

Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY CYRUS H. K. CURTIS, President. JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager. Published daily at General Ledger Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

Some people breed discontent by the inconsiderate way in which they flout their well-earned and well-deserved prosperity in the faces of the less fortunate.

Tide of Prosperity Is Coming In EVERY report of large numbers of unemployed in this or that city must be discounted. Notwithstanding that the superintendent of a gospel mission in Washington says that there are between 30,000 and 50,000 men seeking work in the national capital, it is impossible that there should be that number.

But there is a distressingly large amount of unemployment, not only in Washington, but in all other centres of population. It is important that every possible effort be made to relieve the consequent suffering for the few remaining weeks of winter.

Permanent relief, however, is in sight. Business is not so good as it ought to be, but it reached its lowest ebb many months ago. The tide has turned, and it is coming slowly up the beach.

What the "Great Northern" Means WHEN the Great Northern sails for San Francisco today it became a magnificent floating proclamation of the greatness of this port.

Patronage the Perquisite of Greatness MR. BRYAN apparently thinks that he is a better judge of Pennsylvania "deserving Democrats" than the chairman of the State Committee.

Siege Conditions in Germany THE only meaning in the order of the German Federal Council to seize all stocks of corn, wheat and flour is that the Government openly admits that siege conditions are upon the German people.

Senator Root took a good many words to say it, but he let the Democrats understand that the President cannot be a successful dictator unless the Senate is willing to be the dictator.

The German Government has seized the entire stock of wheat in the country to prevent its waste, but Uncle Sam does not seem to care what becomes of his wheat, or of the people who are dependent on it for bread.

The Allies have accomplished their purpose in how far without proclaiming a blockade of German ports and without trying up their ships in an attempt to prevent provisions

getting through. Instead, they are sweeping the seas for provision ships and are getting ready to maintain that there is no civilian population in Germany for which food can be intended, as the whole nation is in arms.

March Election Still the Issue THE determination of the leaders at Harrisburg to concentrate on the transit and port amendment and kick the "conflicting resolution" off the track should not be permitted to confuse the issue now before the people of Philadelphia.

The action of the capital in no way lessens, but strengthens, the necessity for a March election. Indeed, it leaves the obstructionists with no legs to stand on.

Just Foolishness IT IS unfortunate that a Judge learned in the law should attempt to hold up to the ridicule of the community the Director of Public Safety, confidence in whom is a prerequisite to efficient work by the police of the city.

The trouble seems to be that the Director has too much documentary evidence. He has repeatedly substantiated his specific attacks on the laxness of some of the minor courts by citing the record. He has been able to show lamentable miscarriages of justice through the device of the suspended sentence.

Learn-to-Buy Show TO LEARN how to make money is a good thing, but to learn how to spend it is better. Mankind is naturally credulous.

The Bureau of Weights and Measures has done excellent work in Philadelphia. It is searching eyes have sought out many dishonest dealers, dealers who have based their hope of fortune on short weights and short measures and have believed that 33 inches to the yard is plenty for a buyer, or 14 ounces to the pound.

"You're Another" Is Not an Answer SOME kind friend of the Uniontown banker ought to get the ear of his injudicious defenders and tell them that they are not helping his case by saying to John Skelton Williams, "You're another!"

The financial history of the Comptroller of the Currency is not an issue in this case and he may have been in entanglements ten times more disastrous than those which have embroiled J. V. Thompson and his business associates, without in any way exonerating Mr. Thompson or indeed, without increasing his responsibility.

The Germans may have a gun with which they can bombard England from Calais, but they have not got Calais.

That inept hold-up man who got only 7 cents and missed \$1000 worth of jewelry ought to take lessons of the political machine.

Those in charge of the "Learn-to-Buy" exhibition in the City Hall courtyard have discovered what the housekeepers long ago knew, that housekeeping is the leading business of Philadelphia.

Does not the Fidelity Trust Company of Newark know that it is a heinous offense to make money in the banking business? It would be better watch out, or some statesman from Washington will be after it.

If men of the Supreme Court bench were polled, the same difference of opinion regarding the right of an employer to refuse to hire union men would be revealed as the court disclosed when it declared a Kansas statute unconstitutional because it sought to interfere with the freedom of contract.

WHAT DOES GERMANY OWE TO AMERICA?

Things to Make War With, Things to Manufacture With, Agricultural Implements, Even Efficiency Systems. So Said a Man in Motor Car.

By VANCE THOMPSON The Cosmos Club, of Jersey City, met and listened to a lecture on the subject—rather timely—of the war. (I might remark that, to make sure the lecture was just what it ought to be, I gave it myself.)

Then up stood a tall, handsome man with gray hair, a nervous mind and the scar of a schlagger cut on his cheek. Having introduced himself as a "German professor from Harvard," he said he would make a little speech. And he did. He made a great speech too.

I motored back to New York. The man in the motor car (it was his winter car) was silent for a long time. Then he said abruptly: "What is the answer?"

A Boot on the Other Foot "It is plain as a pikestaff," he said, "and I know it. Like a good many of us I have spent years in Germany. And I say that we owe less to Germany than to any one of the great nations. We have a far heavier debt to England, France and Italy. And Germany, mark you, has taken from us a thousand times more than she has given us."

"Well, just at present Germany is making war. What is she doing it with? With inventions due to Americans." And he named them—Maxim, Holland and the Wrights, the inventors of the rapidfire gun, the submarine and the aeroplane, which latter was invented at a time when all the German scientists were declaring a "heavier than air" was impossible.

"There you are," he went on, "even her own game of war Germany has to play in terms of American invention. General von Heeringen, in command of the western armies, was frank enough to admit a day or two ago that without the automobile, the aeroplane, the telephone and wireless telegraphy Germany would not wage war for twenty-two hours. I think the telephone is an American invention, eh? And the aeroplane. Now the automobile belongs to France and the wireless telegraph to Italy. The boot seems to be on the other foot."

Education and Art I tried to get in a word about the German pedagogues, the Harvard professors and the others, but the man I was motoring with knocked me about the ears with a quotation from Dr. Emil Reich, who was (he said) a man of rare mental integrity. And it seems that Doctor Reich pointed out there was nothing quite so foolish as the American imitation of German educational methods, which was common in the last century, saying: "It is scarcely a matter of doubt that the Americans entertain far too exaggerated an opinion of the value of German methods and German research in all that applies to the humanities, such as history, philosophy, philology, literature and art." That was in 1907. It was a dark age in our universities, heavy with German pedantry. That was the day when the unlearned, even in the colleges, spoke of the "thorough German" and the "brilliant but superficial Frenchman."

He Kept on Boasting "And chemists, you say? There you come home to me. Our American chemists take the lead everywhere except in France—and we are no bad second to the French chemists. Out of the ten million or so Germans in this country I should be surprised if you could find a dozen distinguished chemists. No, the Americans lead."

"What annoys me most of all is the pretension of that professor from Harvard that the Germans have a systematic and scientific way of doing things which should be to us an example and an ideal. That is the greatest absurdity that was ever put into words. The modern and scientific organization of business is as distinctly an American invention as is the reaping machine or the steamboat or the cylinder press or the daily newspaper. We have been the teachers; we have taught every other nation. We've taught them how to manufacture and how to sell and how to total the score on a cash register of American invention, or make out a bill on an American invented typewriter. System? We made it and invented the tools for it. What is to Germany's credit is that she has been one of our aptest pupils in methodizing business and trade, just as the Japanese are our aptest pupils in scientifically organized manufacturing. Now this is known to every practical business man on earth. Even a 'German professor from Harvard' should know it."

"Why?" I asked; but he had no mind for trivialities; he was waving the Stars and Stripes gloriously.

American Efficiency "What did he mean by talking of 'German efficiency' to a nation that first gave the word efficiency a real meaning? As a matter of fact we have invented everything that makes for efficiency, from the sewing machine to the incandescent light that hangs above it. Certainly we have bought dyes from Germany; but that was because we could buy them cheap; it is not a debt to German civilization. We owe the same sort of thing to Hungary for paprika and to Argentina for leather."

"In 'system' and 'efficiency,' as well as in science and art, we owe the greatest debt to ourselves. The real trouble with the latter-day American is that he is too modest, too credulous, too diffident. That is a sad and certain truth. When a foreign professor hectors him he says meekly: 'Oh, I'll try to be more like you.' By the way, that is one reason why the Americans are so popular in Germany; it is because they admit every claim to German superiority."

Back to Pompeii Science is introducing rational color schemes into hospitals. Eventually they may invade our homes. Then we shall be back once more to the point of interior decoration reached by the Romans 2000 years ago and by the Egyptians 3000 years before that. Go into the houses on ancient Pompeii, dug up from the preserving lava of ages, and you find no gloom, no fustiness. You find rooms painted in wholesome blues, and yellows, and greens, and oranges, and reds, each room a warm, pleasant glow of welcoming light and color, with but a single small, contrasting decorative sketch in the centre of the wall—almost identical with the ideal color arrangement that German scientists has "discovered" in the 20th century.

WHAT IT MEANS



have always laughed at these pretensions. I don't say it is the real causa causans of the war, but unquestionably it helped to foster the military spirit in Germany. The French wits made fun of everything German—the way the German ate, his beer drinking, the clothes he wore, the hats and dresses of his womenkind; and the English stared coldly at his attempts at sport and his peculiarity of wearing evening dress in the afternoon, at his beard and hair; and truculently the German retorted: "But, by Jingo! I can fight!" He can; and he made his monstrous war machine.

OF THE PARTY OF IDEAS How Some of the Ideas Have Worked Out—A Question That Deserves a Fair Answer. From the Iron Trade Review. There's a lot of humor in a lot of things if we only knew it.

Apparently all the new ideas came from the other party. And in the same paper we read an account of some of these "ideas." One had to do with the indictment and wholesale arrest of 100 men in Terre Haute, Ind., for conspiracy in the recent Federal election in that city.

Who, because he could not do as he liked with everything in the State, debanded the State militia, canceled all the officers' commissions, discharged and pardoned over 3000 convicts in the State penal institution, and then resigned a few days before his term expired to escape impeachment.

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MAKING THE PAWNSHOP "RESPECTABLE"

Kansas City's Municipal Agency Enables Its Patrons to Borrow With as Much Pride as the Banker's Customers.

By RALPH PERRY Assistant Superintendent, Pledge Department, Welfare Loan Agency.

A WEALTHY man may go to his banker and borrow upward in the thousands, thereby receiving from the public in general respect and commendation; but when his less fortunate brother negotiates a loan on what personality he may possess from his banker, "the pawnbroker," the public looks with disdain on the transaction.

Who Are the Borrowers? The big majority of borrowers who forfeit their pledges are those who live in rooming or boarding houses and hotels, or the transient class. This is not due to the fact that this class of people are any worse off financially than the permanent citizen, but is partially attributable to their misconception of the terms of the loan, believing, as most of the customers do, that their interest must be paid every month and the pledge redeemed in 90 days, in order to prevent its forfeiture.

REVISITING The backward path to boyhood days is never very hard to find, which might bring you to it quickly when your gas is surved old scenes of boyhood land; While strangers passed and never guessed The growing turmoil in your breast.

Old friends that pass look up to smile. Who used to greet you smiling down; A magic spell, in this brief while, Has somehow fallen on the town. Yet strange! You seem to be again As small a boy as you were then.

That backward path to boyhood days Is never closed to them that seek; It winds by old familiar ways And leads you to a mother's knee, Where boyhood's gentle king and queen Dispel the years that intervene.

But if that path you cannot find Since they two laid their aspersions down, Yet other paths there are that wind Through valleys to the Mother Town, Where many dear remembered things Call childhood back on certain wings. —Burgess Johnson, in Harper's Magazine.