

Evening Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
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Published daily at 12th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia.
Subscription Terms:
By carrier, six cents per week. By mail, postage paid at Philadelphia, Pa., and at additional mailing offices.

God sendeth and giveth both mouth and meat.—Thomas Tusser.

Beware the Tax Bogey!

Transit obstructionists are trying to convince the public that the Taylor plan means higher taxes. Had the city built its own traction lines the beginning of a handsome revenue and no debt would have resulted.

DIRECTOR WEBSTER has announced the leasing of municipal pier number 16 to the Pennsylvania Railroad at a yearly rental of \$20,000.

The city does not own an inch of wharf or bulkhead that is not producing revenue. Director Webster is, in fact, refusing long-term leases, on the ground that even better terms for the city are virtually certain.

As each port improvement yields a revenue and becomes self-supporting, the cost is deducted from the city debt and is no longer charged against borrowing capacity.

The point is this: We have in the municipal pier system an example of the sort of public utility which supports itself, for the construction of which the city's credit is merely borrowed, a utility which is obtained without any burden whatever upon the taxpayers.

New Orleans, for instance, has one of the best pier systems in the nation, built under the direction of a Port Commission. The system has not cost New Orleans one dollar, we have informed. It has been self-sustaining from the beginning.

The municipal gas works here, badly managed though they were preceding the lease to the U. G. I., did not, in fact, cost the taxpayers of Philadelphia one nickel, and today the city, in addition to some free lighting, is receiving one-fifth all the money paid for gas by citizens.

There is a revenue of almost two millions annually which comes to the city treasury merely because the city in the distant past lent its credit to secure a municipal gas supply.

The construction of the Taylor system of rapid transit does not, as the obstructionists argue, contemplate the imposition on taxpayers of a vast debt.

The Taylor plan, on the contrary, proposes, by the use of the city's credit, to return to the people themselves a part of the enormous value of traction franchises. Heretofore such franchises have been grabbed by private capital and have been utilized for the enrichment of individuals.

A list of 200,000 names is a marketable commodity. Bring 200,000 people together, as it is on a prairie site, and instantly new values are created. Land mounts in cost. The grant of the right to furnish these 200,000 people with light becomes a franchise of great worth. The privilege of furnishing them with their daily transportation becomes a most valuable franchise.

The accumulation of franchises under which the P. R. T. operates in this city represents a right to serve, say, a population of half the present population of the city. The growth in the number of inhabitants has, in effect, created new franchises, for the existing system is overtaxed and the right to serve the surplus becomes a new right, valuable now and of extreme potential value.

The Taylor system proposes that, instead of turning these new franchises over to a private corporation to make what it can out of them, the city shall lend its credit for construction purposes, lease the system, as it does its piers, under reasonable conditions, and receive itself some part of the profits resulting, both in cash and in the form of superior service to the public.

The Taylor plan is based on a most careful census of riders. The amount of travel in every section of the city was determined, at the hours of the day, and the minimum amount for each of the proposed lines was conservatively determined. That would pay from the beginning to the lines that will not dividend producers, in order that the system might be obtained.

persuaded the Legislature and people of the State to permit a less burdensome method of amortization, and he provided that interest during the period of construction and one year thereafter should be capitalized, thus assuring no tax whatever on citizens until the new system had been given an opportunity to prove its earning capacity.

He persuaded the State, moreover, to subsidize this public utility to the extent of almost \$1,000,000 annually in the form of a personal property tax, formerly paid to the State.

He provided, in the tentative agreement entered into with the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, for the remission of the hundreds of thousands of dollars now being paid by citizens in the form of exchange tickets.

In these two items alone he provided for about half of all the charges that could possibly fall on taxpayers as a result of the new transit system, even if the system did not earn one penny, but remained idle and unproductive.

This takes no account of the enhancement in real estate values which have inevitably followed better transit facilities, both here and elsewhere; an enhancement likely to be so great that the revenue to the city therefrom would in all probability be sufficient not only to meet any possible expense resulting from transit improvements, but actually also to yield a large surplus in addition.

This is not a dream. It is a conclusion found to be true in the experience of this and other cities. The Taylor system may be likened to a great factory, complete in all of its details, turning out a completed product and earning a profit thereon.

The stunted Twining plan may be likened to a half-built factory, which but half completes its product, wherefore it can be operated only at a dead loss.

THE Finance Committee can decide in favor of saddling this town with a great debt by sanctioning make-believe rapid transit in the form of the Twining plan.

It can, on the other hand, provide the community with a great public utility and necessity and make this in fact an imperial city, without the addition of one single dollar to the permanent debt of the municipality, by standing straight-forwardly for the Taylor plan, despite any ulterior influences which may be brought to bear.

Let no taxpayer be deluded into thinking that the Taylor plan will penalize him. That is the one line of attack on which the obstructionists have massed their adjectives. It is a trap in which only the unwary will be caught.

Was William Barnes lurching alone? A war correspondent speaks of the "unquenchable emptiness" of vast battlefields. A good word, but what does it mean? Shells?

President Wilson's advice not to believe all the reports from the border is unnecessary—it would be impossible to reconcile all of them.

Senator Martine is not to get the Democratic nomination without a fight, and he will not have Woodrow Wilson to help him this time.

An unkind critic of our military methods suggests that, in speaking of General Pershing's punitive expedition, the accent be placed on the "puny."

When Insurance Commissioner Johnson was asked to insure the election of Brumbaugh delegates he decided that was not part of his job and got out.

Twenty young Germantown society women are learning how to cook as part of their campaign for preparedness. It is not necessary to ask for what they are preparing.

Next week will be schoolmen's week at the University, when the teachers of the Commonwealth will come to Philadelphia to learn how well we do things here. Perhaps they can teach us something also.

The President expects to be too busy this summer to spend much time in the Long Branch mansion that he rented. His lease on the Executive Mansion will run out in less than a year, and he is wondering whether his landlord will consent to renew it.

Tom Daly's Column

LOVELY MARY FINNERTY
Sure, I used to wonder why,
In this parish of the Trinity,
So few flowers ever lay
To rise up and greet the eye,
Mary Finnerty.

Sure, I used to wonder why,
In this parish of the Trinity,
Never a sunbird gives a cry
To delight the passerby,
Mary Finnerty.

Sure, I used to wonder why,
In this parish of the Trinity,
Such a dull blue spreads on high
In the region of the sky,
Mary Finnerty.

MR. ADAM SCHAEFFER, of Fleetwood, Pa., sold a horse two years ago—and there's \$50 of the price still unpaid. Recently Mr. Schaeffer wrote and reminded the delinquent. Here's the reply:

Musical Triplets
This Leo Stokowski
'S a musical contour. Why? Well,
Some say he's a bluffski.

The Anagram Contest
SUCH as they are, here are the best we have to offer this morning:
SAY, DR. STICK PAT.

IDEAL TOWN MINGLE WAR.
And the answer to Hugh Merr's in Saturday's issue:
A soft answer turneth away wrath.

A SHARP-EYED contrib., who has been following the Baller Russe, noticed this imprint in fine type on the posters and other advertising paper of that aggregation of wonderful Russian artists:
Berlin Photo-Engraving Co.

TO BE SOLD AT PRIVATE SALE
THAT ELEGANT THREE-STORY
Brick House

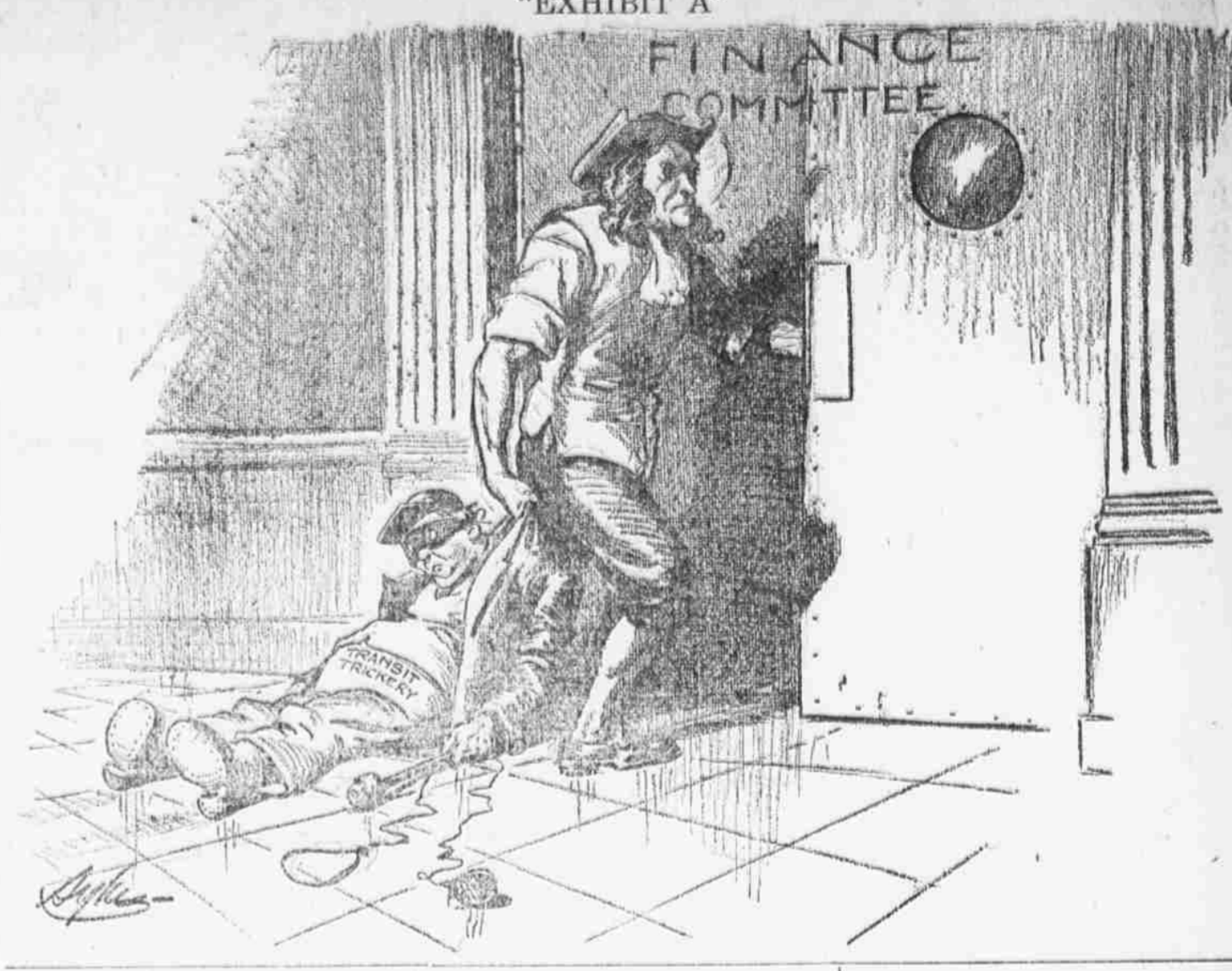
The only interest in this ad from The Gazette of the United States and Daily Advertiser of June 24, 1891, is that it has to do with what is now "Home, S. Home," to us.

A "READER of the column" writes to us: "Can you use this? It's original; and he hands us the more or less famous 'vaive-handle wheeze.' We've been watching for it. No column can be said to be quite established until that thing has arrived. So we thank this 'reader of the column' for putting us on the map.

The Little Rubaiyat
I sent my laundry through the invisible,
With foolish hopes that all would turn out well;
But, by and by, my shirts returned to me,
Glazed, buttonless and saw-edged, like a shell.

DYSPEPSIA is a terrible thing. Every so often one of our contribs gets it. Then he takes his chance for you to start a "movement." Your sporting writers are "staging" everything—boat races, ball games, prize fights—for the love of Mike, get 'em to use some other word!

Following Copy
We cannot turn from the subject of typographical bowlers without reminding the reader of a story from Chicago. In the old days of setting type by hand a newspaper compositor was standing by his case near a window some floors above the street. It was windy, as usual, and a sudden gust took possession of his copy, the printer man following in pursuit. He was picked up on the pavement below and carried to the hospital. The newspaper next morning paid the highest



AN EXCURSION IN A REALM OF HOWLERS

A Miscellany of the Ludicrously Erroneous, Typographical, Literary and Legal—The Unconsciousness of Humor

THE other day we were talking about typographical errors and hadn't half finished with that subject when we had to quit. We didn't mention the fact that Ada Crehan became Ada Relhan through a misprint on a program, and we never said a word about the "U. S. S. Grant." Hiram Simpson Grant went to West Point, and one of the things they did there was to put his name in type as "U. S. Grant." He left it that way, it seems, though part of the world still suspects that he was named originally for the United States.

Legal Lore
Howlers are of infinite variety, as we have pointed out from time to time—with illustrations. Typographical, schoolboy, literary, sartorial, legal, legislative, et cetera. Our neighbor, the Statepost, talks true talk as follows: "Our modest ancestors confessed their inability to find the merits of the cause, and so relegated the whole affair to the intervention of supernatural agencies. The main difference is that we are less modest. Instead of the ordeal of battle or the old key-and-bible test or the 'develitch,' we have the defendant play a game of tripe-the-court. If he can catch the judge putting an idiot over a six wire, and is pronounced innocent." A Judge finds that an indictment for "larceny" is bad—no such crime is known to the laws of his State, and another finds that an indictment for the murder of Ah Fong is likewise invalid because it contains no allegation that Ah Fong is a human being. The Supreme Court of Missouri declares that "instants" will not do for "then and there," and the Supreme Court of California finds that a verdict of "guilty" is all right, but a verdict of "guilty" is all wrong. So it goes, with many howlerous ramifications. The "law's delays" have a striking illustration in the suit over the construction of the battleship Massachusetts. The suit is said to have been instituted by the builders more than twenty years ago; it has just come before the United States Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the ship has been retired from service.

Anything May Happen
Anything may happen typographically. In one instance "typographical antiquities" figured as "typographical ambiguities." "Days of the league" has appeared as "days of the Seine" and the Lord Chancellor of England has been referred to as the "Lord chandler." "Theological investigations of the motive power of heat" have been made, though the original intention was "theoretical," and we've read of a doubtless interesting work called "Mattiobran's Universal Geography," in a sociological treatise it has been stated that man, alone and isolated, would become "impatient and peevish," though the author meant that said social animal in said circumstances would become "impatient and perish." A Judge, it was once asserted, examined a bill of exceptions and approved it because he found it "unfavorable" to the truth. "Too bad it wasn't conformable." A plaintiff testified as to the "poeta," evidently ignoring the facts in the case.

THE WORDS OF PAUL
To the Editor of Evening Ledger:
Sir—A short while ago the Rev. William Sunday was charged by some one with being a grafter. To this Mr. Sunday replied: "The man who said this should have his photograph taken. If I meet him I will beat him so that even his own mother would not recognize him." Evangelist Nicholas of Darby is becoming a Mr. Sunday No. 2. In contrast with prize ring utterances notice the words of Paul, a genius, a leader of men and a thorough gentleman: "Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat." It would be impossible to think of a Spurgeon, a Bishop Simpson, a Phillips Brooks replying to a false charge with the clenched fist, on the platform where Christ is preached, in the presence of calm-minded men, some of whom deny the deity of the Saviour. Such remarks will be bewildering to heathen people who live in our country and to our Hebrew fellow citizens, who will mistakenly think that these words of prominent Christian leaders partake of the spirit of Christianity. These evangelists have done vast good in reaching men and lifting up the morals of the community, but they ought not to cultivate bitterness of spirit. In the words of the New Testament, they must put on a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long suffering.

WHERE THE DANGER IS
"Your danger is internal," says Fenry Ford, the well-known voyager. That would seem to fit it in the general neighborhood of the spark plug—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

FIVE YEARS PLUS
The term of five years required for the building of a navy does not include the time which may be demanded for preliminary discussion—Washington Star.

COLONIALS AT THE FRONT
When one reads that British Columbia is sending more men to the war than any other similar division of the British Empire one realizes what splendid soldiers the colonials must be, for those are no weaklings who have sought out the northwestern wilds to conquer them. It is said that in one recent month 120 men came up the Fraser River from points on the old Cariboo trail and joined a regiment—Springfield Republican.

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. How many teeth are there in the normal adult?
2. Who would succeed to the English throne if none of King George's sons survived him?
3. What city in the United States was fourth in point of population by the last census?
4. What is the punishment for piracy and in what courts would piracy cases be tried in this country?
5. What members of the United States Senate have Indian blood in their veins?
6. What is the chief source of revenue of the city of Philadelphia and at what rate is it levied?
7. Who is John P. White?
8. In what States is capital punishment inflicted by shooting?
9. What is the chemical composition of water?
10. With what European nation or nations has the United States been at war, besides England, and when?

- Answers to Saturday's Quiz
1. A pitcher with the Athletics.
2. Richard Barboque.
3. RH or Iola.
4. Cinnamus.
5. Martha Fargnason Finley.
6. The Anna Lisa (La Giocanda) of Leonardo da Vinci. Yes.
7. Virtually none at present. It is an outlet from the Baltic, but its northern limit is dominated by neutral countries.
8. No. He is called Tenu or Kotel. "Mikado" is poetical and is used only by foreigners.
9. Edwin Arlington Robinson.
10. Five—Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, Ohio and Iowa—have State-wide laws permitting the adoption of this plan.

Unavailable Matter
Editor of "What Do You Know?"—Will you kindly tell me through your column if there is a postal law that would punish me for calling some one else a "damn stingy nut" through the mails? Is there any law in fact that governs what shall be said in letters just so they are not used to defame?

According to the postal regulations postal cards are unavailable if they bear delineations, epithets, terms or language of an indecent, lewd, lascivious, obscene, libelous, scurrilous, defamatory or otherwise objectionable character calculated by the terms or manner or style of display and obviously intended to reflect injuriously upon the character or conduct of another. Dunning postal cards are included in the prohibition.

"Annabel Lee"
Editor of "What Do You Know?"—Will you kindly publish the poem called "Annabel Lee." In looking over the EVENING LEDGER I found the last stanza of the poem, and am desirous of having the entire poem. A. R.

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of Annabel Lee;
And this maiden she lived with no other thought
Than to love and be loved by me.
I was a child and she was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea;
But our love it was stronger by far than the love
Of those who were older than we—
Of many far wiser than we—
And neither the angels in heaven above,
Nor the demons down under the sea,
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
For the moon never beams without bringing me
dreams
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
Of the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And so, all the night long, I lie down by the side
Of my darling—my darling—my life and my bride,
In the sepulchre there by the sea,
In her tomb by the sounding sea.

Horace Greeley, Forest Lover
Editor of "What Do You Know?"—Replying to your inquiry who asked about quotation concerning forests, I call the following from my scrapbook. The quotation is ascribed there to Horace Greeley: "I have a hearty love of forests. They grow gentle companionship to the thoughtful and rest to the overworked, fevered brain. Our streams will be fuller and less capacious, our gales less destructive, our climate more equable when we shall have reforested our rugged slopes and rocky crests with trees. Timber grows yearly scarcer and dearer, when it ought to be becoming more plentiful and accessible, and would be if we devoted to reforestation all the land which we have reforested our rugged slopes and rocky crests with trees. Let our people gather seeds and plant them, and the forest will be brought back to us."
O. P. EACHES.