

Evening Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

CHARLES H. LINDEN, Vice-President; John C. Martin, Secretary and Treasurer; Philip S. Collins, John B. Williams, Directors.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

C. H. WHALEY, Chairman.

P. H. WHALEY, Editor.

JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager.

Published daily at Public Ledger Building.

NEW YORK OFFICE: 110 Broadway, New York City.

DETROIT OFFICE: 1200 Michigan Building, Detroit, Mich.

CHICAGO OFFICE: 1202 Tribune Building, Chicago, Ill.

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1100 New York Building, Washington, D. C.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE: 1100 Independence Square, Philadelphia.

By carrier, this paper is delivered by mail, postage paid at Philadelphia, Pa., under special rate of post office.

Subscription Terms: One year, \$10.00; six months, \$5.00; three months, \$2.50. All payments in advance.

Notice: Subscribers wishing address changed must give old as well as new address.

BELL, 3000 WALNUT KEYSTONE, MAIN 3000

Address all communications to Evening Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

ENTERED AT THE PHILADELPHIA POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR JANUARY WAS 99,214

PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1916

Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control—These three alone lead life to sovereign power.

—Tennyson.

Kitchin, Kitchinette, Kitchin-out!

Millions for improvements, but not one cent for graft!

If American rights are not respected on the high seas they will not be respected anywhere.

We assume that those Zeppelins which are going to cross the Atlantic for food will go to Canada to get it.

Memphis has broken the record with four Mayors in one day. There is more than one way of advertising a town.

This talk of brewers going to jail is all wrong. Brewers do not go to jail—their agents go to the Legislature.

Another reason why the feeble-minded should be segregated is that so many of them go into politics and are sent to Congress.

The city pays its employees to work, not to drink booze. The large corporations, private and public, are the greatest anti-liquor agents known.

Elihu Root is the strong iron man to represent America as its President in dictating upon what final lines world peace shall forever be maintained.—Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler.

Our admiration for Mr. Root is great enough to withstand the eulogies of his friends.

I summon all honest men, all patriotic, all forward-looking men, to my aid. God helping me, I will not fail them, if they will but counsel and sustain me.—Closing words of President Woodrow Wilson's inaugural address, March 4, 1913.

Respectfully referred to the Congress which he did not summon.

Students of Central High School had something of a shock yesterday when President Robert Ellis Thompson failed to greet them in the assembly room before hours began.

For the first time in 29 years Dr. Thompson was late and the graduates in those 29 years will be inclined to absolve him, without keeping him in after school. They will hope also, that the slight discomfort he has experienced indicates no break in the vigor and hardihood of his health.

The point of the "Philadelphia Today and Tomorrow" exposition, which is being supported by the city and by various public organizations, can be made in two ways. By blackening the present, the prospect may be made to seem brighter. That is not the better way, for by showing how far advanced the city is already, the Exposition will be all the better able to indicate where we shall be "in the future." As is proper for a good family Philadelphia washes much linen—privately. Before our fellow-cities we present a fair front, not false, but united.

Whatever else the "small navy" men may be neglecting they are reading the war news. One of their spokesmen, Representative Calhoun, of Texas (how could an eastern invasion hurt Texas, anyhow?), asked in committee whether it was merely a coincidence that an appropriation for aeroplanes was asked for immediately after the report of the fall of Erzerum. In that battle the Turks were blind mice because of their lack of aeroplanes, with no knowledge of their enemies' positions or points of attack. If it wasn't a coincidence it was shrewd planning, and the lesson is as vital in either case.

To profit by the misfortunes of rivals is one of the first rules of good business, nor is it necessarily unfair play. Baltimore will learn this if the business men of Philadelphia realize quickly enough the chance which opens before them in the discontinuance of six great water routes from the port of Baltimore.

These routes, operated by railroads, were banned by the Interstate Commerce Commission, acting under the authority of the "steamboat riders" to the Panama Canal act, and it seems likely that no immediate attempts will be made to sell the lines to independent operators. Meanwhile the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia will be cut off from water communication with Baltimore and the immense traffic from these points will be diverted to New York and Philadelphia. It is hardly likely that this condition will obtain for very long, but those who have watched the course of shipping know how important "getting the habit" can be. Simply because the habit is strong, a great deal of merchandise goes through New York which could just as well, or better, go through this port. In the same way the temporary diversion of traffic to this city might result in a net permanent gain.

ECONOMIC PROHIBITION

THE Mayor's order that no employee of the city shall drink intoxicants while on duty is an uncompromising as liquor itself. The issue which has been made by thousands of employers is now made by a municipality. It is between drink and the job.

First it must be understood that the order is no infringement of personal liberty. The right of an employer to the unimpaired services of the employee is primary and fundamental. In the complexity of modern industry the blear eye and the shaking hand have no place. They are the eyes that cannot see

signal lights and the hands which cannot control the switch. The railroads long ago refused to imperil the lives of their passengers at the hands of drunken engineers. The city cannot continue to waste its substance on half-workers, nor to jeopardize the safety of its citizens by entrusting them to servants and protectors who cannot work without drink.

The effect of Mayor Smith's order may be that city employees will stop drinking even when they are off duty. It may, if the example be followed frequently enough by commercial and industrial organizations, forestall prohibition. But it is certain to work, which cannot be said with assurance of any other than economic prohibition.

"GOD SAVE THE STATE"

There can be no peace with dishonor. Attacks in Congress on American policy strengthen our adversary's hands and invite aggression. We must stand fast for our rights and vindicate our principles.

MORE than once the incredible stupidity of the Democracy has brought the nation to the brink of disaster.

At least once the national integrity has been preserved only through the sacrifice of a leader greater than his party, who swept partisanship aside in the great crisis, repudiated the rank and file and steered straight.

But never in its long history of blunders has Democratic statesmanship so vindicated its reputation for erring as in the lamentable exhibition of itself which it has made in the last few days at Washington.

There are solemn duties which an organized Government cannot escape. The most sacred of them is the protection of its citizens in their rights and privileges. If in the exercise of such protection it becomes necessary to invoke force, to have recourse finally to the sword, be the reluctance what it may, there is nothing for a self-respecting nation to do but to assume its responsibility. Nature abhors a quitter.

But it is not war toward which the President has been leading. He, on the contrary, in seeking to vindicate our national rights, has had his eyes fixed securely on peace, confident that finally it could be kept with honor. Yet, in the most crucial hour of negotiations, at the very moment when it was imperative that this nation should present a united front, unyielding and unafraid, there came forward a group of men crying for a compromise, struggling to give our acquiescence to contemplated murder on the high seas, and seeking by legislation to strengthen the hands of our diplomatic adversary and sanction aforesaid his promised aggressions.

We say to these gentlemen that it is the mercy of God if they have not already brought us to the brink of war. They have fulfilled the prophecy of Berlin that the President did not have the nation behind him; that the politicians, vote-hungry, would checkmate our national foreign policy. They have fulfilled it, that is, as best they could, but not yet have they succeeded in their plans. If by any chance they should, if this nation, broken and humiliated, should retire from the lofty position it has assumed, the one aggression would lead to another, and yet to another, until that war which these gentlemen so earnestly seek to avoid would be thundering in their ears. If they shake at the whisper of it, what would they do under the shadow of its reality?

The President is standing firm. He has been greater than his party ever since he undertook to lead it. The difference between them now is immeasurable. For him there can be no turning back. If his party will not follow let it stand still. There is enough patriotism in the White House, backed by some Democrats and many Republicans in the Capitol, to assure a continuity of policy which will countenance no humiliation of this nation and no impairment of its prestige and responsibilities.

It is no time to discuss the correctness of the national view. A year ago our policy was stated, definitely and without equivocation. It has since been adhered to in principle. No concession on a vital point has been made. We stand, as we have stood for generations, for the law as it exists, for the safety of non-combatants on the high seas, against piratical malpractice on the oceans. To recede from that attitude, long acquiesced in and established, is no unthinkable a thing that, did it occur, ourselves, our children and our children's children would blush in memory of it.

The hysteria which has seized the Democratic Congress will, we believe, pass. It cannot persist. In the meantime let all good citizens remain steadfast in support of the President, in whose hands the national honor has been placed. Above all, let them remember that there is no war in the President's program. It is his opponents who march straight to Mars. At the most, all the President contemplates is a severance of diplomatic relations. He does not even contemplate that, for unless this Government "quits" it is reasonably certain that the Central Powers will recede from their position and launch no thunderbolts against American citizens. Peace is what the President aims for. There can be peace with honor; there can never be peace with dishonor.

We have no quarrel with the pacifists. Their motives, we doubt not, are good. But their method of achieving the result at which they aim is, we are convinced, utterly and damnably bad. They know what they want, but they do not know how to get it. They are playing with dynamite as if it were a Fourth-of-July spitter. The point has been reached when they must be curbed at Washington, lest they bring about the very thing they seek to avoid.

We are the sole great force for peace and charity and civilization left in the world. Our fearlessness must be beyond suspicion if we are not to be dragged into the whirlpool of blood and laughter.

Tom Daly's Column

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES, the famous naturalist, is hard at work upon a group of paintings of North American mammals for the National Geographic Magazine. Some of his friends have been trying to help him. One recently sent to him a bunch of illustrated wall-cards, which seem to have been used for kindergarten work many, many years ago. They bear no date, but they seem to be of the period of 1840 or thereabouts. The pictures are not half bad, all things considered, but the letter-press is particularly choice in spots. Thus:

YELLOW-BREASTED MARTIN

In a pretty little nest in the hollow of an old tree, and has six young ones at a time. (Notice the identical gender.) Hunters catch them in great quantities in Canada, and sell their skins which has a beautiful fur on it.

THE RHINOCEROS

Is next to the elephant, very strong. (Note by L. A. F. query—and if next to Memphis Memphis?) He takes his food into his mouth with his upper lip. He can drink 15 pails of water, and eat 25 pounds of grass, 25 pounds of blue-cit, and a great parcel of greens every day.

Statistics do not usually excite us, but these given above will surely interest any reader who contemplates employing a rhinoceros—with board.

Child's Winter Garden of Verses

III.

(Bowling to R. L. S. and noting belatedly that he took his more than for the same thought.)

When my mamma says, "Sleepy-head, I guess it's time to go to bed; Now hurry, put away your toys; Just then the Chinese girls and boys Are roused by their mamma, who say, 'Wake up, my dears, another day!'"

—Will Lou.

Apologia Pro Vita Sua?

THE following passages are taken from President Wilson's "History of the American People," written when he was President of Princeton University. It is possible that unconsciously, at that early date, he was dreaming of becoming President and describing his future line of action? He is writing of one of our Presidents. Like himself, this President was much abused, but mature, though still young, he was completely. The passages follow: "He had the instinct of the student in the midst of affairs and had made himself the master of ideas and of languages as an instrument of mastery. He had devised for himself a straight thrust of speech and a use of words that acted always like the application of light."

Again—"He took pains to get to the heart of where others about him but half understood; he used his wit for argument and observation as another might have used them for play, and made the use of words, the exact speech which fit his meaning always at the centre, his method of analysis."

Lastly—"He sought to combine conciliation with clear purpose; but while those about him swung from this measure to that and were weak in their excitement, he was only patient and watchful, waiting for opinion and the right day of action."

This man whom he describes was Abraham Lincoln, numbered among our greatest Presidents. What is the point? Is he some of our own critics but half understand the things which he has painfully thought out? They are the ones who are "weak in their excitement."

J. R. Maury.

What Are the First Signs of Spring?

The ashman whistling merrily as he drives up and down the street with a jingling in his buttonhole, looking for work and not finding any.

The man of all work painfully taking down the storm doors of Brennan's drug store, on the corner.

The old crab in the office across the area from ours throwing up a window to make a face at Nature.

Blackstone.

LINES FORMING A RONDEAU

A cough? Drop soft between your lips A dark brown lozenge ere it slips Into a dreadful cold, and mark The quick relief, as when an arc-Light clears the path for errant ships.

What is the cough which racks and tips Against the cold which racks and tips Your chest, seek refuge in this Ark: A cough drop.

A cough drop.

Fear not my poem, which often strips Romance from tussis, and my quips Which leave medicaments all stark Of poetry. In Life's dread dark List closely. You can hear 'tween sips.

A cough drop.

Old Ecstasian word for "cough." —Gus.

A WHIFF FROM THE KITCHENS

Cabbage is composed of two-thirds of cellulose and one-third of all other substances.—Saturday Evening Post.

"Sir—Personally, I have long suspected this," writes Ambrosius, and believe that further investigation will prove that when cabbage is boiled the cellulose evaporates. At any rate, the portion that remains "smells like everything."

A cough drop.

Early to bed and

Early to rise

Made three-fingered Brown

A pitching prize.

By this good rule

To fame he slid,

In two-score years.—

Like Kelly did. H. D. K.

When Abstractions Make Us Tee-Hee

I.

Asserting her husband, Prince Nicholas Engelstreich, was warmer toward Mrs. Jane Hathaway, of Cleveland, than he was toward her, Princess Evelyn Partridge Engelstreich (formerly wife of Samuel Clay, whom she divorced), has won her divorce suit and is today enjoying her freedom.—News Notes.

FIRST of the year we resolved to refrain from knocking the intelligent, more or less, composer. Nevertheless, one had the impudence to attempt to sneak this in during our absence the other day:

Ode to T. D.

(And hereby tendered in payment.)

Whenever the printer takes a day

He must put on a "sweat suit."

And off the worried foreman thinks

The latter is a "dub."

When You go on a merry lark,

Or lack material funny,

You send the Punch Bowlers to bat—

And commander the money.

The Pennsylvania horse made good;

Some more they'll bring their lunch

And how Tom Daly off his job

Because they have the punch.

INTELLIGENT (?) COMPOSITOR.

The Mixed Metaphor

"Sir: May I enter this? It's from some contemporary: 'This was the only "sacred drop" in his cup of happiness.'"

G.

"Sir—I had a fine mixed metaphor in my high school vocabulary, and that was some lusty one ago. It went like this: 'But, come comrades, we enter upon life's sea, our hand is on the tiller; beyond the Alps lies Italy.'"

Prexy.

Once we thought we knew the greatest indoor sport—but since we joined the newspaper business in Philly, we find we're mistaken. It's saying unkind things about New York—which reminds us of the West End girl who saw a cunning pearl-handled revolver and said the owner if he shot him with it and he found it out, he'd everlastingly speak him.

Which reminds us again, though we don't know why it should of the lady from New York who married a Philadelphia, raised a large brood of children and is many times a grandmother of Philadelphia, and who described her 43 years here as "some of the most pleasant visits she ever made."

A prayer he told in New York recently for \$125. Now it's the world would any New Yorker do with a \$1250 price tag on a new dress?

Easy, friend—To pray that he may never live elsewhere than in New York—not to be too definite.

H. H. H.

"I WUZ JEST SAVIN' THE COUNTRY!"



SPEAKING THE PUBLIC MIND

Cowardice of Congress in the Face of a Possible Break With Germany—Other Views of Readers

To the Editor of Evening Ledger:

Sir—Every red-blooded American must support the President in the present crisis. The issues involved in it are not new. They have been before the country since February 12 of last year, when the State Department's protest against the German submarine policy was published.

The President said then, through his Secretary of State:

If the commanders of German vessels of war should act upon the presumption that the flag of the United States was not being used in good faith and should destroy on the high seas an American vessel or the lives of American citizens, it would be difficult for the Government of the United States to view the act in any other light than as an indefensible violation of neutral rights, which it would be very hard, indeed, to reconcile with the friendly relations now so happily subsisting between the two Governments.

There is no mistaking the meaning of these words. Congress was in session at the time and it was under the control of the same leaders who are now directing its policy. The whole nation indorsed the direct and straightforward statement of the position of the Government.

Germany insisted on its right to attack neutral shipping, and on March 28, she torpedoed the *Paluba* with American citizens on board.

On May 7 she sank the *Lusitania* after giving notice of her intention through advertisements in the newspapers, given out from her Embassy in Washington. More than 100 Americans lost their lives in this most outrageous violation of the rights of non-combatants in the history of civilized warfare. The position of this Government, set forth in the note published on February 12, was restated in a note of May 13, in which it was further said:

Expressions of regret and offers of reparation in case of the destruction of neutral ships sunk by mistake, while they may satisfy international obligations, if no loss of life results, cannot justify or excuse a practice that is so manifestly and so grossly in violation of the rights of neutral nations and neutral persons to new and immeasurable risks. The Imperial German Government will not expect the Government of the United States to omit any word or act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens and of safeguarding their free exercise and enjoyment.

Nearly 10 months have passed since this warning. The time has been consumed in the exchange of notes with Germany and in conversations between the German Ambassador and the Secretary of State in Washington and similar conversations between the American Ambassador and the German Foreign Office in Berlin. The President has been subjected to severe criticism for what has been described as a weak and vacillating policy. He has been trying to settle the question without war. He has thus far succeeded in preventing war, though no one but himself and those in his confidence know how near the verge the nation has been. The gravity of the situation was so great that he left Washington in January to tell the country of the imperative necessity of immediate preparation for national defense.

If Congress has been ignorant of what has been going on and has been unaware of the grave issues at stake, it is the only body which has failed to understand the situation.

Germany's announcement that she was to resume her submarine warfare upon merchant ships on March 1 has served merely to throw the negotiations back to where they were on February 12, 1915, when we made our first protest.

Many persons believe that if we had given Ambassador Bernstorff his passports when he warned Americans against sailing on the *Lusitania* and had accompanied them with a vigorous denunciation of the barbarity of making up passenger steamers loaded with non-combatants the *Lusitania* would have been afloat today and its passengers would have been still alive. But when there is a possibility that the firmness of the President may result in a diplomatic break with Germany at this late date Congress is afraid.

The logic of events demands that Germany respect the wishes of the United States if she desires to continue on friendly terms with us. But when it begins to look as if we should have to abide by the consequences of our determination to demand respect for the old international agreements regarding the conduct of war on the sea, or back down, the brave men in Congress are demanding that we back down.

Fortunately for the honor and self-respect of the country, the President's obstinacy is serving him in good stead. He has refused to see the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives again and he has let Congress understand

that the conduct of our foreign affairs in time of peace is in his hands. It is not necessary to remind him that he cannot declare war. He knows that as well as the oldest Congressman. His desire for peace is as strong as that of the most unreasoning pacifist.

But war is not the unavoidable outcome of the determination of the President to preserve the honor and self-respect of America. The way to peace shines more clearly through a policy of firmness than through truckling cowardice. If Germany can bluff the United States into admitting her right to make war upon merchant shipping by sinking vessels at sight, she will do it. Are we such cowards as to fear the consequences at the call for a show-down?

AMERICAN.

Philadelphia, February 24.

ROOSEVELT AND "ROT"

To the Editor of Evening Ledger:

Sir—As a subscriber to your paper in a distant city, I request some enlightenment on your editorial entitled "Rot," in your issue of February 15, 1916. If the eminent men you have quoted are capable only of thoughts to be thus designated, why don't you give to a hungry world some words of wisdom that will be accepted as an antithesis of "Rot"?

With special reference to Mr. Roosevelt's statement concerning our duty in respect to Belgium, if such sentiment is "Rot," God save the country. It is the first time the writer has ever observed any editor claiming it is "rot" for this country to recognize its treaty obligations.

Do you consider it an act of neutrality for a nation or an individual to remain silent, when a promise or treaty is broken that they were a subscriber to? Or regardless of treaty, would it not have been proper for this nation to protest against the wrong inflicted on innocent Belgium?

Perhaps after Mr. Root's speech you won't consider Mr. Roosevelt's contention quite so "rot" (ten). You could well substitute the name of Mr. Roosevelt for that of Mr. Root, as the author of the latter's so-called "Keynote" speech.

Also for the benefit of a distant reader, advise whether you consider it "rot" for Mr. Wilson to advocate preparedness along the lines long previously advocated by Mr. Roosevelt, as well as the President's recent advocacy of the tariff commission, long contended for by Mr. Roosevelt.

Also please advise how you classify the phrase "Rot proud to fight," "Watchful waiting" and "Futile passivity."

Regarding Mr. Roosevelt's "Rot" concerning the Administration's attitude respecting the outrage on Belgium, Mr. Roosevelt's stand has been indorsed by 2,000,000 Americans, interested as they are coming to realize that he is practically the only man they can elect, as the masses believe in him and have confidence that all nations will respect his respect, because they well know he says what he means and means what he says. It is going to hurt some of our standstill G. O. P. friends to accept him, but they will be compelled to do so for the sake of the party, in which case I have no doubt, your editorial columns will join in the chorus in singing his praises.

W. B. S.

Oak Park, Ill., February 18.

[What was characterized as "Rot" was not Mr. Roosevelt's declaration of this country's moral obligation, but his assertion that this country was bound by the terms of the Hague conventions to intervene. Mr. Root was Secretary of State when the specific convention was framed and both he and Mr. Roosevelt must know that Article 20 of the same instrument provides that:

The provisions of the present convention do not apply except to belligerent contracting parties, and then only if all the belligerents are parties to the convention.

Serbia and Great Britain never ratified the convention. Furthermore, it is familiar knowledge that in ratifying the Hague convention the United States reserved to itself the right of refusing to intervene or to entangle itself in foreign relations. That is why Mr. Roosevelt's claim is specious. The *Evening Ledger's* attitude on the other questions asked by W. B. S. has been frequently stated and must be known to him.—Editor of EVENING LEDGER.]

ONE-TENTH TO INSURANCE

To the Editor of Evening Ledger:

Sir—The reply given to "Anxious" in the "What Do You Know" column is entirely correct, although one seldom finds \$1200 men spending one-tenth for life insurance.

THOMAS N. WALKER.

Philadelphia, October 23.

NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW

On the whole, India has done so well by Britain that when the war is over she may demand with assurance that larger measure of respect and honor which is the dream of intelligent and educated Indians of all creeds and tongues.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

If the parents of children that are permitted to play in the streets were to be told that they are morally responsible for as many accidents as the reckless motorist driver they probably would make an indignant denial. But this is the indictment.—Indianapolis News.

One thing else the discussions in the committee of Congress, so far as they have been permitted to become public, do not appear to have considered. That is the practical restriction of the National Guard, as now constituted, to urban population.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

But if, when made, the ticket and platform are truly representative of majority party sentiment regularly expressed, the support in November of every man who calls himself a Republican will be properly expected. Another bolt will mean another Democratic victory.—Washington Star.

The spectacle of hard-headed bankers and practical farmers peering side by side into the secrets of scientific agriculture ought to inspire other professions. The bankers may indirectly help themselves by aiding the farmers, but the general benefits of greater yields and attendant farm comforts are essentially a great help to the whole community.—Milwaukee Journal.

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.

QUIZ

1. About how long has the lino type been in practical use?

2. What United States Senator is blind?

3. Who is further north, Denver or Cincinnati?

4. Who is in command of the Italian fleet?

5. Do our Ambassadors to foreign countries represent the United States or