

Evening Ledger

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PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1916.

For those that fly may fight again,
Which he can never do that's plain.
—Samuel Butler.

Homer H. Hacker is confident that he can chop down the Vire plum tree.

The Rittman cheap gasoline process is a good thing in itself, but most people would prefer cheap gasoline.

It is less than six weeks to the Republican convention, and the favorite sons are enjoying their prominence while they may.

We would suggest as a motto for the new pacifist party the famous old saying, "Millions for tribute, but not one cent for defense."

The real point at issue in the discussion between Oregon and General Scott is whether the Villa-is-tas have become Villa-was-tas.

Whatever the policy may be doing, the Mayor seems to be persuaded that George D. Porter is engaged in pernicious political activity.

The United States has the contempt of other nations, according to Roosevelt, and he does not conceal his own contempt for its present Government.

The May Grand Jury has been sworn in and is now ready to find out whether it is legal for a public official to bond the men who work under him.

Mr. Roosevelt need not worry. In this period of hesitation diplomacy, it will be his grandsons, not his sons, who will have a chance to go to war.

If there is a Can Trust it ought to be dissolved. It has been inefficient. Just think of the officeholders who ought to have been canned and haven't been!

Colonel Harvey is out for Hughes, but the Colonel's support of Wilson did not prevent his nomination.

Philadelphia is so slow that perhaps some other city, if it hustles, may be able almost to catch up with her. There is always something doing in the Workshop of the World.

The Democratic House by a unanimous vote yesterday seated a Republican against whom a contest had been entered. When there is little at stake justice reigns even in politics.

Mr. Knox is a candidate for the Senatorship, but Senator Penrose knows that no man has ever declined to accept a complimentary vote for the presidential nomination.

Dernburg knows more than he did before he left these hospitable shores. What a fine thing it would be if the Kaiser himself could have an opportunity to study American public opinion in person!

Oregon says we can have peace if we quit. There is a political party to be formed, we are told, on the proposition that we ought all to be quitters, since thus we can preserve our skins, if not our reputation.

The Socialists have nominated Allan Benson, of New York, for the Presidency, and the Socialist Labor party has named Arthur R. Reiter, of Massachusetts, but only the members of the two parties can tell the difference between them.

Theodore Roosevelt is so eternally right about so many things and so eternally wrong in his advocacy of so many other things that before the jury can get through applauding it is clenching its fists to fight back. But the man has a spine in his back, and at this period in our history that covers a multitude of sins, so say we.

The Kaiser is obviously anxious to avoid an open rupture with the United States, but therefore he has endeavored to achieve his object without yielding in any important detail. Friendly relations can be maintained only if German actions are friendly, and even in this day of pure sophistry murder cannot be defined as a kindly and humane thing. Our neutrality is not guaranteed, as Belgium's was, but the jingling in Uncle Sam's pocket whenever he puts his hand in is as awe-inspiring as the thunder of a hundred guns.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which is meeting in Saratoga, does not represent all the Methodists by any means. There are 4,000,000 communicants affiliated with it, of which 3,600,000 are in the continental United States. The religious handbooks, however, show that there are 7,300,000 Methodists in America, divided among 16 different groups. The Methodist Episcopal Church South has 2,000,000 members, and there are four African Methodist churches with a total membership of about \$300,000. The conference will devote the greater part of its time to a consideration of a reunion between the northern and southern branches of the Church. The division came over the relation of the Church to slavery. It was precipitated in the forties by the marriage of Bishop James O. Andrew, of South Carolina, to a slaveholding wife. The general conference of 1844 declared that this would greatly embarrass him in the exercise of his office, and resolved that it was the sense of the conference that he should "secede from

the exercise of this office so long as this impediment remains." The Southern delegates protested in vain, and the Southern churches withdrew and formed a conference of their own. This happened more than 70 years ago, but for one reason and another the division has persisted to the present.

"BLIND MOUTHS"

Strikes and enormous increases in wages are two sides of the labor problem. Both are symptoms of lack of foresight. Readjustment after the war is a problem that ought to be considered now.

The labor situation in the United States today is both paradoxical and dangerous. The paradox is that in a time of extraordinary prosperity there should be industrial unrest. The danger is that the situation will be relieved by methods which will lead to more violent economic paradoxes in the end. The germ of the situation lies in the war, of course, because the pressing necessities of capital came originally from the manufacturers of munitions and war supplies. Deeper than that is the effect of war in shutting off immigration and taking from the employer's hand his great threat—the unemployed. For once the necessities of the employer are equaled by the power of the employee. And both are blind mouths seeking to be fed at once, with no vision of the future.

Two results have developed from a single cause, and neither is wholly satisfactory. The Steel Corporation and the Bethlehem Steel Company, cotton works in Massachusetts, powder works and industries totally unconnected with war supplies have adjusted their needs to the laborer's power by granting voluntary increases of wages, making the worker a fair participant in their prosperity. Bethlehem has raised its wages 30 per cent in nine months, the Steel Corporation 25 per cent, in less time. Yet May Day came with the emphasis all on the other side. Hundreds of thousands of workers are striking, in garment factories, along the docks, in the Westinghouse works. In the railroads, the vital industry, four hundred thousand men are ready to strike for an eight-hour day.

Obviously the situation is illogical, but it is too easy to say that one side is all right and the other all wrong. The demands of labor for reasonably safe conditions, reasonably certain tenure and reasonably profitable wages are recognized by this time, and are being granted with only the normal delays of a very faulty human system of economy. The present strikes have another basis. They take advantage of a temporary situation and purpose to make their gains permanent.

The result of all this, whether it comes through voluntary grant or through bitter strife, may be a benefit to certain laboring men, but it cannot be of advantage to labor because it is bad economics. The vicious circle of higher wages—higher prices will be completed, and only in the brief time before the adjustment is made will any gain be apparent. The mine worker will receive an abnormally fat pay envelope, but once the conditions of world-industry are settled again, his wife will pay an abnormally heavy coal bill. The superstitious that labor can be prosperous without any relation to the prosperity of the country persists, no doubt, because there have been times when the wealth of the few bore no relation to the comfort of the many. But it will not work out in practice.

The entire difficulty is that labor tends to be rigid in its relations with capital. No system has been devised to make the price of labor as fluid as the price of money. The rate of interest on a loan depends on the condition of the money market today. The price of labor today may depend on a contract made five years ago. Just as no one could have foreseen the war and the peculiar conditions of employment it was destined to bring about, so no one can foretell what labor will be worth when peace is declared. Proportionately it will be worth what it is now, but our system of money-payment does not keep to proportions.

An agreement to work at \$5 a day made in January, 1914, would put the laborer at a disadvantage today. An agreement made today at \$10 might be ruinous to the employer in January, 1917. Yet both the employers who are raising wages by 20 or 30 per cent, and the strikers who are demanding such wages are preparing for this disaster.

Specialists and theorists have argued loudly concerning the changes in America when the war is over. Some have threatened disaster, others have prophesied unexampled prosperity. What we know is that there is bound to be a period of transition, when labor is shifted from the industry which happens to pay now to the industry which pays always because it is productive of something always necessary. That time of transition will be woefully hard to bear if the standard of living allowed by war prices becomes a fixed habit. It will be harder still because prices will have gone up in the meantime, and will not recede half so fast as the rate of wage will fall. While munition works are being subtly transformed into breakfast food factories thousands of men will be idle. Whether immigration sets in again or does not there must be a vast amount of friction before normal industrial life begins again. There must be no panic then, and to prevent it there should be no inflation now.

HEALTH ACCOUNTS

THE ledger of every business man shows him once a month whether he has made any money or not. If the balance is on the wrong side he will strain every nerve to increase his profits that he may be saved from the bankruptcy which will come if profits disappear for any great length of time.

How many business men look at their health balance once a month? Those who do not find themselves bankrupt in nerves and digestion before they know it. When their creditors press for payment of money they are forced into involuntary bankruptcy, but few men become involuntary bankrupts in health.

This is the season when the prudent man looks over his balance sheet for the year, and examines every item. Has he been troubled with insomnia? Is he smoking so much that his nerves are shaky? Can he not do his day's work without taking a "bracer"? Has his digestion gone back on him? Does it tire him to walk three or four squares, to say nothing of three or four miles? If he is compelled to answer these questions in the affirmative he knows what to do. He goes to a health efficiency expert—sometimes called a physician—lays the case before him and then follows his advice. But having to go to a doctor is an evidence of failure. It means that health has been neglected. It is more delightful to be a live poor man than a dead rich one. The imprudent are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away and for the sake of a little more "dust" they hasten the day when they shall turn to dust themselves.

Tom Daly's Column

THE morning's mail brought us a letter from Mr. John D. Moore, secretary of the Provisional Committee of the Irish Race Convention. He says in part:

On April 11, in Philadelphia, I clipped your quotation from George Bernard Shaw, writing in the New York Times on the Irish Race Convention.

G. B. S. tries to create the impression that he got hold of a very secret document. As a matter of fact, there was no "quarter it was not meant to reach."

The New York Times of February 9, a month before the convention, gave our address nineteen and one-half lines of space. They gave the convention itself four columns and a hostile editorial.

A month later they gave Shaw two pages, which, though belated, was mighty good publicity. My only wish is that they would get Kipling to write a poem about it and Frank Brangwyn to paint a picture of it.

We hold no brief for G. B. S., who is his own revenge upon all who take him too seriously, but the committee's worthy secretary seems to us very much in the position of that man, long ago, who, when called a "blackguardly, yellow lying, thieving, cockeyed thing-and-that," retorted vehemently that he was not cockeyed. And, speaking of painting pictures, is there not some red pigment upon certain hands in this country that neither benzine nor pumice will eradicate? Who will claim full credit for what has been lately painted in Dublin?

Mr. Kipling, as a poet, is not to be compared with Mr. Shaw's friend, Mr. Gilbert Chesterton, who wrote these lines some time ago:

The great Gasts of Ireland
The men that God made mad;
For all their wars are merry
And all their songs are sad.

LET'S change all that. If we must have a song, let it be a merry one. Here's a simple little one of our own, just as true now as when it was written ten years ago:

OULD PHELM McKEONE
Was there ever a man,
Since creation began,
Wid such lack of a daicnt respect for his own,
So contrary of mind,
Wid a tongue so unkind,
As the plague of our parish, ould Phelm McKeone?

We'd a meetin' last night fur "Home Rule an' the Right."
To discuss ways an' means ah' to hit on a plan
That'd make for success in the glorious fight,
An' to name for our leader the logical man.
Now, of course, we were blessed w' the gift
O' the gab.

An' I gave our opinions for this an' that.
There was orators there like O'Kane an' McNab,
Who were willin' to fight at the drop o' the hat.

An' so fixed in their notions that nather would give,
For they'd have no opinion was right but their own.

Whin "Hurrab" for the British, an' long may they live!"
At the top of his voice yelled ould Phelm McKeone.

"Aye" an' long may they live," yelled ould Phelm McKeone.

"For if British heads failed ye, when lookin' for fight,
Ye'd have nothin' to do but be whackin' yer own.
An' whoever ye choose for yer leader 't night,
Sure, he has me condole on winnin' the place.
For there's little o' joy or o' peace that he'll know."

Wid the jealous designs o' the rest of the race,
Who the minute he's up will be pullin' him low.
Aye! 'tis jealousy's streak in the red o' yer eye
That has checked us an' kept us from knowin' the joy.

An' the blesin' of Ireland free, as we should,
Oh, I've waited these seventy year, man an' boy.
But I've waited in vain, to be greetin' the day
Whin the land that I love should come into its own.

So 'Hurrab' for the British that scorn ye! I say,
An' I bid ye good night!" cried ould Phelm McKeone.

Was there ever a man,
Since creation began,
Wid such lack of a daicnt respect for his own,
So contrary of mind,
Wid a tongue so unkind,
As the plague of our parish, ould Phelm McKeone?

Bean Boundaries
MARQUIS DE PRAT
Salute the late Marquis de Prat!
(The "E" non-silent, as in cat
Because his name must rhyme with hat)
He was a Spanish diplomat.
And in this space, ere his decease,
Kept Spanish secrets hid,
in Greece.

The first of the Pop Concerts effervesced last evening. The music-lovers present had a perfectly corking time. At least that was the report heard from the street this morning.

HOUSE-CLEANING TIME
Cupid's cleaning house to-day
In Miranda's heart.
Here it is the first of May!
Cupid's cleaning house to-day,
Summer guests are on their way;
Winter beaux depart.
Cupid's cleaning house to-day
In Miranda's heart.

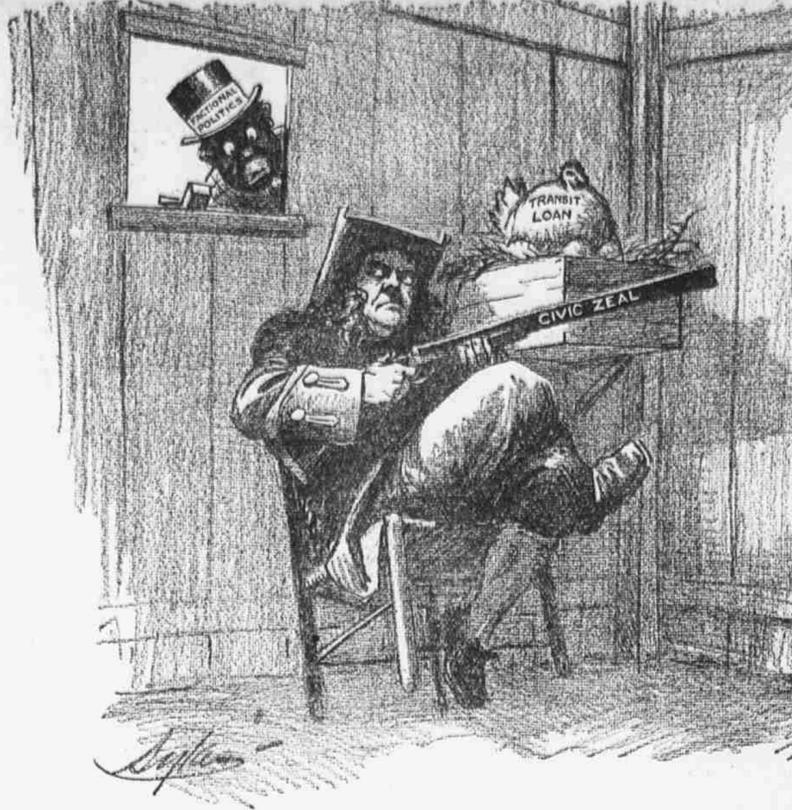
IN a letter to the Editor of the P. L., Mr. John Frederick Lewis defends the "art institutions" of Philadelphia against the criticism of Mr. Hunger Elliott of Boston, whoever he may be. Mr. Lewis, after boosting some of the best, says:

There are a number of other art institutions, each of which is doing splendid work, such as the Philadelphia Sketch Club, the Plastic Club, the T-Square Club, the Pen and Pencil Club, etc., and, lastly, I speak with some hesitation of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts because of my personal connection with it.

To this we cry "bravo!" and, yet again, "bravo!" We ourselves once saw a member of the Pen and Pencil Club, working late into the wee sma' hours, draw four kings. All in a group—and if that's not art or something, we'd like to know!

The Optimist
Says I see Mayor Smith is going to investigate the charge that police and firemen have been improperly engaged in politics. We may hope they will be properly engaged in the future.

THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE A HATCHING



PUBLIC THOUGHT ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Views of Readers on the Menace of Roosevelt, the Responsibility of the Republicans for Panics and Other Questions

To the Editor of Evening Ledger:

Sir—I was greatly pleased when I read the editorial in this evening's issue on Roosevelt and particularly the last paragraph. What Mr. Roosevelt needs is a steady job. He reminds me of Pear's soap baby. He won't shut up until he gets it. He does not deserve any further honors at the hands of the Republican party. When he failed to secure the last nomination in the convention he and his friends cried "Fraud!" and he became their candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Taft and Turner turned the country over to the Democratic party. Why can't he take his defeat like a man and not do the baby act, prove loyal to the party that gave him all the public honors he has ever had and not turn traitor and stab his best friend to death? He is too impetuous. He is too self-opinionated. The reckless manner in which he uses the personal pronoun "I" is simply appalling. Some one ought to send him the same kind of a telegram that Quay sent a candidate some years ago who was running for Governor of Pennsylvania: "Dear Roosevelt, don't talk. He would be a very dangerous man to have in the White House at the next President. He would involve us in a foreign war sure. That we cannot afford to have happen. This cruel war that is being waged now across the world should satisfy every one for the next 100 years. He is a candidate for President, sure. That is his highest ambition, and should he succeed in getting the nomination my daily prayer will be "God save the nation." EDWARD S. MCKEIVIK, Chester, Pa., April 26.

TALK PEACE, NOT WAR

To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—With a momentous issue hanging between two mighty nations, Germany and the United States, would it not be good policy for us, at this critical time, instead of talking war, to first think at the breakfast table, then at dinner and supper and the last thing before going to bed, to talk about everything but war? Upon arising let us greet the rest of the household upon the weather, or upon our business, or let us plan what we expect to do during the day; in fact, anything so we don't hear this everlasting war talk. If some curbsome diplomat wants to talk war, leave him at once, go on about your business and let him take it out with himself, class him as one who belongs to the rat army, because our sidewalks at this present critical stage are full of rats for fair, so he better mind on. Let us be neutral as we claim to be. It is time enough to talk war when it comes. H. R., Philadelphia, April 26.

RILEY'S HYMN OF FAITH

To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—The "unnamed" and "new poem" referred to in the enclosed bit of information from your Cleveland correspondent is found in Riley's "Neighborly Poems," published in 1891. The stanzas quoted are taken from "A Hymn of Faith." JESSIE K. RODGERS, Germantown, April 26, 1916.

[The poem referred to was sent in a letter by James Whitcomb Riley to a Cleveland lady, who read it at a meeting of a literary club under the impression that it was new. The correspondent made no investigation, but sent on the report as it was given to him.—Editor of Evening Ledger.]

A DEMOCRAT DISAGREES

To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—In the issue of your paper of the 25th inst. appeared an editorial entitled "Wake Up." This article would have done credit to the pen of the ignorant and narrow-minded editor of an obscure country weekly. It certainly seemed out of place in the columns of a great metropolitan daily.

In this effusion the writer, pointing out the importance of the very life of the country of a return to power of the great Republican Party, mentions "free trade and soup houses," intimating that these two bogaboos of a partisan press naturally follow in the wake of a Democratic victory.

Now, as a matter of fact, we have never in the history of the United States had free trade with any foreign country. At the present time no prominent member of the Democratic party advocates that doctrine. The nearest approach to free trade ever known in this country was under what is known as the Walker Tariff Law enacted in 1846.

Instead of hard times following the enactment of this very free trade and sensible law for years thereafter business in this country flourished as it had never done before. The panic of 1857 was brought on by an era of wild speculation induced by the flush times immediately preceding that year. Respecting the subject of "soup houses," in North 5th street, Philadelphia, is a building upon the front of which appear these words: "Public Soup House, Established A. D. 1814." As the Republican party had been in power for a period of 14 years immediately preceding that year and remained in power for 19 years thereafter, it is evident that the Democrats do not yet free trade that caused the panic of 1857 nor the dull times that prevailed in this country from that year until 1875. During all that time a tariff law enacted by Republicans and distinctly protective was in force. Again comes the panic of 1893, during which time the soup house flourished as it never had before. We had no free trade at that period, for from 1890 until August, 1894, the well-known McKinley law was in force. It was

What Do You Know

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to which every well-informed person should know, are asked daily.

QUIZ

- 1. What is meant by a "gag-rule" in Congress?
2. What is the so-called "daylight movement"?
3. Explain in not more than 20 words the principle of the periscope, the device by submarine crews to keep a look-out when submerged.
4. From what part of the world do we get word "barbar," and what does the word signify there?
5. What is the basic dogma of the Theosophical Society?
6. The original meaning of "shak" was a military uniform. What is the current meaning of the word?
7. Who wrote the poem beginning, "A lovelorn boy, in a joy forever, the dervish of bagdad, in a shawl before the dervish, when submerged."
8. If a clock were gaining would you lengthen or shorten the pendulum?
9. What is "The Old Dominion State"?
10. What is the maximum weight carried by parcels post?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. "Sinn Fein" is pronounced as if it were spelled "Shin Fane."
2. The salary of a member of the British Parliament is £400 (about \$2000) a year.
3. Pearce is the provisional President of the United States, elected by the "Irish Rebell" by the rebels.
4. The pigtail was the emblem of submission to the power of the Manchus dynasty in China.
5. May 1 has come to be the day chosen for labor demonstrations and strikes in labor countries.
6. Silk is composed of a thread spun by a silkworm.
7. "Farther" refers rather to the literal meaning; "further" to the figurative. One "farther" along the road, but "further" an investigation.
8. Jean Jaures, French Socialist leader, was killed by a bullet on Jan. 31, 1914.
9. Rubber is obtained from the milky juice of several species of rubber trees.
10. Goethe wrote "Faust."

Alfred Noyes' Lectures Here
Editor of "What Do You Know"—Reply to the public appearances of Alfred Noyes would add that besides his appearance at the Academy of Music on May 11 he will give lectures at the Broad Street Lyceum on the following dates:
Next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. H. C. WILLIAMS

Production of Kelp

Editor of "What Do You Know"—Will please let me know how kelp is obtained, what it is used for? H. G. S.

Kelp is the ash obtained by incinerating seaweeds on the British coast. It is in alkali than soda ash and even than that and is employed by all manufacturers mix of strong soda ash.

The Calibre of a Gun

Editor of "What Do You Know"—Can you explain to me the meaning of the calibre of a gun, as field and naval guns? It seems to me a considerable confusion when different units are used in the different classes of guns. EVANS

Confusion as to the meaning of the word, chiefly from its use as an adjective indicating length, as when we say "a 60-calibre gun." The word calibre as applied to artillery signifies the diameter of the bore, measured diametrically from face to face of the bore, the diameter measured in rifling being, of course, somewhat larger. Gun, then, of 6-inch calibre is a gun whose bore is just six inches. For convenience and because the power of a gun when once it has been decided upon depends so greatly upon the length of the gun in terms of the calibre, the length of the gun is expressed in terms of the calibre. Thus the 12-inch United States naval gun, 12-inch in length, is spoken of as a 12-calibre gun. The length being just 40 times the calibre. The 6-inch rapid-fire gun is a rifle under 6 feet in length and is therefore known as a 6-calibre gun. In the case of small arms, the calibre is expressed in hundredths of an inch, as when we say a .22-calibre revolver we mean one with a bore that has a diameter of two two hundredths of an inch.

Canon of the Revolution

Editor of "What Do You Know"—Kindly inform me through your column concerning the canon in the American Revolution? D. S. H.

The heaviest cannon used at the time of the American Revolution were 15-pounders. "The Twilight Hours" Editor of "What Do You Know"—Will inform me through your column concerning the canon in the American Revolution? D. S. H.