

THE PUBLIC LEDGER

THE LEDGER PUBLISHING COMPANY. C. E. DIETRICH, Editor and Manager.

KEEP YOUR NOSE AT HOME.

Isn't it about time for the government to call a halt on the rapidly growing habit of certain American people poking their noses into Europe's affairs?

Their meddling advice has not been solicited, and it will not be heeded, and the only visible effect will be the bringing of our own country into disrepute in the eyes of the peoples of all nations.

When European governments at war with each other listen to the tenders of good offices and of neutral nations, what reason do they have to suppose that they would give even a hearing to the blatant demands of private Americanizers who apparently think more of newspaper notoriety than they do of peace?

The great mass of our Americans of all degrees are a sane and sensible people, who attend strictly to their own affairs. But we are cursed with a minority who are never happy unless they can get into the newspaper headlines and they will go to extreme lengths to satisfy their insane cravings.

By strenuous work the United States has managed to keep out of the European entanglements thus far, although our prestige has suffered to a degree.

We can not afford to be drawn into it through the officious meddling of a gang of irresponsible notoriety seekers who persist in poking their noses into the European face.

Europe will settle its war in its own way when the right time comes. In the meantime let the government insist that the American nose be kept at home.

In some places the appointment of a postmaster is being decided by vote of the people. It is surprising how the politicians will allow their rights to be taken away from them.

DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEES.

The two Democratic State Committees met Monday in Louisville. We notice that Mason county and Maysville are not in the list. From the Ninth District is J. H. Spradlin, of Prestonburg, on the committee-at-large, while on the State Executive Committee we find W. A. Young, of Morehead.

We wonder what is the matter with Maysville, Mason county? What has become of Hon. Stanley F. Reed, J. N. Kehoe, that rising young attorney W. H. Reese and A. G. Sulser, and a half dozen other true and tried soldiers of Democracy? Is Old Mason being given up by the State Committees? Have the last two or three elections not yielded big enough majorities to entitle some of the honors to come to Mason?

Judge S. W. Hager, who is frequently spoken of as the man to succeed Hon. W. J. Fields in Congress from this District, is the chairman of both committees.

Fun--Well Done

Lacking In Patriotism.

Some time ago little Willie rambled into the house, threw his soldier suit in the corner, and began looking over a book. This was unusual for the youngster, and mother began to investigate.

"What did you come into the house for, Willie?" she asked. "You haven't quarreled with George Brown, have you?"

"No, mother," answered Willie; "but I'm not going to play war with him any more."

"Why not?" queried mother. "What has he been doing?"

"It's this way," explained Willie. "When we play war I'm Germany and he's England, and I don't let him lick me every time he says that I'm not patriotic."

Ready To Risk It.

"Mr. Jones wants a windy-pane twelve inches by fourteen," remarked young Patrick Mulrooney, entering the glazier's shop.

In the shop was a smart young assistant who wanted to have a joke with Pat.

"Haven't any that size," he replied gravely. "Will one fourteen inches by twelve do?"

Pat looked thoughtful for a minute. Then he replied:

"He's wantin' it at once, and as this is the only shop in town. Give me wan o' them. P'r'raps if we put it in sideways no one will notice."

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure Contains No Alum



EDITORIAL SIDELIGHTS

The Christmas Rush

It is not possible for a writer to say anything new about the eccentric and troublesome aspects of the annual American Christmas rush. The newspapers talk about it annually, as is their duty. The public still needs educating on this question.

It is a national absurdity, that for two weeks at the holiday season the larger stores, and many of the smaller ones, too, all over the country, should be jammed all at once with a mob of purchasers, clerks compelled to work under severe nervous strain. Mail and express employes are still worse off, laboring under severe pressure, often for unreasonably long hours. It is an imposition on large numbers of hardworking people and it could very easily be avoided.

The Christmas gift habit is firmly fixed in our customs. On the whole it brings much happiness, particularly to children. It is too bad that an occasion meant to bring joy and peace to all should bring worry, hurry and scurry to so many.

There are a good many people living hand to mouth, who perhaps can

not spare ready cash in advance and feel that they must wait to make purchases until the last moment. They are the exception. With the great majority the failure to anticipate their wants is mere thoughtlessness.

People have certain lists of gifts to make. They know they are going to make them every year. They might just as well keep their eyes open all the time to pick up appropriate gifts as the year goes along. But usually they let the whole matter go until about ten days before Christmas. It takes some time to consider what offerings they shall make. Then there is one grand hurry scurry of shopping, dashing up and dispatching parcels, and the Christmas rush goes on year after year in the same unreasonable way.

Kind hearted people should know better. It is ungenerous to hardworking people. People with any cash ahead of the game should plan and make and dispatch their purchases early in December. They would save themselves and others discomfort by getting the whole subject out of the way in good season.

ROAD BUILDING

WORKING FOR BETTER ROADS

Ways in Which Department of Agriculture Offers Advice and Assistance—Free Lectures Given.

Communities interested in the improvement of roads are recommended by the department of agriculture to apply for a lecturer on the subject. Lecturers will be sent at the government expense wherever there is reason to believe that audiences will be large enough to make the expenditure of time and money worth while.

The number of lecturers at the disposal of the department is limited, and it is not always possible, therefore, to comply with every request. When a



Vitrified Brick Pavements for Country Roads—Filling the Joints.

Lecturer cannot be sent, however, the department will loan a set of suitable lantern slides to any responsible local association or individual who will pay the express charges. The only requirement is that the slides be made of active and practical use in the community and that they be returned in good condition in 90 days. In addition, a brief outline of lecture to accompany the slides will be forwarded on request.

In addition to this educational work the department is always ready to respond to requests for practical assistance which may take the form of special advice and inspection, superintendence of county roads, road surveys, experimental road work, bridge work, or the development of a model system of highways for a county. To obtain such assistance local authorities should secure a blank form from the office of public roads on which to make applications. Requests from corporate villages or cities cannot be met, however.

Bridge work is one branch of road building in which the department may be of particular service to local authorities. Typical designs have been prepared and copies of these can be furnished on request. A few minor alterations would probably make such a design suitable for special conditions, or an engineer may be assigned to inspect the site and offer suggestions. In some cases designs by bridge companies have been reviewed by the department for the benefit of local officials.

Possibly the most important way, however, in which the department assists individual communities in the betterment of their roads is in laying out a model system of highways for a county which is about to expend a large sum of money on roads. In such cases the department assigns an engineer to make a thorough study of the district. He ascertains where the best road materials are, what roads are the most important, and, therefore, to be improved first, and provides for the location of each road so as to secure the best possible drainage and grade.

New Road Surfacing.

It is reported that an experiment is being made with a material which heretofore has been a waste product of glass factories, for road-making. This is a thick, syrupy liquid that hardens when exposed to the atmosphere, forming a substance that somewhat resembles glass. A quantity of this material is mixed with crushed stone and used to surface a stretch of highway in Illinois, forming a surface that is as smooth as concrete. How this surface will stand up under weather and wear will be watched with interest.

Road Draggings.

Good roads save money, because they cheapen transportation to the markets; they reduce the drain upon capital invested in horses; they prevent waste of time, and "time is money"; they add to the joy of living, and joy adds to the effectiveness of life; good roads may be had by dragging; use the drag.

Sell Your Products.

Sell your wool when the price is fairly good. Holding wool, or any other crop, very long is risky business.

TO DINE SUFFRAGE ENVOYS.

Washington, December 10.—Miss Zona Gale, of Wisconsin; Mrs. Gwendolyn Evans, of Boston, and Frank P. Walsh, former chairman of the United States Commission of Industrial Relations, are to be the speakers at the dinner to be tendered tomorrow night to Mrs. Sarah Bard Field and Miss Frances Joffe, the envoys from the women voters of California, to the convention of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage.

SEEKS TWENTY-THIRD POSTPONEMENT.

Milwaukee, Wis., December 10.—The case of John Falbe, charged with accepting a bribe, will come up in court today. The case has been continued twenty-two times, and it is expected another continuance will be asked for.

Service which has just been conquered by the Teutons in Bulgaria, has an area of 32,312 square miles with a total population of about 4,400,000.

ITEMS FROM ALL AROUND

New Railroad.

(Jackson Times.) Within the next week construction work will be started in earnest on the Cumberland & Manchester railroad, to be built from Barboursville to Manchester, Clay county, a distance of twenty-four miles. It will be a feeder to the Louisville & Nashville, and for development of a very large field of bituminous and canal coal and will make available one billion feet of hard wood timber.

Progress of the Times.

(Central City Argus.) Some of the conveniences enjoyed nowadays are not as old as some think. Twenty years ago, November 4, 1895, Owensboro for the first time was placed on the long distance telephone line. It was considered quite an event at that time. Nowadays almost every little hamlet is placed on long distance telephone connection with the whole world. Some improvement and progress, sure.

Cat a Great Provider.

(Danville Advocate.) Charles Browning, a student at Center College, who lives on the Stanford pike, is the proud owner of a remarkable cat. Mr. Browning, who is known among his fellow-colleagues as Major Browning, says that he has a cat that weighs fourteen pounds and is 9 years old. For many years past this old pet has made a practice in the fall and spring of the year of foraging for rabbits and squirrels and he often brings in a couple of young rabbits and a squirrel or often the reverse is true. The old cat, by years of experience, is now able to get fresh meat at a very convenient hour for the day's first meal with almost incredible accuracy. Although we do not subscribe to cannibalism, we dare not question the Major's statement that squirrel has been a regular component of his diet. He also has another cat that he only tells close friends about.

RAILROAD WORKERS PLAN FIGHT FOR EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Chicago, December 10.—The western branches of the four big railroad brotherhoods—engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen—have sent delegates to an important gathering here today to join in the nation-wide movement of the railroad workers for an eight-hour day. A committee will be chosen, it is expected, to co-operate with the committees of the southern and eastern branches of the brotherhoods, at a general meeting here next Wednesday, at which time the plans for the fight to obtain the eight hour agreement will be formulated.

More than 350,000 trainmen are involved in this movement to shorten the hours of work, and they comprise the train crews on all the steam railroads of the country. An eight hour day will be demanded to supplant the present system of working hours, and the trainmen will demand that the same wage be paid for eight hours as now paid for ten hours. Time and a half for overtime work will also be included.

War Claim Paid.

(Mayfield Messenger.) A check for \$1,500 has been sent to Graves county in payment of a claim presented a number of years ago for damage to the courthouse in Mayfield by Federal soldiers during the Civil War.

Buying For the Allies.

(Shelby Sentinel.) W. L. McAdams, of Columbus, Tenn., who has been in the county for a week buying mules for the British army, shipped a carload to St. Louis Monday. The prices ranged from \$125 to \$150.

Land of Milk and Honey.

(Crittenden Record-Press.) One day last week the Rev. J. B. Trotter and W. T. McConnell went quail hunting out in the Deanevood section. They stopped in a cedar grove to eat their noonday lunch and while seated and enjoying the good things which their better halves had prepared for the inner man, one of them noticed a dense and rather uncertain looking form up in the top of one of the cedar trees. Visions of bears, bombs, aeroplanes and German submarines came to their minds and they hastily removed to a safe distance to reconnoiter and discover, if possible, what it was hanging in the bough of the tree almost right over their heads. It did not take them long to ascertain that it was honey in the comb, which the bees had built there, intertwining and locking the boughs together and then filling the comb with honey. One of these nincompoops, we have not learned which one, volunteered to climb the tree and rob the bees of enough honey for their dinner, which was soon acquired and added sweetness to the already delightful picnic dinner. When we learn of the above and about Mrs. Miles Flannery's fine Jersey cow presenting her with twin heifer calves last week, we were convinced that we live in a land that flows with milk and honey.

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Good Suggestions

Now is the time of the year when people like to be given good suggestions for Christmas gifts.

A nice suit or an overcoat is an ideal gift to a man. They appreciate them more than anything else you can give them.

We are exhibiting a nice line of silk shirts. Give the boys silk shirts and make them glad.

Here are some suggestions we offer and you can save money buying them—

SHIRTS, SOX, NECKTIES, CUFF LINKS, HANDKERCHIEFS, CAPS, HATS and SHOES.

Be a SPUG. It is a better plan to give useful gifts.

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