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International nations are able to survive to enormous an increase of their normal expenses in time of peace? The answer is that they won't. There will be more than one debt and more than one contract repudiated when peace has been declared, and there are civic disturbances foreboded that will shake more than one Government into pieces.

Public Service Commission Must Give Citizens an Immediate Hearing

THINGS are in a pretty pickle when intelligent citizens are in grave doubt as to whether the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania or the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington is the proper body to give relief from the exorbitant advances in commutation rates which the railroads are about to make. But the Interstate Commerce Commission has been usurping authority at such a rapid rate that few lawyers would be willing to deny its control of anything.

"TWILIGHT SLEEP" EXPERIMENTS, New Treatment Tried With Success by Dr. Heller in Brooklyn—Birth Without Pain in Ninety Per Cent. of the Cases—Memory Seems Obliterated.

By VANCE THOMPSON. AS TO details: Of the 150 cases 131 were spontaneous deliveries and 19 were artificially terminated. The drug seemed to shorten the duration of labor in the "first stage," but prolonged it notably in the second stage, since the patient, being in a semi-conscious state, could not be taught to use the muscles to advantage.

What's the Use Hanging Back?

THE new currency system is in operation. The war has contracted productive industry in Europe to the vanishing point, and by so doing has practically established a protective system for the United States. We have no real competition at home and little elsewhere in the world. We and we only are the makers of wealth, the people who are converting raw material into the finished products that civilized beings must have.

Everybody's Automobile

WHEN motor fuel can really be sold at 2 cents a gallon, when tires can be made that will neither puncture nor blow out, when carburetors can be built that will always carbureate and magnetos installed that will never fail to spark, when cylinders can be constructed that will not leak nor clog, when the cost of advertising and marketing can be taken off the retail price of machines, when bodies can be enameled with a substance that will never wear off, when toll gates are abolished and garages are free, then every one of us can own a car.

Views of Readers on Timely Topics

Contributions That Reflect Public Opinion on Subjects Important to City, State and Nation. To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—That even friends may disagree is evident from the commentaries of a recent article by George Bernard Shaw, on the subject of porters of Germanic police, namely, our old acquaintances, Herr Ridder and Herr Rupprecht.

SCRAPPLE

General Boulanger. France has been too busy for some time to remember much about General George Ernest Jean Marie Boulanger. Yet he was a man who would have got more satisfaction out of the war with Germany than any other living Frenchman. War with Germany was his intense and deep-seated desire, and his intense and deep-seated desire to avenge the fatherland into a collection of scraps which remained as very near making an emperor of him in 1911.

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Suffragists Have One Paramount Duty

A JURIST has no power to render a verdict until it is appealed. In deciding not to define the attitude of women toward prohibition until they are formally granted their right to the franchise, the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association is acting with wisdom and foresight.

Mexico Abandoned to Its Fate

TODAY is the time appointed for the evacuation of Vera Cruz. There are buzzards in Mexico who will rejoice when they see our forces retreating. The one haven of civilization and justice left in the whole country is being abandoned and made a football for the factions which have fastened on Mexico with so firm a clutch that it seems impossible to tear them loose.

America, the Entertainers' Refuge

BRIEUX lectures the American Academy. Barrie, Davies, and sundry other playwrights, with Jerome K. Jerome to boot, visit New York in the midst of what would ordinarily be a rushing London winter. Cecil Chesterton, brother to the mastodontic G. K. C., announces a lecture tour in January, while any number of smaller fry are invading America for purposes more or less vocal.

Another New Haven wreck!

Now for the Army and Navy! And yet the Tinker who left a fortune behind him had never been in baseball. Everybody knows who put the punch in the Yale bowl.

Through Pensions to Bankruptcy

THE cost of the war is great day by day. But the greatest cost of it will come after peace has been declared. The newspapers in London—and Mr. Shaw—is urging the Government to cut and then to liberalize its provision for pensions. There must be adequate pensions for wounded soldiers and soldiers and adequate pensions for the wives and children of those killed during the campaign.

Curiosity Shop

The abbreviation "Pa." to signify peace, was the origin of the America dollar mark, according to a Spanish-American scientist. When America was first settled by Dutch traders, the Dutch word for peace was "pax," and the word "pax" was used in the Dutch colony of New York.

HUM OF HUMAN CITIES

In co-operation with the fire chief, the city Fire Department of Spokane has been transformed into a living constructive force, having a part in many tasks undertaken by the city government. Therefore it was, generally speaking, a case of men and apparatus for fighting fires, and doing nothing else except occasionally flushing streets.

CRISIS IN GREAT LIVES

The position of Pericles at Athens was perilous in the extreme at the time of the Peloponnesian war. He had been assailed by enemies for that of gold intrusions to him; his friend Phidias, the sculptor, had been thrown into prison; his beloved Aspasia was accused of being a gold digger.

THE GREAT LAKES

[By agreement between the United States and Great Britain, these waters are free from warships and other hostile activities by both nations.] No cannon-blasting squadrons rode at large within gun-sheltered harbors on these lakes! Here but the tranquility of Commerce was spread. The cloven waves to sing, with keels deep-drawn, into their bosoms hurrying east and west. Tropic morn'g-dimmed Arctics in their fore-sakes.

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THINKS PHONE SERVICE POOR

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Of all the six American cities with which I have had any experience, Philadelphia has the worst telephone service imaginable. To begin with, it is an effort to get an answer from Central. It takes anywhere from five to ten to get a connection. Two times out of three you have to repeat the number, because the operator of your own exchange fails to relay it properly to the exchange you are seeking.

T. R. UNDER RESTRAINT

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—In your issue of today you print a letter from Mr. F. L. Jones, in which appears the keen observation that "among thinkers, men who are progressive in a conservative age are usually conservative in a progressive age." I admit this is keen, but it is not universally nor even usually, as your correspondent says, true.

COMING OUT AHEAD

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Bosewell took "In God We Trust" from the silver dollar (worth 40 cents), but Congress put it back because, said Sancho Panza, "it is better to trust God than each other." We might now substitute "Wilson." Thanks to the Wilson Democracy, Americans are now one big family like the farmers' boys, who spent all Sunday matching half dollars and each boy came out a dollar ahead.

STRIKES OR LAWS, WHICH?

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Isn't this a rather remarkable statement? Says Mr. Gompers: "I would much rather the slightest law be broken by strikes than by law." What a preference! G. S. B. Philadelphia, November 21.

The Poring Progressives

From the Chicago Journal. The Democratic party must make up its mind to face a united opposition in 1914. The Progressives are pining out. In two years more they will have vanquished the Progressives, and the old guard will have reformed its lines for another assault on the citadels of office and power.

MRS. ATKINS

The ladies, they is very kind in comin' round to see. And helpin' till the money comes, an' aakin' how we I tells 'em of the rent an' chubs, an' all I got to pay— But oh, my thoughts they isn't 'ere, my thoughts is far away They say, "So you're a gunner's wife, an' aren't yer proud an' glad, like a soldier for 'is dad?" But some weeks back the postcard came, sa see "Alive an' well"; And it's 'e got them things I sent, there's nothin' still to tell.

THE ACTOR'S BALM

"I've spoiled three films trying to produce this drama," said the moving picture director, despairingly, "but I can't seem to get any life into the actors." "Quite easy," replied his assistant, "I'll hire half a hundred men to applaud and they'll run it off in five style." LESLIE CHASE. Atlantic City, November 21.

PERVERSIETY

One man went to business school. Learned to do each thing by book. Another never studied rules. What he liked he went and took. The first man should have fallen through. The second knew no word like "fall." The first had brains—he's in "Who's Who." The second had none—he is in jail.

FROM THE CUB'S NOTE BOOK

There is an enterprising young gentleman (name unknown) who will be rich and famous before he is 40, but who is now engaged in the prosperous business of selling the Evening Ledger at the corner of Broad and Locust streets, in front of the Academy of Music. Last Friday afternoon when the crowd began to arrive for the Philadelphia Orchestra concert, the newly-wedded memories of Shuba Park, saw a chance for a killing. "Here ye are," he shouted, passing up doors to open, "Here ye are. Postscript of the Evening Ledger." Complete program him to yell, "Line-up of all the players." "Approach me now." The joke was on the little fellow, because at the Academy the program was sold, but it was away. But how was he to know that?