Evening Ledger

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PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1915.

Many a fool thinks he will become great by aping the follies of the successful.

SMITH AND HIGHER TAXES

ORGANIZATION politicians are already talking about raising the tax rate. They were unwilling to have 80-cent gas, reimbursing the treasury for the resulting loss in revenue by providing a more general and fair tax, but they are perfectly ready, since they expect to have expenditures in their own hands, hereafter to get the maximum in taxes possible from this community.

There need be no doubt of higher taxes if the Organization gets back into power. Efficient government alone has made it possible for the present administration to get along on the existing revenue. Push into office men who laugh at efficiency and consider the municipality only as an easy mark, and it may be taken for granted that the cost of everything will be materially increased.

There is one way in which to keep the tax rate within reasonable bounds and that is by electing men to office who consider the money intrusted to their care as a trust fund, not a political treasure chest. Smith and higher taxes are synonyms.

FACING BACKWARD

THE men who are planning to improve the efficiency of the Postoffice are facing in the wrong direction. The way to speed up the handling of the mails is not to abandon a rapid system for a slower one. The tortoise won the race only because the hare slept on his job. The way to make the hare win is to keep him awake, even if it is necessary to have a corps of men to keep the men awake who are supposed to prevent the hare from going to sleep. The pneumatic tube delivery system must not be abandoned.

FREE TRADE IN THE DISCARD

THE British Chancellor of the Exchequer has thrown his free trade theories to the dogs and recommended an increase in tariff duties in order to raise more money for the war. He proposes other taxes, but the higher tariff is the most significant, for he say that "if by taxation we can restrict imports, reduce consumption and bring revenue, we shall have found the ideal fiscal system."

If he would omit the second of his three characteristics of an ideal system, or revise it so as to call for development of national industries, he would have created a formula which the soundest protectionists could not improve.

The protective tariff differs from all other taxes in that it serves a double purpose. It produces revenue for the Government and it produces work at high wages for the people. It keeps in the country a greater proportion of the wealth produced than any other taxation system ever devised. Old-fashioned British theories have to be abandoned in this great crisis, when expedients that will raise real money must be found lest the nation perish.

NO CENSORSHIP

THE rioting incidental to the presentation of a photoplay which is obnoxious to colored people emphasizes the intolerable position in which this city is placed by the State censorship. There is, of course, no excuse for lawlessness. The play in question is being produced lawfully. The unfortunate fact is that were the production of such a character as to cause ten times the disturbance that has been caused, the city would still be powerless to prevent it.

There is no more need to censor moving pictures than there is to censor literature, the regular theatre or the newspapers. The circulation of a nasty publication is prevented by the police. The police likewise would prevent the exhibition of a motion picture that was obviously unfit to be shown. That is a natural censorship, to which there can be no valid objection. But in present circumstances the police are powerless and the peace of the city is dependent on appointed State censors who exercise almost unlimited power.

The abolition of the censor board is inevitable because it is an un-American institution, so why delay its demise? The best thing the Legislature can do is to return to the cities their full police power and depend on the municipal authorities to conserve public morality so far as moving pictures are concerned.

PROVIDE MORE NAVAL OFFICERS

WEST POINT graduates each year enough officers to command a skirmish line. Annapolis provides enough officers to assure the manning of an adequate navy. The militia, to some extent, and the military schools where United States officers are stationed, to a great extent, supplement West Point. Aside from the naval militia, which is inconsiderable, there is no method of recruiting naval officers. We are without even an adequate merchant marine from which to draw them.

The Government has now a plant at Pensacola, Fla., which is admirably suited for a naval school. There is another at Portsmouth. There ought to be four naval academies instead of one. In fact, there must be if the navy is to be developed to anything like the extent necessary. The useless navy yards are available for the purpose. More important even than ships are officers to command them. There must be a great increase in the commissioned personnel, and the only way to assure such an increase is to provide more training schools.

The Secretary of the Navy has had this matter brought to his attention. He is giving it his serious consideration. In preparing plans for the national defense, Congress should not fail to make provision of some sort along the lines suggested.

PHILADELPHIA'S REPUBLICANISM

PHILADELPHIA sent a ringing message to the Republicans of the nation when it proved once more by the registration figures that four out of every five voters here believe in the policies of Lincoln and McKinley.

There is no doubt of the Republicanism of this city.

Whenever the opportunity offers it will pile up an overwhelming majority in favor of Protection and the development of home industries. It is convinced of the soundness of the protection theory and of the wisdom of its application. The nation never doubted Philadelphia, and it does not doubt it now.

Whoever is elected to the mayoralty will be a Republican. If the successful candidate is a man whose instincts and record align him with the higher moralities and in opposition to the system of invisible government, which Republicans have tolerated to their undoing in other cities and other States, the message of the registration will be supplemented by words of hope that will cheer forward-looking men of all parties. If, on the other hand, a dummy for the Gang is elected, the cause of Republicanism will be hurt, both here and everywhere else.

The issue is drawn not between Republicanism and Democracy, but between the men who would make Republicanism a tool of contractor bosses and the men who would make it an instrument of righteous government.

It is up to the self-respecting manhood of Philadelphia to decide where victory shall rest.

THE BALKANS AFLAME

MOBILIZATION of the Bulgarian army on the Servian frontiers and the imminent union of the Bulgarian forces with those of the Teutonic allies mean that all the Balkan States are likely to be in the war before the month is out, if not sooner. They have held off much longer than any one thought possible, and instead of fighting as a unit with this or that side they will be fighting each other with such assistance as they can get from the greater belligerents. Their action, instead of bringing the end of the war nearer, simply increases the number of belligerents and enlarges the area of devastation.

ARE WE "IDIOTIC YANKEES"?

THE documents entrusted to Archibald for delivery in Berlin and Vienna, translations of which have just been cabled from London, are as much revelations of the intellectual qualifications of the Austrian Ambassador as they are incriminating evidence of his attempts to stir up strife here.

Captain von Pappen, of the German Legation, should not be classed with Ambassador Dumba. His perceptions are astonishingly acute. It is not surprising that he should refer to us as "these idiotic Yankees" when it is considered how we have allowed both the German and Austrian representatives to meddle in our domestic affairs without let or hindrance. Captain von Pappen is no fool, whatever else he may be. If he had not made the mistake of entrusting his letter to Archibald he might boast of a record distinguished for high discretion.

RILEY AND 'GENE FIELD

INDIANA, which is not in the habit of forgetting her native sons, is presently to have a "Riley Day" in honor of the author of "Knee Deep in June" and "An Old Sweetheart of Mine." Question as one may the eternal value of Mr. Riley's work, one cannot deny that he has moved and amused a vast number of readers. Let his day be given ungrudged.

It is to be hoped that in the festivities some one of importance will rise to say a kind word for Eugene Field, the most recent patron saint of American light verse. More than Oliver Wendell Holmes, Field had the lovable human touch. He seemed equally at home in Bohemia and in Philistia, and he knew the goodness of each. He was delicate and he was Rabelaisian, ironic and kind. He knew the classics and he used them as he used a news story, vigorously, slangily, humorously.

He was, in fact, a humorist, not a wit. That is why he was greater than those who now take his name in vain. The bright jestings of "colyumists" are mental scintillations. Field conducted a column from the heart. He loved little children and beautiful women and good Falernian. He hated garlic and pretentious culture. The echoes from his farm will not soon die away.

The best thing South Carolina ever did in the prohibition line was when it prohibited Blease.

Maybe if they sing hymns to the music of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," it will seem a shorter way to church.

Entangling alliances are as bad for a mayoralty candidate as Washington thought they were for the American people.

Today is the day when Mr. Bryan has a talk with the President. It might be a good thing for the President to give Mr. Bryan a talking to.

Joe Cannon favors a reserve army of 100,000 men, each paid $250 a year. How many of the reserves would he like to appoint from his district?

Victor Murdock thinks that Roosevelt would run again next year if he were sure of being elected, but who would not run under such circumstances?

It is of little importance where Smith worships. Sensational efforts on the part of a local newspaper to inject the religious issue into the campaign merit and will receive only the scorn of the community.

GLANCING AROUND THE VARIED SPHERE

Glimpses of Persons, Peoples and Places That Figure in the News of the Day—How the War With Mexico Began

By LUKE GUARDIAN

MEXICAN bandits have invaded the United States. They have a considerable advantage over General Funston's soldiers in the fact that when they retreat across the Rio Grande they are safe from pursuit. But the American Government, something like three-quarters of a century ago, was not nearly so conscientious as it is today in observing the proprieties attaching to international boundary lines. The events of 1846 well illustrate the power of a President to force the country into war, whether the people like it or not.

Manifest Destiny

The doctrine of manifest destiny (geographical) that brought us into conflict with a neighbor rent and weakened with internal dissensions has long since lost all its force in American politics. The war with Mexico was by no means merely a Southern conspiracy to extend slavery. That aspect of the case has been much overestimated. Calhoun, who was opposed to the war and to the intrigue and trickery from which it resulted, nevertheless believed that our acquisition of the West was a foregone conclusion, and he saw in this expansion a necessity which suggests the familiar plea of "the white man's burden." "It would be vain to expect," said he "that we could prevent our people from penetrating into California. Even before our present difficulties with Mexico the process had begun. We alone can people this region with an industrious and civilized race, which can develop its resources and add a new and extensive region to the domain of commerce and civilization." Benton favored the acquisition of the same territory, but only by honorable means. "We want Texas," he said, "that is to say, the Texas of La Salle; and we want it for great natural reasons obvious as day, and permanent as Nature." And, indeed, the story of the seizure was part of the great romantic contest with Spain for dominion in America—a contest that began away in the days of Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

The means which President Polk adopted were not such as to win the praise of historians or the unanimous approval of contemporaries. Polk saw that the only way to get California and New Mexico was to go to war. And so he went to war. The excuse was the dispute over the boundary line of Texas, which in 1845 was admitted to the Union. Polk's machinations both preceded and followed that event. A very flimsy excuse he had, too. The Texans claimed the territory lying between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande. The Mexicans claimed that the Nueces was the boundary. The Texan claim had no foundation in previous history or in the then existing circumstances. Yet Polk supported Texas for the sake of the nation's "manifest destiny," though there is no doubt that the boundary question could have been easily settled by diplomacy.

He sent General Taylor across the Nueces. Then he sent him to the banks of the Rio Grande. Taylor intrenched his army opposite the Mexican town of Matamoros. As Benton wrote, "The armies being thus in presence, with anger in their bosoms and arms in their hands, that took place which everybody saw must take place—collisions and hostilities." The Americans were attacked by a small detachment of Mexican troops. Then Polk piously sent a message to Congress—Mexico "has shed American blood on American soil." Congress, to save the face of the nation, declared war. The preamble of the declaration read: "Whereas, by act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists"—etc. The Whigs protested that the statement was untrue. Lincoln introduced his famous "Spot resolutions," calling upon the President to designate the exact spot where the outrage had been committed. Lowell in the Bigloy Papers expressed the indignation of many citizens:

> I dunno but wut it's pooty,
> Trainin' round in bobtail coats—
> But it's cur'us Christian dooty,
> This 'ere cuttin' folks' throats.

It is a pleasant certainty that at last our manifest geographical destiny has been fulfilled.

Clues to Character

The late lamented Sherlock Holmes possessed the extraordinary faculty of constructing a man's whole history from an examination of his hat. He could tell all the faults and excellences in the character of the owner. In none of his investigations, however, did he have occasion to read character from lead pencils.

Experts in the psychology of child-life have supplied the omission. They inform us that the schoolboy reveals his character in his treatment of his pencil. There's a long catalogue of traits that are thus revealed. The boy unconsciously confesses that he is impulsive, or destructive, or wasteful, or impatient, or criminal, or easy-going, or artistically minded, or considerate of others, or economical, or cautious, or careful.

The child who gouges out great pieces from the sides of his pencil shows impulsiveness and generosity. If he breaks off a chunk with his finger-nails, he shows destructivness and an utter disregard of the feelings and rights of others. Should he smooth his pencil down to a long point, he shows an artistic temperament and a considerate disposition. If he cuts his pencil off in a stub, he shows economy, carefulness and quickness.

The experts may know what they are talking about, and doubtless they do, but children ought not to be allowed to take them very seriously. It is much better for children to grow up without acquiring self-consciousness in the matter of sharpening pencils. For, indeed, the philosophers of utilitarianism were right when they protested against the doctrine of conscious morality. Priggishness is a worse sin than many another.

NINETEEN "DRY" STATES

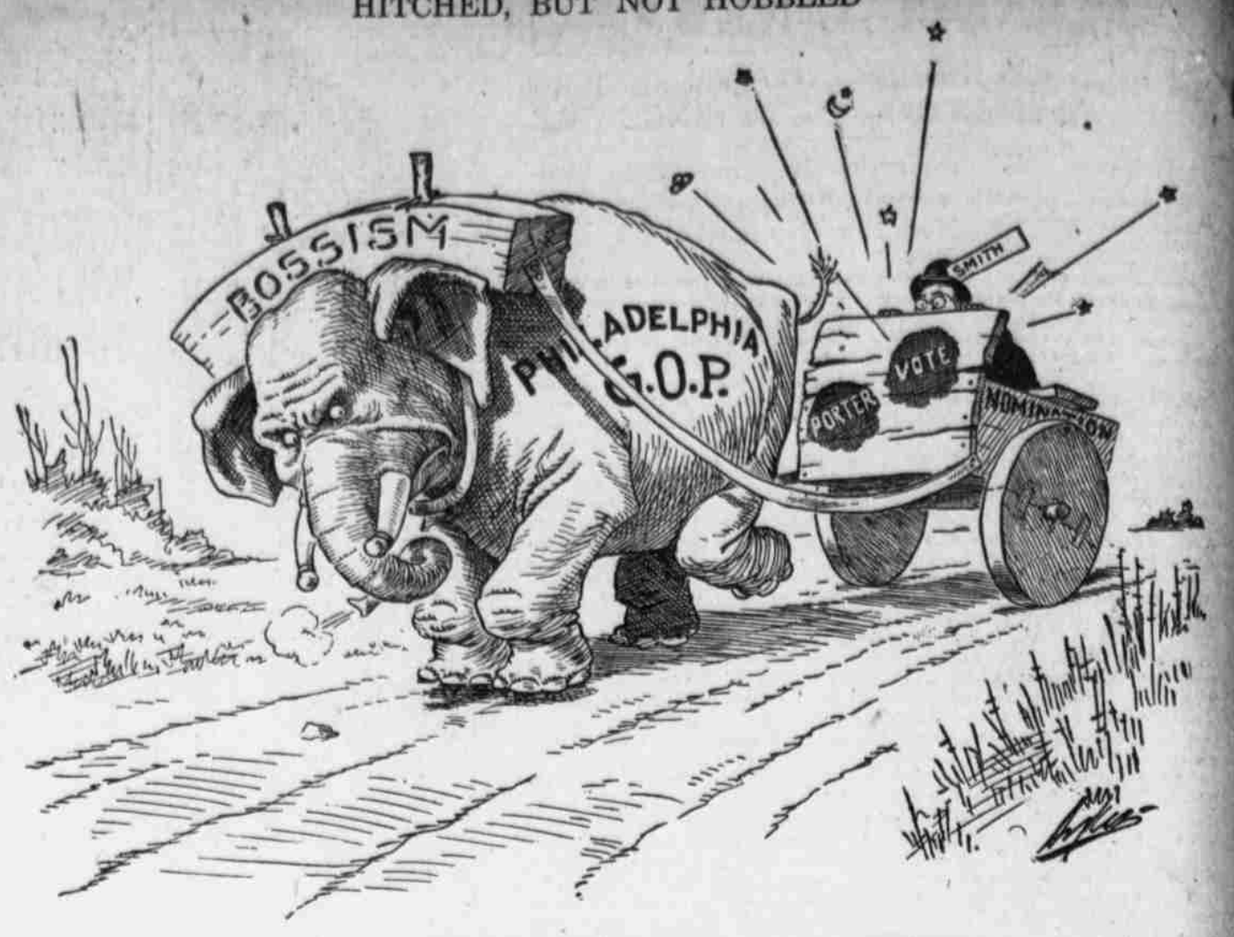
The obvious and sufficient comment on the action of South Carolina in voting State-wide prohibition is that it makes the 19th State to go "dry." Here is the roll: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, North Dakota, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maine, Mississippi and South Carolina.

With South Carolina voting out liquids, the liquid interests are learning what "the Solid South" means.—Kansas City Star.

"DISTINGUISHED"

When a man just naturally looks "different," it's all right. But when a man gets himself up to look "different"—he doesn't. He bears the brand of the ordinary run of fools.—Kansas City Star.

HITCHED, BUT NOT HOBBLED



SPEAKING THE PUBLIC MIND

Physician Discusses Cultural and Vocational Studies With Reference to Medical Education—Says Elementary and Secondary Schools Are Deficient — Other Communications

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—We have every reason in the world for insisting on a cultural standard of medicine equivalent to the old world and with the present chaos in the educational centres of Europe, it is now America's time for the standardization of medical education to surpass the old world. Having at our command recognized authorities in all branches of medicine, we cannot but feel a justifiable pride in the standards of our American physicians. Professional education has advanced by greater strides than our general educational systems. Being a vocation, its tendency is toward positive influence on the minds of students and the shaping of their destinies of thought by vocational practice. Hence how important it is to have our preliminary training of the best. One looking over the situation cannot but notice the deficiency in the elementary studies and graduation of our secondary school courses. Here what has been deemed cultural has been relegated to the greater number of hours at the expense of the vocational basic studies.

One cannot deny that many of the so-called cultural studies are being taught in the secondary schools with varying degrees of success, bringing the student to the professional entrance examination deficient in branches which are to him part of his vocational assets. And for this reason it would be unfair to criticise a professional requirement when the fault lies in elementary training.

The most progressive of medical educators do not even wish for a lowering of the standards, but they are asking for young men better prepared for a vocational training. Medical schools must enforce this high standard, but they are also right in asking that the preliminary school do its share.

During a recent interview with our former superintendent, Doctor Jacobs, this matter was earnestly insisted upon by that eminent educator, and it is to be regretted that he was unable to do more than just to attempt the rehabilitation of the school system with the idea of the vocational being equally represented with the cultural in the graded school.

The limit reached by the heavily endowed institution may be as great as it wishes, for very often it represents "advanced research work on the part of the student where economy of time and money is no object to the student."

One must not forget that during the last decade 34 cults have sprung up in medicine or in the realm of medical occupations where a lucrative return has been quicker than that of the average graduate of an accredited medical school.

With the increased time requirements come all sorts of added expenses, yet we can set aside any commercialism where the public good is concerned and the welfare of the great Commonwealth protected by intelligent and enterprising doctors.

With the enducational leaders tending toward vocational, allowing cultural for advanced research work, we may hope for a conservation of time and energy.

The more crying need is for philanthropic citizens and business men to co-operate with medical educators in enabling students to pursue the advanced courses and standards and thus eventually giving to labor a health and energy which will be an adequate return for the capital invested.

WILLIAM F. BAKER, M. D.
Philadelphia, September 20.

THE COMING JOURNALISM

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—I wish to congratulate you on the completion of a year as one of the forerunners of the coming journalism. Your treatment of murder cases, of scandals and sensational stories is to be commended. What a blessing it will be to American journalism when such treatment becomes more general! Again, the "human interest" stories are the kind that appeal, without overworking the "sob stuff." The criticisms published are just and are not written with a caustic "pen." Many of the editorials are of more than passing interest—they can well be saved for reference.

I have been a reader of the EVENING LEDGER since its birth, and expect to remain one. HENRY RIDGAWAY ZELLEY.
Paulsboro, N. J., September 20.

AMERICANS FIRST

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—We see once again where our Government is being called upon to act the part of the Lady of Mercy in regard to the Armenians, who, if reports are true, are being slaughtered by thousands daily. While this is a terrible state of affairs, that these conditions must exist in this age of Christianity and enlightenment, yet why must these United States stand as a haven for all the infirmities being inflicted upon a people of Europe who have gone mad within the last year? We have done nobly in sending millions of dollars to Europe to relieve the distress, and yet we are supposed to receive 500,000 people, who in all probability have lost their entire wealth, and have them become a charge upon us. The cry of these people being industrious and hard working does not alter the situation one bit.

Notice our good American manhood walking the streets of our cities today out of work and with no prospects of any in the near future. What is the cause? These so-called poor, oppressed people whom we are bringing from Europe daily to ruin the American wage scale. * * * Is it not time to call a halt? Let us remember that self-preservation is the first law of nature. Americans come first. The quicker our Government handles the immigration problem the better it will be for the common class of people. AMERICA FIRST.
Philadelphia, September 20.

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—Your editorial in today's issue, "The Imperiled Family," seems to contain the erroneous implication that return to the old-fashioned family life would solve the divorce problem.

Other comments on this investigation have ignored certain facts which might well be brought out.

Are not most of the divorces among people who have been reared in families and with such ideas, and not among those who have received enlightenment from public teachers before marriage?

Cannot most people say that very little real knowledge on the matter was ever gained by parental instruction?

Is it fair to compare the number of divorces granted in this city with the number of marriages, when marriages are made so easily all over the State and country, and divorces most naturally sought in the large city, where better legal advice can be had and less publicity of unfortunate details?

Is it not better education of both sexes which teaches us higher moral living, disgusting many with the parasitic life engendered in the older family training, that is bringing about a normal readjustment? * * *

Give adequate instruction, make marriage more difficult, and divorce simple and easy, and higher morals result.

The family is a matter of economics, not morals. H. H. P.
Philadelphia, September 20.

CREED OF THE GANGSTER

Government Exists Solely for the Profit of the Governors

The following conclusions have been reached by a Philadelphian, after studying local conditions:

After a man gets a political job he is not supposed to think. He doesn't need to. If the job pays $5000 a year he can hire a clerk for $1000 a year to do the work.

A practical politician spends all his energy getting his job—and he has none left to do his work after he gets it.

The difference between the salary he draws and the wages he pays somebody else to do the work is political profit. Some people call it graft, but it is merely political profit.

A man who works hard for his party and still harder to get a job is entitled to a profit.

If there were no profit in politics, there would be no politicians. And if there were no politicians, there would be no government.

Political profit is the grease that makes the wheels of State revolve. Without it, all the machinery of government would clog up and stop.

A man never enters politics for his health. When he takes up politics as a profession he knows that his life's secrets will be bared. He knows that every error he has ever committed in his business or domestic affairs will be multiplied and magnified by the mudslingers until he is made to appear in the mind of the gullible public as an archfiend devoid of honor or virtue.

The pot of gold at the foot of the political rainbow gives him courage to strike forth boldly through the glaring spotlight of the yellow journals and he knows that the gold is not mythical. Otherwise he would keep safely in the shelter of oblivion.

Any man that goes through the fire of a political battle deserves the spoils of war. Political profit is a good thing. It reduces the surplus of the taxpayers and the corpulent individuals and corporations that put up the campaign contributions. It keeps money in circulation and provides comfortable incomes for thousands of men who couldn't earn a living in any other way. It is the only thing that keeps politics alive. May there be plenty of it and may it always be fairly divided.

NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW

If we but boldly grasp and bravely go forward with our own affairs, leaving warring nations to theirs, we shall assuredly find that there is prosperity enough for all.—Chicago Herald.

If the number of people could be computed who are ignorant of the resources, history and points of natural interest in their own locality, the result would be startling.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

We are here for America and it is our first duty to see that the America we began to build shall continue with its idea of freedom, opportunity and friendship for all the world.—Indianapolis News.

The United States demands that the German Government shall obey in its submarine campaign the established rules of international law. The German Government insists that its submarine commanders have the right to annul those rules whenever convenient.—Chicago Herald.

Theoretic and "realistic" literature that once blew its miasmatic breath across the fair fields of vivid fancy has been all but forgotten. For a lie cannot live either in literature or in life; and good books, like good friends, are the ones that last through the lengthened years.—Cincinnati Enquirer.