

Evening Public Ledger

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HAVE YOU BEEN ROBBED?

THESE are flush times for bandits in Philadelphia. In the space of two weeks about \$73,000 worth of jewelry has been stolen in broad daylight from shops in the heart of the city.

The times are abnormal. But even in quieter days the detective bureau has been unable to deal efficiently with organized crime. It is disorganized by politicians and it has not grown in efficiency or in the number of its officers.

If professional gunmen and post-graduate burglars can come and go in the city at will, even while their photographs hang in the regional gallery, something serious is wrong.

All of which is offered as a tip to our next Mayor.

DEPARTING GIANTS

THE President is ill. Colonel House had to be helped down the gangplank as an invalid when he arrived in this country. Clemenceau is about to retire, seemingly weary and glad to go out of office.

The men who participated in the Paris conference did not believe that a task as great as theirs could be completed overnight or in a month or in a year.

So the world at large would be wiser to bury its hates and forget its bickering long enough to wonder who is to take up the load that the departing giants must sooner or later lay down one by one.

ANOTHER SCHOOLMASTER

ONE of the interesting photographs made at the industrial conference shows young John Rockefeller in earnest and friendly conversation with Frank Morrison, of the Federation of Labor.

Doctor Eliot is liberal minded, with no awe of money as such. Long ago he manifested an interest in labor. He has gone to some pains to show the country the mighty man which humble workers play in its affairs.

What transpires between him and the leaders at the labor conference should be of moment. It is easy to criticize Mr. Morrison and his associates if you forget that very often they have worked so hard during most of their lives that they have had no time to acquire the knowledge of economic laws that might help them to a wiser leadership of labor.

BLOCKING THE MAILS

CONGRESS and Burleson must share about equally in the blame for obvious inequalities and injustices of the wage scale which fifty-three letter carriers in this city have just escaped by the hard alternative of resignation.

The walkout in the Philadelphia office represents but one detail in the slow disintegration of the postal service that has been progressing steadily under the present postmaster general.

Mr. Burleson has been concerned only with profit. Efficiency and morale are words that he does not understand. His example has encouraged Congress in its refusal to make such appropriations as would insure decent pay to the rank and file in the service.

The government department which Mr. Burleson controls is apparently unable to compete with private business enterprises. The process of resignation will

continue under a system that, if it were designed to force all the best men out of the department, could not operate more effectively to that end than it has been operating for two or three years.

ROBINSON CRUSOE'S POLICY APPLICABLE TO THIS COUNTRY

Defoe's Hero Knew That the Only Way to Get Enough to Eat and to Wear Was to Produce It

WHAT is to be thought of the man who insists that, because he cannot earn enough to support his family when he works eight hours a day, he should be required to work only six hours a day?

This is not a hypothetical question. The soft coal miners are making this demand. They ask for a 60 per cent increase in their wages. It is true, but they seek 60 per cent more pay for 25 per cent less work.

The miners are not fools. They are men of like intelligence with the rest of us. We must assume that they are making these demands, not because they expect them to be granted, but in the hope that they can secure an increase in their pay by asking for more than they expect to get and then compromising with their employers.

The soft coal miners have undoubted grievances. Their pay has not been increased enough to meet the increased cost of food and clothing and they can buy less with the contents of their pay envelope than they could before the amount which it contained was enlarged.

A strike will complicate rather than simplify the problem. The wages of the miner will not stretch far enough to cover his necessities because the check on production caused by taking four million men from industry and putting them in uniforms has been followed by a great increase in the market price of that which has been produced.

Other causes, such as high wages forced by government bidding for help in war work and the inflation of the currency coincident with the war, have also affected prices.

Soft coal enters into the cost of virtually everything that we consume. Its price affects the price of railroad freights. Without soft coal we cannot have electric lights in factories, nor power to operate their machinery, nor electric power to run the trolley cars, nor steam power to operate the pumps in the water supply departments.

A stoppage of the supply of soft coal would mean a check in all industry and in the distribution of its products. This would still further curtail the supply of food and clothing and bring about still higher prices, so that if the soft coal miners, after the strike had continued for several weeks, secured the increase in pay which they are asking, their pay would buy no more than it will pay for now and they would be no better off.

There can be no improvement in present conditions so long as workers and employers think only of their own narrow interests. They both would do well to take serious thought of the suggestion for a truce made at the labor conference in Washington last week.

We are all suffering from the same ailment of which the soft coal miners are complaining. We are paid in a fifty-cent dollar for our work and our employers are paid in a fifty-cent dollar for what they sell. The thing on which it is important that we all concentrate our attention is the restoration of the value of the dollar—that is, in making it possible for a dollar to buy more potatoes and meat and coal. This cannot be done unless the supply of coal and meat and potatoes is increased.

Robinson Crusoe, living alone on his island, knew what he must do if he would have enough to eat and to wear. He knew he must produce it. If he went hungry he had only himself to blame. He could not pass a resolution demanding a six-hour working day, with just as much food supplied to him at night as though he had worked eight hours.

The United States is an island of Juan de Fernandez and the people are a collective Robinson Crusoe, dependent on what they produce for what they consume. If they do not produce enough some one must go hungry. The country is suffering now because we have not produced enough to make the products plentiful. The remedy is not to decrease production by stopping work, nor by seeking fewer hours a day; but to do what is most important, to raise more meat and potatoes and wheat and manufacture more clothing.

No man who has considered the crisis through which we are passing has reached any other conclusion. The President has urged it upon the attention of the country. It has been set forth by Herbert C. Hoover and by an indefinite number of bankers, and no labor leader has disputed it.

Unfortunately, the labor leaders here and in England have in too many instances decided to take advantage of the situation to demand a shorter working day and increased pay, under threat of holding up industry because they think that public sentiment will support them for fear that the situation may become worse.

These leaders are, unfortunately, ill-advised. They are hurting their cause rather than helping it. The public hears threats of strikes with ill-disguised impatience. It believes in fair play and is indignant when any group of men plans to hold up the rest of us for their selfish advantage. We have all suffered together and we must all strive together to work our way out of the present complications.

There is a widespread feeling that grievances that cannot be redressed by

negotiation should be endured until production has been restored to its normal peacetime relation to the demands of the country, and there is a general belief that when production is so restored many of the grievances will have disappeared.

So it is hoped that the soft coal strike may be averted. The miners are amenable to reason and their employers should be likewise. Their leaders are expected to let pass the tempting opportunity to display their power and to meet in a conciliatory mood any negotiators who may try to bring about a settlement of the points in dispute. And above all, they should abandon all effort to decrease production through a shorter working day.

DOCTOR BERTUM was almost too kind when, commenting on the rumors relative to the President's illness, he characterized Senator Moses as a backstairs gossip. Backstairs gossips are rarely so graceless as the senator from New Hampshire appeared in the letter which, written to an unnamed constituent, seems actually to have been intended for the whole world. "He may live," wrote the New Hampshire prophet, "but he will not be any material force or factor in anything."

We wonder. The President did not realize all his goals. That is because they were high. But even if Mr. Wilson were never again to participate actively in affairs at Washington the work he has already done will remain as "a force and a factor" in the world's affairs for generations, perhaps even when such great leaders as Moses himself are forgotten.

The public would welcome franker and fuller statements from the President's physicians. Lacking the information it desires, the country will feel, for the time being at least, that the President's attendants may themselves be in some doubt. It will not tolerate congressional sniping at a sick man who sacrificed his strength in the service of his country while his present efforts were giving their time to self-interest.

IT IS still fashionable in some quarters to criticize the Fairmount Park Commission for its habits of conservatism. Many people remember that the commissioners hesitated for a long time before they permitted automobiles to enter the Park. The public is just beginning to perceive that there was wisdom in that waiting policy. And in some particular—in the matter of curing for road surfaces and in general motor regulations—the Park Commission still can teach many things to City Councils.

Because of the discussion of the automobile smoke nuisance begun in these columns recently, New Yorkers have suddenly realized that the trees and foliage in Central Park are being slowly destroyed by the fumes emitted by imperfectly adjusted motors. The greenery in Fairmount Park has never been seriously injured in that way for the simple reason that iron regulations existed from the first to prevent it. The Fairmount Park Commission, in other words, has a better regard for the trees and the shrubs and the lawns under its care than Councils have manifested for the lives and the health of citizens.

A chauffeur may defile the atmosphere of Philadelphia streets at will if he is too lazy to adjust the mechanism of his car. But he will be halted as soon as he appears with a smoking machine anywhere in the Park.

Anti-smoke ordinances are now being talked of in New York. They will be in operation there, doubtless, before our own Council follows a sensible example that the Park Commission has been setting for years.

Richard Hess, a Boston lawyer, just returned from England, wishes to take the English breakfast regularly. He is in a simple taking a holiday, he declares. When the people get fed up on leading they'll get back to work. It is a comfortable theory and may be as true in this country as in England.

The New York Shipbuilding Corporation has decided to charter submarines to all women because pretty women distract the attention of workmen and efficiency is impaired. Say what you will, it is the men who can't make their eyes behave.

Secretary Siffen of the Indian Rights Association, says private a drug procured from castor has a kick more potent than whiskey. With a single drop on the tip of your nose the Indian can afford to laugh at prohibition.

With all due respect to the faith healers, it may be remarked that the United States Senate has been giving the President "audible treatment" for some time past, and it hasn't done a bit of good.

The President's nervousness appears to be of the opinion that Moses should stick to the making of laws.

Former Lieutenant Governor McClain is wearing patched shoes. Well, he has nothing on the rest of us.

The Atlantic City man who paid \$4200 for water, thinking it was whisky, had to provide his own kick.

By the time a perfect system of trolley transportation has been evolved the airplane litter drivers will be talking strike.

A Chicago firm is experimenting with a steam automobile. This may set out a tremor in John D.'s chariots.

An optimist is one who believes that treaties will eventually be made of plywood instead of pigskin.

The odd thing about the Balkan fox is that he is forever sporting a new tale.

Sticks and stones may break bones, but they never win strikes.

What the Russians want is Riga without Lett or hindrance.

THE "INABILITY" CLAUSE

No Congress Has Ever Enforced the Constitution Provision Authorizing the Vice President to Act for the President in Case the Latter Is Ill

NO VICE PRESIDENT of the United States has ever been delegated by Congress to serve as President prior to the death of the Chief Magistrate of the nation. The constitution, however, is definite upon this subject. According to a clause in Article II, "In the case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability."

But the presence of the makers of our fundamental legal instrument, in this instance, as in numerous others, assumed a set of circumstances which have never in their entirety occurred. Five Presidents have died in office. The constitutional machinery was easily equal to these conditions. Five Vice Presidents were speedily inaugurated in the highest executive office in the land.

With regard to "removal" no case has ever arisen. During the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson the country was considering a new possibility. The President's margin was extremely narrow. Failing of conviction by a single vote, however, Johnson, despite bitter Republican antagonism, remained in office.

By the law of 1791, then in force, the president pro tempore of the Senate would have stepped into Johnson's shoes had the two-thirds condemnation vote been attainable at the trial. Under the later act of 1822 the succession passes to the secretary of state in case of removal, death, resignation or inability" affects a President who was originally elected as Vice President.

The Johnson crisis was extraordinary. Its outcome in a period of intense partisan rancor renders it extremely unlikely that Congress will ever have to busy itself much with the presidential succession question propounded by "removal" of the executive.

HIS "inability" is a much more probable event. Yet even when it has occurred both Congress and the nation have been decidedly conservative. Garfield lived eighty days after a fatal bullet on July 2, 1881. The political situation was far from serene, since the Republicans, then in power, were quarreling among themselves, the administration wing of the party having to contend with the New York "Stalwarts," of whom the redoubtable Roscoe Conkling was chief.

But Congress was not in session and hence the "inability" of the President was not from the legal aspect, of pressing moment. No bills were awaiting Garfield's signature. It was clear that if he lived he would be sufficiently recovered to perform his necessary official duties by the next December.

Heartless and unsympathetic critics did, it is true, discuss "inability." Their criticism was invalidated when some five weeks after the shooting the President did actually sign one document, a paper presented by the secretary of state concerning an extradition case with Canada.

Slightly agitated the patient's condition took a turn for the worse and there was further talk about the possibility of leaving the executive department of the government without an active head. Toward the close of the preceding August of 1881 the President became so ill that the bad taste of discussing a successor to him was realized.

It was clear that if he lived he would be fighting for his life. He died on September 19, at Elberon, N. J., whether he had been removed in order to avoid the alleged malarial air of Washington.

Chester A. Arthur, his successor, made an admirable President. The Conkling influence, which had alarmed one of the most noted statesmen of the day, in his administration of more than three and a half years.

PRESIDENTIAL "inability" was never an issue with regard to any of the other Chief Magistrates who died in office. Those who succumbed to disease were ill for too brief a period for the issue to become prominent.

Lincoln and McKinley, who fell by the assassin's bullet, had no such apparent chance for life as Garfield. John Wilkes Booth performed his desperate deed very thoroughly. Abraham Lincoln was shot on the evening of April 4, 1865. The next morning at 7 o'clock he died.

For a day or two some rumors of McKinley's recovery were held out by his physicians. But hope soon vanished. He lingered for only eight days, from September 6 to September 14, 1901.

To the acute grief of the Whigs who had elected him, William Henry Harrison died exactly one month after taking his oath of office. It has been said that he contracted cold on inauguration day. Whatever the cause, he died with his wife on April 4, 1841, on March 27, 1841, and on April 4, the Whigs had lost their first President.

John Tyler proved a managing diplomat to constituents who had shouted so ferociously for "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!" By vetoing the United States bank bill the former Vice President broke the caucus of his party and in September of 1841 the entire cabinet, except Daniel Webster, the secretary of state, resigned in a body.

In the history of the presidency by "inability" Tyler holds the record for length of term in office. He would the Whigs regarded his term of office as full.

Five years later they suffered the death of their only other successful presidential candidate, Zachary Taylor, elected for his military prowess in the Mexican War, for he had hitherto made no pretensions to statesmanship save as President for sixteen months. He died on July 9, 1850, of bilious colic, having been ill but five days.

Millard Fillmore filled his place conscientiously, but without conspicuous brilliancy.

IN THE drama of American history there has never yet been the case of a President invalided for a protracted period during which his services were imperatively needed. Had Congress been in session while the physicians sought to save Garfield perhaps more light would have been shed on the nation's interpretation of the "inability" clause than is at present available.

Judging by the speed and frequency with which they work local theses must be trying to corner the fur market.

With the price of clothes rising there is possibility that patches will be fashionable this winter.

In the matter of prices not even the gravity of the situation insures that what goes up must come down.

Colonel House is said to be too ill to talk. Science is hardly a sign of sickness with the colonel.

Every strike increases the pitching average of H. O. L.

BUT WINTER'S COMING



THE CHAFFING DISH

On Leaving France
O FIELDS of France, yet green and smiling,
Starr'd now with pompies, blue with soldiers'
Who under waste clouds found their peace again.

And ever near the aspect I loved best,
Each hill too mute and tender for a breast
Cradling the silver marsh, or sleek with rain,
The poplars' bluest marches across the plain,
And sloping vineyards purpled in the West.

Not in one land alone does Beauty live,
And there are other suns than gild August;
So shall French peasants seem to till the loam.

In Tennessee, and cottage windows give
On landscapes tapestried, a fairy view
Of France still living in the hills of home.

ALEC B. STEVENSON

My general colleague, G. W. D., has been doing a little desk-clearing, in the course of which we found him rummaging through a batch of old clippings. He pulled one out and showed it to us, with the remark that it is the best autumn poem he knows. It runs thus:

Autumn Poem
The naked hills lie wanting to the breeze,
The fields are made, the groves untracked
Bare are the banks of charnel-crevices,
No wonder that the corn is tracked!

Why Not Edmund?
At our favorite movie theatre we saw the following announcement on the screen: "Edmund," Griffith's Supreme Effort, Broken Blossoms, from the story by James Barrie.

Now it seems to us that if G. W. was making an effort like that he might have got the author's name right, viz., Thomas Burke. But pish, tish, who cares about the author?

How About It?
Dear Socrates: I note that you say judgment is born in one, and not likely to be improved by experience. There is, on the other side of the question, a statement by the learned Samuel Johnson, L. L. D., I've been searching through Boswell ever since I saw your note in the Dish, and here it is:

It is a sad reflection, but a true one, that I knew almost as much at eighteen as I do now. 'Tis assigned, to be sure, was not so good, but I had all the best.

WILLIAM HAYES.

The first mandate of the League of Nations seems to be that exercised over Mr. Wilson by Doctors Grayson, Ruffin and Still.

Our waggy friend M. M. I. suggests that we will know the President is entirely well when we hear that he has asked to see Mr. Lodge.

Ignorant as we are about music, we are greatly interested to note that the orchestra is going to play something called "Scherzo" on Friday and Saturday. We are wondering about this. Is it a symphonic tone-biography of R. L. S.? As a Stevenson fan, it would interest us greatly to know more about it.

Petrograd, we understand, is again "about to be captured." There has been one thing about Petrograd that has never been explained to us, and that is, what has happened to the Mensheviks?

Another question: Is there any one who has seen all the installments of a moving-picture serial?

Broad Street Station Again
Speaking of Broad Street Station (as we were yesterday) it occurs to us to add that wandering about that place always seems to us like living in a detective story. In all that panorama of life and hurry there is a note of mystery and enigma. Where are all these people going, and what are they

PERENNIAL

AT EIGHTEEN she was rather nice.
And acting fairly well.
I heard her say it once or twice—
No matter what befell.
She would not star for untold gold
Upon the stage if she were old.

At twenty-five she reigned a queen.
And always she could get
The town's applause, if she was seen
As dainty Juliet;
And often she was known to say:
" 'Till I am old I will not stay."

At forty she had many friends.
Was still of the elect;
Her good looks still might make amends
For any small defect.
And in her interviews you read:
" 'I'll leave ere I am old," she said."

At three-and-seventy years of age
She acted still, a scold;
Assailed her with: "You swore the stage
You'd leave ere you were old!"
She turned upon her friend, I heard:
" 'Yes, madame, and I'll keep my word!'"

Perhaps some delegate will open the Industrial Conference deadlock with a letter.

Why don't the automobile thieves steal a patrol wagon for a change?

New York has already demonstrated that a strike makes a longshoreman short.

Every strike ended is some quarrel mended.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. What part of the eye is the retina?
2. In what century did Robert Emmet live?
3. What is palinogenesis?
4. How long did President Garfield live after he was shot by Guiteau?
5. What state does Senator Moses represent?
6. Which is the higher title in England, duke or earl?
7. Who founded the Salvation Army?
8. What is the meaning of esauism?
9. Where did Moses die?
10. Who was Captain Charles Wilkes?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty has succeeded Vice Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss as first sea lord of the British navy.
2. Plumbago is black lead—graphite—used for making pencils. It is a form of carbon.
3. Shaddock and pomelo are other names for grapefruit.
4. San Salvador is the capital of the republic of Salvador.
5. In 1792, after Vermont and Kentucky had been admitted to the Union, the stripes on the American flag were increased to fifteen. By 1818 there were twenty stripes in the flag, and then Congress passed an act fixing the number permanently at thirteen.
6. The United States has a naval station at Guantanamo, Cuba. In Santo Domingo and Haiti, which together form the island of Haiti, the American Government is exercising along some lines temporary control provided for in treaties and agreements.
7. One hundred pounds make a quintal.
8. Lorenzo de Medici, called the Magnificent, ruled over Florence.
9. He lived in the fifteenth century, dying in 1492.
10. Italy was in the world war three years, five months and sixteen days.

In answer to several inquiries, we are pleased to be able to state that Bill Reedy, the well-known editor from St. Louis, did actually catch a channel bass down at Corson's Inlet. The literary fishing party returned to town yesterday and a number of the bookishly inclined were invited by the learned Doctor Rosenbach to attend the obsequies of the unfortunate fish. Reedy, it was a fish consigned to its ultimate destination with greater splendor. In the crude doctor's salon a literary gathering assembled, including Doctor Sola-Cohen, Mr. A. Edward Newton and Mr. T. A. Daly. Doctor Sola-Cohen entertained the company with his own delightful recollections of medical poops, Messrs. Newton and Daly not to be outdone in literary matters, exchanged anecdotes of the prize ring, and Mr. Reedy gave pleasing reminiscences of John L. Sullivan. It was agreed by all that the high point of the occasion was reached in Mr. Newton's recollections of going to see a horse-race in company with L. B. Russell, Blanche Bates, John W. Gates and Jim Corbett. After this Mr. Reedy adjourned to St. Louis.

Something positively unique has happened to us and we wish to chronicle it in our own list of unexpected happenings. An electric-light company has written to us as follows:

"On receipt of your letter we checked the meter reading and found that the man who rendered your bill had overread the meter 10 K.W., which made a difference of \$2.

"Therefore we are now sending you a corrected bill and enclose herewith our check."

This unprecedented occurrence has caused us to revise our whole philosophy of human nature.

We see by the photos that D'Annunzio is eggishly hairless. At last the downtrodden race of bald men have a hero.

If only all the week could be as pleasant and placid as the first pipe on Sunday morning, what a life this would be.

(SOCRATES)