorist. Ignoring road warning signs and speeding are the causes of most accidents, yet unthinking drivers continue to take chances endangering their own and the lives of others.

* * * * *

Charles F. Abbott, executive director of the American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., New York, said on Tuesday, that now is the time to increase rather than decrease, advertising appropriations.

Improvement in employment in almost every Pennsylvania industry was noted by the Department of Labor in a survey made public on Tuesday.

A Century Has Flown.

Probably the first Presbyterian to preach the tenets of that faith in this section was Rev. Andrew Judson, who came to Manayunk, as a missionary from the Fifth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia in 1831.

Following him came Rev. Charles Brown, through whose efforts the Presbyterian Church in Manayunk was founded. Notations from the diary of this clergyman, who lived through sixty-five years of the local church's history, read as follows.

"November 10th (1832): This afternoon our new church was organized and called the 'First Presbyterian Church of Roxborough Township'. The organization was by the Rev. John L. Grant, assisted by Elders Dr. William Darrach and Mr. Kerr. The exercises were solemn and interesting. The Rev. James M. Davis is at present the preacher.

"November 18th: Sabbath. Today we organized a Sabbath School for our new church. Seventy-nine scholars came from the old school taught in the basement of Rev. Mr. Bumstead's Church (now the Fourth Reformed) and most of the teachers from there also joined us. We are teaching in a stone building connected with Mr. Darrach's factory. I suppose measures will soon have to be taken for the erection of a church building."

The writer of these diary notes went to his Eternal Reward on February 14th, 1896—thirty-six years ago—but the mustard-like seed which he planted has grown into a mighty tree of righteousness, with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the forming of the Presbyterian congregation in Manayunk being observed.

Many have been the men and women, during the years which have passed, who have given of their faith, time and energies to increase the momentum of the movement inaugurated by Mr. Brown and the early members of the church, and today there are others who have taken their places to further the same cause, and these, too, will transfer their duties down to coming generations, so that the work may go on until at last Gabriel's trump shall announce the glorious word that the task is done, and that mankind has been saved.

The secular community owes a debt of unmeasurable gratitude to the First Presbyterian Church of Manayunk—as it does to all other churches—for making this particu-

lar locality a better place in which to live, and its members should be heartily congratulated for the splendid influence which has radiated from this place of worship in the century which has flown.

A Benefit to Parents and Teachers.

The fathers and mothers of public school children who do not take advantage of the opportunities to become better acquainted with the schools, the teachers and the problems of their offspring, which are afforded them by the monthly meetings of the various parents' associations in this vicinity, are ignoring a source of information which will not only supply a means of advancement for their sons and daughters, but also for themselves.

These parents' association meetings make it possible to visit the school to hear competent speakers on a wide range of educational subjects, and at the same time to personally know the principal and the teacher. Inquiries concerning the child's progress—or lack of it—may be made without embarrassment to anyone. And if a misunderstanding arises between the teachers and the pupil, the parent is in a position to obtain an "all-sided" story of the situation, instead of having to call at the school with a "chip on the shoulder", as it were.

The principal of any of the public schools, here, frankly admit that the parents' associations, and the programs which are carried out, have greatly decreased the difficulties which were formerly experienced with great frequency between the home and the school.

The 21st Ward is extremely fortunate in having in its parents' organization a group which is interested in at least seven schools, thereby forming an association which is stronger and more active than is ordinary. This is made possible through the topographical, political, and school district lay-out of the section involved, as well as by the pooled community interests of Wissahickon, Manayunk and Roxborough and the great number of affiliated old families residing in the Ward.

On a smaller scale, the Breck Home and School Association, of the East Falls area, has been doing a good work in its five years of existence, and over in the West Manayunk territory of Montgomery County, the Ashland Parent-Teachers' Association has a record of accomplishments which is, indeed, praiseworthy.

Before condemning a school, the teachers of its staff, the methods of education which are pursued, or the treat-

36

ment given your child—which treatment is related to you through the impressions gained by that individual of little experience and reasoning—attend the meetings of the parents' association at your local school, for a few months, at least.

Your boy, or girl—as well as you, yourself, will profit thereby!

* * * * *

Health Agencies Saves Lives

Sanitarians and health agencies actively engaged in almost every community in the State have greatly reduced sickness and the death rate in the State according to a bulletin from the State Health Department.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1932

Thanksgiving Day

With Thanksgiving Day but a week away it may be well to recall some old time sentiment of the occasion, which was written by Benjamin Wadworth, at Danvers, Massachusetts, in 1795.

“The day, the joyful day, recommended by the illustrious Washington, has dawned which invited united America religiously to celebrate the goodness of God—the happy fruits and effects of one of the most memorable revolutions recorded in all history, a revolution, considered in its rise, progress and speedy termination without a precedent, at once exhibiting such a phenomenon in the political world as has attracted the eyes of all civilized nations and attended with such a series of providential interpositions as might well astonish disinterested spectators, confound the infidel and enrapture the saint; a revolution in favor of civic and religious liberty which in its principles has given a fatal shock to tyranny and oppression in general, a glorious revolution which spake into political existence our national republic, now rising with rapid progress to meridian glory.”

* * * * *

Plays everything But Politics.

Among things new and unusual disclosed by Patent Office records in the National Capital is an electric bridge table which automatically shuffles and deals cards for the players.

This new gadget, the invention of Laurens Hammond, Chicago electric clock manufacturer, does nearly everything but bid and play the hands. Cheating is said to be impos-

sible, and the claim is made that the table never makes an error.

In appearance, the new electric bridge table looks just like any ordinary bridge table. On one side of the table is a little drawer in which the cards are placed. When the drawer is closed, the mechanism starts automatically. In front of each player is a little compartment into which thirteen cards are automatically dealt. After shuffling and dealing the cards the mechanism automatically stops, and the players are ready for the next hand. No time is lost as a fresh hand is always awaiting the players.

More perfect dealing is accomplished with the new table than by hand, the inventor says. The machine never deals the same hand twice, and a cut of the cards, however slight, will cause an entirely different deal. All kinds and varieties of hands are delivered, as in hand dealing. The new invention has been hailed as an important step forward to bridge experts, and is attracting attention of bridge players everywhere. Its sponsors say it will be exhibited throughout the country in the near future in department stores, clubs and hotels.

* * * * *

Children's Book Week.

Setting aside this week as "Children's Book Week" may be nothing more or less than a commercial conspiracy on the part of publishers to sell more books. There are certainly many who suspect this to be the case, and they are probably not far wrong.

But even if they happen to be right, such an activity must be catalogued under the lesser crimes of industry, for even in their guilt, the publishers are doing a great, general good by stimulating the fine art of reading in America's youth.

A trip through any book store today shows a newer and wiser school of thought. Ranged on the shelves are row upon row of diversified juveniles written by writers who have made a life long study of the child mind and its interests, illustrated by artists who draw only for children, and published by great publishing houses who are continually searching the world for the best in child stories.

Books on history, travel, animal stories, scout tales, biography, stories of school, sport or adventure are best for the juvenile mind, child authorities say. If the child is quite young they recommend a book of fairy tales, simple nature studies, prancing nursery jingles, such as Mother Goose, or a good picture book; and for those a little older

such books as the Child Life Story Book and The Big Show. From nine to twelve they advise books like The Mason Children, and Letters to Channy; and for children of all ages, The Picture Book of Poetry.

It would be a splendid service to the community if every adult would see that at least one child of his acquaintance is given the opportunity of reading at least one interesting book that would be worth his while. Children's Book Week is a good time to begin.

* * * * *

Co-operation

President Hoover's invitation to President-elect Roosevelt to consult with him on the question of foreign debts is evidence of the President's sincerity in doing all that is possible to aid in economic recovery for this nation and the world. The President in refusing to play politics and place obstacles in the way of the incoming administration will receive the commendation of the nation. It is by constructive statesmanship and not politics that the international debt question will be settled.

* * * * *

Good Old Ship

The good old U. S. A. has rocked a good deal but she's the best ship in the World, and all who have faith in themselves and their Creator confidently expect that Uncle Sam will in due time pilot us into smooth sailing waters. We have had plenty of panics and depressions in the past and they have all run their courses and "passed out."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1932.

Thanksgiving Day.

Will Carleton in his verses on "Captain Young's Thanksgiving," says:

Thanksgiving day, I fear,
If one the solemn truth must touch,
Is celebrated, not so much
To thank the Lord for blessings o'er
As for the sake of getting more.

It is the "festive" day on which Little Willie, so nearing the end of a bountiful meal, will sigh, "I've pretty near reached my bust measure." And dad will again wonder why Thanksgiving day doesn't follow Christmas so he can be thankful that both purse-bending days are over. It is also the season in which dogs and cats beat a tattoo on drum-

sticks with their teeth.

Truly, a man is old when he begins to fear mince pie. What this world needs is for some one to devise a plan whereby the bone of contention can be utilized like the Thanksgiving turkey for making hash and soup. But 'twas ever thus—these big Thanksgiving meals.

Football

Many people who are still energetically young, and also great numbers of those whose thoughts are still grooved in channels of activity, will crowd the athletic field at St. John's High School, this morning—weather permitting—to witness the annual football game between the two local High School elevens—the Eagles and the Braves.

This will be the fourth encounter between the rivals, with the Redmen being victorious on two occasions and last year's game being a tie.

The yearly clash of these two grid teams has become a classic despite the few years of its existence, with hundreds of men, women, girls and boys that have a love of contest between brain and brawn being on hand to cheer their favorites. A splendid spirit of sportsmanship invariably prevails and at the end of the game there is always sufficient reason to applaud even the loser.

Followers of the Purple and White Birdlings predict this as an Eagle year, and while the Indians and their adherents maintain the stoical silence inherent with the active aborigine, the Braves may hold their Blue and White banners aloft in victory again at the end of the struggle.

Who knows? No one! And a lack of uncertainty would take the zest from the battle, if anyone did!

Glorifying the Criminal?

Readers will recall there was considerable controversy during the past years on the matter of publicity that tends to glorify the American gangster and criminal. During that period newspapers were read avidly for the latest developments in the life of Al Capone. Cagney, Robinson and other screen stars rose to prominence portraying gangster roles. That was the hey-day of what might be called "gangster entertainment."

And now, with the dramas that are being presented on the air depicting the lives of actual gangsters as compiled from police records the question is up again. Is radio glorifying the criminal? This all resolves itself down to the matter of whether or not the constant focusing of public attention on that phase of our social order has tended to en-

sticks with their teeth.

Truly, a man is old when he begins to fear mince pie. What this world needs is for some one to devise a plan whereby the bone of contention can be utilized like the Thanksgiving turkey for making hash and soup. But 'twas ever thus—these big Thanksgiving meals.

Football

Many people who are still energetically young, and also great numbers of those whose thoughts are still grooved in channels of activity, will crowd the athletic field at St. John's High School, this morning—weather permitting—to witness the annual football game between the two local High School elevens—the Eagles and the Braves.

This will be the fourth encounter between the rivals, with the Redmen being victorious on two occasions and last year's game being a tie.

The yearly clash of these two grid teams has become a classic despite the few years of its existence, with hundreds of men, women, girls and boys that have a love of contest between brain and brawn being on hand to cheer their favorites. A splendid spirit of sportsmanship invariably prevails and at the end of the game there is always sufficient reason to applaud even the loser.

Followers of the Purple and White Birdlings predict this as an Eagle year, and while the Indians and their adherents maintain the stoical silence inherent with the active aborigine, the Braves may hold their Blue and White banners aloft in victory again at the end of the struggle.

Who knows? No one! And a lack of uncertainty would take the zest from the battle, if anyone did!

Glorifying the Criminal?

Readers will recall there was considerable controversy during the past years on the matter of publicity that tends to glorify the American gangster and criminal. During that period newspapers were read avidly for the latest developments in the life of Al Capone. Cagney, Robinson and other screen stars rose to prominence portraying gangster roles. That was the hey-day of what might be called "gangster entertainment."

And now, with the dramas that are being presented on the air depicting the lives of actual gangsters as compiled from police records the question is up again. Is radio glorifying the criminal? This all resolves itself down to the matter of whether or not the constant focusing of public attention on that phase of our social order has tended to en-

40
hance the attractiveness of the profession. The answer is that it is purely a matter of treatment.

One cannot help feeling that the criminal is battling terrific odds in the modern police and crime detection methods now in effect throughout the country. There is no doubt that the courageous and untiring efforts of the authorities in tracking down the country's criminals has been brought home forcibly in these presentations. When the futility of this calling is hammered into the minds of the American people week in and week out over a period of months, one realizes that instead of glorifying a being we all know exists, these programs by playing the bright light of publicity upon him reveal his weakness and ineffectualness not only to his victims but to himself where, perhaps, it does the most good.

Aside from the entertainment value of such radio dramas, one is led to wonder if they mightn't be considered a public service for presenting so vividly the truth of the statement "You can't win!" which the police have been striving for decades to impress upon the criminal element of society.

* * * * *

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier ...

The dignified and new tomb of America's Unknown Soldier was formally dedicated on Armistice Day. When the body of the Unknown was brought back to Washington while Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding were both alive and able to ride in the ceremonial procession through the streets of Washington to the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, the burial was in a grave enclosed in a temporary marble vault.

* * * * *

It has been suggested that Philadelphia run a lottery to raise new revenue for the city and to lighten the burden of taxation. There has recently ended a great crusade to clear the city of gamblers who preyed upon the people in operating the number racket. This kind of gambling was very obnoxious and did great harm to many people who dissipated their meagre earnings in gambling. The suggestion that Philadelphia go into the gambling racket met with the quick repudiation it deserved. A government that is willing to be maintained with the proceeds from robbery of the poor people is not worthy to exist. Governments have used gambling to raise revenue but they have not endured and their people were oppressed.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1932.

Power.

That citizens of Philadelphia have it in their power to accomplish reforms in City government is proved by the recent protest meetings before City Council, Major Samuel B. Scott, chairman of the Philadelphia Committee on Public Affairs, said last Sunday night.

"We need a rededicated citizenry in Philadelphia," he said in an address at the Race Street Forum, 15th and Race streets. "The independent voter can successfully exert pressure in municipal affairs if he realizes his power. It is not the voter who can be shepherded that the politician respects, but the one whose action is doubtful.

"Philadelphia members of the State Legislature can be unrepresentative because no pressure is exerted upon them by the mass of the citizenry, and the same applies to City Council. The governors of the city, which is a business corporation, profit from its regularity."

* * * * *

The Five Day Week.

The five day week in industry has been tried for a year or more in a number of important manufacturing establishments of different kinds and sizes, and the general verdict is that it works to the advantage of everybody concerned. We think it is something which was bound to come sooner or later. The period of depression from which we are now emerging has merely hastened it along.

In almost every kind of business in these days the Saturday half holiday is generally observed. It is not generally the case, however, that a full half day's work is done on Saturday morning. Some of the large organizations, like the big life insurance companies, which have had a five day week for their clerical staffs for a long time, say that just as much work is done in five days as used to be done in five days and a half. Also, that their employees get such a definite physical and spiritual benefit from having their time to themselves from five o'clock Friday until nine o'clock Monday morning, that it has proved an actual economy to cut down the working week without reducing salaries.

We have too much of a tendency in America to make a virtue out of work for its own sake. A sounder philosophy of life is that work is a necessary evil, and should be regarded as merely a means to the end of achieving more leisure in which to enjoy the really valuable things of life. If the world's work could be done in three days out of every week, we think that this would be a much happier world in which

to live.

Liquor Legislation

42

Congress will convene for the short session next Monday and there are lots of promises that action will be taken on the prohibition question. The statesmen apparently have widely divergent ideas as to the method to be pursued to restore to the States the right to regulate the liquor traffic. There are some advocating the adoption of a resolution to submit to the States the question of repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. There are others who believe the surest and quickest way to end prohibition is to modify the Volstead Act or repeal it. Congress would set a new alcoholic content of a beverage that would not be intoxicating in fact. This procedure is not looked upon with favor by some Wets as it would probably include wines with beer and ale and the alcoholic content might be set so high that the Drys would be sustained in their opposition by the Supreme Court.

Many Wets are in agreement that there should be an orderly approach to the prohibition question. Too much should not be attempted at one time and the pledges of the political parties will be more sure to be carried out if modification, nullification and repeal are not confused.

The Democrats are committed to repeal and immediate modification. In order to maintain confidence of the people in the party's pledges, Democratic leaders are anxious to present prohibition legislation at the opening of the session. However, while there has been a change of opinion among a number of former dry Senators, the Senate will be an obstacle in preventing the quick legalizing of beer and ale.

The Drys are alert and recognize the Wets in their anxiety to quickly kill the prohibition laws will raise complications which will cause delay and may throw the whole question into the next Congress.

Thirty-seven railroads report an increase of net operating income for October over the same period last year. The steel industry has not made the improvement anticipated and there is little hopes for any increase in business during the present year, as it is not usual for large orders to be placed near the end of the year. Buyers do not desire the arrival of shipments at the inventory period and excepting the orders for the automobile industry, there has been no large buying. It is expected that steel will take a spurt early in January as production has been less than consumption and the mills are not accumulating stocks of finished materials. The railroads have not come into the steel mar-

ket on a large scale and their need for materials is increasing. It is anticipated large orders will of necessity be placed during the winter which will materially aid the industry and bring employment in many other industries.

* * * * *

Not For Us!

It appears as though the payroll padders in City Hall have been ogling school jobs and the school budget ever since the Board of Education was given complete power in 1911. They want the authority to control school funds, to foist cheap politicians on the people as teachers of the young, to pay political debts with pedagogical posts.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1932.

The Long Lane Turns

The only thing that keeps most of us from realizing our own possibilities and of getting the highest satisfaction out of life is fear. There are very few human beings in the world who are not afraid of something, and as long as one is afraid of anything he cannot achieve perfect happiness.

Primitive man must have lived in a state of almost constant terror. He was afraid of wild beasts, afraid of enemies of other tribes, afraid of the thunder and lightning, afraid of evil spirits that lurked in the darkness of the forest—of real dangers and of unreal dangers which he imagined. Very few people in these days have the perfectly natural physical fears that surrounded the lives of our ancestors. But who of us has not some mental fear, fear of something that has not happened but which we think may happen to ourselves or our loved ones?

In the past two or three years the people of the United States have been the prey of a new kind of fear. They have been afraid that, in the popular phrase, the bottom had dropped out of everything. They have feared that never again would they have a job, that the factories that have shut down would never start up, that they would never be able to sell the products of their farms—those and a thousand other fears which have no relation to common sense or reality seemed to take possession of perhaps the majority of Americans.

And that is one of the reasons we have been so slow in coming back from the economic crisis. We have been afraid to use our intelligence and common sense and go ahead when everybody else was afraid to do anything but accept condi-

44
tions as they are and paint them, mentally, much worse than they are.

We see signs that this widespread fear is beginning to disappear. We do not believe it every had any real foundation, and we believe people are waking up to that fact. If we are right, and hope and courage are beginning to replace fear, then we have made a good start toward the return of good times.

* * * * *

Prohibition Repeal Fails

Congress took quick but futile action at the opening of the short session Monday when the House voted on the Garner resolution to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment.

Speaker Garner as Vice President-elect gave notice that he would endeavor to carry out the platform of the Democratic party and the mandate of the people for immediate submission of the repeal question to the States. His resolution was presented by the Democratic leader of the House and the Democrats were appealed to to vote for the resolution as a party measure, fulfilling the promise made in the party platform. Southern prohibitionists refused to go along and voted against repeal.

The Wets were short six votes for the needed two-thirds of the members voting to pass the resolution. The Republican Wets are blaming the Democrats and the Democrats place the blame on the Republicans for the defeat of the resolution. Both sides hold the "Lame Ducks" responsible.

There was much opposition outside of Congress to Speaker Garner offering a repeal resolution at this time. The resolution offered no means for control of liquor should the amendment be repealed and offered no protection to dry states and these omissions were used as an excuse by some Democrats who had to have an excuse to repudiate their party platform.

Forty-four Democrats and one hundred Republicans voted against repeal. Six votes would have passed the resolution. Of the Democrats who voted against, eleven are "Lame Ducks" and thirty-three will be members of the next Congress. Twenty-seven Democrats who voted against repeal are from the "Solid South" and eight are "Lame Ducks."

The Garner resolution was a Democratic measure and

the Democratic leaders failed to muster the strength needed to carry out the party pledge.

Prohibition is still a major issue and will remain to plague the people and Congress until the question is settled in an orderly and rational manner.

Submitting the repeal amendment at this time is believed by many to have been an improper course. The first step, if the desires of the people are considered, would be to repeal the Volstead Act and place a new alcoholic content limit for non-intoxicating beverages.

* * * * *

Russia and the newspapers of Uruguay are practicing the age old form of barter by trading goods. Russia is supplying the newspapers with newsprint and in return is receiving cattle to improve the Russian breed. This is one method of overcoming the shortage of money and at the same time suppling needs.

The British Chamber of Commerce has put forth a plan for trading goods with many other nations. As most of the nations of the world are broke and every one has something to sell and needs goods and materials which are not produced as home, trading goods for goods is likely to take place on a vast scale, and work to the good of all people.

With the old custom of barter being revived, it may be well for American business to seek opportunities to trade goods for goods as a means to help stabalize economic conditions throughout the world.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1932.

Terrible Service

Economy is economy, and public service is public service, and the residents of Roxborough who have to make use of the PRT Route "R" busses are complaining that the latter is being sacrificed for the former; to their great discomfort and danger to their health.

During December there seems to be more people going into town than during the other months, and it would seem as if the PRT officials would meet the situation by placing a few more vehicles at the service of their riders.

Ingoing busses are jammed with from 40 to 50 passengers but coming out of town, the "good old skip-stop" scheme is put into practice. With the old trolleys, it was not so bad. Another car came along in a few minutes. And in the warm months, there's little complaint heard. But there's

46
a seventeen minute interval between these busses. And on cold, snowy, rainy, raw days, like we've experienced recently, Old Man Pneumonia is a pernicious flirter with people standing on corners.

We say: "There oughta be a law!"

* * * * *

Christmas Money.

Good news is contained, for a good many people in this vicinity, in the announcement made last Friday by Dr. Gordon, State Banking Secretary, to the effect that further payments of funds of the Roxborough and Manayunk Trust Companies will be made on December 22nd.

It doesn't leave much time for Christmas shopping but a belated gift is better than none, and there is little doubt that happiness will send a gleam through the hearts of those who get some of the money.

* * * * *

Walter Camp's Memorial

Probably no sport in the history of the world has ever gained a more overwhelming grip on popular imagination than American college football. Walter Camp used to pick the all-American stars, award them his much-prized gold footballs to dangle from their watch chains, and let it go at that.

In a newly issued encyclopedia appears a quotation from a writer of the second century, describing a game played at Rome in his times. "The players," writes Julius Pollux, "divide themselves into two bands. The ball is thrown upon the line in the middle. At the two ends of the field, behind the line where the players are stationed, are two other lines beyond which these two bands endeavor to carry the ball, a feat that cannot be accomplished without pushing one another backward and forward." This description presents, notwithstanding its brevity, a football field marked upon the ground, with center line and goal lines and naturally with side lines, with the familiar personal collisions of the players, and with a score achieved by forcing the ball across an adversary's goal line.

The greatest honor that can come to any college athlete is still that of being named for Walter Camp's All-American, and the proudest token he can wear is the little gold football, designed 30 years ago by Camp and still awarded annually to exactly eleven men.

An impressive example of the overwhelming power and influence of football in American education is found in a

47
great institution which changed its name solely because of its football team. Until 1896, the official name of Princeton was "College of New Jersey." Its football teams, however, always used to wear on their shirts the name of the town, Princeton, thus popularizing the latter name to such proportion that eventually the College of New Jersey became Princeton University.

* * * * *

Faint Hope for Beer

Democratic leaders, while continuing the fight to repeal the Volstead act to carry out the party's promise to legalize beer by Christmas, have little hope that the program can be carried out in the present Congress. The vote on the Garner resolution to repeal fell short by six of the necessary two-thirds majority and it is likely the vote would be less should Congress repeal the Volstead act and the President veto the legislation.

It is claimed by the Democrats that "Lame Ducks", who lined up against the repeal resolution would oppose any measure to legalize beer and that the Republicans will support the Administration should the President veto a beer bill.

The people in the November elections gave a mandate to Congress as to their desires on the prohibition question. There are still many in Congress who place their own convictions above the claims and demands of their constituents. Many, who have assumed that attitude, have failed of reelection and may use their power to thwart the will of the people until the convening of the new Congress next March.

The "Lame Ducks" are presenting the best evidence why the "lame duck" session should be abolished.

* * * * *

The Good Old Days.

Seeing great throngs of boys and girls—and some grown-ups, too—coasting down the hills of this vicinity, over the week-end, must have been a pleasant reminder to people of more mature years, of the good old days when winters were really winters—and sledding prevailed for weeks at a time.

* * * * *

We Wanta Know!

Aside from a lot of summarizing, fitting payrolls to budgets, etc., we like to know just what has been accomplished by the big hullabaloo down at City Hall.

"Peace on Earth, Good-Will to Men."

Almost since the world began to whirl around in the universe, or perhaps rather since civilization began to take on concrete form, there has been imbedded in the human heart desires of joy and happiness to fellow beings. Especially are these desires strong at Christmas time, when we celebrate the anniversary of the coming of the Christ-child and the gladsome message, "Peace on Earth, Good-will to Men." It is our greatest heritage, because it lifts us from the sordid things of everyday life to the planes of unselfish thought and good deeds, even as our hands stretch out to succor the unfortunate and the lowly.

Of all the great festivals of the year, that of Christmas stands dominant. Wherever Christian foot has trod, the day is celebrated. Not only by the children who look forward to it with all the pleasure and anticipation of an innocent heart and mind, but throughout every Christian country, the advent of Christmas is looked forward to as one of particular significance.

Let us, then, keep the meaning and the spirit of Christmas alive every day in the coming year, and individually, as a re-born Scrooge, of Dickens' Christmas Carol, resolve: "I will honor Christmas in my heart and strive to keep it throughout the year." With these thoughts in mind we extend the season's most sincere greetings.

* * * * *

Santa Claus.

We know no finer thing to say of the great myth-god of the children than appeared as an editorial in a New York newspaper, which was read to us as a lad of seven, which went as follows:

"Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'if you see it in The Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

VIRGINIA O'HANLON,
115 West Ninety-fifth Street."

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect.

an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life the highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear apart a baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

* * * * *

Better or Worse?

Until several years ago, Calumet street, in East Falls, crossed the Reading Railroad Company's Norristown division, on a steel and wood bridge, which had high board fences on either side, which prevented anyone crossing the bridge from seeing the approach of vehicles along Cresson street. One, or more, children were killed through the thoughtless construction of the bridge.

It was then replaced with a concrete structure, which the Department of Public Safety apparently paid no attention to, until after it was built, and then only when the haz-

ard was pointed out to it. Although the outer walls were low enough for a grown-up to see approaching automobiles, children were still prevented from having an unobstructed view of the cross streets ahead. So red danger signs were painted on each end of the bridge. Which were read for a time and then forgotten by children and motorists alike.

And now the Reading Company, in the electrification of the line beneath the bridge, has decided to make it impossible for anyone to inadvertently touch the high powered wires which will be strung under the bridge, by adding two feet or more of concrete to the top of the outer walls.

There is little doubt that their plan will work out well as far as touching the live wire is concerned, but it certainly increases the traffic hazard at that point, where both ends of the bridge rests on the roadbed of a street. Even the noise of an electric train will drown out the quiet-motored, rubber tired motor car, and even the toot of its horn, and with no possible chance to see ahead, sooner or later some one is going to get killed.

It appears that bridge builders and railroad companies receive a great deal more consideration than does the lives of taxpayers.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1932

Past—And To Come!

Do you wonder—as the last few minutes of the Old Year are ticking off on the big clock—what, in reality, has happened to the passing year? Not many months ago, we crossed the threshold of a New Year—a New Era, for us—and now that year has grown old, and is gasping for its breath. We passed through untold experiences during that Spring and Summer, and down into the Winter again. Some others have proved to be duds. Perhaps tragedy has stalked through some of our lives. And now, at the end, we stop, for a few minutes, to think—and to sum up, and—to wonder what it's all about.

Whatever the past year may have meant to us, let us make it dead history. And let the New Year be a living issue. With a big, fresh sponge, dripping with the clear water of forgiveness, let us wipe clean the slate of our heart. Let us enter the year with a kind thought for every one. We need not kiss the hand that smote us, but grasp it in cordial good feeling, and let the electricity of our own resolves find its connecting current—which very often exists

51
where we think it not. Make the new year a happy one in our homes; be bright of disposition; carry our cares easy; let our hearts be as sunshine, and our lives will give warmth to all around us. And thus we'll all be happy.

Maybe Next Time Will Be Different

The attitude of France concerning its American debts has undoubtedly grown out of a spirit of antagonism in that country against the United States. Evidently France speaks for several nations in serving formal notice on the United States that these Europeans expect their debts to be forgiven. It is a hard blow to the millions of Americans who went the limit for the Europeans at a time when they faced destruction in a great war.

France in defaulting on the payment of interest due on the debt due this country has not been able to justify that default. It is reported by the Federal Reserve Board that the French gold reserves total more than one hundred and seventy times the defaulted war debt payment. France refused payment of \$19,261,432 while having gold holdings of \$3,266,000,000.

On the other hand, England with gold holdings of \$678,000,000 paid promptly \$95,000,000 due this country on account of her loans.

The American people have always held the French nation in high esteem. They remember the aid given this country in its struggle for independence. School children were taught to appreciate the great interest and sympathy of the French for an oppressed people. It will now be difficult to reconcile the action of France in repudiating a just and acknowledged debt with her spirit of justice in the past.

France has done worse than default on money matters, since that Government has defaulted on its signature. The event should be remembered in view of the fact that the great military establishment that is being perpetuated by France is likely to involve that nation in a future war. Perhaps the United States will stay out, next time!

No Pyramids.

We would like to see the Government of the United States, the Government of every State, every county and every town start right off on a program of public improvements that will put a lot of people to work and put a lot of money into circulation. But we don't want to see that sort of work done if it is just going to sink taxpayers' money where it won't come back, or the supposed localizing of

work, as has been evidenced in recent Government steel contracts.

Among the greatest public works of all time are the Pyramids of Egypt. Under the direction of successive Pharaohs they gave employment to practically everybody in Egypt, but they consumed practically all of the money and resources of Egypt. And once all of that labor and money had been built into the pyramids, there wasn't any way of getting it out again, and that is what ruined ancient Egypt.

We have built enough pyramids, in the form of non-productive public works, in America. We do not think the Government, or any part of the government, ought to go into business in competition with private capital, but we can think of a lot of things to build which it would be perfectly sound business for the Government to borrow money, because eventually the money would come back to pay for those enterprises, and they are not the sort of thing toward which private capital has ever been greatly inclined. We have in mind such things as the building of toll bridges over rivers, of developing greater water power sites like Conowingo, and the Boulder Dam, which will pay for themselves by the sale of power and of water rights.

By all means let Uncle Sam sell a billion or five billion dollars of bonds to get money for public works, provided it is not to be spent for pyramids but for projects so safeguarded that the money will come back with interest without putting an added burden upon the taxpayers.

Bermuda in erecting a tariff against products of this country will not please Americans who have been going by the thousands to the island to spend their vacation. The American tourist trade is the principal business of the island.

Good will toward men was shown this Christmas more publicly than in the past.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1933.

Another Year.

This issue of The Suburban Press marks the beginning of another year in the history of this locality.

When we look back over the year just past there is much for which we are thankful. New friends have greeted us, and these, together with the host of acquaintances of former years, help considerably in making more optimistic

53
the outlook for the future.

We have seen many valued friends pass silently down the valley of the shadow of death, and their passing is the greatest sorrow we have endured.

The problems usually confronted by all publishers have been ours, and we have endeavored under all circumstances to carry out the advice of President Lincoln in extending charity to all and malice to none.

There have been times when possibly we were censured for omitting so-called spicy news, but we feel that our columns can never contain anything which will leave a scar on the life or character of anyone.

To all who by their generous patronage have assisted, and to those who by their contributions of news have assisted in keeping The Suburban Press a real home newspaper, we are deeply indebted, and it is our earnest desire at this time to pledge our undivided efforts for the future in behalf of the community, its citizens and to the section we serve in its entirety.

* * * * *

A Bridge We Need.

Good news for this section was contained in the information emanating from Harrisburg last Friday, concerning the formation of a bridge company, which asks permission to erect the long-discussed bridge across the Schuylkill river at, or near, Miquon.

If the incorporation is approved, it is said that work will start soon. Concrete approaches would be built to connect the bridge with Ridge road on the east side of the stream and the Conshohocken State highway on the west.

The erection of this bridge will make possible the proposed Chestnut Hill-Bryn Mawr by-pass around downtown Philadelphia, for motorists traveling from New York and New England to Washington and the South.

Going through the upper end of Roxborough, and the vast Houston estate, the thoroughfare will make a logical end for the Henry avenue boulevard, and with the complete opening of that traffic artery the resultant development of these high and healthy hills is readily apparent.

We need that bridge!

* * * * *

Vital Statistics.

Searching back through the files of The Suburban Press for vital statistics concerning Roxborough, Wissahickon, Manayunk, East Falls and West Manayunk, during 1932. It

54

is interesting to note some of the facts which are disclosed:

The death notices appearing in The Press, for 1932, totaled 493. Of these 293 were male and 200 female, with adults being far greater in the majority. January, February, March and December were the most fatal months, more aged people expiring in these periods than in other subdivisions of the year. Oddly enough, the months of February and March were most deadly for the womenfolk. The causes of the deaths of the year varied from murder, suicide and accidental deaths, to those of disease, and the weakness caused by age.

Each week there appears in the columns of this paper an account of the babies born at the Memorial Hospital. Only live babies of married parents are reported and published—for obvious reasons.

During the year which has gone, the Memorial Hospital officials reported to us the births of 217 youngsters. Of these 111 were boys, any one of whom, if they are unlucky enough, may become President, and 106 were girls, who stand as good a chance of becoming First Ladies of the Land. February and March appear to be the popular months in which to be born.

Taking the births which occur in private homes and at other medical centres, it is believed that the arrivals are more than holding their own with the departures.

As for marriages, well, the Depression affected them a little, but not so much. They appear to go on, and on, with little decrease. For which, we suppose, whether we be business man, clergyman, florist, lawyer, printer, doctor, nurse, teacher or mortician, we should be grateful.

* * * * *

Renovize.

Throughout Philadelphia an 18-day drive was started Tuesday in the interest of unemployment relief and trade recovery. It is known as the Renovize Philadelphia Campaign.

The idea is to have property owners repair, remodel and restore at today's bargain prices. It is pointed out in this campaign that labor and material can be procured at a cost 40 per cent less than at any time since the World War. Solicitors are calling on homes, asking the property owners to pledge the amount of money that they can spend for needed repairs during the next six months.

* * * * *

Calvin Coolidge.

Calvin Coolidge has gone. Elected to a Higher Office than even the American people can bestow.

And when Death claimed the great New Englander, last Thursday, it proved a tremendous shock to those left behind, but the very quietness and peacefulness of his passing was typical of his life. No excitement, no long suffering or complaining—but with a calmness which characterized his every action. There is something sublime in this manner of traveling on to "the Greener Fields."

Perhaps no public man retained the confidence of his countrymen, in this generation at least, so fully as Calvin Coolidge. And his passing, despite the calm conditions at sixty years, when many years of leadership were expected of him, has evoked universal sorrow.

Coolidge was of the type which all of us can understand, endowed with common sense and shrewdness. Brief in his speeches, always restrained, with a dry humor, the former President was genuinely an American, the kind which is still the backbone of the Nation.

His achievements were amazing. He held public office from 1899 until 1928 and was never once defeated. That in itself denotes unerring political ability.

With his funeral, on Saturday, simple of ceremony, millions mourned the passing of a man whose genius for inspiring confidence raised him to greatness.

* * * * *

Will Affect All

The era of selfishness is about to be forced to an end. Director of Public Health Dr. Henry warns that an influenza epidemic, now sweeping the South and West, may soon reach this section. Fortunately it appears to be in a mild form. But the affliction is infectious.

The depression, with its consequent unemployment and lack of proper sustenance, has made thousands of men, women and children prey to any such infectious or contagious disease. And when contagion starts its rounds the individuals with money, as well as those who have experienced a dearth of it are attacked alike.

In the present state of complex civilization, selfishness is unsafe. The other fellow's welfare is our own.

* * * * *

Psychology

Renovize! The word is a challenge to the business leaders in Philadelphia—a challenge, as well, to all the people

56

of Philadelphia, those of Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon and East Falls included, to take advantage of an opportunity that will win for this city the prestige of having pointed the way toward the further revival of business.

Forgetting the mechanics and the methods by which the Renovize Philadelphia Campaign will be executed, it is pertinent to focus our attention on the dynamic philosophy underlying it. Even a cursory consideration of the stupendous magnetic power which this campaign, soundly conceived and adequately executed, will have on the business mind of Philadelphia is enough to convince casual observers that here is an opportunity that the business leaders and people of Philadelphia cannot afford to ignore.

* * * * *

Builders Optimistic

A more optimistic tone is noticeable in the construction industry in Philadelphia at this time, and while it is hard for many companies and individuals to forget the troubles of 1932, it also is true that many of them are endeavoring to let bygones be bygones and try for more work in 1933.

Just what types of work will form the bulk of building during the year is a question. Generally, analysis in the construction industry can gauge a certain amount of work based on announcements of projects made previous to the beginning of the new year, but this year is an exception. There have been few announcements of new projects of any size or considerable cost, and in the few cases of large structures the architects are as much in the dark about when construction will be started as any one else.

* * * * *

Route "R" Busses.

On December 15th there was printed in this column an editorial calling attention to the overcrowded condition of Route "R" busses, on Ridge avenue.

It is doubtful whether the Roxborough line carried more passengers in any one month, than the number of people who utilized the line in December. Downtown shopping was more than likely responsible.

However, the PRT Company officials have since made a close check-up of the number of passengers riding on the line, and have issued instructions concerning the running of the busses on as near an accurate schedule as is humanly possible. And with the addition of one or more busses, in the morning hours at least, the condition which existed last month has been considerably bettered.

Individual criticisms will probably continue, but the

proper kind of public transportation is not usually the simple procedure which some persons would try to make others believe.

To the great credit of the PRT Company, which must not be expected to run the bus line at a loss, the officials make every possible effort to give the people of this section the best kind of service possible.

Many industrialists who are trying to be fair with their employees find themselves confronting competition of the worst kind—low wages, child labor and long hours—which is a menace to the standard of living of the American workman.

