

THE PUBLIC FORUM

PRICE OF ICE.—I beg to inform you of an error published in The Day Book. You state sardonically (and justly so) that at a time when ice is mostly needed and when poor people are hardly able to buy any ice at all, the price was raised not only one-third, but more than twice the amount they charged hitherto.

The big dealers are advertising that they did not raise their prices. I want to say that this is a brazen lie. Their prices fluctuate from minute to minute. Whenever they squeeze more money out of the small dealers they do so to the extreme.

My father is an ice dealer and my heart breaks to hear poor people bitterly complain that they cannot afford to spend \$1.50 per week for ice. Cannot the city authorities intercede and prevent the magnates filling their coffers with people's money?—Abe A. Klappman.

CONSUMER'S ICE CO.—Why is it that after soliciting the people's trade, having them buy ice books and paying for same in advance, so they will receive more interest on our money, that we don't get the service? Most of the people in our neighborhood bought Consumer's Co. ice books, and most of them have small children. Several times we have not received ice from Friday until Monday night about 9 o'clock, and this last week have not received it since Friday and it is now Tuesday.

We have made complaints to the general office and the branch office also. One of the neighbors called into the general office and one of the clerks said that they would refund the money on his book. It is very strange that he should say this when they are spending hundreds of dollars paying solicitors and advertising in the street cars, etc., for our trade.

Why can not they hire more men and put out more wagons if there is

so much for them to do that they cannot get around to the people who have paid for good service. Can't something be done?—Mrs. C. Stark and Mrs. J. Cole.

THE FLAG AND LOEB.—I read in The Public Forum of Aug. 2 an article, "The Flag and the Schools," and I must say that some parts of it are very disgusting, to say the least.

I wonder how anybody who has read The Day Book regularly can support Jacob Loeb, after he has dismissed efficient teachers so unjustly without a hearing because they are members of the Teachers' Federation, an organization well worth supporting, this being in violation of the civil service rules.

Then again, the writer of this article states that the president of the school board and other members of the board who are with him in his action should receive encouragement and assistance from all patriotic citizens. If that is the writer's idea of patriotism I don't want to be patriotic, if it is necessary to support Mr. Loeb in his actions.

We have all kinds of fanatics in this country; there is the religious fanatic and also the flag fanatic. If there were fewer flag fanatics there would be less clamor for war and preparedness parades. The flag is just merely a symbol of the government. It does not make a government good or bad. Russia has a flag, but still has a despotic government. It is the people behind the flag that count, not so much the flag itself. What can we say the flag stands for in Europe, with the allies and the central powers fighting so desperately?

We also do not enjoy the greatest freedom under that starry banner (to use the writer's words), for if we did there would be nothing for us to criticize. It is because we do not enjoy the greatest freedom that there is so much to criticize.

It is very nice, I admit, for the