

Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY. EDITORIAL BOARD: CHAS. H. CURTIS, Chairman. P. D. WHELAN, Executive Editor. JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager.

religious episodes, from which sprang modern drama. But now, except for the municipal theatres of Germany and France, it is even as Jane Addams, of that same Chicago, has written: "Only in the modern industrial city have men concluded that it is no longer necessary for the municipality to provide for the insalubrious desire to play."

Public Policy Requires Cheap Passenger Rates

LET it be admitted that the railroads are learning less than 2 per cent. on their passenger business, and there remains no reason whatever why commutation rates should be increased. It is well known, of course, that railroads for years have regarded the passenger business as an incubance. A president at one time declared that his road would be willing to pay \$500,000 a year for the privilege of abolishing passenger service entirely.

Destroys Health and Morality

HEALTH and morality are at stake in the housing conditions of Philadelphia. Everything else can be left out of account, because these two things are vital to civilized life. If the conditions in which people exist make health impossible, then how is society going to continue? If the shelter in which they herd worse than cattle makes morality impossible, then how can America flourish among the nations?

Philadelphia Is Shopping Early

ACCORDING to managers of both the larger and smaller stores of Philadelphia, Christmas shopping this year has been sufficiently brisk to warrant the anxiety that the "shop-early" campaign is meeting with success. There is abundant reason, therefore, for congratulation to customer and clerk alike.

Attack Unemployment Scientifically

THE problem of unemployment is bearing down hard on the great industrial communities. Philadelphia is no better and no worse in this respect than other places. The situation, however, has fully demonstrated one point, and that is our utter unpreparedness for conditions of this sort. We are inclined to take things as they come in America, and make the best of them after they arrive, for we have too recently emerged from agrarianism to be purged of the fatalism that results from dependence on the seasons and the weather.

Culture for Kansas

KANSAS has a trained host of 15,000 music-lovers. This standing army of music-lovers for concert seats are naturally rather scarce on the wind-swept prairies—has been raised through a campaign waged by the State Normal School. Printed lectures on the appreciation of music in all its forms, from a Brahms symphony to "The Arkansas Traveler," accompanied by phonograph records, have gone the rounds of Topeka, Wichita, Emporia and the wheat-corn spaces between.

Gives Supplying Recreation

CHICAGO is having gratifying success with its municipal dances. Already the dances show a profit of \$24,000, the admission has been reduced and a free checkbook supplied. Moreover, the people's response has been so hearty that city officials are planning to introduce live music for an encore before the dancing begins.

MAN IN THE STREET SHOULD REGULATE WAR

National Defense Is Kept a Dark and Dangerous Secret—Peace Through Publicity and Preparedness—An Inquiry Into Public Opinion.

By VANCE THOMPSON

IT IS curious to see how the question of national defense has pulled us together. The war—there is no use trying to hide the fact—had set us all talking at right angles to each other. I have heard nothing but praise for the demand that Congress shall create by law a Council of National Defense to report to Congress on the state of defenses—their defects and requirements. There is no debate about that, but every other man believes that such an investigation—imperative as it is—will never be held in the open. Somewhere in the dark corridors, or tunnels, or subterranean Congress it will be pulled down and tied up and gagged.

For a National Council

The only people who have been kept in ignorance are the people of these United States. And when a Council of National Defense is created there are two things it should do—make public an exact statement of our means of defense and let the public decide precisely what measures must be taken. So surely as the power of the people is in the hands of the people that power will be made adequate for defense and will never be used for aggression. So long as democracy has the last word there will be no war—waged either for territory or trade or diplomatic indignities.

Only 29,000 Soldiers

I heard a statement made by Governor Leonard Wood. He said there are in the East only 29,000 American soldiers. That is less than three divisions up to the full. It can be made to sound horribly pessimistic. It carries with it an air of saying: "Only 29,000—why haven't we five army corps? Or 10 of them?" Of course, it is quite reasonable to ask: "Why should we have 29,000?" The point is how many are needed. There was no gloom in General Wood's statement, for he went on to explain that the militia of the Eastern States—after a few weeks of hardening—could stand worthily by the regulars. Like General Funston, our other great soldier, General Wood has the great advantage of not having worn military blunders ever since boyhood. He looks upon military problems with the sanity of the man who has not spent his entire life squinting along the barrel of a rifle. And he can see (I do not think I misinterpret his thought) that the man behind the gun is more important than the gun. That is exactly what the war overseas is proving for the hundredth time.

KEEPING WAR CHEERFUL

The Valiant Efforts of "Punch" and the News Columns.

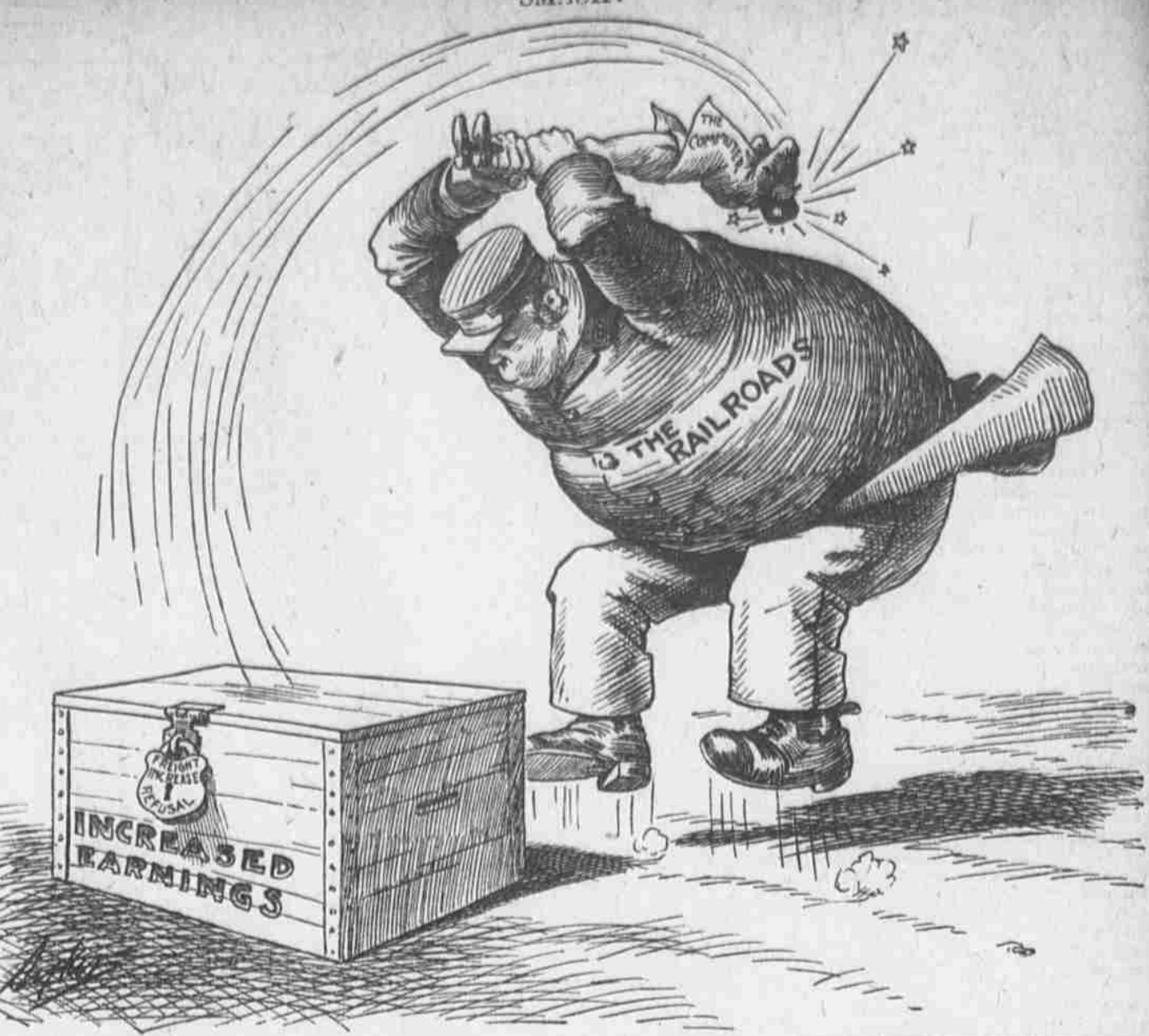
ANYHOW, it's rather a cheerful war. Germany and England turn the pencils of their cartoonists into sticks for jesters' bladders, as the "Scrapple" of the EVENING LEADER testifies. Even Punch—that understudy to "The Thunderer" when national honor is at bat—waxes funny. And at the expense of its countryman:

Switzerland's Way

And this brings me bluntly up to the point I want to make in this article. It is a mere hint of course—a mere intimation of what a democracy can do in the way of defense without falling into the black pit of militarism. The least military country in the world—at least of those I know—is Switzerland. There are only about 4,000,000 people in the whole country. And yet when her frontier, facing Alsace and Baden, was threatened a few months ago 300,000 troops were mobilized there in a week.

Our Problem

Our problem is not the same? It is not; it is different—and simpler. The only way we have to fear must come to us by way of the water. And if he comes there are two things we can do: Meet him on the water or stay him on the land. These are the only points the council of defense will have to consider. Can our navy defend us at sea? Are our land defenses worth the ground they stand on? The war has demonstrated that there are no fortresses—no even a Tsing-Tao, that can be held today. There is not a fortification on our coast. I dare say, that is worth anything against the guns that could be brought against it. And we do not know what our ships are worth. The resolution of the National Civic Federation is a plain and explicit declaration that these are the things we have a right to know. And the man in the street (I have been talking to him) has made up his mind that he is going to know them. He sees, as every one else does, that national defense and militarism are not the same thing, because they are exactly opposite things. There is no danger that a democracy will ever become a militarist nation unless it is kept in the dark, unless it permits a hooded, occult and secret war office to decide in a war chamber what shall be done for the public safety. It is for us to know what these things can be hid from the many, and the few men who should know what is being done to be made in the street. The student should know what is done for his safety. The man in the street should know what is done for his safety.



COUNCILMAN OPPOSES CAIN'S PLATFORM

The Conflict Between the Rights of the Tenement Dwellers and the "Inalienable Rights" of the Organization.

By ROBERT D. DRIPPS

THE Organization members of Council, in refusing to obey the act of Assembly which was passed at the last session and provides, among other things, for a Division of Housing and Sanitation as a part of the Department of Health and Charities in cities of the first class, are true to their traditions. They are firm adherents of the laissez-faire doctrine. They do not believe in so-called "social legislation." They stand on Cain's platform, that no man is his brother's keeper.

Conclusions of Thinking Men

As nearly as I can state it, thinking men—and all men today are thinking of national defense as a normal duty in times of peace and war—thinking men, I say, have come to three tolerably unanimous conclusions: They want a frank and precise statement of the state of our coast defenses; and they will not tolerate any star-chamber investigation—it must all be done in the open. And they want to know what our navy is worth—especially the defensive value of our submarines and torpedo craft; with, as well, a report on our air fleet.

Inaction a Fixed Policy

Some months ago an attempt was made to secure councilman action providing for more careful inspection of the electrical wiring, etc., in the moving picture houses of this city, some of which, in case of fire, would prove to be veritable death traps. Director Porter made formal request for such action, but nothing was done. Action has been asked of Councils looking toward a proper supervision of dance halls, but despite the proven iniquities of the present custom, this request, also, has been ignored. These and many other illustrations might be adduced to show a settled policy on the part of Organization Councilmen to oppose legislation which disturbs in any way what they are pleased to call existing rights. Hence it is not surprising that they have done all in their power to nullify the action of the last Legislature for improved housing conditions in Philadelphia.

Teuton Anatomy

"The clay feet of Germany will be revealed when we take off the gloves," Mr. Arnold White in the Sunday Chronicle. So that's where they wear them.

Profits and Losses

Under present conditions splendid profit can be secured in certain parts of the city from the rental of properties on which a landlord does not have to spend a cent for repairs, where the only toilet facilities are out of doors, where the roof leaks, the cellar is water-soaked, where inadequate living space and consequent bad ventilation are the rule, and where overcrowding exists to the point of insolvency. If the owners of buildings of such character were compelled either to tear them down or put them in habitable condition, there would be, for a while at least, a marked reduction in their profits, and naturally this would be unsatisfactory to them. Therefore, they oppose the bill.

Belgium's Distinctions

From the distinguished Belgian, Belgium, at least, does not have to explain to the world what it is fighting for.

SMASH!

THE Organization members of Council, in refusing to obey the act of Assembly which was passed at the last session and provides, among other things, for a Division of Housing and Sanitation as a part of the Department of Health and Charities in cities of the first class, are true to their traditions. They are firm adherents of the laissez-faire doctrine. They do not believe in so-called "social legislation." They stand on Cain's platform, that no man is his brother's keeper.

Conclusions of Thinking Men

As nearly as I can state it, thinking men—and all men today are thinking of national defense as a normal duty in times of peace and war—thinking men, I say, have come to three tolerably unanimous conclusions: They want a frank and precise statement of the state of our coast defenses; and they will not tolerate any star-chamber investigation—it must all be done in the open. And they want to know what our navy is worth—especially the defensive value of our submarines and torpedo craft; with, as well, a report on our air fleet.

Inaction a Fixed Policy

Some months ago an attempt was made to secure councilman action providing for more careful inspection of the electrical wiring, etc., in the moving picture houses of this city, some of which, in case of fire, would prove to be veritable death traps. Director Porter made formal request for such action, but nothing was done. Action has been asked of Councils looking toward a proper supervision of dance halls, but despite the proven iniquities of the present custom, this request, also, has been ignored. These and many other illustrations might be adduced to show a settled policy on the part of Organization Councilmen to oppose legislation which disturbs in any way what they are pleased to call existing rights. Hence it is not surprising that they have done all in their power to nullify the action of the last Legislature for improved housing conditions in Philadelphia.

Teuton Anatomy

"The clay feet of Germany will be revealed when we take off the gloves," Mr. Arnold White in the Sunday Chronicle. So that's where they wear them.

Profits and Losses

Under present conditions splendid profit can be secured in certain parts of the city from the rental of properties on which a landlord does not have to spend a cent for repairs, where the only toilet facilities are out of doors, where the roof leaks, the cellar is water-soaked, where inadequate living space and consequent bad ventilation are the rule, and where overcrowding exists to the point of insolvency. If the owners of buildings of such character were compelled either to tear them down or put them in habitable condition, there would be, for a while at least, a marked reduction in their profits, and naturally this would be unsatisfactory to them. Therefore, they oppose the bill.

Belgium's Distinctions

From the distinguished Belgian, Belgium, at least, does not have to explain to the world what it is fighting for.