

Evening Ledger

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Put Air in the Tenements

The people of Philadelphia are not peculiarly interested in what certain owners of the housing law think of the constitutionality of the housing law. That is a question for the courts. The vital issue is simply whether or not Councils shall nullify a law of Pennsylvania by the subtle expedient of refusing to appropriate funds to carry it out.

Honored by His Works

OHIO is making preparations to welcome home an American hero of the European war, Myron T. Herrick, who, after working overtime under the compulsion of strange and strenuous circumstances, is about to relinquish his post as Ambassador to France to another Ohioan.

Autocratic Prohibition

VODKA has been the Russian national drink for centuries. It is a deadly beverage and its widespread use has had a disastrous effect upon Russian health, commerce and morals.

Compensation That Works Both Ways

WORKMEN'S compensation is included in the legislative program of Governor H. B. Spang and is one of the vital subjects of discussion in the convention of the American Federation of Labor and the Industrial Welfare and Efficiency Conference at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in justice to itself and to its people, cannot lag so far behind the times as to ignore the urgent necessity to which attention has thus been called.

cases, which has made possible the speedy adjustment of accident claims without the litigation so expensive to State and contestants, which has afforded immediate relief to many afflicted by poverty and worry, and which has charged the cost of industrial insurance to the cost of production, with a total levy on the consumer of only nine one-hundredths of one cent for each dollar's worth of product purchased.

Frankford Sounds the Rally

FRANKFORD gave its answer on the rapid transit situation last night. Town meetings of this sort are nightmares to politicians. The comprehensive articles in the Evening Ledger, disclosing the intolerable transit conditions existing in the several sections which the proposed new system will serve, have prepared the way for the crusade which Director Taylor has begun; for the Frankford gathering was but the first of a series of town meetings which will show absolutely the practical unanimity of all Philadelphia in support of adequate transit facilities.

New Schools a Good Investment

UNDER the school code of Pennsylvania a Board of Education has the power and the authority to meet any exigencies that may arise in its district. The joint recommendation of the Department of Superintendency and the Department of Buildings for the erection of 17 new schools and 19 additions in this city should be acted upon affirmatively and promptly by the board.

Adequate Military Defense

MILITARISM and Jingoism are never likely to craze the American nation. Indeed, anything that savors of lust of conquest for the sake of conquest must be abhorrent to a people who have ample room for expansion within the bounds of their own country and who have scarcely scratched the surface of their own resources.

National Range of American Movies

TEN and twelve years ago moving pictures—they were "cinematographs" and not "movies" in the days when only vaudeville specialized in them—were almost exclusively a French product. The present war has completed in three months the Americanization that has been going steadily on year by year.

Oratory May Be Handicap

But I have strayed from my orators and non-orators. I doubt the value of oratorical methods unless they are employed to ornament a speech. It is because a man has the art of painting pretty word pictures that he is eager to speak, or the other way round, because he likes to speak does he learn to paint attractive word pictures? I should say, whatever may be the answer to that question, that oratorical style, even when skillfully employed, is of no effective aid to one in present-day legislative chambers, and may even be a handicap.

CURIOSITY SHOP

Hetzl, the French publisher who discovered Jules Verne, is dead. Hetzel began with Verne by a life contract, guaranteeing an annual sum of \$400, which seemed immense riches to the unknown writer. It was not at all proportionate to the rapid success and sale of his books throughout the known world. Jules Verne was content with his bargain, and for many, many years furnished dutifully his two volumes a year. At his death he left several more finished, or nearly so, which explains the continued appearance of new works bearing his name. Hetzel took pains to provide the writer who was laying golden eggs for him with a yacht and all other opportunities necessary or useful to stimulate his inventive powers.

HUM OF HUMAN CITIES

Prisons, taking the outcasts of the cities, are ever a source of interest to the fortunates who do not go down to the struggle of urban life. And the prisons themselves are rapidly increasing the interest by novel experiments.

AN OCTOBER DAY

Oh, the cool 'n' misty mornin',
When the day is just a-dawnin',
When the sun is gettin' lazy
An' a-sittin' kinder slow.

THE ART OF CONGRESSIONAL ORATORY AND SOME OF ITS MORE HUMAN SIDES

Most of the Orators Hail From South of the Line—Gallivan of Massachusetts an Exception—How Madden Maddens Mann. Paradoxical Mr. Kent.

By E. W. TOWNSEND

PERHAPS Professor Draper, who wrote so congenially of the effects of soil, climate and food on character, could have explained in his excellent chapter on that subject why Americans born south of Mason and Dixon's line speak oratorically and those born north of the line do not.

There is a group on the Republican side of the House I have watched with interest: James R. Mann and Martin B. Madden, of Chicago, and William Kent, of the 1st California district. They all came into political prominence as members of the Chicago City Council. Kent did prodigious work as a municipal reformer in Chicago before going to California, and Mann and Madden were both in the political drama cast, playing parts in the councilmanic upheavals of the early '90s.

Never Tackle Kitchin on Tariff

The majority leader-to-be was once debating a tariff point when he yielded to a member uninformed as to some things about Kitchin, and who in two minutes had controverted a dozen things Kitchin had stated and pretty directly accused him of misstating historical facts concerning one item.

Madden Smiles and Smiles

Mann looks worried. Madden sees this and smiles. He proceeds with a wonderfully rich vocabulary to present his objects, artfully addressing his reasons to Republicans from some section of the country likely to be influenced. He is always smiling; the amendment fails. Madden turns to Mann with the aside, "Jim, I didn't quite like that amendment."

SHOP EARLY

Sir—I thank you for the urgent request you make of your readers to do their Christmas shopping early. It is a noble idea, and everybody adopts, but few live up to. Their procrastination is more than the thief of their time. It is the thief of the health of hundreds of clerks and shop girls.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATISM

Sir—in your editorial entitled "Progressive Conservatism" in today's Evening Ledger (November 19), you could have strengthened your position considerably by showing that among the thinkers, men and women, are progressive in a conservative age, usually conservative in a progressive age. The reason for this is that when every one is contented with things as they are, there is no sense in the danger of stagnation and emphasizes what should be changed.

"IMPERTINENT COMMERCE CONFUSERS"

Sir—When your paper started a few months ago I thought it might be a high-brow journal devoted to setting forth the views of the privileged few. In discussing the Ives-Longstrech with a circle of friends the other day we concluded that it stands for the best interests of all the people of the community. While I do not agree with you on woman's suffrage, I am extremely gratified by the stand you have taken on the transit problem and also the decisive position you have assumed on behalf of the commuters as against the railroad and the I. C. C., which initials ought to mean the Impertinent Commerce Confuser.

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SCRAPPLE

The Army in the City
And the great city sleeps, its pulse scarcely disturbed by the feverish activity of the army of darkness. Or if the city catches a rumble of their movements and stirs in its slumber, it is only to turn over and go to sleep again. No hypnotic spell will account for this indifference of an army of five millions to the presence of an army of five millions in the cubical hives where the city takes its rest and unquiet sleeper tomes in his bed and resents the disturbance. It is not to wish that those provokers of the night were caught and sent to jail, but only to wish that they went about their business more discreetly—this great host of market-men, grocers, butchers, milkmen, pushcart engineers and new men after midnight in the enormous task of preparing the city's breakfast—Simeon Strunsky in "Belshazzar Court."

Views of Readers

Contributions That Reflect Public Opinion on Subjects Important to City, State and Nation.
To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—I find the Philadelphia business men, who have had occasion to take with trade conditions during the past month—and many of them no doubt have—will take the trouble to look up at the statue of William Penn on its lofty pedestal at the City Hall tower, and will also stop long enough in their mad rush to get to work from their place of business to gaze at the placid features of Benjamin Franklin, on Chestnut street, in front of the Post Office, they will, no doubt, be both surprised and pleased to see that there is a smile on the countenance of both of these distinguished gentlemen, who took such a pride in Philadelphia in their day, and whose spirits, if they hover about their earthly semblance (and who shall say that they do not), must be mightily pleased to witness the splendid progress this fine old City of Brotherly Love is making.

Hope Deferred

The frontiersman was hanging to the sharp, jutting edge of the cliff by one hand; the other was at his empty holster. Above him, an upraised tomahawk in his hand, fiendish glee in his eyes, knelt a painted redskin. Two United States army officers stood motionless, and looked on. Their faces betrayed a total lack of interest. They looked almost bored. One of them puffed lazily at a cigarette. The other flicked a speck of dust from his immaculate uniform. Finally they muttered something, turned and lounged away. Signing, the artist replaced the picture on its easel.

Exciting Times

"Well," mused 6-year-old Harry, as he was being buttoned into a clean white suit, "this has been an exciting week, hasn't it, mother? Monday when I went to the Zoo, Wednesday I lost a tooth, Thursday was Lily's birthday party, Friday I was sick, yesterday I had my hair cut, and now here I am rushing off to Sunday school."—Lippincott's.

Disaster

The careless, clumsy waiter with a bowl of steaming soup
Was rushing toward the table at a reckless, rapid gait;
When suddenly he caught his foot and did
The loop the loop.
And copped the heated liquid down upon
—A fashion plate.

Couldn't Turn It

"Bridder Perkins, you've been fightin', I heah," said the colored minister.
"Yess, Ah wuz."
"Doan you 'memb' whut de good book sez 'bout turnin' de odder cheek?"
"Yass, pahson, but he hit me on mah nose, an' I've only got one."—Livingston Lance.

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From the Cub's Notebook

It was on the Saturday of the second game of the world's series. Plank and Rudolph were pitching masterly ball. Neither side had scored. In a saloon in the southern section of the city a group of men were clustered around a ticker, breathlessly watching the story of each play. Bets on hits were exchanged as the players came to bat. In the crowd there was an individual whose clothes and actions marked him as the professional gambler. He won frequently.

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