

Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY CYRUS H. K. CURTIS, President. John C. Martin, Treasurer; Charles H. Ludington, Philip S. Collins, John E. Williams, Directors.

full protection of such vessels. It must, therefore, either maintain to the uttermost its view or repeal the enactment. It cannot invite capital to make investments which it intends thereafter to admit as illegal.

EUROPE WHISTLING UP GHOSTS OF DEAD SEERS

Statemen Hang on the Words of Fortune Tellers—While Half the World Fights the Other Half Prophesies, and it Seems to Help.

By VANCE THOMPSON OVER in Europe it would seem that while half the world is fighting the other half is prophesying.

It is a queer sort of collaboration, but you can't blame the stay-at-homes for helping out in the best way they can; and bucking up the weary fighters with prophecies of victory is no bad thing—useful in its way as knitting socks.

Even the Governments look at it in that tolerant and hopeful way. You may remember a cablegram from Berlin which stated that the police had taken the ban off the fortune-tellers, clairvoyants and psychics and that they are cheering up the war-saddened population immensely.

What interests me most are the predictions which have been dug up out of the half-forgotten caves of prophecy. Many of them have been cabled to the American newspapers, notably the rather vague one of Tolstol and the more exact—perhaps too exact—prophecy of Mayence, which has long been known in Germany.

Then it foretold the present war and a second Prussian invasion. The prediction goes on to say: "The enemy will not go immediately. They will return again and destroy as they come. Effective resistance will not be made. They will be allowed to advance, and after that their communications will be cut and they will suffer great loss."

Now if you bear in mind that this date marked the turning point of the German campaign in France—the commencement of the German retreat—you will admit it is a fairly accurate prediction.

Concerning Belgium and Poland And there is another you should read. It was written by Dom Bosco, a Portuguese priest, who died a dozen years or so ago.

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others—are unanimous, you observe, in predicting the defeat of the German armies and the victory, certain and formidably complete, of the Allies.

Are there no German prophecies to set over against them? I am sure there must be. Germany, which has gone ahead in so many things, has not, I dare say, fallen behind the rest of the world in the matter of prophecy.

THE GREATNESS OF OUR PORT It, and Not Boston, Stands Second to New York in Volume of Water-borne Commerce.

Slr—The article appearing in your columns under date of January 20, "Boston a Miracle of Port Development," and concluding with the statement, "this makes Boston the second port in North and South America and the fifth port in the world," is so manifestly unjust to Philadelphia that I had hoped it would be answered by some one more capable than I.

Having given 30 years to the study of the question of port development, it having been my privilege to watch the rapid forward strides made by the port of Philadelphia during these years, I challenge the contradiction of the statement that Philadelphia and not Boston occupies at this time the distinction of being the second port of the United States with respect to her tonnage handled, this statement being based upon a just, true and scientific computation of her commerce.

Following are a few comparisons from statements issued by the Boston Harbor Master: Philadelphia. 28,490 tons.....logwood..... 1410 tons 22,229 tons.....laths..... 925 tons 283,550 tons.....lumber..... 30563 tons 134,425 tons.....copper..... 4150 tons

Since congestion, the result of over-population in the larger cities in the United States, became a menace, those having to do with labor matters have endeavored to solve the problem of labor distribution—the mobilization of alien and citizen labor. I have given much thought to the question, and offer as a partial solution the following plan by which the needs of both labor and capital would be clearly indicated, and the chances of misrepresenting opportunities for employment would be somewhat lessened.

Publicity the Effective Method Practical, prudent publicity is the only means by which an effective scheme for labor distribution can be successfully accomplished, and, as a means toward that end, I recommend a bulletin similar to the Weather Bureau map. If the public were judiciously,

"NOW, TO WORK"

"WEATHER MAPS" FOR THE JOB SEEKERS

Labor Distribution Through Publicity—Outline of Plan for Equalizing the Employment Market—Information Committees in Centres of Population.

By WALTER LINCOLN SEARS Superintendent Public Employment Bureau, New York City

An efficiently organized and intelligently managed system of labor bureaus or exchanges, operated by the Federal Government in co-ordination with the State and municipal employment bureaus, should result in a better distribution of labor.

Public employment bureaus are agencies supported by the Government out of general taxes, and designed to bring employe and employer together for the purpose of furnishing employment to the former and help to the latter. The public employment bureau, to be successful, should be organized and maintained on strictly business lines, accessible located, properly equipped, and the staff selected from the civil service.

Sufficient funds should be provided by which to provide for practical, prudent publicity. The public employment office acts only as the agent of the employer and employe, and in no case has the final say-so as to who will be employed. Therefore, the employing public must be efficiently served, if the office is to obtain and retain its confidence.

From the experience of the foreign public employment bureaus, some of which have been in operation for more than a generation, we should be able to learn a great deal, and adopt such ideas as may be applicable to conditions in this country. American labor conditions are obviously different, and we should choose only such methods as are suitable to our needs. We should discourage all plans which might result in making the individual dependent. While it is the duty of the Government to assist the unfortunate individual in every proper way, we ought not to adopt any scheme which would be likely to make him dependent upon society for support.

I favor the giving of information relative to help or employment, but not of any material thing which savors of charity or tends to pauperize the individual. The methods and practices of the foreign bureaus, I fear, tend to make the individual dependent, and this should not be permitted to enter into our scheme of furnishing information as to where help or employment may be obtained. Paternalism has its advantages, and also its disadvantages, but there is a limit which we should not attempt to reach too rapidly.

There is no department of the Government which could be made as beneficial in its results as the successful establishment and proper management of public employment bureaus in co-ordination with the Federal Government. Their establishment and proper management would, in my judgment, do much in normal times to reduce the number of idle, shiftless, intemperate, immoral and criminal, and it would make for a better citizenship, and a respect for our laws and civic institutions.

A Suggested Solution Since congestion, the result of over-population in the larger cities in the United States, became a menace, those having to do with labor matters have endeavored to solve the problem of labor distribution—the mobilization of alien and citizen labor. I have given much thought to the question, and offer as a partial solution the following plan by which the needs of both labor and capital would be clearly indicated, and the chances of misrepresenting opportunities for employment would be somewhat lessened.

The Division of Information of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, in the Department of Labor, was established nearly eight years ago for the purpose of providing a scheme for the distribution of labor. The real problem is: How to get the people away from centres where there is greatest unemployment to places where there is a genuine scarcity of labor. When publicity is given to opportunities for employment all over the country there should be a leveling, so to speak, an equalizing of labor conditions, such as does not exist at the present time.

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Supremacy of Philadelphia's Port

IT IS a wholesome sign when Philadelphians resent any effort to disparage their city, even though the effort be unconscious. The writer of the intensely interesting article on Boston's port development in the EVENING LEDGER on Wednesday was exploiting Boston and exhibiting the wonders that have been wrought there within a few years. But his claim that Boston is the second port in the United States is disputed most emphatically by George F. Sproule, secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Navigation, in a letter printed elsewhere on this page.

But Philadelphia need not be jealous of Boston and Boston need not be jealous of Philadelphia. There is foreign trade in sight enough for all the suitable ports of the country, and if Philadelphia uses her latent enterprise and energy she will get her share of it and that will be sufficient to lift this port so far above Boston that there need be no careful analysis of figures to decide the supremacy. There are signs already that Philadelphia is aroused and that the port will boom.

Good for the Girls of Kensington

THE girls of the elementary schools of Kensington can now look forward to the prospect of going to a high school within a convenient distance of their homes. The Board of Education has at last bought the square bounded by Coral, Cumberland, Fifth and Amber streets, and will proceed with the plans for the new school building as fast as may be.

It has already been decided that there shall be classes in cooking, typewriting and stenography, as well as in the ordinary branches of learning, on the theory set forth by Doctor Brumbaugh in his inaugural address on Tuesday that that education is useless which is not reflected in the home. The ability of the Board of Education to provide practical education in this new girls' high school will be tested, for there is no part of the city in which the demand for it is more insistent.

The Man on the Job

IT IS fortunate for the Republic that most of the jobs were distributed before the cataclysm broke in Europe. Otherwise it would be entirely impossible for the Secretary of State to devote his undivided care and attention to the great questions of diplomacy and international relations which come before him daily. Now that most of "the Boys" have been taken care of, the business of the Government can be handled sagely and with dispatch.

It is related that Mr. Seward, Mr. Hay and other Secretaries of State, who in their day and generation won great reputations for themselves, gave so much attention to the duties of their office that they had time for little else, and with such success did they work that the Ship of State never ran aground. Perhaps statesmen did not have such great brains in those days as they now have, or it may be that they had extravagant ideas of the responsibilities of public service. Mr. Bryan, however, can serve two masters, with just as much satisfaction to the one as to the other.

Time to Modernize Marine Law

THE law of the sea dates back to ancient times. It came into being when practically all commerce was bounded by the shores of the Mediterranean. In its essential principles it has not been changed. Steam navigation has revolutionized conditions and the law of even 50 years ago would be unsuited to the status of today, yet the rules of conduct remain what they were and the United States is expected to abide by constructions that are plainly obsolete. It was recognition of this fact that led to such conventions as the Declaration of London and repeatedly efforts have been made to modernize theory and practice.

It has been to the advantage of England, owing to her vast naval power, to maintain and keep in force ancient privileges and rights which are utterly out of sympathy with the internationalism which prevails in this era. This war will establish many precedents, which will determine for many years to come maritime law. The United States must stand, as it has stood since the founding of the Government, for a real liberalization of principles and remain the champion of freedom on the oceans.

It is admitted freely that transfer of the merchantman of a belligerent to neutral registry is permissible provided the transfer is bona fide and not for the purpose of evading the consequences to which an enemy vessel is exposed. Admission to American registry should be prima facie evidence of good faith and must be so interpreted by this Government. As to the evasion of consequences, in the case of the Dacia, the question is technical. The British position rests on an ancient principle, the acceptance of which would give Great Britain a monopoly of the carrying trade at this time and give her practical control of all American international trade.

The United States, by act of Congress, invited the registry of just such ships as the Dacia, and it is not to be believed that she had a greater decline.

Now for the Shovels

ONE great step forward has been taken. Councils has given effect to the will of the people, as expressed in the November election. Money and authorization for the relocation and construction of sewers to drain the subways of the delivery loop have been provided. By this action the city is definitely dedicated to the comprehensive transit plans of Director Taylor. So efficiently has the Department of City Transit done its work that, immediately following the approval of the ordinance by the Mayor, bids will be asked. On March 20 dirt will begin to fly.

But Councils, on the other hand, did nothing to provide for the continuance of the work when the \$500,000 is exhausted. Finance Committee made no report on the ordinance providing for the submission of the \$30,000,000 loan to the people. It took no steps to obey the mandate of the people, expressed in the recent mass-meeting. Although the time is short in which provision for a legal election in March can be made, Councils hesitates and procrastinates. The city is in no mood for such delay. March 20 should not only mark the beginning of actual digging, but should likewise celebrate the approval of the \$30,000,000 loan. No piddling, gentlemen! It is a big project and it must be provided for in a big way.

Plenty of Money

THE outstanding fact in the successful bond sale yesterday is that there is money enough awaiting investment in 4 per cent, tax-free city bonds to provide for all the necessities of this community. The subscribers for the present \$5,000,000 loan included New York bankers, local brokers, well-to-do investors, fraternal organizations, savings banks and savings bank depositors.

When railroads cannot float loans and when industrial corporations, dogged from pillar to post by Government prosecutors, find it impossible to raise money, this city, with its undoubted credit, can raise all it needs. Money is hoarding anxious for work. But it wants a steady job with sure pay. The proposed subway development will give work not only to thousands of idle men but to millions of idle dollars. It cannot be started a moment too soon.

Headed in the Right Direction

THE growing spirit of co-operation among the trade bodies and business interests of the city is a most promising sign. This is the greatest manufacturing centre in the United States. Philadelphia products are known in all parts of the world, but unfortunately they are not all known as the products of Philadelphia. Before the committee of business men that is arranging for a campaign to boom the city completes its preparations it will doubtless decide to recommend that every producer here tie up his product with the name of the city, so that when purchasers think of hosiery they will think of Philadelphia, and when they think of tools, or of fine hats, or of clothing, or of locomotives, or of the score of other products, they will think of Philadelphia as instinctively as they join Independence Hall and the City of Penn in their thoughts.

The alert leaders of the trade bodies are headed in the right direction and they will reach the goal if they keep going.

Clean Out the "Dope" Dens

THEY exist in this city, in every large city, and they form the lowest possible step in human degeneration. Invariably, they are linked with the vilest vice and the most brazen lawlessness. They flourish under political protection, and for years they have plied their degrading traffic with an immunity that is the last and deepest shame of our civilization. The opium and cocaine joints do not possess one single extenuating feature. That the police have made one successful raid should be the signal for cleaning out the whole system.

Cause and Effect

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