

Evening Ledger

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Philadelphia, Monday, July 31, 1916.

That man's the best cosmopolitan Who loves his native country best.

Is the Deutschland paying rent? Rumania celebrated the second anniversary of the war by taking up an entirely new position, quickly known as the on the brink.

Another municipal employe falls by the wayside "for the good of the service." The phrase is apt, though ironic. Whose service, gentlemen?

That "shark" in the Schuylkill was only a seal. Those who watch the Grand Jury are more likely to learn the whereabouts of Philadelphia sharks than those who keep their eyes on the water.

The Grand Duke Nicholas is pressing on beyond Eraning toward Anzora. There has been a strong impression that the Grand Duke had already captured the Turkish goat.

Great national manufacturing associations have already begun to apply for permission to hold their annual gatherings in the new convention hall, which proves that the men were right who said that the building would be one of the most valuable publicity assets of the city.

Now that a few retail coal dealers have begun to refund the 10 cents a ton tax to their customers the rest of them will find it difficult not to follow suit. The tax was levied illegally. The operators have returned it to the retailers, and fairness demands that the retailers give it up.

It may be doubted whether the State Department of Health has legal power to prevent Pennsylvania parents from taking their young children to New York city; but only those parents who wish to endanger the health of their offspring will resist the actions of the department officers while the epidemic prevails.

It is doubtless true that ninety-five per cent of the householders of the city overlook the sahanos. Probably almost as many never use the trashcan at all. That is why we have dirty streets. No municipality on earth can force the people to keep the streets in the condition in which they ought to be, unless it receives the active and hearty aid and co-operation of private citizens. It is not uncommon to see a man sit calmly in a trolley car, tear a letter into a thousand pieces and calmly throw it out of the window, either on Chestnut street or anywhere else. Such a man needs education, and the way to give it to him is to put him in jail.

There were only 10,954 registered automobiles in this State in 1906, paying fees of \$42,460. The number registered thus far this year is 203,307 and the fees collected amount to \$2,146,597. The greater part of this enormous sum is very properly turned over to the Highway Department for improving the roads. It is nearly ten times the amount which has been apportioned to Pennsylvania out of the congressional appropriation for good roads. The fatal objection to the Democratic good roads legislation is that it distributes the money in accordance with a political rather than an economic plan. Its purpose is to provide petty graft for the politicians rather than to improve the national highways. Indeed, there are no national highways anyway. And it has been only in recent years that there have been any State highways to speak of. Road-building has been committed to the local communities, and they have had no better roads than they are willing to pay for.

The appalling catastrophe in New York resulted in a surprisingly small loss of life, according to present reports. Whether incendiaries were at work or not is a question which may never be determined. The circumstances surrounding the explosion are mysterious. It must be recalled, however, that munitions are dangerous to handle and the likelihood of accident is great. Baltimore was the scene of an explosion of less magnitude many months ago, but it was never proved that it was maliciously caused by plotters. It has been suggested that specific ports for the shipment of explosives should be named by the Government, far off from the great cities. Whether such a scheme is feasible or not we do not know. Considering the vast quantities of powder and dynamite which have been handled during the last two years, the remarkable fact is that there have been so few accidents. The Government has, however, record a smaller loss of life from powder made than has been known in any other industry.

Tom Daly's Column

THEM'S OUR FEELINGS Whenever you get off a yacht Your feet give you bother a loush They multiply so Whenever you go You can't tell how many you've pech.

GIVE US A WATCH DOG THAT CAN WATCH

BEFORE the little navy men in the House carry their fight against an adequate increase in the sea forces of the nation to a finish they should give serious thought to what is and has been happening in the North Sea.

In the summer of 1914 Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, had mobilized the British navy in the Channel, ostensibly for practice maneuvers. Whether he had a premonition of coming trouble, or whether it was one of those lucky chances of which the historians write, does not matter. The fleet was on hand ready for action. As soon as mobilization began on the Continent Churchill ordered the fleet to take up a position off Kiel, and the ships got in sight of the German naval station before the Germans had time to move. It is believed by some experts that if it had not been for this readiness, this prompt action, Great Britain would have been invaded by a German force and the country would have been laid waste as northern France has been devastated.

The British navy has saved England and has kept British soil practically inviolate. The British were unprepared on land, but they were prepared on sea, for the reason that it was by the sea alone that they anticipated invasion.

America is in a similar position. If we have an adequate navy we can defend our shores and destroy an enemy before he gets in sight of land. If Representative Kitchin and those who believe with him have their way the enlargement of the navy will be delayed if not prevented altogether.

The little navy men fought in the House for a building program that should provide for five battle cruisers and no battleships. They failed to carry their colleagues with them, for the naval bill as it was sent to the Senate called for four battle cruisers and two battleships. The Senate, with a better appreciation of the exigencies of the situation, amended the bill by authorizing the construction of four battleships instead of two along with the four cruisers to which the House had consented. Contracts for these are to be awarded this year, and arrangements were made for a continuing program of construction to extend over three years.

Unless the House agrees to the Senate program the navy will be weaker in three years than it is now. To keep our sea force up to its present strength it is necessary to put in commission a new battleship every year to take the place of the old ships which become obsolete. The navy is weaker now than it was three years ago because of the neglect of Congress to authorize necessary construction. None of the new ships to be voted can be put in commission in less than two years and it is more likely to require three years, even if work could begin as soon as the contracts were awarded. When the new ships are built the navy will be no stronger than it ought to be now. It is imperative that construction be continuous, and that enough new ships be built to take the place of those which must go to the scrap heap, as well as enough to strengthen us on the sea until we are able to meet any possible foe and beat him off.

Such a program is not dictated by hysteria, but by ordinary prudence. The nation demands it and the lower house will fall in its representative capacity unless it responds promptly and wholeheartedly to the undoubted urging of patriotic America.

ON ALL FRONTS

THE third year of the war begins with the resurrection of the Serbian army and with it the completion of the circle of attack on the Teuton-Turkish allies. The Russians, choosing the earlier date for the celebration, have achieved an incredible victory, literally incredible because the details are not yet known, and the mere statement of an advance at this time on a sixty-mile front passes belief.

Strange and terrible things have happened in this year of war. It is the year of Kut and Jutland and the Serbian campaign. It began with Russia stumbling backward and ends with Russia striding forward again. It marked the end of the old system of infantry attacks in the west and it begins with the successes of artillery attacks. It began with the blackest and ugliest day of the Allies and it ends with their brightest. Above all, it has been the year of Verdun and of shells, wherein democracy became efficient, and the high spots of the drama's second act. It differs from the first in this: When the first curtain fell Germany's destiny was still victory or peace; now her destiny is between peace and destruction. She has virtually announced that she cannot win. Her appeals are not for victory, but for the security of the German soil. Her hope lies at least in the very thing she despises—the strength and initiative and energy and energy of the individual soldier. For the moment has been met at last and it is here to stay.

ONE YEAR, 365 DAYS OF WAR

—Marching in ecstatic contemplation. A year to be remembered to be.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Socialism Prescribed as a Cure for the Vices of Society on the Ground That It Will Make People Less Mercenary—Mayor Smith's Responsibility—Other Current Matters

Not quite so simple as this. The Editor of Evening Ledger:

Sir—The root of all evil is the want of money. Take away the incentive to gain and you do away with evil. The owners of the Tenderloin properties receive large sums for these houses of ill fame. The reason these houses of ill fame exist is because the street piles her trade is because she wants money. The cure for all this vice is through economic education, or socialism. When this world accepts socialism then will be banished, and the incentive to gain through evil will be removed. It is a proven economic and scientific fact, not theory, that the world is ready for it, and not until it is adopted will we be able to accept Christianity and civilization. Vice is not a foundation stone, it is a disease. It has been said, Babylon had it and Philadelphia has it. Babylon had it because of the everlasting shame of humanity that it has inherited from its fathers. We have not improved, but rather we excuse our immorality and greed by saying "it always has been and always will be." Socialists are not Christians, but, nevertheless, they are fighting for civilization and Christianity. Christianity until it receives Socialism. "Do unto others as you would be done by" is not a religion, it is a philosophy. It is God to show you the way to Christianity and don't insult Christ by praying to him until you are ready to receive him. Work for vice and immorality. Let us be honest and be men. Socialism is material Christianity, and it is the only religion that can be seen walking with outstretched arms to receive you. Babylon and Philadelphia. Ye gods! you who prate of civilization and Christianity. You mock Christ and jeer at your Creator. ROBERT B. NIXON, Jr. Philadelphia, July 29.

PUTS IT UP TO THE MAYOR

To the Editor of Evening Ledger: Sir—I have always held the view that Philadelphia is provincial right to their hearts' core. And this belief has a solid foundation for it represents an experience of years and years' dealings with your townpeople. It was not more than 20 hours after I had arrived in your city when three little items were furnished for my special benefit. And the most sincere readers may take these happenings at face value. After being served with some refreshments I handed the proprietor a dollar bill. He informed me that was too large a sum for her to change. I next gave her a quarter. What do you suppose the fair one did? The dear soul went outside to get change, leaving me virtually in charge of her place. In a casual way I asked a conductor to direct me. About a half hour later this kind fellow reminded me of the street I desired. What was taking space for the third indictment? Perhaps some of your readers may not care for this sort of attack on the cherished customs of Philadelphia. Such should pardon a wicked sort. ARTHUR THOMAS DYSON. Philadelphia, July 27.

THE BRIDE IN AUGUST

Consider now The fair June bride. She took such pride In waiting for her. She was late for tea It seems he thinks Of baseball soon. She thought his thoughts Were all of home. And sad is she. Cheer up, fair bride! The best of men Do think of baseball Now and then; They're all the same. But you your fate Need not deplore. The chances are He loves you more Than any other. —Kansas City Journal.

YES, WE CAN GUARANTEE HE MAKES A HIT



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz

- 1. Russia is engaged in offensives against the Germans, the Austrians and the Turks. 2. James Robinson, Superintendent of Police, Lafayette, Colorado. 3. In England vehicles kept to the left. 4. A phellecte is a spell by the wizard usually used to refer to a referendum. 5. Robert Curia's children; stormy petrels. 6. A horse's thimble; his windpipe. 7. A leading question; one so phrased by the questioner as to make it almost certain that the witness will answer in a certain way. 8. To "hub" the wind; to keep a ship close hauled. 9. The Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C. would put you in the way of getting the list. 10. It sinks to the bottom of the sea.

LOCALIZING THE TROUBLE

Presently it seemed that Serbia had rejected the ultimatum. Just how or why was not clear. In fact, it was not known that in the ultimatum Austria had demanded a share in Serbia's internal jurisdiction. So we went on, watching the extraordinary sport of the Boston Braves, and suddenly a menacing word appeared in the public prints. It was "localization." It seemed that without any of those preliminary declarations dear to our romantic hearts Austria and Serbia were at war and there was a danger, if Germany and France and Russia were trying to localize the conflict, to keep it down along the Danube, then there was a chance—but no real danger. London and Berlin and Paris were bringing pressure to bear, Russia was asking for time, Jussarand said it would not spread. But of course they had to be prepared (the word didn't have the same significance then) for everything, so France and Russia were mobilizing quietly.

LOCALIZING THE TROUBLE

Mobilization meant little in our young lives then. We couldn't see why Germany kicked up such a fuss about it, while she was doing it herself. We trusted Sir Edward Grey, with a passionate faith in good Anglo-Saxon honesty, when he invited all the Powers to quiet down and come to a council as friends. Poincare had just seen the Czar and reported had it that he was met at Stockholm by the Kaiser. Little by little we got round to Wilhelm. We remembered that he had been called the War Lord. We saw pictures of him with the captions telling us that he could unleash the dogs of war. And there were little "boxes" with statistics proving that the war would cost \$54,125,000 a day. Yet he was sending his relatives to talk to the Czar and warning Russia not to interfere, and having the most amicable relations with England. It is certain that on the 30th of July, 1914, when the world had hardly got used to the idea of an "Austro-Serbian" war, not one man in ten thousand foresaw a world in arms. But two years ago today things had happened.

LONDON HOPED FOR THE WORST

It was a Friday morning and you sat down to your paper with a little thrill. The whole first page was about the war. Battles had been fought in Serbia, but worse yet, and more thrilling, Germany was threatening Russia, England was beginning to be nervous. Two German lieutenants had been defeated by Anthony Wilding and Norman Brookes in the internationals. What has happened to the Germans we do not know, but Wilding has died since, a soldier. Wa, no more than he, were disturbed that day. Then from London came a new word: Armageddon. We hadn't heard it since the campaign, and there were many who wanted to know what connection there was between the Progressive party and a world war. London was confident of the worst, but Paris was hopeful. Russia was still only partly mobilized. Germany was still not openly threatening. The war was still between Austria and Serbia.

MEANING OF NOWADAYS

Editor of "What Do You Know"—A friend told me that "nowadays" was not an idiomatic phrase combined by use into a single word, but was a corruption of something else. Is he right? Your friend is right. "Nowadays" is a corruption of "in our days," which was spoken as if it were "in our days." Then the first part of it was dropped and it became "our days." The transition to nowadays then became simple.

POETS LAUREATE

Editor of "What Do You Know"—Are all the British poets laureate buried in Westminster Abbey? JOHN KEATS, JR. No. Robert Bridges, the present laureate, is still alive and he has not buried any. The five of the 18 dead laureates are buried in the Abbey. They are Ben Jonson, Sir William Drummond, John Dryden, Nicholas Rowe and Alfred Tennyson.

WHAT WE READ

TWO YEARS AGO

And Some of the Strange Things We Said and Thought and Did When War Broke Out

WHAT were the important events of the last week in July two years ago? We know now. But two years ago, with the temperature up in the nineties and vacations on, we read lazily and thought lazily, and the greatest catastrophe of our time was on our heads before we knew it.

The important events as disclosed in the newspapers were the failure of the Ulster conference and the death of four rioters in Dublin, the preliminary matches for the Davis Cup in tennis and the trial of Mme. Caillaux in Paris. For a week these events had been brewing. To be sure, on the very day when President Wilson was compelled to withdraw the name of Thomas D. Jones for the Federal Reserve Board and Colonel Roosevelt was sued by William Barnes there were two items of foreign news which attracted a little attention. One was the ultimatum sent to the diplomatic corps at Durazzo by the Moslem Albanians and the other was the ultimatum sent by Austria to Serbia. Neither on that day nor the next was there any indication that these two events were not equally important.

It seems silly now, but quite frankly, what did we Americans know or care about Serbia? Were there any Serbians in America? Then they were "hunkies," nothing more. Vaguely we recalled something about the Balkan wars, but the last thing most of us remembered about Serbia was that her King had been assassinated years ago. Had Austria sent an ultimatum? Well, the Serbians had an army of a sort, but they wouldn't dare to fight the Dual Monarchy.

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