

Evening Ledger

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THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR NOVEMBER WAS 111,941.

Philadelphia, Thursday, December 7, 1916.

If then wished to get rid of thy evil propensities, thou must keep far from evil companions.—Seneca.

Let the freemen do the work and the tipstaves draw the salaries.

Is the Mayor his brother's keeper? Maybe not, but he is the family job-provider.

We do not know what has got into the drinking water, but we do know that the drinking water has not got into the meters.

Every "victory" that puts a saloon in a residence section against the wishes of the people is a nail in the coffin of the liquor industry.

How much dirt and dirt can a Philadelphian carry in his nose, throat and lungs without succumbing? Maybe the hospitals know.

On a former occasion Lord Northcliffe referred to the Germans as "a nation of house servants." The reference was not at that time, however, to their sweeping victories.

Apparently, Mr. Wood, of the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, would never have discovered that "philanthropic" life insurance was a losing venture had publicity not directed his attention to the fact.

Pittsburgh, millions and millions have become almost synonymous, and the fact that the Smoky City is to spend \$16,000,000 during the holidays will help to sustain its reputation for another year anyhow.

With Mr. Hay out of the way, there seems to be no good reason for further trifling with the national defense.

It is possible that the First Regiment will not be heard on Berry, football star, for neglecting to drill. But his attitude toward military duties is not so healthy a symptom as his line-punching.

It is not enough to say lightly, "I want to do the right thing, but really, how can I find the time?" The whole difficulty with our preparedness has been this same attitude of taking soldiering as a lark.

According to the exclusive dispatches from Carl W. Ackerman, at the front with the German army in Rumania, troops of that distressed country, armed only with sporting rifles, were captured.

This not only indicates the desperation of the defense, but it casts some light on the reasons underlying the Cabinet crisis in London.

Apparently, the diplomats of the Allies left Rumania enter the war without proper preparation. It is bad not to be prepared; it is worse to think you are when you are not.

However burdensome motorists from other States may think the New Jersey automobile license laws are, the Supreme Court has decided that the State has acted within its rights in passing them.

It has dismissed the appeal of a New Yorker convicted of their violation. The State insisted that nonresidents have no legal right to use the State highways.

It denied that the local license regulations were burdensome on interstate commerce, and it insisted on its power to compel motorists to contribute, through the license tax, to the cost of maintaining the highways.

The Supreme Court has sustained the Maryland motor license laws also. These two decisions are most discouraging to those who have been hoping that a Federal touring license might be issued by the National Government which would supersede the State licenses.

If we should ever have a system of national highways, said for and maintained by the central Government, the right to use them could be conferred by a national license. At present, however, the highest court is consistently sustaining the right of the States to control their own highways.

There seems to be no way out of the present difficulty save by a system of accommodation among the States.

One of the most moving events in history, the Children's Crusade, is called to mind by the appeal of Pope Benedict XV that the children of America cooperate in the relief of the needy Belgian babies, however different the conditions of the thirteenth century from those of today. It was in a dark hour for Europe that it turned to its children. Four great crusades had failed to effect permanent good for the Christian cause.

The spreading children were called upon to do their work. It is in this sense that we are now asked to do what

Tom Daly's Column

AUNT BETSY Aunt Betsy appears in the paper each night—A gentle and motherly soul, Who teaches you how to keep silverware bright...

THE LION AT BAY

THERE is to be no appeal to the electorate in England's crisis because parliamentary majorities and the personnel of the six hundred-odd members of the Commons do not matter now. It is not the man that Parliament can trust who is now in demand, but the man the nation can trust.

Since the war started England has been groping in the dark for a Moses to lead her out of the wilderness of outworn methods and dusty formalism.

Asquith was not the man to lead. Like Sir Robert Peel, he has been a great administrator and agent to carry out the purposes of others. But the times require not a follower and an adapter, but one to initiate and conceive swiftly and energetically.

The rise of Lloyd George has been synonymous with the latest chapter in the rise of the British democracy. That democracy has been striving to evolve a leader ever since the franchise extensions of 1867 and 1885.

But it is only in its contemporary significance that the evolution of a leader is to be considered? Has not the restless turning from one man to another, from Gladstone to Disraeli and back to Gladstone again, been of the very essence of England's changing polity?

LLOYD GEORGE is the man or not, the democracy behind him will move now and after the war toward the era of a system that too often has meant muddling at home and abroad.

LITERATURE GREATER THAN DIPLOMACY

HENRY VAN DYKE resigns as Minister to the Hague that he may have time to write. We have many men who could serve us acceptably in Holland, but there are too few with the ability to produce a story like "The Other Wise Man."

EGGS

DAMNING Wetz, the Chicago "egg king," will not bring down the price of eggs. Conning the hens to lay in the off season would be more reasonable, but equally ineffectual.

MR. WILSON'S OMISSIONS

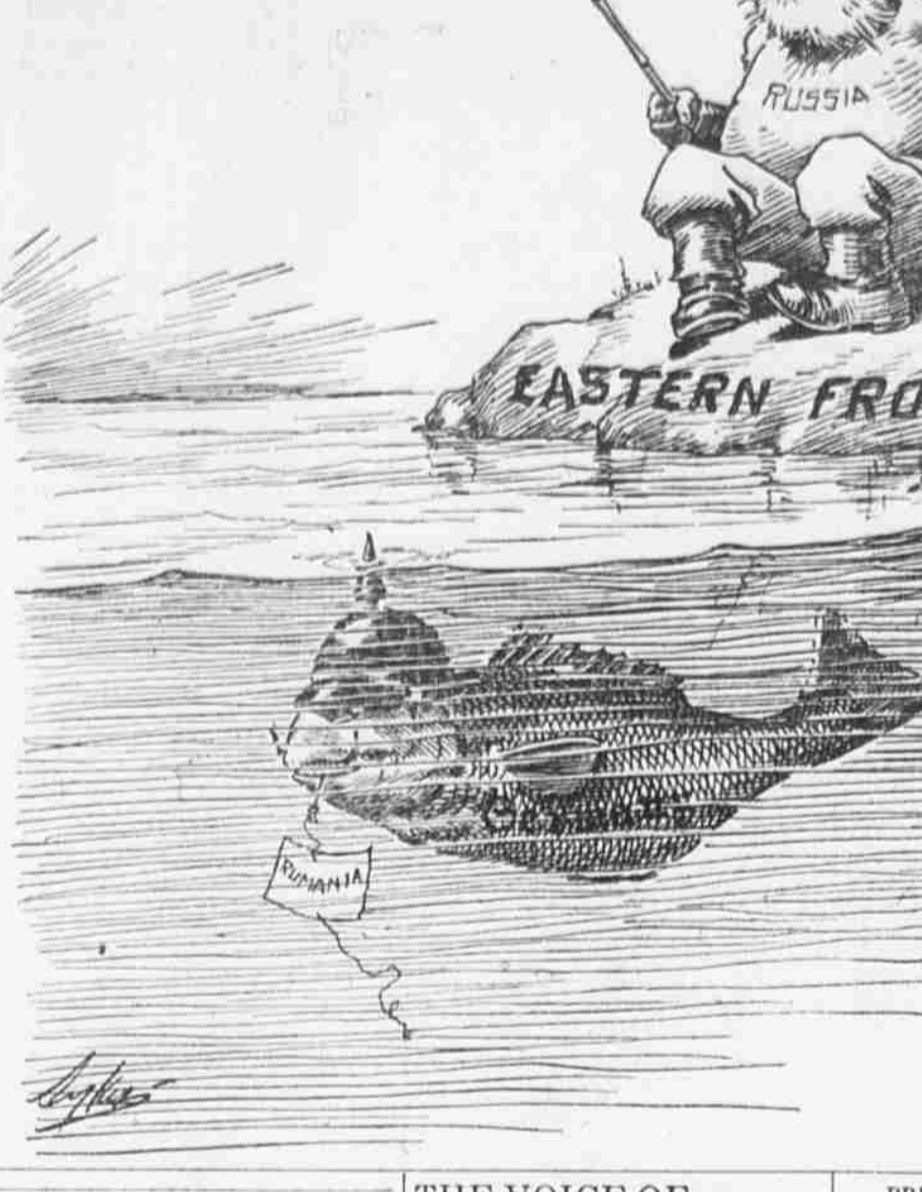
SO MUCH relief is manifest when a President delivers a short message or address to Congress instead of a long, turgid one, that Mr. Wilson's omissions have caused less comment than would be ordinarily remarked. He omitted mention of the food situation.

ASQUITH HAS QUIT

The name selected by Mr. Bryan for his Catholicism retreat, "St. Calixt," is singularly picturesque.

AND BAIT'S GETTING SCARCE

PRICES FIFTY YEARS AGO The present widespread discussion of the high cost of almost all commodities, especially foodstuffs, served to recall the fact that high as present prices are, they have been exceeded at various times in the past.



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The Embargo Idea and the High Cost—Defense of Oleomargarine Tax

DEFENSE OF OLEOMARGARINE TAX

TO THE Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—I have just finished reading your editorial on the "colored" oleomargarine tax, and I must confess that I am at a loss to understand how you have arrived at your conclusions.

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Hour Van Dyke is Minister to the Netherlands. 2. The ordinal number for any Congress can be determined by taking the year in which it was convened, dividing by two, and adding one.

When Century Began

A. D. 1.—The question whether the century began January 1, 1900, or January 1, 1901, has been a matter of unusually bitter controversy.

What Law Can't Do

Sir—I agree with you that an embargo on the export of food is not a solution of the absorbing question of high living.

Before and After Election

Sir—The question of the high cost of living is today the most important that confronts the United States.

Mortgages

A first mortgage on a property may be paid off, wholly or in part, before the expiration of the term of the mortgage.

The Northeast Corner

Casualties of the Day's Work ONE may be pardoned, perhaps, if one listens to an insistent request for the republication of some verses which appeared in the Fall Mail Gazette when this present writer was living in London in 1894.

Thus of the Prince who went forth in search of Happiness: God! but he had missed her, and had mourned her grievously; But with purple clover-ash-shoulder there never was a bolder Or a better or a wiser—or a sadder Prince than he.

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