

Evening Ledger Public Ledger Company. Published daily at Puroo Leases Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

The path of sorrow, and that path alone, leads to the land where sorrow is unknown.—Couper.

Losing four games in one day is one record that the Phillies and Athletics need not try to surpass.

The recapture of Cuernieres by the French was not an important gain strategically; but thousands of German lives had been given to capture it.

We do not suppose it will do it, but what a fine thing it would be if the Democratic Convention would also nominate a Secretary of the Navy!

"Young Kid McCoy" is to leave the prize-ring for the pulpit. If he follows "Billy" Sunday's example, he can get as much exercise in his new profession as in his old one.

The instruction given to 300 "little mothers" will doubtless be a great boon this summer for the babies they will tend. Equally important would be the instruction, so far overlooked, which would prove a great boon to the "little mothers."

"I'm pure German on both sides, Colonel." "Fine! You're the kind of American we want." Nearly every one of the 2500 persons (by actual count) who shook the muscular hand at the latest Oyster Bay levee was for some reason or other peculiarly American.

A lecturer attached to the Child Federation announces that if you tickle a crying baby under the chin and say "cuddles" he will stop. Now there is no longer any excuse for the father walking the floor half the night with his vociferous offspring who refuses to permit any one to sleep.

If 3000 of the Colonel's admirers should make a pilgrimage to Oyster Bay every day until June 7, it would take less than 30,000 of them. He certainly has that many. And he has friends able to organize such demonstrations of popular demand. But it is not likely that the cheering on the shores of Long Island Sound will make or lose him any delegate in Chicago.

There is no excuse for further delay in passing the Kern-McGilluddy bill extending to injured Federal employees the protection similar to that guaranteed to private employes by the workmen's compensation act of this State. As the secretary of the American Association for Labor Legislation points out in a letter in another column, a poll of the House of Representatives has shown that a majority of the members are in favor of it. If they are allowed to vote on it Wednesday when it is on the calendar for the day, they will pass it. The party leaders are expected to redeem the pledges in their party platforms and allow the bill to come to a vote.

Before coming out with their peace terms, which they gave McNichol a chance to reject, the Vares, Martin and the Mayor should have considered the course of those less important allies who have studiously allowed all peace talk to originate east of the Rhine. It is not a sign of strength to be the first to seek a parley. And the curt and half-amused tone of McNichol's refusal to compromise puts the veteran Martin in a peculiarly shabby position, for it was partly to prevent his own defeat for the State Senate at the hands of Penrose-McNichol "knifers" that he raised the flag of truce. That a coalition with Democrats should be resorted to is not a new or surprising thing in the Organization. The denunciation of the time-honored practice as inimical to party unity reflects no splendor of patriotism on the would-be peace-makers. Their offer to let the Mayor assume an unqualified leadership over both factions is a piece of unconvincing humor, for the Mayor would have to assume the mantle of a boss or a leader in him. There is no hope of permanent party unity in any arrangement the two factions may reach. Party unity is a boon which can be won in the Vares or the Penrose camp but the brains or magnanimity to bestow it will come through national issues put up to the people, for in national affairs these petty factionists count as zeros.

President Wilson's much-heralded speech on pacification was not marked by the significant candor of Ambassador Gerard's statement. There is a world of difference between Gerard's words, "Nothing can shake my confidence that peace is on its way," and the President's, "The longer the war lasts the more deeply do we become concerned that it should be brought to an end." For the candid inference from Gerard's optimism is that the Allies, within certain weeks or months, will succeed in securing Germany's difficult terms; whereas the British Government has just categorically denied that it is prepared to consider what Gerard calls "the wise and moderate words of the German Chancellor regarding Germany's readiness to make peace." The President did not play into Germany's hands as his Ambassador did, but that will not make his position any better if London abruptly asks Gerard what his great confidence is based on. If there is no such abrupt demand, there will be good ground for the belief that London, in spite of its professed refusal to parley, sees in the American Embassy at Berlin the most important center for mediation in all Europe. Gerard's expressed confidence that peace is not distant is more significant than anything Mr. Wilson's office will permit him to say publicly.

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A POOR LITTLE RICH CITY

The city is rich enough to meet all demands on its treasury. The time has come to stop talking about deficits and to increase the municipal income.

IT MAY be that George W. B. Hicks has obtained information about sources of revenue in other cities that was not secured by the Advisory Committee on Municipal Finance, appointed by Councils in October, 1912. Other cities may have modified their taxing customs in the last four years. If so, it is important that the Mayor and his advisers should have the facts before them.

But what the city is suffering from at present is really not lack of information, but lack of political courage to grapple with the issue before it. There seems to be uncertainty about the wisdom of increasing the tax rate, as if there were something sacred about the prevailing rate of \$1 on every \$100 of assessed valuation. In every other great city the tax rate is flexible and changes with the changing costs of government. In New York the Board of Estimate makes up the annual budget. Then its total is divided by the assessed value of the property in the city and the quotient is the tax rate for the year. Of course, the revenue from special sources, license fees and certain special taxes is deducted from the amount to be raised by a general tax before the sum to be divided by the assessed value of the city is obtained. Here we fix the rate arbitrarily and then struggle along with accumulating deficits. It has just been decided to wipe out the accumulated deficits of more than \$4,000,000 by a bond issue. This is simply postponing the day of final reckoning, for the bonds must be paid out of sources of revenue or by an increase in the tax rate. Money must be found to meet the current expenses also, which, as every one knows, are still greater than the current receipts.

The Commonwealth takes from the business of the city about \$1,250,000 every year by special taxes that in other States are turned over to the cities in which the business is done. We cannot get possession of this revenue without a change in the laws. New York city, for example, receives between \$3,600,000 and \$4,000,000 a year from the proceeds of a tax of one per cent. on the book value of the shares of the banks doing business there. The tax is uniform throughout the State and the city treasury rather than the State treasury profit by it.

Objection has been raised to an increase in the special tax on various forms of business. Forty-two forms of business are already taxed or licensed by the city or the State, but in other States more than 150 forms of business have to pay special taxes. One is that when a barber, for instance, is required to take out a license for which \$5 is charged, the police department has control over him, and that if he does not observe the rules laid down by the Board of Health his shop can be closed summarily by revoking his license. The other reason is that the small fees charged, while not oppressive, produce in the aggregate a large amount of revenue.

New York and Chicago tax a large number of businesses which are exempt here. Some of them are bakers and confectioners, special bar permits, bill-posters, bowling alleys, the sale of cigarettes, cleaners of clothes, dancing schools, dealers in second-hand goods, delicatessen stores, druggists, dealers in fireworks, gasoline launches, shooting galleries, hand-carts, ice dealers, lumber yards, medical dispensaries, slaughter houses, roofers, skating rinks, common shows, boarding stables and undertakers. Pittsburgh has a tax of \$200 a month on transient merchants, who open a store and sell goods in ruinous competition with the established houses. Louisville taxes the small loan brokers \$1000 a year. Amusement places in Chicago are taxed from \$25 to \$1000.

We are not advocating levying any of these special taxes. We are merely calling attention to the ability of the authorities in other cities to raise revenue for current expenses. Philadelphians have just as much ability as New Yorkers. It is about time that they exercised it and put an end to the extravagant practice of piling up deficits each year and paying interest on loans because they fear the consequences of raising money enough to meet the bills as they fall due.

A GOOD CAMPAIGNER

The Republican party makes appeal to public confidence as the most important political agency for conservation and progress. By virtue of its achievements, its leadership and its aims, it stands forth as an efficient instrument for strong and capable administration, as a safeguard of stability and of the prosperity which depends on stability, and as an unrivaled power for the correction of abuses. It stands in sharp contrast to the record of vacillation and inactivity presented by the chief opposing party.

Tom Daly's Column

TO BECOME the Peristyle of Popularity we should be well to do, at least once, anything not downright dishonorable to achieve circulation. We have never yet made a deliberate play for readers in Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon and such-like counties. Here goes. One of the prominent poets of eastern Pennsylvania during the last century was Henry Harbaugh (1817-67). Among other things he wrote:

BUSCH UN SCHTEDETEL. Dheel Buschliet hen kee Lunch deheem, Sie hantere hooch der Schtadt, Vor mel' Dheel, ich hab immer noch Kee' Nooschen so gehatt.

'S mag gut gening im Schtedel set— Geb mir das griene Land; Do is net alles Haus un Daeh, Net alles Schtroos un Wand.

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This literal translation is for the benefit of dwellers in Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware and other such-like counties: COUNTRY AND TOWN (OR CITY). Some country-folks have no pleasure at home.

They hanker for the city; For my part, I have never (ever not) No notion of this-sort had.

It may good enuf in the city be— Give me the griene land (country); There is not all house and roof, Not everything street and wall.

(Here) the young-fellows look feeble and pale; The girls are white and thin; They have in-truth pretty clothes on, There is, however, nothing right inside.

For-me (there) is too little griene here, No flowers and no trees; When I one hour in the city have-been Then I want (to go) home again.

THE Decoration Day contributions are coming in finely. The winner of the bunch of roses will take the place of honor at the top of the column tomorrow. No other announcement will be necessary.

HERE, upon the brink of the commencement season, let us take a peep at the busy young high school professor. One writes:

We finish the term on the 8th of June, and there is an open forum and the Evening Ledger assumes no responsibility for the views of its correspondents.

I was then at the age of 4 1/2 years, and was awakened by my parents to behold the most wonderful sight which has ever been presented to my eyes.

My own vivid recollection and what others have stated is that the horizontal streamers of the "shower" was much the same as that of a dense fall of hailstones, with the additional feature of the appearance of long streams of fire passing down in an inclined direction.

These long lines were, apparently, seen to reach the snow then lying on the ground, between our point of observation and a building perhaps a hundred feet away, but run down machine like sleep on the put da peecture een oppaside down. So den da newspaper boss he go to hees office an say: "Da gran' Italian army esee gona back!" All right 'dat'sa baycouse you don't wanta know som'thing!

Archbishop Ryan will go to Buffalo next week to take part in the installation of Bishop Dougherty as head of the Buffalo diocese, which will be held in St. Joseph's Cathedral on June 7.—A Morning Contemporary.

Those who attended the eloquent Archbishop's funeral some five years ago understand that this journey will be made only in spirit.

Show Him to Us. We'll lift our hats, we all agree, To any man more bright than we. But not a soul of us you see, Believes that such a man can be.

When 18 years old, on the right side I had a wisdom tooth pulled, and when 25 years old on the left side I had another pulled. Now the third I want to believe I am cutting still a third—a that possible?—from O. O. dear paper.

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"WELL, WELL, HUSTLE IT ALONG!"

AMERICA FIRST!

ACCEPTANCE

OUR CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

An Eyewitness Describes the Meteoric Shower of 1833—Passage of the Kern-McGilluddy Bill Demanded—Silence of Justice Hughes—Other Matters

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. It is an open forum and the Evening Ledger assumes no responsibility for the views of its correspondents.

THE METEORIC SHOWER OF 1833 To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—Your recent mention of "shooting stars" (Quiz), brings to my mind a view I had in my youth of the remarkable meteoric shower which occurred in the fall of 1833.

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A. P. L. calls our attention to the ambiguity of this head from a recent issue in our own dear paper: CAN WOMEN JUDGE DOGS AS WELL AS MEN?

And, for no particular reason at all, it reminds us of Edwin Austin Oliver, of the Yonkers Statesman, who is the dean of joke-miths and who was the first to popularize the so-called conversational joke. A good many years ago Oliver confessed to having perpetrated up to that time no fewer than 75,000 gibes and japes. We are under the impression that one of the first of the 75,000 was this:

He (enviously watching her caressing her poodle)—I wish I was a dog. She—Oh, you'll grow.

The Man for the Job "I SENT for you," said the man of the house, "to fix a key in my daughter's piano."

"But," protested the man, "I don't know anything about pianos; I'm a locksmith."

"Exactly. I want you to make 'em possible for me to lock the blamed thing up."

The Best Counsel How shall we reach perfection? List, My poor-misguided brothers; Just follow the advice you give So freely unto others. A. Gronch.

A CORRECTION To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—Permit the writer to call your attention to an error in the letter he sent to you dated May 22 and published in this evening's edition entitled "Vain Talk of Peace."

On the sixth line from the bottom on the first column it states the "French and Russian armies will enter Berlin." This should have been Paris, as there is to be a coalition of the Allies' armies in Paris when peace is declared. Preparations have already begun for this purpose.

HENRI LEON DUBOIS Philadelphia, May 24.

VISUALIZING THE WHOLE CITY

The Purpose of the Today and Tomorrow Exposition is to Develop Greater Civic Patriotism

By GEORGE W. NORRIS IN MR. FREDERICK C. HOWE'S interesting book on the activities of European cities, he refers particularly to the rapid and orderly growth of German cities, and uses these expressions:

The German cities are thinking of tomorrow as well as of today, of the generation that is to follow, as well as of the generation that is now upon the stage. Germany, almost alone, is building her cities to make them contribute to the happiness, health and well-being of the people. The business social rather than individual terms. They have a sense of team play, of co-operative effort, of being willing to sacrifice their immediate individual interests to the welfare of the community.

The existence of this spirit in German cities and in some English cities, and the absence of it in most American cities, impresses him as the most striking of all the contrasts between American and foreign cities. Thinking men must agree with Mr. Howe. If he were to write a review of the activities of American cities, it is to be feared that he might cite Philadelphia as a conspicuous illustration of the American method of haphazard and unregulated growth, of the subordination of community interests to private interests, and of the lack of "team play" or co-operative spirit. These defects underlie and are responsible for much of the failure to provide for community needs, the lack of co-ordination in charitable effort and failure to take advantage of natural opportunities for commercial growth and development.

Visualizing the City It was with a view to visualize these conditions that the Civic Exposition was planned. It is appropriately called a "Today and Tomorrow" Exposition. "Today" is not represented in a spirit of muck-raking or fault-finding, nor is it illustrated by any "Chamber of Horrors." "Tomorrow" is not pictured as a millennium. The exposition is designed to show the defects and omissions of today only so far as a clear understanding of present conditions is necessary as a basis for improvement. The future conditions which are represented are only such conditions as may reasonably be expected in the near future.

No branch of civic activities is more fully or interestingly exhibited than those pertaining to the municipal administration, and this exhibit is particularly timely, in view of the fact that an overwhelming vote of the people has authorized the expenditure in the next few years of more than \$100,000,000 in municipal improvements. If this money should be injudiciously expended, it would be a calamity. If judiciously expended, it should be productive of untold good to every citizen.

The city is a big collective enterprise. Its officials must have something of the same vision as the railroad executive who abolishes curves, reduces grades and builds cut-offs with an eye to economy, the elimination of waste and greater and better service to the shipper and the traveling public.

We propose to spend \$7,000,000 in providing rapid transit facilities for the public. Plans for the expenditure have been made after careful and elaborate study, but the approval of these plans and adherence to them should be founded not upon the fact that they were devised by any one man or set of men, or that they are approved by any political party or faction, but because intelligent citizens, having the interest of the city at heart and willing, if necessary, to sacrifice their immediate individual interests to the welfare of the community, understand them and are prepared to insist upon their adoption. The same is true of the \$10,000,000 to be expended in the improvement of our port facilities. Other large items include (in round figures) \$9,000,000 for the Parkway and the same amount for the great piece of work in South Philadelphia which will abolish two cross-town surface railroads, provide adequate river frontage for municipal port development, construct an open belt line railroad and create out of what are now waste lands within a few miles of the center of the city an enormous area for industrial and residential development along approved lines of modern city planning.

Every intelligent citizen, and particularly every taxpayer, should have personal knowledge and a personal conviction as to the propriety of these expenditures.

Peril in Sectional Politics More than \$5,750,000 is provided for sewers. This expenditure should not be controlled by the influence or activity of sectional politicians. The public should thoroughly understand where the sewers are to be built and why. There is an authorization of nearly \$500,000 for new municipal buildings, in addition to \$3,000,000 for the new General Hospital. City officials, I believe, are anxious that the public should understand the need of these buildings, and there should certainly be a corresponding desire as the part of citizens to have this knowledge. More than \$2,500,000 will become available for streets, bridges and roads. This expenditure, properly made, will probably earn its carrying charges in the increase of assessments resulting from converting what are now farm lands into building lots, but infinitely greater will be the return in the saving of time and money by providing smooth and convenient highways upon which hauling may be done more expeditiously and at less cost.

No study of councilmanic ordinances or department reports will begin to give the average citizen anything like the information on all these subjects that he can get by viewing the pictures, city departments and other exhibits of the various departments in the Today and Tomorrow Exposition. He can get more information there in an hour than he could get in any other way in a week, and the information will be easily understandable, in a vivid and easily understandable way. No citizen having the interests of his city at heart or interested in even a small degree in the way in which his money is to be spent, should miss this exhibition.

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.

- 1. What American came within one electoral vote of being elected President and was later tried for treason?
2. What is meant by "bas relief"?
3. A delegate was called the "Warwick" of the Presbyterian General Assembly. What is meant by "Warwick"?
4. What is "a sybarite"?
5. About how far from Philadelphia are the Blue Mountains and where do they cross Pennsylvania?
6. What is signified when it is said an engine has an 80 per cent. efficiency?
7. How many amendments to the Constitution of the United States have been adopted and to what do the last two refer?
8. Who is Hilarid Belloc?
9. Who wrote "Paradise Lost"?
10. Name the seven points in the compass between North and East in their proper order.

ANSWERS TO SATURDAY'S QUIZ

- 1. There are 48 States in the Union.
2. A "bas-relief" is an informal discussion preliminary to negotiation.
3. The "General Sherman Tree," Sequoia National Park, California, is the largest tree in the world; 219.9 feet high, with a base circumference of 102.5 feet.
4. The apparent absence of atmosphere is the basis for the belief that the moon is not inhabited.
5. About three-fifths of the world's copper is produced in the United States.
6. Silas Wright, who was nominated for Vice Presidency with Polk, refused to run.
7. The referendum is the submission of measures passed by a legislative body to a vote of ratification by the people.
8. The bridge of a ship is a platform raised some distance above the deck of a vessel, which is used for navigation.
9. Alexander Selkirk, marooned four years on a desert island, was the original of "Robinson Crusoe."
10. Colorado Creek forms part of the western boundary of Philadelphia.

Metropolitan Philadelphia

Editor of "What Do You Know?"—What is meant by the metropolitan district of Philadelphia? What has been the growth of population in that district in recent years, and what is the estimated increase in population in the next few years? H. K.

The United States census recognizes zones comprising areas within 10 miles of the legal limits of large cities as their metropolitan districts. From 1900 to 1910 the 10-mile zone around Philadelphia comprised within its metropolitan area a growth in population at the rate of 28.7 per cent, from 187,135 to 455,552. Metropolitan Philadelphia, including both the city proper and this suburban zone, grew from 1,661,552 to 2,015,960. If the same percentage, viz. 21.3 per cent, is maintained the actual addition to this entire metropolitan area during the decade that will end with the last year of the present municipal administration will be 430,000, of which nearly one-half will be added during the next four years.

Sir Roger Casement's Capture Editor of "What Do You Know?"—Kindly state whether Sir Roger Casement was captured on land or water. L. J. C.

The official report of Sir Roger's arrest stated that he had been captured "from a German ship" which attempted to land arms in Ireland, and was sunk. Two days later it was stated that Casement was taken from a collapsible boat, and another account on the same day had it that he and two companions had rowed to shore, where they walked into the arms of Secret Service men.

Army Recruits Editor of "What Do You Know?"—Can you tell me how many men have enlisted in the United States army since the passing of the bill to increase the regular army to 136,000? W. L. M.

Figures to noon May 12 show that up to that date, since the passage of the joint resolution of March 11, 1916, authorizing the President of the United States to increase the strength of line organizations of the United States army to their statutory maximum strength without regard to the limitation of 100,000 enlisted men provided by the act of March 3, 1901, the total number of accepted applicants for enlistment in the army was \$113. This does not include re-enlistments or enlistments at military posts. The actual number of enlistments during the entire period is not yet known, as the returns received are not complete.

IT CAN'T BE DONE! France's threat to shock Philadelphia is not likely to be carried out, as it is only a New York sensation.