

THE EVENING STAR, With Sunday Morning Edition, WASHINGTON, D. C. THURSDAY, June 2, 1921 THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor

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cost is utterly inadequate and as a public-service wage shamefully low. The surplus is running now about \$19,000 a year. To grant these twenty per cent employees \$1 a day more would cost approximately \$4,800 additional and would bring their compensation up to a fairer point.

Originally the office of recorder of deeds was on the fee basis, the incumbent taking the surplus over operating expenses. A long time ago, however, it was changed to a salaried office. It was not intended then to make it a "money maker" for the District treasury. If the establishment broke even without appropriation it would be most suitable and satisfactory.

It is, of course, impossible to allocate the surplus among the employees of the past, or to apply to the present force any part of the already existing accumulation. The surplus should be held as a fund for the improvement of the office equipment and the development of the service, while the scale of pay should be increased carefully to approximate the annual income of the establishment. Certainly it is not desirable to maintain the recorder's office on a profit-making basis.

Washington in Song. Washington's Music week has been proceeding according to schedule with most satisfactory results. The people have been singing in groups all over town, in schools, in churches, in improvised concert halls, in stores. Tomorrow school children will assemble at the Ellipse south of the White House and will give one of the greatest outdoor concerts ever held in Washington. This event will be virtually the climax of the series, and given good weather it should be one of the most impressive assemblages in the history of the capital.

The Navy Bill. Two very important points appear in the passage by the Senate yesterday of the Navy bill: (1) The vote was over three to one in favor of the measure; and (2) republicans and democrats divided. Sentiment was overwhelming, and non-partisan. Score one—and an important one—for an adequate Navy while the world remains armed.

The contest is not over. It will be renewed in conference, and as the Senate and the House are far apart—a hundred millions apart in the matter of money—we shall see some vigorous fighting there.

Science continues to explore starry space for nine figures with which to test the human capacity for arithmetic. The average man is still struggling with the comparatively limited computations which relate to the purchasing power of a dollar.

means sullenly ominous, however—witness this morning's news of renewed fighting—and the possibility of an exceedingly bad mess will not be removed until the methods of procedure of the French, British and Italian forces shall have been developed.

The schemes of those German extremists who hope, from the existing condition of affairs, for the breakdown of solidarity between the French and British are patent to thoughtful observers. It is their dream that some small British detachment may become embroiled with Korfanty's irregulars and be forced to call for the assistance of some of the 25,000 angry German veterans now watching on the side lines; that the Poles would, in turn, appeal to the French for aid; that the French would grant that appeal and a situation thus be created where British and German should-together face French and Polish forces.

Unthinkable though such a development might seem if one could assume deliberate and considered action on the part of each French and British commander in Upper Silesia, the fact is that, under existing conditions, matters might well so shape themselves. To safeguard against any such contingency there is need for the closest co-operation among the allied forces on the scene of action. No precipitate move should be made until those forces, acting together, are sufficiently strong to overcome resistance to their mutual will, from whatever direction such resistance might be offered.

The financier who burdens public attention with scandals of private life cannot escape some accountability for his influence on public thought. Wealth renders its possessor conspicuous as well as envied. As a means of advancing standards of refinement and conscience its usefulness may be inestimably great. The assumption that wealth implies license to defy the restraints and decencies recognized as essential to a rational social existence is pernicious and deserves to be, as it usually is, immediately repudiated in circles of financial power as well as by popular opinion.

The ex-kaiser is said to be profoundly melancholy. Even in the days of his political prosperity he failed to make any popular record as a ray of merry sunshine.

It has been Ambassador Harvey's fortune to direct British attention to the possibilities of the American silver joke just at a moment when the English sense of humor needed every possible support in defying circumstances of considerable depression.

Not even Mr. Edison has a livelier faith in the miraculous powers of collegiate studies than Chief Justice S. D. Brandeis. When a physicist's report on the horrible condition of a camp for British prisoners was read to the tribunal this jurist became greatly excited. He turned to the commandant of the camp, on trial for mistreatment of prisoners, and indignantly asked: "How any man with an academic education could have permitted the described conditions to exist?"

Mexico and the United States. President Obregon's embarrassing situation, arising from rumbustious discontent from within Mexico and the American offer of conditional recognition, apparently leaves the press as a whole unwilling to speculate as to future relations with Mexico.

The New York Globe (Independent) feels that the "contrast" between this policy and the doctrines of the nation professes to be "unintentionally" a "challenge thought before we find ourselves involved in a new line of international relations." The Chicago Tribune (Independent) following a similar line of thought, asks: "Can we advocate one set of principles within a country and another set for the outside world?"

The St. Louis Star (Independent) expresses the hope that the "truce" which has been eliminated from the negotiations now under way, and adds the warning that "if we do not want intervention—which means war—let us give the Mexican government a chance to get on friendly relations with ourselves and the rest of the world, without being unduly anxious over specific promises of good conduct."

Two optimistic views of the situation come from border cities. The San Antonio Express (Independent) sees "nothing in the way of diplomatic harmony except to straighten out these few kinks for which Carranza was mainly responsible and the El Paso Times (Independent) asks, since all we desire is "peace, good will and equal opportunities, and since our demands are for justice, which we are in a position to exact, why hesitate about recognition since the chief condition already has been complied with, namely, the restoration of peace and orderly government?"

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One of the eternal mysteries is how your neighbor can afford a better car.—Jefferson City (Mo.) Capital News.

Rubber bathing suits are the newest style this year in eastern ports. Vulcanizing stations should be conveniently located.—Kansas City Star.

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The Tragedy at Tulsa. Out of the confusion prevailing at Tulsa, Okla., come a few definite facts that aid in effecting an understanding of the great crime that has just been committed there. It appears that an assault upon a white girl by a negro inflamed a number of the white citizens, who undertook the usual lynching. They were resisted successfully by the sheriff and apparently all would have been well had not some of the negroes of the town armed themselves and taken a position near the jail in a manner to challenge the whites. This group was dispersed two or three times, but wrong-headed leaders reassembled the armed men, and it was then but a short time before firing began and the melee was started which led to such terrible results.

When once the passion of the mob was loosed it swept with an insensate fury to the point of the most shocking slaughter and destruction. Fires were started that burned the property of whites as well as colored people. The devastation, however, was chiefly in the negro quarter. The slaughter was mainly among the negroes. While some whites were killed, they were but a small percentage of the total loss of life.

This is the worst race riot for many months. It is, indeed, one of the worst that has ever occurred in the history of the country, being equaled possibly only by that of East St. Louis, in July, 1917, when at least 125 people were killed. In Chicago riots of July, 1919, about 40 were slain, while it is estimated fully half a thousand were wounded.

The greatest tragedy of these outbreaks of venomous, murderous animosity is that they leave a deep-seated sense of bitter wrong on the part of the victims. In these riots the sufferers are almost always the innocent non-participants, law-abiding, harmless persons who are marked for slaughter merely on the score of their color. The mob is a blind as well as a cruel creature and strikes indiscriminately, with no thought of justice or of future responsibility. Yet it is of the future that thought should chiefly be taken. Every one of these race encounters is a breeder of later disorders.

Mob passion has not solved the race problem. It has only intensified and aggravated it. Lynchings and wholesale slaughters such as that at Tulsa, man-burnings and tortures, cannot teach the black Americans any wholesome lessons. The lessons are to be learned by the mobs, and the mob is such an inchoate thing, so volatile, so vague of individual form and yet so terrible in the mass that it cannot be reached by reason.

Railroad Wages and Rates. President Harding is seeking to hasten the readjustment of railroad rates, which it is felt by those most conversant with the situation should accompany wage reductions. It may seem anomalous to lower the wages as a means of enabling the railroads to meet the expenses and at the same time to reduce the income of the roads by lowering the rates. As a matter of fact, however, it is possible to reduce both wages and rates and still leave the roads in a position to pay expenses and probably dividends as well. For the labor cost of operation is the highest percentage. The present problem is to induce the railroad wage earners to accept the reduction of scale which the wage board has proposed. If they refuse and strike a most dangerous and damaging situation will prevail. If they can be persuaded that living costs will fall they would be more disposed to accept the wage reductions without striking.

Reduction of the carrying rates, it is believed, will quickly operate in a lowering of the cost of living, already on the decline. Thus the rates reduction is quite as important as a factor in the present railroad equation as the lessening of the annual labor charge of operation.

When a radical goes so far in defiance of law and custom as to beat his wife, he loses the sympathy even of his fellow radicals.

The Recorder's Office. In his testimony before the joint reclassification committee Recorder of Deeds Costello has called attention to the fact that there is now recorded to the credit of his office approximately \$20,000, accumulated in surplus of fees over expenses of office operation since 1893. His purpose in thus noting the fact that the recorder's office is more than self-sustaining was to urge the adoption of a higher scale of pay for the workers there. The figures given by Mr. Costello relative to the compensation of the office staff leave no question of the need of amendment in this particular. There are, for example, twenty per cent employees who make only \$2.50 a day, a compensation which is three times that of his

British troops have arrived in Upper Silesia to an estimated number of 6,000, and it is understood that the tactical disposition of the force will have been completed by the end of the week. The decision of Great Britain to play her proper part with France and Italy, who has a small detachment upon the scene, in the business of sustaining the authority of the interallied plebiscite commission, has gone far toward restoring order in the section for the time being. The situation re-