

Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY. Charles H. Ludington, Vice-President; John C. Martin, Treasurer; Philip S. Collins, John E. Williams, Directors. P. H. WEAVER, Executive Editor. JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager.

Friendship is a quality that outlasts fortune, or it is no friendship. Why Not an Efficient Council?

SUPPOSE Philadelphia had an efficient City Council. Not necessarily an honest one—that would be too large a hope—but an efficient one, a Council that knew exactly what it wanted to do and went ahead and did it.

Grain Shows Which Way the Wind Blows CONSIDER the port. It is not yet the port it is going to be, it has its faults, but it manages to do business.

Peril of National Hypocrisy LITTLE WILLIE, according to a humorous tale, once asked his father: "What is a hypocrite?"

More Things in Heaven and Earth HAMLET was right about it. There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

Gallois Spirit Wins MINISTER OF WAR MILLERAND announces that France has increased her production of military materials a third in the first eight months of war.

Delivering the Goods THE million dollars' worth of contracts which Senator McNichol's companies have received from the Department of Public Works in the last 60 days teach a very interesting lesson in city government.

Why? The Blankenburg Administration is the reason. And a "neutral" Mayor seems to be the Senator's remedy.

Today Philadelphia has the clearest lesson in the world of what an honest, efficient city administration can do to save the taxpayer money.

Senator McNichol is concerned in three new contracts for grading the Northeast Boulevard, for repaving South street, and for bituminous surface for public roads.

The biggest cut came, of course, on the first bids under the new Administration; but Senator McNichol's experience with an honest Mayor and an honest Department of Public Works brought the latest bid still lower.

Suppose Philadelphia had had no Blankenburg Administration; suppose Senator McNichol could have got his contracts this year at the price he was used to ten years ago.

Efficiency and honesty are twin brothers.

systems of Government insurance and aid. A smaller citizenry has lived well upon his husband's resources and has kept alive the old Gallic spirit that was like an oriflame above battling Europe in the days of Henry of Navarre, of the Grande Monarch, of the "sans culotte" and of the great "Little Corporal." Whether in war, in science or in the arts, that spirit has burned fiercely, magnificently.

Blernark was vastly surprised when France recovered from his "crushing" indemnity and breast-fed Germany in thrifty savings. What would he think today?

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CONE JOHNSON, ORATOR OF THE DAY Picturesque Career of the Texas Bryan Leader Who Will Speak for the President at the Fourth of July Celebration.

By JOHN LUM CONE JOHNSON is some orator. That is among the reasons for his selection by the President to speak for the nation at the Fourth of July celebration in Independence Square.

When he rises on the platform he fills the eye. He is tall and smooth shaven. His clothes are made by a good tailor and the crease is never absent from his trousers. He wears a low turn-down collar, as the habit of orators is. Besides, low collars are politically prudent for Texas politicians.

Such are the externals of the Solicitor of the State Department. Some idea of his political intellectual equipment may be formed when one recalls that he was summoned from the comparative obscurity of Texas by Mr. Bryan to become Solicitor when John V. Folk was transferred to the service of the Interstate Commerce Commission as chief counsel last year.

It was at Baltimore in 1912 that Johnson first attracted the attention of the East. The National Democratic Committee proposed Alton B. Parker for temporary chairman of the national convention. Parker is a gold standard man. He is opposed to all those things which Bryan has advocated.

He discussed the fundamental principles of Democracy and called the roll of the Democratic worthies. Then he denounced Kern and praised Bryan and declared that the representatives of the trusts had throttled American industry.

"All I know," he shouted, "is that the fight is on; that Bryan is on one side and Wall street on the other."

He had been against prohibition earlier in life; and once he had a notable debate with Representative Joseph W. Bailey, who was at the moment in favor of prohibition. Politics changed Bailey's view and religion changed Johnson's; but there were no more debates between himself and Johnson on that issue.

"Johnson was for Bryan. The Bailey followers opposed Bryan, and that led Johnson to Baltimore at the head of a delegation that gave Wilson 40 votes on the first ballot—all they had—and on each ensuing ballot until he was nominated."

A little girl in an east side family has been hearing her parents discuss out-of-town buying and their argument has been strongly for the trade-at-home policy. A mother who, with her small son, was visiting at the home last week from a neighboring city, was surprised to hear the daughter of the house say to her mother: "Don't try to hold my hand. I'll die an old maid before I'll marry an out-of-town man."



POOR RICHARD MEMORIAL PLANS Less Than 18 Months Remain to Complete the Fund Needed for Building a New Home for the Franklin Institute on the Parkway.

By WILLIAM A. McGARRY A REAL use for some of Benjamin Franklin's money that has been lying virtually idle for a century and a quarter has been found at last.

This sum was left to the institute by Dr. William J. Wahl, for years its secretary, on condition that an equal sum be raised by December 16, 1916. About \$20,000 of the money has been promised to the institute, which is now conducting a campaign among its membership to secure the balance.

The original Franklin bequest was made in 1790. In making it Franklin looked 200 years ahead, estimating what the total would be in 1890 and in 1990. He expected it would be \$131,000, or \$665,000, at the end of the first 100 years, but it fell far short of this figure, reaching but \$39,833.96.

At the end of the second term, if no unfortunate accident has prevented the operation, the sum will be four millions and sixty-one thousand pounds sterling, of which I leave one million, sixty-one thousand pounds to the disposition of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, and three millions to the disposition of the Government of the State, not presuming to carry my views farther.

Several reasons are put forth for the failure of the fund to reach the amount Franklin had expected in 1890, but the principal one is that the "young married artificers" failed to borrow as often as he had expected, due probably to the restrictions. Later the restrictions were made less drastic in an effort to get the money out to borrowers.

Instead of being \$130,000, however, the property to be turned over to the city in 1890 was but \$68,613.79. No action was taken at the time, but in 1897 the Board of City Trusts transferred the money to the Franklin Institute Building Fund. Since that year the fund has grown to \$131,000.

Franklin's Novel Views Several interesting questions not connected with the fund were taken up by Franklin in the preamble to that part of his will creating it.

For instance, he was exceedingly fair to Massachusetts, as the following will show: "I was born in Boston, New England, and owe my first instruction in literature to the free grammar schools established there; I have, therefore, already considered these schools in my will. But I am also under obligations to the State of Massachusetts, for having, unasked, appointed me formerly their agent in England with a handsome salary; which continued some years; and although I accidentally lost, in their service, by transmitting Governor Hutchinson's letters, much more than the amount of what they gave me, I do not think that ought in the least to diminish my Gratitude."

Another part of the preamble has to do with his views on salaries for public officers that today would be considered amazing, to say the least. It follows: "It having long been a fixed political opinion of mine that in a Democratical State there ought to be no offices of profit, for the reasons I had given in an article for my drawing in our Constitution, it was my intention, when I accepted the office of Postmaster General, to devote the appointed salary to some public uses, accordingly I had already, before I made my will in July last, given large sums of it to colleges, schools, building of churches, etc., and in that will I bequeathed two thousand pounds more to the State for the purpose of making the Schuylkill navigable; but understanding since, that such sum will do but little towards accomplishing such a work, and that the project is not likely to be undertaken for years to come; and having entertained another idea; that I hope may be more extensively useful, I do hereby revoke and annul that bequest, and direct that the certificates I have for what remains due to me of that salary be sold towards raising the sum of two thousand pounds sterling, to be disposed of as I am now about to order."

It came as quite a refreshing relief to the privileged few who are admitted annually within the jealously-guarded precincts of the Royal Observatory to realize that there was still patient and passionately-absorbed watchers here with thoughts of other things than war.

The Astronomer Royal also referred to the expedition sent to Russia to observe the total solar eclipse of August 20 last. "The party proceeded to a station near Minak," he explained, "and the eclipse was observed under good atmospheric conditions. Owing to the outbreak of war, it was impossible for the observers to bring back the instruments with them, and these were therefore left at the Poulkova Observatory."

The object of chief interest among the visitors to the observatory was naturally the giant 28-inch reflector, which is mainly used for the observation of double stars. The superb structure of steel which supports the great telescope, and which is as delicate as it is strong, has not required strengthening since it was first erected in 1850, though then the instrument it bore was only 18 inch in diameter.

Among those engaged on this telescope, it is interesting to record, is no less a person than M. Jonckheere, the director of the famous observatory at Lille. M. Jonckheere, who during the eight months he has been at Greenwich, has discovered no less than 60 pairs of double stars, told our representative that his splendidly equipped observatory, which he claims to be more modern even than that here, is now in possession of the Germans, who are using the powerful instruments there for military purposes. He was greatly afraid that before they were driven out of Lille the Germans would destroy the valuable instruments beyond repair.

From the observations of the Meteorological Department it appears that 1914 was the hottest year for the last three-quarters of a century, a mean temperature of 60.8 degrees having been recorded. The last winter, it also appears, was the wettest known during the last 100 years.

GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. Every Time I Settle Down.

There exists no evidence to prove that the United States is dependent upon England for her literature, music, etc.; one could with equal facility assert that the old country is dependent upon the States for these same things; but the fact is, that with a common speech and practically the same ideals of freedom and democracy, there is a free interchange between the two nations in the liberal arts to the common good of both.

Your correspondent finishes with the assertion that Independence Day celebrations are an insult to English pride. No such thing! That day commemorates the fact that men of English blood will never be slaves to regal tyranny, for on that day was struck such a blow for the freedom of democracy that it had never before been equaled, except, perchance, by the exertion of an unwilling king of the rights of Magna Charta. The Mother Country learned her lesson; viz., that the people must and will be free, and today the United States and the British Empire stand before the world, not as acolytes or dependents, but as two sister nations upholding the banner of freedom and liberty for the common people.

Never will the United States revert to the condition of a dependency of the British crown; she, too, is fast growing into an empire, and today is one of the leading Powers of the world. In my imagination I see her, under the providence of God, destined for yet greater things; and if she be true and steadfast to her high mission, hers will be the noble work to yet lead all earth's peoples into the paths of peace and righteousness.

Palmyra, N. J., June 23. THOMAS J. BENSLEY.

DISPLAY THE FLAG To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—Won't you print at the top of your paper asking everybody in Philadelphia to put an American flag out on the 4th and 5th of July, if it is only a five-cent flag. Something has to be done, as so many people seem to forget about the flag, and I think this would be a good way to wake them up.

A WAR VICTIM I'll tell you in a jiffy just the thing that worries me: You know I'm not so selfish, don't you, Tom? But however much I'm willing to be other people's filling, I don't know where the money's coming from! I've sent along a little to the Prince of Wales Fund; I couldn't well refuse to, could I, Tom? But I'm asked by one or other to subscribe to this and that, and I don't know where the money's coming from!

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