

Evening Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
EDITORIAL BOARD:
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Published daily at Public Ledger Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia.
LEADER CENTRAL: Broad and Chestnut Streets
ATLANTIC CITY: From 12:30 to 1:30 P. M.
NEW YORK: 170-A Metropolitan Tower
LOS ANGELES: 520 Ford Building
ST. LOUIS: 409 Globe Democrat Building
CHICAGO: 1202 Tribune Building

By carrier, 10 cents per week. In mail, postage paid outside of Philadelphia, except where postage is required, one month, twenty-five cents; one year, three dollars. All mail subscriptions payable in advance.
NOTICE—Subscribers wishing address changed must give old as well as new address.

THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR SEPTEMBER WAS 160,000.

PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1915.

A boy will grow to a man, and no amount of fretting will hasten the process.

AS TO SEGER

IT WOULD not do the 7th Ward any harm to defeat Charles Seger. Mr. Seger, of course, is not responsible for the high death rate in the ward, or for the shameful mortality among infants, or for the fact that tuberculosis is more prevalent in the Seventh than in any other ward in the city.

THE QUESTION UNANSWERED

WHY Berlin should have gone to the trouble of repudiating Robert Fay, who claims he was sent here by the Imperial Secret Service, is hard to understand. No one expected that Berlin would admit its connection with the man. National suicide is not an everyday occurrence and it is a tradition that spies when caught are to be disowned. It remains for the courts to determine whether Robert Fay or Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein is telling the truth.

If Robert Fay was not sent here with criminal intent by the Secret Service of the German Foreign Office—which may, on the whole, be assumed—by whom was he sent? He had a certain command of money. He was better informed than any one man or any small group of men could be without a large and powerful assistance. Who supplied that money and that information? If this is not a case of international injury, is it a case of treachery at home?

RECOGNIZED:

MR. EDISON, by declaring for a naval experimental station to be situated in Philadelphia, makes it unanimous. Here in Philadelphia there will be no objections. The advantages of Philadelphia are so outstanding that any doubt on the matter seems to smack of local pride alone. The necessity of placing the naval laboratory on Atlantic deep water is evident, and the Naval Board does not propose to build a testing station on waters that are not capable of receiving the very highest type of battleship under construction. The extension of the League Island Yard, where Government land is already available, where wharves and docks are prepared for the reception of dreadnoughts, is a desirable thing. The city can offer in return for the advantages it gets a supply of labor and a combination of land and water transportation facilities which are truly remarkable. In the eyes of Philadelphia Mr. Edison is justifying the trust placed in him by the good judgment he shows.

THE CABINET CRISIS

FOR the second time within a month the strategic history of the Great War has been dwarfed by the intensity of a diplomatic crisis. The resolution of the Balkan question was not completed with the declaration of Bulgaria and the postponement has been as ineffective as choking fire with flint. Yesterday the whole structure of Allied diplomacy seemed destined to ruin. The change from Viviani to Briand would be almost without significance if it did not involve a readjustment of military relations among the Allies. M. Viviani's resignation was inevitable from the moment when it became clear England either could not or would not take the burden of the Serbian campaign upon herself. The failure of M. Viviani's colleagues in Greece and Rumania is not definite, but is sufficiently marked to aggravate a situation already intolerable. At the same time, the strategic situation in the west is favorable only if France can rely upon an unbroken line and inexhaustible resources. Both of these are threatened by the Balkan campaign.

In that vicious circle of argument France clearly sees that a new attitude toward England must be found. Russia is a defeated nation; Italy is preoccupied with her own struggle. England, despite the overwhelming service she has given on the sea, has neither been so affected nor so imperiled as her two major Allies. Now for the first time Egypt and India are threatened and the German drive toward the Dardanelles may strike England at the end. In the face of that disaster the British Cabinet, already riddled by criticism to which it cannot, already give a unanimous answer, will not persist. If Lloyd-George, or a man of his energy, should emerge as Briand's ally, the diplomatic rehabilitation of the Allies might successfully be accomplished. It is too early to call the French drama a victory for the Central Empires. It is a turning point in the war as surely as was the battle on the 17. But it is so far without issue. These specific issues which engage the world there is a principle

still to be determined. Since the war began Germany and Austria have been unhampered by ministerial dimensions, chiefly through the dominance of Germany's centralized command. The democratic countries, England and France, and the imperfect autocracy of Russia, have been compelled to weaken themselves with internal struggles when the great duty lay abroad. It seems to point, at the present moment, to the impossibility of democratic control of diplomacy. It points to the necessity of centralized and almost irresponsible powers for the conduct of foreign affairs. We assume, in this country, that a democratic self-government is a possibility. It is for us to watch with anxious eyes to determine whether a democracy can deal effectively with a power immune from the control of the people.

DO YOU GET IT, MR. CONNELLY?

JOHN P. CONNELLY is hard to please if he is not more than satisfied with Mr. Porter's explanation of the use made of the fund raised to pay for an investigation into the way the city has been run. Porter owed no accounting to Connelly, for Connelly was not one of the contributors. But Connelly said he wanted to know, and Porter has been waiting for just such a chance to tell him.

It was used, first, to find out how "Jim" McNichol's ward was run, and the investigators discovered that there were forged names on McNichol's own nomination papers for the Senate—500 of them, all told, on the papers of three candidates. Connelly must be glad to know this. They found out also that there were 25,000 fraudulent names on the registration rolls in the city, put there by the men who knew that if there were a fair vote they could not continue in control. Connelly must be glad to know this also.

THE RIGHT KIND OF A PARK

IF LEAGUE ISLAND PARK is developed in accordance with the plans made public yesterday, South Philadelphia will have a breathing place unsurpassed of its kind. The great recreation field of thirty-five acres, with space for football games, military maneuvers and aviation, could not be more admirably located. Besides this, there will be a large playfield for boys, a great meadow, two lakes, groves, walks, drives, a swimming pool and all the attractions of a modern park. While the park must be built, the city has no money to waste on it, for it needs its resources for developing its water front, its transit system and its parkway and for erecting the needed public buildings. It is important, therefore, that for the next four years the city business be in the hands of men who will think first of the city and will not use the contracts for improving the League Island tract merely as opportunities for loot.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE FOR

We hope to get the teacher and parent together in one common object that the welfare of the child will be the first consideration. Mrs. Schoff of the Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association.

WHERE DOES SLANG "GET OFF"?

THE ways of slang are devious and strange and no man can say what it is going to do next. It is the "yellow kid" of language, or was some twelve years ago. The professor hears it on the street and indulges in it, and the street boy hears it no one knows where and picks it up and is happy. The other day a sales agent, protesting against unfair treatment, demanded to know where he "got off at." "Getting off at" anything or anywhere appears to the simple mind as something of a triumph of acrobatics. You can, of course, get off the train at the station, but to get off at—simply to be off at—gives you the impression of remaining somehow in a state of animated suspension in mid-air. The Congressman who awoke in the midst of a debate on internal waterways—or was it the tariff?—and cried out, "Where am I at?" was not more classic than this sales agent. It seems that "getting off" is not a pleasant thing. One is advised to acquire spectacles. Why? To see where you get off. It sounds unpleasant. Add an "at" and it sounds impossible. Where does slang get off—at?

HEARD WIRELESS TELEPHONING

Sir—Upon reading your article about the experienced operators who receive the wireless telephone signals in Philadelphia on doubtless first-class commercial apparatus, I decided to try on my ordinary amateur set, consisting of an ordinary loose coupler, silicon detector, condenser and phone, to get these signals. At 12:30 on Thursday morning week before last I tuned in the signals, which perhaps had gone on for some time. They were very plain and easily readable. After some little talking of an experimental nature, I judged the person said "good-by" at 12:55, according to my watch, which may have been three minutes off at the most. I feel under obligation to conceal the name of the person to whom "good-by" was said. This occurrence may be of value in publishing

WAR'S WORST HARDSHIP

A shame it is that the shortage in dyestuffs made Trinity College at Bronx City change its colors from purple and yellow to blue and gray. Nothing in the college youth's estimation can ever quite equal a pair of purple socks with yellow dots.—Omaha World-Herald.

FRANCE'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

Briand the Brilliant Once More Heads French Cabinet—A Man Whose Partisanship Became Lost in Patriotism

By ELLIS RANDALL

BRIAND the brilliant has come back. A return in French politics is not like a return in American politics. There are few Salt Crocks in France. The fall of a French ministry seldom denotes anything concerning the future of its members.



ARISTIDE BRIAND

Briand was President Poincare's first Premier. He is the latest and perhaps the last. When he was Premier under the presidency of Fallieres he had two great problems to handle, one of them arising out of the strike of employees of the State railways, the other being the administration of the Church and State separation act. In dealing with these questions he pleased neither the Clericals nor the Radicals, who formed one of those unnatural combinations for purposes of obstruction which are the bane of French politics. Then came that familiar occurrence known as a "Cabinet crisis." Then the fall of the Briand Government. It was only a check. Observers in France and in other countries had discovered an important fact. Briand in the premiership had graduated from the ranks of political partisans into the smaller group of statesmen. He had displayed large-mindedness, breadth of view, courage—true statesmanlike qualities; hence his defeat could be only a temporary check.

Not the least interesting fact about Briand is his striking resemblance, in certain particulars, to the Englishman, Lloyd-George. Once he remarked to a friend that the two men he was most desirous of meeting were Andrew Fisher, workmanlike Premier of Australia, and David Lloyd-George.

IRELAND AFTER THE WAR

Sir—Mr. Ginnell, M. P., made the following statement at a meeting in Mullingar recently: "Why should Ireland have any share in a war or the cost of a war for which she is not in any way responsible and by which British rule foredooms her never to benefit?" This quotation shows that even the M. P. see the writing on the wall, and will trim their sails to the coming storm. No, there are a few fools left in Ireland, poor unfortunate dupes. They met the fool killer in France, Flanders and the Dardanelles, and they were later described in the ordinary notices as "brave Englishmen." The people of Ireland have higher ideals than the "separate property" at the expense of other brave but subject peoples. The message of Robert Emmet to the Irish people is not forgotten, and before the present conflict is ended we may see a flag made from captured British cannon on which an Irish sculptor will carve the name of Robert Emmet. J. M. G. Philadelphia, October 28.

NOT "BEHIND THE TIMES"

Sir—I have had, and continue to have, so much annoyance because of an article printed in your paper, that I will have to ask you to correct it in an early issue. The personal description of me was very impertinent; the misstatement of my views on public questions was erroneous; the implication of unwashed windows was highly offensive; and the statement about old musty magazines lying on my display counter calculated to injure my business. The magazines your writer happened to catch sight of were a special sale of copies of "Physical Culture" which had been ordered by a customer and never claimed or paid for by him. I, therefore, rather than be at the loss of them, and knowing that they contained articles that were of perennial interest, put a low price on them to clear out the lot. This displaced for the moment the up-to-date magazines which I keep in stock. It was seized upon by your writer as a picturesque touch. But it put me in the light of a dealer behind the times. MRS. M. J. RAFFERTY, 1806 Market street, Philadelphia, Oct. 27.

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SPEAKING THE PUBLIC MIND

Letters From Readers on Some of the Vital Political Issues of the Day in City, State and Nation—Expressions of Opinion on Other Topics of Local and General Interest

To the Editor of Evening Ledger:

Sir—If the present tariff were working perfectly there would be no Tariff Commission. In our opinion, however, the proof that the present tariff, which we believe to be one of the most conscientiously drafted we have ever had in this country, is not working perfectly is the fact that the very men who made it are now proposing changes in it. From all over the country we are receiving statements of Democratic members of Congress who have one or more amendments to propose at the coming session.

It may as well be said at once that the men who are giving their time and influence in the work of the Tariff Commission are not so deluded as to believe that the purely political questions of protection, or tariff for revenue, or free trade, can ever be so sterilized as to render them non-political. It will always be the duty of the majority in this country to elect representatives in Congress pledged to some particular form of tariff, either high, low or in between. These are political questions. Men who have grown up fighting over free trade or protection are not going to renounce their fundamental beliefs or intrust them to a Government commission.

When the country has stated its preference, however, who is going to carry out this preference according to orders? The carrying out of the decree of the people is not a political question, but a scientific question. That is where the tariff commission proposition comes in. Senator Owen, who is a member of the most important committees in the Senate, and one of the ablest Democrats in public life, stated in his hearing only a short time ago, that it was impossible for a committee of Congress to produce a really adequate and scientific tariff. The reason for this is that a Congressman is required by his duty to his constituents to cover an enormous variety of subjects, and to perform an almost innumerable variety of unrelated services. It is absolutely impossible for him, in the brief time at his disposal and on the basis of the often unreliable evidence which is presented to him, to work out a fair relationship between the many thousand items of duty, on the one hand, and the commerce, the industry and the income of the nation, as a whole, on the other.

It took the German Tariff Commission more than 10 years to go over the tariff once, and work out a well-organized system on the basis of which the Reichstag could act. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States, in a careful investigation of the matter, has stated that it considers the well-rounded policy of Germany to have contributed very largely toward German commercial greatness. GUY EMERSON, Philadelphia, October 27.

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AMUSEMENTS

LEST YOU forget we want to remind you that a real entertainment will open at The Garrick Theatre next Monday night. It's that same little hodge podge of laughs intermingled with a story of life behind the scenes that we told you about yesterday. By the author of "The Chorus Lady," and with a great cast. George Sidney will play a real Producing Manager and Zella Sears reveal one of her inimitable characterizations as a Stage Mother. Seats are now on sale for

THE SHOW SHOP

SPECIAL ELECTION DAY MATINEE TUESDAY

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE ONE WEEK ONLY, BEGINNING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8 Boston Grand Opera Co. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PAVLOWA BALLET

FORREST—Now Matrs. 2:15 Evgs. 8:15

D. W. GRIFFITH'S THE BIRTH OF A NATION 18,000 People 3000 Horses

BROAD DADDY HENRY MILLER LONG RUTH CHATTERTON LEGS

Triangle Plays This Week

GARRICK LAST EVENING UNDER

THE SHOW SHOP

GLOBE Theatre

STEEL PIER MINSTRELS

THE SONG DOCTORS

LYRIC TONIGHT AT 8:15

HODGE IN "The Road to Happiness"

ADELPHI—Tonight A FULL

Knickerbocker

DUMONT'S

PEOPLES' PECK'S BAD BOY

Trocadero