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MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1916.

A current event—Electric Week.

The modern-day chatterbox—the graphophone

Some folks only too often write wrong.

Still a wooden leg may be preferable to a block head.

Boycott sounds masculine, but it seems to be a feminine job so far.

Jumping mullets continue to be taken for submarines by nervous skip-pers.

When a fellow falls down on his job he generally holds up his employ-er.

The Goddess of Liberty is going to show how it is possible to be lit-up and yet be a perfect lady.

Mr. A. Turkey Gobbler is under the impression that these days about every man has an axe to grind.

Wonder if Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin will feel insulted if they refer to her as Miss Representative?

The Statue of Liberty is now lit-up every night, but in that it has no advantage over the majority of New Yorkers.

The real funny part about the cartoons in the comic papers is the way the characters hand out \$1,000 bills upon all occasions.

King Constantine would rather part with his artillery than with his life, and wherein all good and loyal pacifists will admit that he has a good eye.

It is told that the Durham messenger boy, who, in his fancy, married a woman with millions, is feeble minded. How about those people who swallowed the story?

It is hard to think that aesthetic, classical Boston is standing for Billy Sunday slang, but it is doing so and enjoying it. Perhaps, after all, the Bostonese are human.

No surprise need be expressed because Congresswoman Rankin admits she is over 25 years of age. She has to be that old to be entitled to membership, according to the constitution.

As long as there is going to be discrimination, why when nature gives a poor girl a pretty face and an ugly girl money, it certainly must be admitted that nature knows its business.

The Philadelphia Record thinks the Republican party has got to provide itself with a different set of leaders. Different in character, we take it, and in which event it wouldn't be a Republican party.

Something seems to whisper that this is going to be a bad month for bills, as people will want it all for Christmas, and then next month will be a bad one, because they spent it all for Christmas.

Champ Clark is in favor of the abolition of the Congressional Record. In view of the high price of coal will the gentleman from Missouri wait until the winter months are over, so as not to deprive many an office of fuel.

A number of North Carolina counties are claiming the oldest voter, but none so far has put in the claim to possessing the man who has voted most. Perhaps, it is recognized that Buncombe has a cinch on that proposition.

As usual President Wilson's speech Saturday night at the banquet attending the ceremonies of lighting the Statue of Liberty was a gem for plain expression and for thought. The President is a mastermind for weaving simple sentences into mighty phrases, and for ringing the bull's eye with small words.

THE EMBARGO QUESTION.

Whether or not an embargo on food-stuffs is imposed by the present congress (chances are very much that it will not be, due both to International reasons and politics) those who have been agitating the question have the satisfaction of knowing that they have stirred people to action and that it would take but little more for such to become a reality. They have blazed the path.

Chances against enactment of a food embargo grew less when the question was advocated in its relation not to the country's domestic problem, but as applied to its foreign policy. To declare an embargo as a retaliatory step would get it without logical, and, in a way, would trespass upon the question settled at the polls, when the course of President Wilson was endorsed. In consequence of this endorsement any retaliation of this character would rather lie within the province of the President, who, together with the State Department, is charged with handling foreign affairs and who has closely studied the question.

When an embargo is advocated as retaliation the question loses force as solution of a domestic problem and, at the same time, is placed in the same class with munitions, the shipment of which is purely within the rights as allowed a neutral country by International law. To prohibit such shipment would in itself be an unneutral act. But to place an embargo on foodstuffs would not be unneutral, providing it was not done as a matter of retaliation nor because one country could transport the articles across the water while another could not.

To meet a domestic exigency would not be unneutral and would not place such a par with munitions of war, as people cannot eat the latter. It would not be without precedent in European affairs, nor should war be necessary to keep innocent people from suffering the pangs of hunger and experiencing mental torture that comes from want; from the strain of trying to make both ends meet. Embargoes are generally used in war.

There is no reason why a foodstuffs embargo should throw people out of work, if the demand at home is sufficient, and that is the first point at present. Upon the same principle would depend the reasonable profit for those who produce and those who sell. Home consumption should be sufficient to yield a reasonable profit to all.

As the handling of trans-Atlantic shipments go there would be some people out of work, but think of the number that would be out of work tomorrow should the war end, as the result of less demand for munitions of war. Just as provision is to be made, or attempted to, be made for them, so it could be made for those very few, by comparison, who might be out of work should an embargo be found necessary.

When there is an over-production prices are low, but when the production is small prices are high. Yet those who attempt to justify present prices by smaller crops than last year are without the facts. A comparison will show that prices are far out of proportion to the difference in production; far higher, and undoubtedly it is caused by the demand from the warring countries. Yet it needs no resort to figures, to a mathematical comparison, to demonstrate this. If one heeds how the price of wheat slumps whenever there is tangible talk of an armistice or rumor of peace being near, he can be convinced of this fact. This is a straw, without taking into account the great sales being made to foreign countries. Only last week Russia established an enormous credit for the purchase of wheat in America and the features of the market Saturday were the large buying orders of the Dutch and Greek governments.

Some one argues that wages have gone up as well as the price of necessities. That sounds reasonable, until it is analyzed. Then it is seen that the cost has gone up far in excess of any salary or wage increase and there are thousands of men whose pay has not been raised within the past two years.

THE MARINA CASE.

If the captain of the submarine that sunk the horse-ship Marina made a mistake and Germany acknowledges the error and pays indemnity, there is nothing that can be done further so far as Germany is concerned. It would not be right to sever diplomatic relations with Germany because one of its officers made a blunder, which the German government acknowledged and readily made reparations, as far as in human power to do so.

But this would not allow the master of the submarine to escape. It would be the duty of the German government to punish the captain and to make it plain to the United States that this punishment had been administered and was commensurate with the crime committed. The United States should make this a part of the settlement.

THE NEGATIVE MAN.

It is amusing to see people who have no suggestions to make standing on the sidelines and poking fun at those who are making them in effort to solve the high cost of living. They are of the class (in many instances some of the same ones) who have either attempted to laugh to failure or pessimistically grunted at all reforms of the past. Some of them have axes to grind in having custom, no matter how antiquated, no matter how iniquitous in application to modern-day demands, remain unshaken, while others are merely negative citizens. They have never suggested reforms and whenever reformation has been suggested they have been disbelievers. If the country had been left to them it would never have progressed. If it is to be left to them it will slip back down hill.

It is true that many of them have been only too willing to chime-in when reform was applied and proved successful, but when more strength was needed to get the reform they were missing. Whatever may be the virtues of such people initiative is not among them, and that is one of the biggest and brightest elements for expansion of the country and for the welfare of the people.

THE BALANCE OF POWER.

The way the matter now appears the Independent members of the House of Representatives, whether known by the title of Socialist, Prohibitionist or Progressive, will hold the balance of power, so far as organization of that branch goes. In other words, whichever side they select to go with can organize the House.

Reports Saturday declared they would form themselves into a faction all their own, and stand back for inducements. It is not hard to realize that such formation would be reasonable, if the idea is to obtain strength that would help their cause, but "inducements" is rather a cold, hard sounding word. There is such a thing as principle, and surely those things which the Independents advocate are rather in the Democratic ranks than in the Republican.

But if inducements are really what's wanted, the Democratic party can supply them, wherein the Republican party cannot. The former is in control of congress as a whole and in full control of the administrative machinery. It has all to offer, while the Republicans have nothing.

Congress is now once more in session and will endeavor to do those things which it left undone last time, it is supposed. At least the Democrats will recognize the necessity of hurrying, so that if they have to mark time during the next congress, due to a Republican controlled House, it will have placed on the statute books things needed for the progress of the country and can then watch them placed in operation, while standing on guard to prevent any interference.

CALENDAR OF SPORTS FOR THE WEEK.

Monday. Opening of the international trap shooting tournament at St. Thomas, Ont.

Tuesday. Annual meet of Alabama Fox Hunters' Association opens at Furman, Ala.

Wednesday. Rules conference of National Trotting Association, at New York city. Opening of annual bench show of Haverhill Kennel Club, Haverhill, Mass. Jack Dillon vs. Al McCoy, 10 rounds, at New York.

Thursday. Annual meeting of Interstate Trap Shooting Association, at Jersey City. Annual bench show of Hudson County Kennel Club, at Union Hill, N. J. Opening of annual Winter race meeting at Havana, Cuba. Battling Terry vs. Charley Chip, 10 rounds, at New Castle, Pa. Patsy Cline vs. Jimmy Duffy, 12 rounds, at Providence, R. I.

Friday. Annual meeting of executive committee United States National Lawn Tennis Association, at New York city. Annual meeting Illinois intercollegiate athletic association, at Peoria. Joe Welling vs. Phil Bloom, 15 rounds, at New Haven. Johnny Ertle vs. Battling Lahn, 10 rounds, at Albany, N. Y. Freddie Walsh vs. Pete Harley, 10 rounds, at Cleveland.

Saturday. Annual bench show of Memphis Kennel Club, at Memphis, Tenn. Football game between Tulane and Georgetown, at New Orleans. National handicap squash tennis tournament, at New York city. National A. A. U. senior cross-country championships, at New York city.

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