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Philadelphia, Thursday, May 24, 1917



Russia's pacifist Socialists, seeking to establish a high moral code of international honor, should remember this one significant fact: France is only at war today because she refused to desert her Slavic ally in 1914.

A dozen communities, from Overbrook to Paoli, are to be brought closer into the life of this city by the ridding of Lancaster pike of toll charges.

Amateur food dictators talk much of "sending food speculators to jail" when the Hoover regime gets started and precise information about the workings of the food markets is published.

The British Admiralty reports on the submarine question are becoming positively cheerful reading. For the last fortnight the lists of sinkings have shown a marked decrease.

Those who are taking a gloomy view of business prospects in this country may cast an eye over the list of goods the British Government had to buy for its army in two years, containing such items as 21,000,000 pairs of boots and 21,000,000 blankets.

The Cologne Cathedral is said to have been nearly a thousand years in building, but if any more absurd legal snarls like that which now halts the erection of the Philadelphia Public Library bar the development of our long overdue Boulevard project the Parkway may make an entirely new record for sloth.

Peculiarly sympathetic should be the relations between Americans and the distinguished Italian envoys now in this country. The French and British commissioners brought the very crux of the war home to us.

WE HAVE absolutely no sympathy with those who would to lie down and quit. We are against obstructionists of both factions, or in the P. R. T., or anywhere else.

IT BECOMES increasingly evident that Mr. Taylor does things and formulates definite purposes while nobody else directly connected with the transit problem does. We still look to him to lead the city out of the jungle.

is natural that our reception of these two men will differ in many ways from the manner in which we hailed Marshal Joffre. But our affection and regard for these notable Italians will be none the less deep.

TRANSIT NOW that certain reactionary and obstructive interests are in a gloating mood on account of their apparent success in hog-tying rapid transit, it may be worth while to survey the situation and see whether they have a half-Nelson hold on the future of Philadelphia or are merely springing a bluff.

We regard the enactment of the Salus bill as a wise, necessary and wholly desirable thing. It confers on the city a right which it ought to have.

IN SOME respects the argument of Mr. Lewis in Harrisburg gave an impression utterly at variance with the facts. He said:

The citizens have been led to believe that they could construct all the elevated and subway lines authorized, and on a five-cent fare, with free transfers to the lines of the P. R. T., make the investment pay. This is a rosy dream from which the sooner we awake and face the real facts, the better.

But, not content with having by dilatory tactics driven the city into its present position, these same obstructionist interests now talk about abandonment and the impossibility of getting anywhere.

The EVENING LEDGER counsels delay in the main work, merely as a postponement. It would not be patriotic at this time for the city to contract for huge supplies of steel or to sequester a large body of labor most urgently needed elsewhere.

THE Mayor, we are informed, is dedicated to the proposition that the Frankford L should be pushed at once to Rhawn street. Construction should not be postponed.

WE are anxious about two things. That Americans should realize to the utmost what Britain means in this war—that is the first point. And the second is that the unqualified representatives of America overseas should be faithful to their country.

1. Enact the Salus bill. 2. Construct the Frankford L to Bridge street and connect it with the subway at Front street.

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ANGLO-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING

It Would Be Helped if a United States Commission Returned the Visit of Mr. Balfour

By GILBERT VIVIAN SELDES Special Correspondence Evening Ledger

LONDON, May 10. ONE phrase we have heard again and again in the last month, "The hope of the world."

It sounds vague, romantic. It might mean anything. And from the day the United States declared war on Germany that phrase has been spoken. I have heard it in speeches, of course. But I was more impressed when a gentleman whose business it is to know more about high explosives than anybody in Germany said the same thing to me.

The United States has lost her reputation here—her reputation of being a money maker. Forgotten the ancient snarl, suppressed the flippant remark. I've just seen a German paper, several weeks old, which refers to the United States, poor deluded nation, coming into a war from which she can reap no profit.

People do not know exactly what they mean by "the hope of the world." They feel in a general way that we reaffirmed the original purpose of the war because we chose the side of democracy.

That is the union of our force with the force of British democracy. I do not mean an "alliance," because that is comparatively insignificant. What I mean was tersely expressed recently by a man of profound knowledge of both countries, and of some imagination. He foresaw from the entrance of the United States a condition in which the United States and Britain would each teach the other what it knew best, and what the other most needed to learn.

Those who believe that the British Commonwealth has served, and still does serve, a noble purpose in the world look to this interchange of habits as the very foundation of future peace.

EDWARD EARLE PURINTON, efficiency expert, publishes in the Independent a set of twenty-five questions as a Personal Production Test. The idea is that if you can answer "yes" to every question you may consider yourself 100 per cent efficient.

WE are anxious about two things. That Americans should realize to the utmost what Britain means in this war—that is the first point. And the second is that the unqualified representatives of America overseas should be faithful to their country.

From the day the Lusitania sank to the day the President made his war speech the United States has been hitler and cruelly slandered abroad—by Americans. They realize that it is not only our own people who have to call them Americans.

THE Grim Reaper in Woodbury Rexie, the well-known little fox terrier dog, owned by the Genter family, and well thought of by them and every one who met him, was bitten a short time ago while fighting with another dog.

Italian armies soon will feast In Austria's great town of Trieste, sings a new contrib. in a long poem which is not otherwise remarkable.

What a solemn place this world must have been in, say, the early thirties of the last century! There were then no columnar comic cusses, and yet a prominent figure upon the streets of New York in those days was Mr. Preserved Fish.

Tom Daly's Column

UNDEMONSTRATIVE Your eyes turn, our hands touch; That little—meaning much; And you have filled My being with new youth and dawn and glory.

IT HAS COME at last! The morning's mail brought us a review of our latest book, in which our verse is called "poignant." Let's pass it on to Frank O'Malley, whose poignant article in O'Malley's for May poignantly points out "The Evolution of the Cabaret in New York."

Wherefore, let us suggest to the live-wire publishers of modern song hits to those lines, upon which no royalty need be paid, since the author is dead.

HE WAS only seven years old, but his manners were always irreproachable. His grandparents were very proud of him, and he had visited them at pretty regular intervals as long as he could remember.

THE wily Welshman follows a characteristic instinct in this suggestion. He realizes that to submit the question simply to the Irish people would be an acknowledgment of their national existence and rights.

HELPING THE RED CROSS To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—There is much heard nowadays about the urgent needs of the Red Cross.

CONSCRIPTION NOT PERMANENT To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Replying to H. H. Sheets, secretary of a national association formed for the purpose of preaching compulsory military training, I beg to leave to ask why the society in question is not now disbanded, since we are at war to fight just such a condition.

THE RIGHTS OF IRELAND To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—It was a most unhappy fate which induced the editor of the EVENING LEDGER to pen the editorial which appeared in the edition of Friday last entitled "Hard on Ireland's Friends."

POPULAR SONGS In the American Magazine is an article by E. M. Wickes called "Putting Over Popular Songs." In which he describes the way that hoped-for "hits" are foisted on the public with the aid of actors and vaudevilleans.

WONDER I wonder where the flowers get their smell? I wonder what the talking squirrels tell, And what the quiet, shiny fishes know? From dawn to eve, but most when lights are low.

ARMY AVIATORS W. G. F.—Announcement was made recently that no more recruits would be accepted by the aviation section of the army signal corps unless the applicants were exceptionally qualified for the work.



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Ventilation of Cars—Helping the Red Cross—Conscription. Ireland

VENTILATION OF CARS To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—If the P. R. T. would instruct the conductor when to open and when to close the car windows and the cars were properly ventilated from the roof, the problem would be solved.

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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 is anthropology? 2. American aviators form the Lafayette Escadrille in France. What is an escadrille? 3. Who is Sonnius? 4. Name the country or countries with which the United States is at war.

- 1. Nine answers are vessels used to locate and remove mines from water areas that are in danger of being mined. 2. The monoplane has only one supporting plane; the biplane has two, the one above and the one below.

- 1. The wily Welshman follows a characteristic instinct in this suggestion. He realizes that to submit the question simply to the Irish people would be an acknowledgment of their national existence and rights.

- 1. No, it is not Ireland which is blocking the way to freedom for the oldest of the small nations. Could our forefathers be said to have placed obstacles in the way of "efforts to help them" by refusing and spurning after the victory Saratoga the offer of representation in Parliament, tendered them when England, weakened by the fear of impending defeat, in submission accepted their terms?

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- 1. I wonder how the small birds fly so well? And why the winds that blow the birds won't blow Me too up through the far green tops of trees? All day I wonder"—faintly as a prayer—"I wonder," and her deep, eyes, unraised, signed.

- 1. E. K.—Your inquiry was referred to the War Department, which replied as follows: "The selective service bill, as President's proclamation in pursuance thereof provides for the registration on June 6, 1917, of all male persons who, on that date shall have attained their twenty-first birthday and shall not have attained their thirty-first birthday, except persons in the military or naval service of the United States, which includes all officers and enlisted men of the regular army, the navy, the marine corps and the National Guard and naval militia while in the service of the United States, and all officers and enlisted men of the reserve corps and enlisted men of the reserve corps while in active service. From the lists of persons so registered, names will subsequently be drawn by lot by the fairness system that can be devised. Persons whose names are drawn, and other persons interested, will be given an opportunity to present claims for draft and to support such claims by evidence."

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