

Evening Ledger

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THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR JULY WAS 131,000.

Philadelphia, Wednesday, August 23, 1916.

Domestic happiness, thou only bliss Of Paradise that has survived the fall! —Couper.

No sale of bonds unless some of them are for transit!

The city is losing \$500 a day by not paying the mandamus.

What's the use running a gambling house if the police won't let victims in?

Frank Cumminsley was discharged by the Mayor "for personal reasons." Can it be possible that his reinstatement was for public reasons?

The President is very anxious that American railroads should be prepared, but how about American industries? They will need some protection after the war, won't they?

"Who owns the railroads?" asks the New York Tribune querulously. The joke is on them, whoever they are, for while they do the owning the Interstate Commerce Commission does the regulating.

Every citizen of Philadelphia who uses gas pays a twenty-five per cent tax for the privilege. After next year the tax will be thirty-three and one-third per cent unless a different policy is adopted by the city.

It is reported that an attempt will be made in the Duma to give Russian Jews the rights of other Russian subjects. If this is accomplished it will not signify a change of heart in Russia so much as respect for Jewish bankers in England and France, who have it in their power to make it easy or hard for the Russian exchequer to handle some already frenzied finance.

The spectacle of an indicted Magistrate holding court and sitting as a minister of justice is nauseating enough, but far worse things have characterized the administration of law as practiced in these tribunals. They have been a scandal and reproach to the community for years and should have been uprooted long ago.

There is more loose thinking and loose talking about compulsory arbitration in labor disputes than about any other phase of the labor question. One does not have to think very far into the subject before one discovers that it is impossible to enforce an arbitration award unless there be some body on which it can be enforced.

The Sherman law, but the individual members were punished and not the union. This has been denounced as an outrage from one end of the country to the other. At present an award where arbitration was by compulsion could be enforced only upon the individual workmen, and if a man refused to work under the award there is no principle of law which could be invoked to compel him to do so against his will.

The "politics" in the long postponement of the allied drive on the Salonica front has been suspected for some time, and now seems to have consisted in waiting till the time was ripe for Rumania's "jump." The chief advantage is not in the half million men Rumania would contribute, but in the fact that her soil would be open to as many more Russians for the extension of the pressure on Hungary south from Bukovina.

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CAN THE TAIL STILL WAG THE DOG?



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Why the Railroads Distrust the President's Offer to Help Them Get an Increase in Freight Rates—Moral Suasion Urged as the Great Pacifier

This department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of public interest. It is an open forum, and the Evening Ledger assumes no responsibility for the views expressed, but it reserves the right to edit for brevity and to delete any matter of a libelous or defamatory character.

Why MR. WILSON IS DISTRICTED To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—With your permission I will tell "Sganarelle," who ignored me by answering my letter about the President and the railroads, why I think the President's offer to use his influence with the Interstate Commerce Commission toward securing an increase in freight rates was pure bluff.

The President has told the railroad men that there are railroads run on the eight-hour basis and that they do not seem to be in any financial difficulties, and that the insistence of the managers that they could not pay the increase in wages involved in the eight-hour day was made without taking into account any administrative economies and efficiencies. Here is the milk in the cocoon. It is evident that the President believes that large sums could be saved by administrative economies.

Mr. Brandeis a few years ago put this ideal affair when he said that the railroads were wasting \$1,000,000 a day. The Interstate Commerce Commission has adopted it and has refused such increase in freight rates as was asked on the ground that the railroads were extravagantly managed. The attitude of neither the President nor the rate-making board is friendly to increase in rates. It is hostile to the management of the railroads. The assumption is that the railroad men do not know their business. The railroad men, therefore, are justified in being suspicious of any promise of help from the President contingent upon convincing him that they are not extravagant and wasteful. "Sganarelle's" confidence in the President is beautiful and touching, but it is less sophisticated than the distrust which the railroad men feel.

Philadelphia, August 22. G. W. D.

PEACE BY MORAL SUASION To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—A statement has recently appeared in some of the newspapers that the neutral nations of Europe are finding the war more profitable from a financial standpoint than is even our own country.

As this great European conflict, which General Nelson A. Miles has characterized as the "most unjustifiable and uncalled for tragedy in human history," has now entered well upon its third year, it is not time that the neutral nations consider it from a moral or humanitarian point of view, instead of from a financial or commercial standpoint, and see what can be done in the interests