

Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... EDITORIAL BOARD: C. H. CURTIS, Chairman... P. H. WEALEY, Editor... JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager...

Grant of power can be conferred to take over the State troops as individuals or in a body without the necessity of a new enlistment, there will still remain the objection that the National Government has inadequate control over the development and training of the State troops in time of peace.

DANGER!

The menace of feeble-mindedness can be averted by the proper care and segregation of mental defectives, especially of feeble-minded women of child-bearing age.

Every one except a few fanatics agrees that persons suffering from smallpox and diphtheria and other contagious diseases should be quarantined. But only a few, and they have been described as fanatics, believe that the feeble-minded should be segregated for the protection of the community.

The menace of feeble-mindedness, however, is much greater than that of communicable and curable diseases. Feeble-mindedness is hereditary and it is not curable. The feeble-minded adult has the intellect of a child and the morals of an ape. He or she contaminates the morals of the normal youth, falls into crimes against property as well as against the person, enlarges the population of the prison and the insane asylum and is also a source of constant expense to the State.

There is in this city a feeble-minded woman who is the mother of nine children, most of them all of whom are feeble-minded. She and her family have to be cared for by various charitable societies. The societies have been spending an average of \$2000 a year on this family for several years, and will have to continue to spend it so long as the mother and her children remain at large.

This woman has already become a centre of social contamination, and unless the State isolates her and her defective offspring her case is likely to displace that of the Kallikak woman of New Jersey as a horrible example of what neglect of its obvious duty can bring upon a community.

There is a county in northeastern Pennsylvania where the feeble-minded are especially numerous. In one district of 208 inhabitants 82 are mentally defective, and in another, containing 52 persons, 30 are feeble-minded to a greater or less degree.

The whole State contains 18,000 persons of subnormal mental development, and only 3600 of them are cared for in public or private institutions. In a spasm of social responsibility the General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for the establishment of a village for feeble-minded women between 16 and 45 years of age.

The Governor reduced the appropriation to \$40,000. This was in 1913. A site has been bought in Laurelton, Union County, and one or two buildings have been erected. The last Legislature declined to make any appropriation for completing the buildings or for using what had already been built.

The romance of being among those missing here in Philadelphia is somewhat staggered by Police Sergeant Joseph C. Shay in the missing bureau of the police department. Sergeant Shay has discovered what Brand Whitlock discovered some years ago, that most of the kidnapping and white slave stories "are bunk."

The French official report of fighting in the Artois region is a model of truthfulness in the face of defeat. It confesses the superior attacking power of the German offensive, admits that the second line was penetrated after the first had been battered and bombarded, and follows this with a similar report on the operations about Verdun.

Tomorrow Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst speaks at the Garrick Theatre on and for the relief of Serbia. With her there will be a former representative of Serbia at the Court of St. James.

NICHOLAS PAYS A VISIT PEOPLE which has suffered long tends to develop strange fancies and unreasonable illusions. It is extraordinarily affected by symbols, and if it cannot cope with reality, it can weave wonderful dreams.

The army reorganization bill, agreed upon by the House Committee on Military Affairs, must stand or fall on the merits of the section providing for federalizing the organized militia. It calls for a standing army of 147,000 and an increase of the trained militia to 250,000.

Tom Daly's Column

"PERHAPS spring comes earlier in the nation's capital," writes Jason, from Washington; "at any rate this morning I noticed this sign:

HEAVY-WEIGHT UNDERWEAR REDUCED That suggests to us the serious question: What is the first sign of spring in Philadelphia?

There was one very early sign that we ourselves often noticed, but that was many, many years ago. We're afraid we can't sing of it now as we might have sung once. The modern newspaper office is different—and there have been other changes.

'Twould be a sight in February's heel Or in the toe of March. Gray, sodden clouds, in solid phalanx, wheel Across the moonless arch, And vaprant scraps of wind Blow eastward and

At any rate, that's the way the spring was wont to come to us first in the old local room years ago. Before that, we remember, we never could be persuaded that the spring had arrived until we had had the joy of smelling the horsehide cover of a new baseball.

BALLADE OF THE SKIMPY SKOITS

Down in Noo Yo'k city today Saw a lady with costume queer:— Muff as big as a bale of hay, Furs would encircle a barrel of beer;

Once the ladies were swathed away; All encircling the wonderful pear, Bulk was the notion then; but say! What is the basic thought this year?

Once milady was styled a fay, Goddess and nymph and dryad dear; Bundled and quilted, she held at bay Every suitor that dared come near;

Ladies (pardon the driny tear), List, oh, list to this lay of mine! Worship's better than give and cheer— Where are the costumes of auld lang syne?

Will Gertrude M. O'Reilly Please Answer Sir—Is it true that a chain of sausage is no stronger than its weakest link? T. F. D.

Smuggling O! yes, 'twas true, no love was lost between them; There couldn't be, as you would quite agree If it had been your pleasure to have seen them— They sat so close together, he and she.

KILLED IN FALL AND MAY NOT RECOVER —Headline N. Y. Sun. Referred Not so very long ago we were invited to a very swell dinner one Saturday night and to spend the following Sunday at a very swell Long Island Gen's.

The Choice of Evils When English nobles visit us To see our girls, we'd choose To have them drop their "H's" here Instead of I. O. U.'s.

Speak Up, Lads! Sir—I am somewhat of a stranger in your city and, coming across your column, I want to ask you these questions: Is there anything wrong with the shows of young ladies in Philadelphia? I notice many young men hanging on to them and I am curious to know why. Also, I see many young men with their arms on the backs of car seats where young ladies are sitting. Are the seats too small or are the young men's arms tired? Stranger.

Proof Positive That man is made of dust quite true appears. Wives know—or should— If they to gain their ends resort to tears, His name is mud.

Chatter and Gush The woman who fancies pink teas Will chatter and gush, goodness knows; But when a new baby she sees She simply goes daft on pink toes.

Two Heads Better Than One The juxtaposition of the captions upon two articles in International Music and Drama produced this: Russian ballet makes music for the prisoners. New York debut. Blackwell's Island. A great success.

NIL DESPERANDUM



UNCLE SAM TO BUY A GIBRALTAR?

Denmark May Again Propose Sale of West India Islands Coveted by Germany—History and Romance of the "Buccaneers' Retreat"

OF VERY great interest from the military, the commercial, the historical and the purely romantic points of view is the report that comes from Copenhagen of a renewal of the proposition to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States.

In 1911 the Danish Government, awakening to the steady drain of the insular budget, offered the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and Santa Cruz to the United States at a moderate price. A treaty of cession and purchase was drawn up and signed by the plenipotentiaries. Proceedings in this direction were brought to an end in 1913, when the Upper House of the Danish Parliament rejected the treaty.

What Would Germany Say? "Our future is upon the sea," said Emperor William once upon a time. Before this war it was preached in Berlin and Hamburg that once the German flag was raised over St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, Danish islands, and over the Curacao and Margarita, the strategic and defensive position of the German Empire would be as strong as that of the United States and stronger than that of England.

SHILLINGS AND SECONDS To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—On February 21 the British Parliament was asked to approve of an additional war credit of £20,000,000. This increases the British war expenditures to £1,782,000,000. It is almost impossible to realize how great a sum this is. In shillings it amounts to 35,840,000,000.

THE MAIN IDEA The main idea, it seems, in international law, is not to prove that you are right, but to show that the other fellow is dead wrong.—Washington Times.

THE WAR IN AMERICA We know a great deal about Copperheadism that the World does not. Why limit it to Copperheadism?—New York World.

NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW That is but a single phase in the coming changed commercial relations of new and great complexities. These new relations will thrust to the forefront the historic issue between protection and free trade.—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

THE FRIAR'S SONG Though I be now a gray, gray friar, And drowned his toll with my clanging horns; The only becked I loved to tell Were the beads of dew on the spangled thorn.

Lincoln's Favorite Poem Editor of "What Do You Know"—I heard a speaker refer to Lincoln's favorite poem. Can you tell me what it was? GRAND ABRAHAM.

Lincoln's Favorite Poem "O, Why Should the Spirit of Merial be Proud?" by William Knox, is commonly supposed to have been Lincoln's favorite poem. It is too long to be quoted here, but we give the first two stanzas:

English Sea Control Editor of "What Do You Know"—I have read in England news item of the sea control. It is true that a man cannot become President unless he was born in the United States. IMMIGRANT.

HAUNT OF BLUEBEARD AND BLACKBEARD

"Bluebeard's" old towers of the seventeenth century, built where the ocean view was good. Where it is good, one traveler adds. From these points of vantage the pirate captains took their bearings and watched for foe and prey.

"Bluebeard," it seems, was as picturesque a ruffian as ever graced a deck. Edward Teach his name was. His early hero was Sir Francis Drake, a pirate, too. Piracy was then quite the fashion, and praised and promoted by the best kings and queens. Good Queen Bess was their patron, if it happened to be Englishmen. Teach had scruples for a while about attacking English vessels, but when he finally overcame them and took to hauling down the English flag and hoisting the Jolly Roger in its place, why then he blossomed out into a thoroughgoing, piratical pirate. There's a lesson taught by his life. There ought to be. His name was Teach. Teach knew the value of appearance. That was worth a good deal. He grew a tremendous beard, which upon occasion he braided and tied with a ribbon. Sometimes he placed sticks of pitch pine over his ears and lighted the ends. His crew thought him Satan incarnate. Charleston and Philadelphia knew him well and had a similar opinion of him.

"Bluebeard" and "Blackbeard" are gone, but in recent years St. Thomas has been the fitting-out place of more than one filibustering expedition, such as enliven the political life of the West Indies even to this day. Mostly there is peace. Moss-grown fortresses and dismantled battlements testify of the time when cannon protected certain passages and channels of the sea through which it was necessary for traders to pass in the era before steam. But these ruins are appropriate to the general situation as it exists in the Danish West Indies. A heavy expense to Denmark are St. Thomas and the other islands; but the burden is growing and not decreasing. If Denmark is ready to sell, will Uncle Sam buy? The question was asked in 1867, when the United States Senate balked; and again in 1901, when the Danish Landeshing voted no. And now?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Opposite what part of the United States coast are the Bermuda Islands? 2. About how old was Washington when he commanded the Continental armies? 3. What is meant by the "Last Continent of Atlantis?"

Live Dogs and Dead Lions Editor of "What Do You Know"—In answer to the inquiry of "Preparedness" I would say that "a living dog is better than a dead lion" is found in the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes, ninth chapter, fourth verse. FLORENCE N. MULHOLLAND.

Comfort of Being Thought Mad Editor of "What Do You Know"—"R. H. R." asks for the origin of the phrase, "Being surrounded by the general comfort of being thought mad." That quotation as it stands is not familiar to me, but in Dryden's "Spanish Friar," act I, scene 1, may be found: "There is a pleasure sure in being mad, which none but madmen know." F. N. M.

THE CRADLE OF LIBERTY Editor of "What Do You Know"—Where did Washington say that the cradle of liberty was New England or Philadelphia? CINCINNATI.

THE BRAVEST BATTLE Editor of "What Do You Know"—I should like to find the poem beginning "The bravest battle that ever was fought 'Twas fought by the mothers of man." DAUGHTER.

Lincoln's Favorite Poem Editor of "What Do You Know"—I heard a speaker refer to Lincoln's favorite poem. Can you tell me what it was? GRAND ABRAHAM.

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What Do You Know?

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to which every well-informed person should know, are asked daily.

- 1. Opposite what part of the United States coast are the Bermuda Islands? 2. About how old was Washington when he commanded the Continental armies? 3. What is meant by the "Last Continent of Atlantis?" 4. Where is the Tehuantepec route and for what purpose was it opened? 5. How can an ordinary observer tell a planet from a star? 6. About what is the rise and fall of the tide at Chestnut street wharf? 7. Great Britain has already provided about ten billions for the war. How much actual cash money is there in the world, approximately? 8. What stories made Hardad famous? 9. Who is in command of the Italian army in the field? 10. About how does Rumania compare in size with Pennsylvania?

- Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. On the northern shore of Armenia, on the Black Sea, about 90 miles north of Erzerum. 2. John D. Rockefeller, Sr. 3. Former principal of the Fillet School, Germantown, recently transferred and later given a year's leave of absence. 4. Lincoln, Neb. William J. Bryan. 5. Ten billion dollars, including the proposed credit now before Parliament. 6. In the Balkans, with the Black Sea on the east and surrounded by Bulgaria, Serbia, Austria-Hungary and Russia. 7. Arctide Briand. 8. Three. 9. Philadelphia, New York, Washington. 10. Publisher of the Albany (N. Y.) Journal and one of the Republican leaders in his State.

Vocabularies Editor of "What Do You Know"—You stated the other day that high school children have an average vocabulary of more than 2900 words. I have always understood that some of our greatest writers did not use more than 4000 words. I believe you were in error. J. S. Z.

Authors' Earnings Editor of "What Do You Know"—I recollect that the editor of the Saturday Evening Post a year or so ago made an effort to be thought stated that a successful writer would earn about \$12,000 a year. Is that a fair estimate? INQUISITIVE.

Live Dogs and Dead Lions Editor of "What Do You Know"—In answer to the inquiry of "Preparedness" I would say that "a living dog is better than a dead lion" is found in the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes, ninth chapter, fourth verse. FLORENCE N. MULHOLLAND.

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