

Evening Ledger

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Give some men a gallon of gasoline and they
will pour it in the gutter; give it to
other men and they will get an
automobile to use it in.

What Shall It Profit a Man?

THE EVENING LEDGER publishes today a
comparison of the present housing law
with the substitute measure which has been
sent to the Governor. It reveals the utter
inferiority of the proposed law to the existing
law. It shows clearly how futile of
remedial effectiveness the "toothless" statu-

The Governor is an advocate of decent
living and an apostle of cleanliness. He has
let it be known repeatedly that he would
not acquiesce in any statute devised to pre-

A veto is the only thing that can reason-
ably be expected, and that veto will be
upheld unless the Legislature has lost all sense
of public duty.

End of Bigelowism

BIGELOWISM has ended, for Bigelow him-
self will hereafter be dissociated from the
public service.
To his conduct of his office, as much as
to anything else, could be laid the defeat of
the proposal to expend \$50,000,000 for good
roads in Pennsylvania.

Good roads have become a public neces-
sity. They are no longer a fad. They must
be built scientifically and economically and
they must be maintained. The road system
of the State tends more and more to be-

Instead of Bigelow, an expert; instead of
inefficiency, efficiency; instead of haphazard
methods, scientific construction.

Bigelow goes and there is none to weep.

Better Right Than Impetuous

EXPLANATION for the delay in demand-
ing reparation from Germany for the
sinking of the William P. Frye is found in
the announcement from Washington that
the cargo was the property of Englishmen
and not of Americans. It was at first said
that the grain on board belonged to Ameri-

In all these matters, from the Dacia to the
Frye, the Government is in the position of
the plaintiff's attorney. If its claim is not
frank with it and conceals the truth the
results are likely to be exceedingly embarrass-

The claim of the owners of the Frye will
not be invalidated by the delay necessary to
discover just what the claim is. It is much
better to be right than to be impetuous.

The Band Wagon is Filling Up

As you know I am in favor of local option
and will be delighted if our bill is enacted.
—Senator Oliver to Governor Brumbaugh.

THE Senator is unable to be present at the
hearing on the bill next week, but he sent
the above cheering message to the Govern-
or endorsing the measure. He has set an
example to his colleague in the Senate that
deserves to be followed.

Central But Limited Control

FOLLOWING the example of the execu-
tive officers of other corporations, which
have been compelled to regulate their busi-
ness according to the wishes of more than
two score of different State regulating bodies,

Why does not Secretary Garrison follow
the example of the Secretary of State if he
thinks that his salary is not big enough to
pay his living expenses in Washington? The
Chaetaqua societies would pay him to tell
them what he thinks about war.

the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce
Commission only and yet oppose utterly the
right of this commission to fix rates, wages
and everything else connected with the
business. There are many, for instance, who
are convinced that the dilatory tactics em-
ployed by the commission in the railway
rate cases proved absolutely the folly of
confiding to any body too vast an authority.

Wash the Linen at Harrisburg

A RESOLUTION which begins as follows
has been introduced in the House:
Whereas, it has been alleged in the public
press and public discussion that large sums
of money were illegally collected and exp-
ended by the liquor interests in the polit-
ical campaign and the election in Pennsylv-
ania in 1914, and etc., etc.

During the progress of the campaign the
Evening Ledger published comprehensive
articles, specifying the modes of contribu-
tion, an estimate of the amounts collected
from the liquor interests, a summary of the
presumed agreement between these interests
and the politicians for whose advantage the
money was collected, and presented, like-
wise, circumstantial and other evidence of a
slush fund of large proportions.

It is now an open secret that there was
such a fund. It is seldom denied in private.
It is notorious that local option is held up
at Harrisburg only because men who prof-
ited, directly or indirectly, from that which
fund are endeavoring to fulfill the letter of
their contract and do for the liquor inter-
ests what they promised to do. It seems to
be an almost a case of barter and sale as was
ever known in Pennsylvania.

Doctor Brumbaugh would have nothing to
do with that fund. He refused to let a
penny of it be used in his behalf. At all
times during the campaign he berated and
retorted his support of local option and
flung out his challenge of opposition to the
infamous alliance between the whiskey ring
and the politicians. He refused to be branded
with alcohol and he did what he could to
keep its mark off the hide of the party.

Glenn, who introduced the resolution for
an investigation, is a Democrat, but the
resolution should pass, nevertheless. It is
time for Pennsylvania to throw off her
hereditary and strike a blow for political
morality. We need not wash our dirty linen
in Washington. We cannot afford not to
wash it in Harrisburg. For the Legislature
itself stands impeached and besmirched. It
is the Legislature that was offered for bar-
ter, and every man in it who votes against
local option, whether he does so from con-
viction or not, stands within the shadow of
suspicion. It behooves the innocent, there-
fore, to prove their innocence by voting for
a thorough investigation, that the black
sheep may be sorted out and their de-
bauchery or trickery exposed.

Pennsylvania is mightier than the liquor-
ing, on the methods of which a searchlight
should be turned. The Republican party,
now that it has a real Governor at Harris-
burg, can purge itself by boldly ascertain-
ing and publishing the truth, even if in so
doing it has to besmirch and ruin a formerly
trusted leadership.

An Investment Worth While

NO BUSINESS man expects to earn divi-
dends on an investment that he does not
make. He knows that he does not get
profit out of an enterprise unless he puts
capital in. If he uses his business sense
when considering an invitation to join the
Chamber of Commerce, he will know that
the benefit that he and his business will
derive from the creation of a large and
alert commercial organization will be in
proportion to the investment of his time and
energy in co-operating with other business
men to increase the prosperity of this city.

Liquor or Victory?

THE British Chancellor of the Exchequer
has joined with Lord Kitchener in urging
the British workmen to show their loyalty to
their country by doing their utmost to equip
the armies in the field with the necessary
munitions and by rushing construction and
repair work on battleships to the full ex-
tent of their ability. The soldiers cannot
fight without guns and ammunition. But
the British workmen are spending their
money on drink and neglecting their duty
in the factories. At the shipyards it is dif-
ficult to get 35 or 40 hours a week out of
them. Unless there is a change for the bet-
ter David Lloyd-George announces there
must be compulsory prohibition while the
war lasts. The public houses must close
their bars and the men must be kept sober.
Temperance is an economic and not a moral
question in this crisis.

Anarchy on the Sea

ACCORDING to the ex parte statement of
the circumstances attending the sinking
of the merchant ships by German subma-
rines off the coast of Wales one of the ves-
sels was sunk by a torpedo while the life-
boats were still on the davits, and as a re-
sult a large number of passengers were
drowned. This is a fair statement of the
facts of the course of the German commander
has justification neither in the laws and cus-
toms of war nor in the necessities of the
case. It may be granted that some of the
passengers were British officers and engi-
neers on the way to service in Africa, but
that does not excuse torpedoing a ship car-
rying non-combatants without giving them
an opportunity to escape, even though the
Germans had announced that they intended
to do just this sort of thing.

This incident is only the latest in a long
series which proves that there is anarchy on
the sea at the present time. All the old
guarantees have lost their force, and those
who have the power are doing their will
without let or hindrance. Only superior
power can stop them. No amount of hyster-
ical protest from the neutral nations can
prevent a continuance of the unprecedented
operations of belligerent ships.

Is not the flag the best monument to Betsy
Ross?

Where is the road builder who can make
the highways of this State famous?

Will Charles Frohman explain how much
worse it is to sell theatre tickets at cut rates
than to let speculators get them and charge
two prices?

Uncle Sam wakes up every little while and
asks Mexico, in the words of the man who
heard his wife's voice in the middle of the
night, "Are you rioting again or yet?"

CITIZENS' DUTY
TOWARD HOUSING

Why the Gransback Bill Should Not
Become Law — A Reactionary
Measure — Prompt Action by Peo-
ple Is Necessary.

By HELEN L. PARRISH
Secretary of the Octavia Hill Association.

IT IS with consternation and dismay that
those who have been striving for many
years to bring about better sanitary and hous-
ing conditions in the poorer section of Phila-
delphia are confronted with the fact that the
Legislature has passed the Gransback bill,
H. B. No. 295. It does not seem credible that
a body of men chosen to legislate for the
best interests of their fellows should by one
such act decide to sweep away the results
of years of slow but steady progress; to do
this also without an opportunity being given
for a hearing or without submitting the bill
for indorsement to any of those qualified
through their official positions or through
their special knowledge and experience to
judge of its merits.

The bill divides the responsibility for the
vital questions of housing and sanitation be-
tween three bureaus of the Department of
Public Health and Charities. It expressly
repeals the leading house act of 1895, the
act for the licensing and inspection of ten-
ement houses of 1907 and the housing code of
1913. It exempts from the fire-escape law,
without making other provisions for fire pro-
tection, a large proportion of the tenement
houses of the city and seriously weakens
and exposes to litigation the original ten-
ement house law of 1895.

The acts thus ruthlessly handled have
marked successive and distinct stages in the
forward progress of Philadelphia. Each one
means incalculable benefit to those who are
crowded into our many rear court and alley
dwellings, our countless houses built for one
family and now "converted" into tenement
houses where many families dwell. Their
repeal would set us back for 20 years. To
those who have fought the grim fight for
better conditions against the greed of land-
lords, the hostility or apathy of City Coun-
cils, the indifference of many citizens, the
changes that these laws have wrought have
been full of encouragement.

The Gransback bill offers nothing to take
their place. It establishes no standards,
makes no rules or regulations. It creates a
"sanitary board" consisting of the Director
of Public Health and Charities and the bur-
eau chiefs, who are empowered to make
rules and regulations, which Select Council
must approve. It provides for no oversight
or inspection of dwellings.

Surely it is the insistent duty of every
citizen who has the welfare of our great city
at heart to write to Governor Brumbaugh,
in whose hands the momentous question is
now placed, urging him to veto this destruc-
tive and reactionary measure.

HOW APRIL GOT ITS NAME

The Custom of April Fooling—Some Fa-
mous Hoaxes of the Day.

THERE is still dispute concerning the
origin of the name April. Most of the other
months of the ancient Roman calendar were
named, either directly or indirectly, from the
Roman gods and heroes. Jacob Grimm,
seeking an application of the general rule to
April, suggested the name of a hypothetical
god or hero, Aper or Aprus. Others have
suggested that Aprilis came from the Greek
name of Venus, Aphrodite. April among the
Romans was sacred to Venus.

Still others find the origin in the Latin
"aperire," to open, signifying the opening of
the trees and flowers. The early Anglo-
Saxons called the month "oster-monath" or
"oostur-monath," after Easter, goddess of
the spring, from whose name comes our
word Easter. But whatever the etymologists
may decide, tomorrow begins the first
full spring month, which "puts the spirit of
youth in everything."

On an April day old Wotton wrote (and if
his was a different age and place from ours
no matter):
This day Dame Nature seemed in love;
The lusty sap began to move;
Frolics did stir the embracing vines,
And birds had drawn their valentines.

While not receiving the salary of a Mary
Garden or a Titia Buffo, the management must
have had a sufficient appreciation of my merit
to assign to me these robes which cover a var-
iety of schools in addition to being sung in
four different languages. As to the success
with which my work has met at the hands
of the public, that is a matter of history.

Many of these things that I have written
upon his own merits and, all other things be-
ing equal, hold his own with the foreign singer.
HENRI SCOTT.
Leading Bass, Chicago Grand Opera Company,
1914-15; Teatro Adriano, Rome, Italy, 1915-16;
Manhattan Opera House, New York, 1909-10,
Philadelphia, March 27.

STEPHEN GIRARD'S BIRTHDAY

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—Stephen Girard displayed his foresight
when he endowed such a noble institution as
Girard College for poor orphan boys born of
American parents.
Many of these boys educated by his gener-
osity have become great and powerful citizens,
not only in the city of Philadelphia and State
of Pennsylvania, but have become nationally
known, commercially, financially and polit-
ically.

It would be a mark of esteem for such a
benefactor as Stephen Girard for the citizens
of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania to commem-
orate his coming birthday by wearing a violet,
which is the emblem of America.
Honor the memory of a man so thoughtful
for the future welfare of poor American boys.
ALEXANDER VICTORIA WILLIAMS.
Philadelphia, March 27.

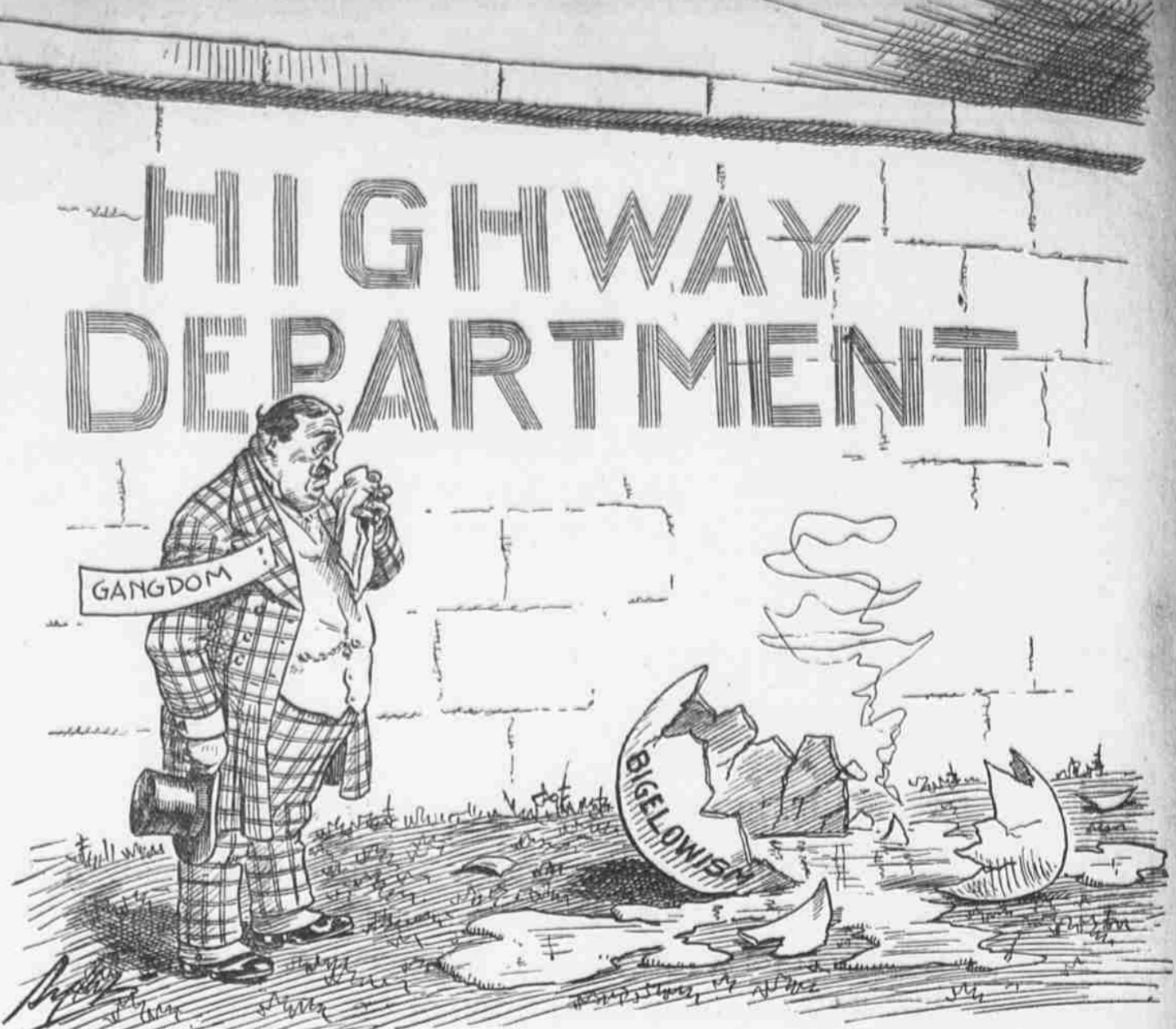
WHOSE THE LEADERSHIP?

In every age of the world there has been a
leading nation, one of a more generous senti-
ment, whose citizens were willing to stand for
the interests of general justice and humanity at
the risk of being called by the men of the
moment chimerical and fantastic. Which
should be that nation but those States—Em-
erson.

THE LOST LAUREL

By WILLIAM A. MCGARRY
The Pennsylvania Mountain Boy—
Or Laurel, as you will—
That twine the tree by rock and rill
In regions wild and hushed and still.
Alas! Alackaday!
Our noble, stately brow
Shall not adorn that mind ye now,
The laurel for us they swiftly sent
The flow'rs was laid away.
But—some one went and killed the bill
Because the little flowers
Put forth officially as ours
Grow on a poisoned vine where towers
The lofty mount and hill.
In fact, with arm intent
The laurel bud they swiftly sent
To pickle with the condiment
Some one has christened still.
Shall heroes in the State of Penn
Become extinct at last?
The State that in her noble past
To all a grand defiance cast
No more reward her men?
Must she now turn away
Her stately head and sadly say
"The Governor has carried the bay?"
She must? Well, let her, then.

"DID HE FALL OR WAS HE PUSHED?"



BEST THOUGHT IN AMERICA

DIGEST OF THE MAGAZINES

- (1) Harper's Monthly—"The Brand of the City."
(2) New Republic—"The Utilities Bureau."
(3) Atlantic Monthly—"The House on Henry Street."
(4) Survey—"The Junior Police of New York City."

Deep in the Heart of the City

Lillian D. Wald, founder of the famous Nurses' Settlement on the East Side of New York, and for 21 years its head, knows the city of the other half, not only with the familiarity of her years of residence there, but with the subtler, closer intimacy of a woman of keen sympathies and delicate perceptions, which have enabled her to enter into the lives of those about her and become a vital factor in her adopted community.

Work is accomplished, calls are made, meals are eaten in the daylight hours, and as twilight deepens the birds and the beasts and the people all go to bed. The city is known by its night. As darkness falls, the city bursts into a new splendor, blazing with electric signs and white arc lights, strident with clanging cars and sirens, crowded with gaily dressed people in holiday mood. It is after dark that the city rouses itself to its remembered activity and charm.

Curiously enough, in spite of its slums and sweatshops, its concentrated misery and vice, it is this gay, irresponsible night life of white lights and lobster palaces and chorus girls, which—for the out-of-towner—fairly symbolizes the city. To suburbanites and visitors, the name New York instantly calls up vision of the Great White Way.

Whether it is that most of the magazines are published there, or because it is our metropolis, most of the articles on city life in the magazines refer to New York. Of 10 such articles in the current magazines five are about cities in general or groups of cities and five refer specifically to New York.

A discriminating analysis of what constitutes city life, and of its proportion of influence in our national life, is given by Walter Weyl, writing in Harper's Monthly (1):

The America of Washington's day was primitively, racially rural. The country outnumbered the city 30 to 1; it outvoted and out-influenced the city. By 1820, one in every 20 Americans lived in cities; by 1900, almost one in three. Within five years there will be more people in the city than in the country districts.

The city attracts because it offers much for little; because, heretical though the statement may seem, living there is cheap. True, city rents are notoriously high, but you get more for each dollar spent. The city is the home of wholesale and therefore cheap amusement. The moving picture show, the variety theatre, the open trolley, the boat ride, the amusement park are wonderfully cheap because so many share the expense. Much is offered for nothing. The free city parks are notably high, the constant spectacle of the "dressed" windows of fine stores are all gratuitous.

To economic attractions social attractions are added. Men are incurably gregarious. They love to work, eat, loaf and read poetry in crowds, and the city provides the crowds. * * * It permits an escape from the rut of custom. It spells independence, individuality, solitude.

The American city, which arose out of a precipitate, unordered, ultra-individualistic exploitation of vast natural resources and grew up parentless and without traditions, is now evolving a new ideal of democratic co-operation and is gradually impressing that ideal upon the whole American nation.

There is an echo in the New Republic (2) of an exceedingly significant move on the part of American cities this winter, when, for perhaps the first time, they effectively acted upon a recognition of the practical value of concerted action on their part, in the creation of a Utilities Bureau for the benefit of all cities in their dealings with the public service utilities:

Suppose the citizens of Jonestown make up their minds that the rates charged by the gas company ought to be lower. Jonestown has 40,000 inhabitants. Their gas company is capitalized at \$700,000. The contest does not look unequal. It would not be unequal if the gas company were really as isolated and self-dependent as Jonestown. But the gas company is not dependent upon itself alone. It is controlled by a holding company capitalized at \$10,000,000. Holding companies control nearly five and a half of the eight billions invested in American gas, electric, street railway and inter-urban railway companies. The Middle West Utilities * * * as an example, operates in 12 states and 315 cities. Naturally, these companies have their own bureaus for collecting the facts they need. The Mayors of American cities, at their conference in Philadelphia on public policies as to municipal utilities, decided that the time had come for attempting a like work for cities on a national scale. The result is the Utilities Bureau.

The functions of this Utilities Bureau are to collect and collate data as to rates, service standards and cost factors in municipal utilities, to prepare those data for the use of cities, public bodies, corporations and in-

ROBIN

I know where the dear saints are—
The spacious silence
Have closed around, stillness profound
About the region lies—
That ungodly note the bills
They used to hold so dear
The first glint sets from Robin's throat
Must thrill them there as here.
—Nelly Earl Woodworth, in the Boston Transcript