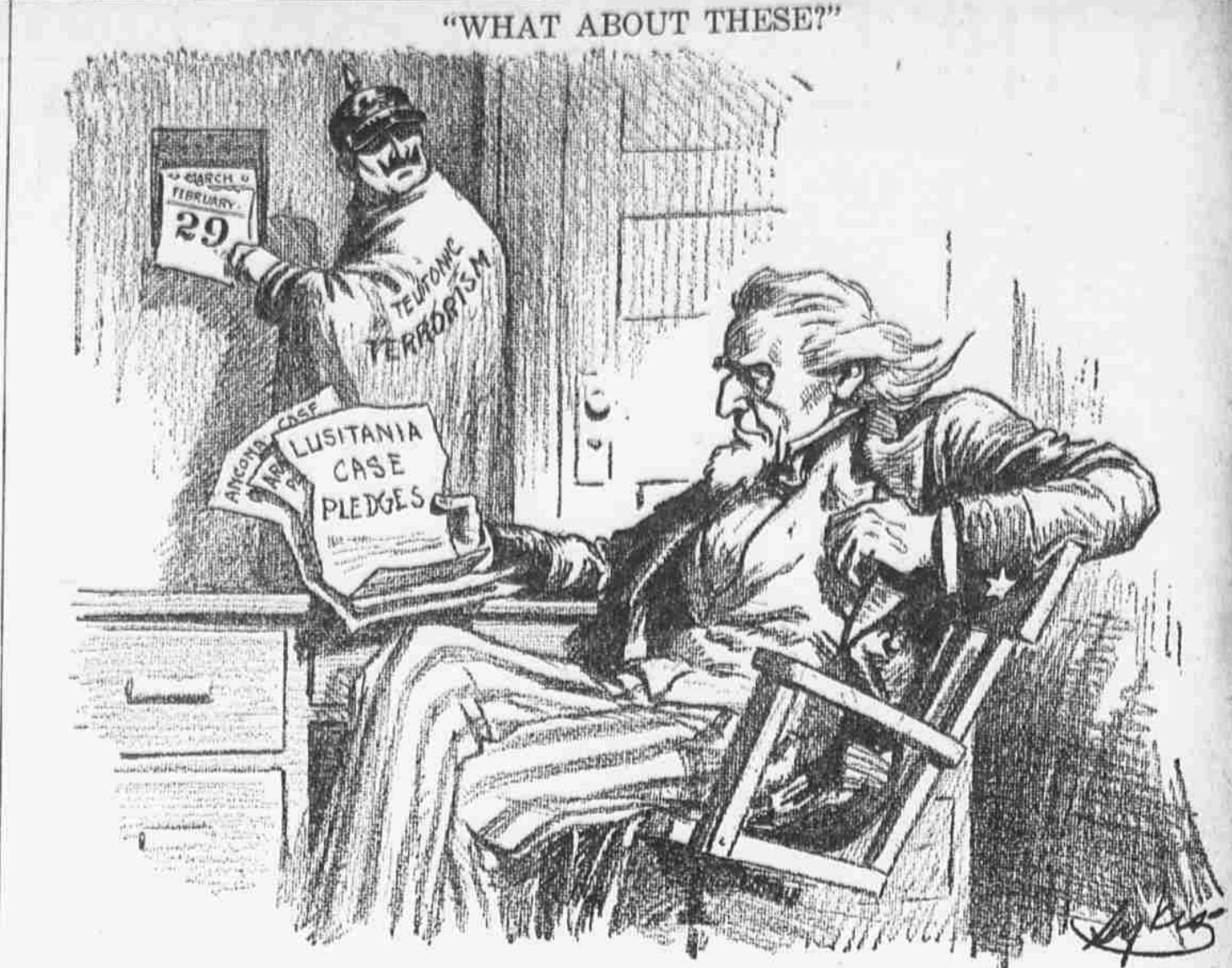


Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY CURTIS H. K. CURTIS, President. Charles H. Luffington, Vice President. John G. Martin, Secretary and Treasurer. Philip S. Collins, John B. Williams, Directors.

United States Government telling us that we are to be attacked. When the enemy does arrive he will arrive like "a thief in the night."

Tom Daly's Column PROFESSIONAL. February! Chilly, chary Of the vistas visionary Through savannas blue and airy,



AT MIDNIGHT tonight Germany is to re-fleet of undersea boats. She has announced her intention of regarding armed merchant ships as warships for the reason that no merchant ship in the Atlantic is armed for any other purpose than to attack submarines.

THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR JANUARY WAS 99,214 PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1916

Let Kings go mad and blunder as they may, The people in the end are sure to pay.

It is about time that Mr. Bryan understood he was not elected to run the country.

Looks as though the President had a scheme on foot to take the wind out of the Roosevelt balloon.

The New Haven road has ordered 50 new locomotives. It ought to get a few engineers who can tell a signal when they see one.

Maybe if Germany starts destroying all merchantmen the Government won't have to warn many Americans against traveling on them.

That California distillery which has been converted into a moving picture studio will probably produce no more reels than formerly.

Governor Whitman advocates compulsory military training, but he does not think it will be necessary to use the draft to get a presidential candidate from New York.

An eminent scientist has announced that the body of the average working man contains enough phosphorus to make 80,000 matches. Maybe that accounts for the ease with which they strike.

Will that member of the Irish Fellowship Club, of Chicago, who has volunteered to be the official taster at a St. Patrick's Day banquet receive a Carnegie medal for heroism—if he survives?

Germany maintains that there are no pirates in the North Atlantic and that merchant ships engaged in a legitimate trade have nothing to fear. She asserts that the provisions of international law do not cover the conditions that now prevail.

Ambassador Bernstorff insists that there is not and cannot be any such thing as an armed merchant ship. He further maintains that the promises which Germany made some time ago to refrain from attacking merchant ships have been nullified by secret orders issued by the British Government to the merchant captains to sink submarines on sight, either by ramming them or by firing upon them.

In this crisis it became necessary for the United States to decide what course it would follow. The duty of deciding rests upon the President.

He could consent to a modification of the long-standing rule of international law which permits merchant ships to carry guns for defense and make no protest against the course of Germany.

The effect of such a decision would be to give aid and comfort to the Teutonic Allies. It would be a definite act of sympathy, because it would involve our consent to a modification of the accepted rules of maritime practice in favor of one belligerent and against another while war was in progress.

On the other hand, the President could protest against any change in international law and insist on the right of merchant ships to mount guns now as they have mounted them in the past.

The effect of such a decision would be to favor the Entente Allies. But such a favor would be only that which lay in the conditions that existed before the war began. It would be the consequence of the strictest neutrality, just as our sale of munitions of war to the Entente Allies and not to the Central Empires has involved no violation of neutrality.

The President has decided to take the neutral course. He has insisted on the right of merchant ships to arm themselves for defense. He has gone further than that, for he has announced that he will hold Germany responsible for the loss of American lives on merchant ships sunk by German submarines without notice and without giving the persons on board an opportunity to escape.

The difficulty of reaching this wise and just decision has been increased because there are hundreds of thousands of American citizens who sympathize with Germany and wish to see her win the war.

The responsibility of the decision rested on the President and not upon Congress, just as the responsibility of deciding whether to recognize the revolutionary Republic of Cuba rested on President Cleveland in 1896. Congress proposed to take the initiative then, but Secretary Olney remarked that a congressional resolution would not have the force of law and would merely express the opinion of "the eminent gentlemen who voted for it."

The famous case of "Cook vs. Peary" is a much mooted matter if the Congressional Record is to be believed, since Congressman Henry T. Helgeson, of North Dakota, in an "Extension of Remarks" takes up sixty-nine pages of that publication at the expense of the taxpayers of the country in an effort to show that Peary did not discover the Pole. Incidentally he puts Peary's North Pole story up to Congressman J. Hampton Moore. We understand that the Philadelphia Record, a newspaper man, banker, author, politician and orator, but did not know that he has become a scientist. Possibly "Doc" Cook or Peary could explain.

SKATING IN THE PARKS. Van Cortlandt Park—No skating yesterday. Franklin Park—No skating yesterday. Prospect Park—No skating yesterday.

RAINING IN PHILADELPHIA. West Philadelphia—No rain. South Philadelphia—No rain. North Philadelphia—No rain. Kensington and all points east—No rain.

George Washington BEING NOT ONLY A RHYMED STORY OF HIS LIFE, BUT ALSO ALMOST A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THESE U. S.

OUR COOKERY DEPT. ASKED AND ANSWERED. Sir: What is the size of a walnut? A. NUTHER NUT.

Dr. Hamilton Back in Philadelphia DR. ALEXANDER HAMILTON, having swung round the Colonies, is on his way back to Annapolis.

REWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE. We are enjoying the reward bestowed by the public upon a faithful servant.

Zassa? Rabbit Welsh? Rum Hounds? Speaking of similes, our fellow countryman, Tom Daly, has been conducting a best-simile competition.

A NATURAL EMBARGO THE embargo on freight destined for this city, or through this city for other points at home or abroad, is not an arbitrary or surprising thing.

MAXIMS-SEE YOUR BEST. Advice to the Social Climber. Assuming the Double Crease. Needs Any Claim Intimacy, deprecatingly. With this renowned Pasha. That Visier great.

NIPPING FIRES IN THE BUD To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—Some one has questioned me as to the city's fire alarm boxes in saloons, poolrooms, cigar stores, etc.

SPEAKING THE PUBLIC MIND Sunday Concerts, Temperance Reform, Fire Protection and Other Topics of General Interest Discussed by Readers

WANTED: A LINCOLN To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—In these times of strife and turmoil there is a great need of a man of high caliber.

ISLAND OF ST. THOMAS The question of the purchase by the United States of the Danish West Indies, of which the island of St. Thomas is perhaps the most important, has been revived.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—The human race is reaping the fruits of its own folly. Man was created to be a reasoning being, but from the time a boy or girl arrives at the age of maturity they are advised or taught not to think for themselves.

NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW Safety! The "safety first" propaganda is making such progress in this country that in time Americans may no longer be noted for heedlessness in the matter of personal security.

CHANNING'S SYMPHONY Editor of "What Do You Know"—My pastor referred to Channing's Symphony in his sermon on Sunday. If it is not too long, can you print it for me?

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. What is the route of an "all-rail" shipment from Havana to Philadelphia? 2. Who wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin"? 3. What is the southernmost possession of the United States?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUIZ 1. Verdun was taken by the Germans in 1916 and recaptured by a citizen French army after the Battle of Verdun.

BLIZZARD SNOW FALLS Editor of "What Do You Know"—Will you kindly state what was the official fall of snow in the blizzard of 1885, also that of 1897?

AREA OF CITIES Editor of "What Do You Know"—Is Chicago the second largest city in the country, as well as in population? When I said it was I was disputed.

THE LARGEST FLOWER Editor of "What Do You Know"—Does not the sunflower produce the largest bloom known among plants?

CHANNING'S SYMPHONY Editor of "What Do You Know"—My pastor referred to Channing's Symphony in his sermon on Sunday. If it is not too long, can you print it for me?

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