

Evening Ledger

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Philadelphia, Monday, January 15, 1917.

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WEALTH ON WHEELS

THE first fifteen years of this century saw the total wealth of the United States grow from \$4 to nearly \$180 billion, an increase large enough to finance a war. How much of that wealth has come to us in rubber tires?

It is estimated that there are four million automobiles owned in this country, valued at \$2,000,000,000. That is not counting the many thousands of cars that have gone to the scrap heap since 1905. Perhaps it would be conservative to say the auto investment of the fifteen years was about \$5,000,000,000. This in itself represents five per cent of the increase in total wealth, but it would be a striking blunder to consider that as the measure of motor influence upon general prosperity. That five per cent would read more like twenty-five per cent if the complete results of the motor industry could be estimated.

Take its effect on labor. The employment of hundreds of thousands of men in manufacture, repair and operation of cars has undoubtedly been one of the chief underlying factors in the "prosperity of labor," which is another way of saying the "prosperity of labor." And from this spring endless ramifications improving the condition of all workers and allied industries. The effect on farm life is inestimable, not only in the development of superior mechanical equipment, but in bringing isolated farm communities into closer touch with city life. In the cities themselves, apart from the obvious financial benefits derived from the auto, there is to be considered its effect in raising the standard of all transportation. With one person in every twenty-five owning a car, better service is constantly demanded of the competing railroad and street railway lines. Where jitneys have been permitted something like panic has arisen among transit corporations.

But there are great areas still untapped even by the auto that lie before it tempting it to conquest. These are the spaces "off the railroad." New towns and suburbs no longer have to await the laying of tracks. Something on wheels does not have to wait for the corporations.

SEEDS OF DECAY
THE voluptuousness of New York at the present time is said to surpass anything the world has ever before known. New forms of luxury tax the inventive ingenuity of entertainers and cabarets vie with one another in the expensiveness of their offerings.

We are old-fashioned enough to believe a little moral preparedness would not be harmful in this nation, and we surmise that national character does not thrive in gaudy palaces of pleasure. Fortunately, there are tens of thousands of good Americans who are content to work, who play only when it is time to play, and who take their amusements as sanely as they discharge the important duties for which they find themselves responsible.

TALK ENDS; NOW FOR WAR
IT HAS been so long since accounts of actual fighting have been the leading features of the war news that one might suppose the "armed truce" desired by those who demand negotiations had already been established and that the feasts of diplomats and the comments of novelists and essayists. The chief reason for this is the fact that the conquest of Rumania has been expected and discounted since the fall of Bucharest, and Rumania, since the halting of the Somme drive, has seen the only movements of importance in the whole theatre of war. But now that peace has apparently been shelved, aggressive campaigns may be expected.

The most ambitious objective credited to the invaders of Rumania is that of moving forward through Bessarabia to the Kiev-Odessa line, with the ultimate purpose of controlling vast Russian grain fields and replenishing for an indefinite period the food supply of the Central Powers. If the Teutonic military power is strong enough to do that, it is hard to see how it can be broken on any front save by years of attrition. But, in any event, Russia is the weakest link in the chain about the Central Powers because of the perilous political situation at Petrograd. The Czar and his reactionary Premier have thrown down the gauntlet before the Russian Liberals and proletariats. There are to be no internal reforms till after the war, he boldly declares, and experience has shown that the autocracy which controls the armies is quite capable of engineering defeat of its own arms to divert attention from domestic affairs. An invasion of southern Russia would be a masterstroke for the Germans at this time. But security of men and the weakness and indifference of Austria-Hungary are heavy handicaps.

On the western front the English claim the discovery of new methods of trench warfare, but the results as reported show that the give and take is about even, with German ingenuity offsetting the Allies' advantage of more guns and munitions. In England the political air seems to have been cleared by the Premier's speech and answer to Mr. Wilson, as shown by the pledging of \$500,000,000 to the new war loan in four hours. Much of this is doubtless for munitions, and when it is remembered that more than 4000 British factories are now turning out shells and guns night and day, the pressing need for more loans soon to follow this one becomes apparent. In view of the small use to which shells are being put, it would seem probable that the Allies are piling up an immense supply of munitions for a new drive in the spring. The reason ascribed in London for the Kaiser's peace move was the fear that return of good weather would end the German resistance in the west.

Tom Daly's Column

Comes Written by myself Little Poetry

WORMS
Worms are not just the best things out of a garden, or to see
But Po says I must write about
Whatever plagues me,
The birds eat worms and my red Hen
She likes them, since I bit
A fat one in an Apple when
I first began to write
It was not also to eat at all
But maybe it would be
Much worse if it was not so small
For then it might bite me.
But only greenish worms can bite
And then they are a Snake
Yet Apple worms are small and white
So you'll make no mistake
Besides a Snake would never be
In Apple I believe
Though one One climbed an apple tree
And frolicked and Admired
But Po says maybe she just got
Eaten at a small
White worm like you and I can't eat
White stuff after all.
Po often also worms from the ground
And puts them in a dish
And takes them off to Simon's Pond
And feeds them to the fish.

Literary Studies
"HINTS ON SELF-DEFENSE"
By J. J. "Celtic" Thompson, Formerly Chairman of the World Council of War.

(As dictated by (As revised by Celtic Thompson)

"Hat" out of corner for far gentle readiness of mouth.

"Navy" a don't of this, engraving
But need fight hat and manly sport is
Da time to me? the prevalence of
Ya just gets de guy's psychology in its
great "GOD" various applied manly
He's yella—git me? festations.

He's nervous—? I do not, I think.
He's all puffed up exaggerate when I
aford he starts—git state that fully fifty
me? Ya swells up, per centum of ring
like die, me? Then yer makes passes, an
jumps around—see? terror agencies, large-
Ver snorts, an' yer blows, then yer quick
skates across da ring at him an' makes a
of a face an' he falls dead, just
falls de-a-d. Git me?

An Ode to Little Polly
DEAR LITTLE POLLY,
YOUR "POMES" are lovely.
The one about
THE PUSSEY cat,
AND THE XMAS TREE,
WAS GREAT.
WHEN I went to cut
OUR TREE,
IN THE WOODS,
This year,
I FOUND a cute
LITTLE STRIPED pussy,
ASLEEP underneath
THE TREE.
I TRIED to catch it,
BUT IT was too strong.
FOR ME,
O MUCH TOO strong.
IT spoiled my day.
THEY WOULDN'T let me in.
THE HOUSE with the tree.
SAID IT was not a BALSAM.
I KNOW the kitty was.
NO BALSAM kitty.
SOME things are so deceptive,
P. S. ARE YOU a truly little,
GIRL OR DO YOU
SMOKE A PIPE LIKE
YOURS,
MACKIE.

This Is One of the Occasions When We Do
Dear Tom—The Beverly (N. J.) Banner had a columnarist, I mean columnarist, like yourself, who has the art of columnarism, or grouping his matter columnarily, down to such a fine point that, with his trusty dictionary opened at random, he can exude such gems as the inclosed:

BEVERLY FIRE COMPANY
LAUDED BY CITIZENS
The novelty at Five Points, whether concocted by one mind or by several, affords circumspection on the part of the committee and as much a contest as those who plead ignorant as to its aims.

Confagurations are contingent, and therefore, if the facilities are not adequate to extinguish the volume of flames, aside from the fact that it is very difficult to convey the antiquated apparatus, especially if the fire be a great distance, security is not assured. So for these few reasons, we should have better fire protection, but to obtain such equipment, it is the experience of every resident, be it meager or bulky.

It is hoped that the dial will be in perpetual motion, until it completes the circuit of 360 degrees.

Why don't you give us newswy yet serious stuff like his occasionally?
CRITIC AL.

DISCRETION
Discretion is the better part of valor, and this goes to show
That those who fight and run away
May live to say: "I told you so!"
S. S.

Useful Information
Here is a quaint rhyme giving the pet names by which a few of our familiar birds are known:

Oh, "Robin" is the Redbreast
Who loves the homes of men;
And "Tommy" the tiny Titmouse,
And "Jenny" is the Wren.

The Kingfisher is "Martin."
The Daw is christened "Jack."
While "Philly" is the Sparrow
That hops about the back.

It might be added that the magpie is often familiarly called "Mag," and that both the bobolink and the quail, or Bob White, may be addressed as "Robert." The kingfisher's given-name comes from France, where the "sea-blue bird of March" is known as "Martin Pêcheur"—that is, "Martin Fisherman." A. G.

January
They abbreviate it Jan.
Since the calendar began.
Tis a month of rain and sleet,
Can't be more complete,
So if I could have my way
I'd abbreviate it Jay.
J. JANVIER

What Do You Know?

Questions of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to which, every self-instructing person should know, are asked daily.

QUIZ
1. What does "A. D." stand for?
2. What was the Battle of the Marston?
3. Has rebellion ever broken out in Canada against British rule?
4. Who were the Conventual Fathers?
5. What is a lunatic system?
6. Are "soft-shell" crabs and "hard-shell" crabs of different species?
7. From what famous poem is the saying, "A ladder and a wiser man" taken?
8. What were the Pontic Wars?
9. What was the Constitutional Union Party in this country?
10. The residents of a State are known as "Jayhawkers." What State is that?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz
1. The State Constitution gives the Governor exclusive power to remit fines and forfeitures and to grant reprieves. "But no pardon shall be granted or sentence commuted in any case until the Governor has received the advice of the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the Attorney General, or any three of them, in open session."
2. The Teutonic Slavics are a Slav people inhabiting the northern countries of Hungary. Their number about 2,500,000. They are of the same stock as the Magyar population of Hungary, but they are an inferior race and refuse their independence. Their language is Magyar, but they are Magyarized.
3. Colombia was formerly New Granada.
4. Schuyler Colfax, Vice President, 1869-73.
5. It is about twice as far from here to Rio de Janeiro as it is to Ecuador, because the latter is on the equator, and the former is on the Tropic of Cancer. Before the Canal was opened it was twice as far to Ecuador as it was to Rio.
6. The area of the United States is 3,797,000 square miles. That of Canada (excluding Alaska) is 3,900,000 square miles.
7. Columbine was a conventional character in the Italian comedy and pantomime, the daughter of Pantaloon and the object of the attentions of the clown, who was an English pantomime.
8. Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864) was an English poet and essayist.
9. De Pauw University is at Greencastle, Ind. It is an act passed in recent years in England that a man is not allowed to marry his deceased wife's sister.

Automobile Show
E. K. R.—To go from Manayunk to the automobile show at the Commercial Museum, Thirty-fourth street below Spruce, take trolley car route 61, exchanging at Eighth and Market streets to the west-bound subway or at Eighth and Walnut streets to routes 13 or 42. From Chestnut Hill and Germantown take route 19, exchanging to the subway at Fifth or Eighth street; take route 23, exchanging to the subway at Eleventh street, or take route 53, exchanging at Juniper street to routes 11, 24 or 27.

Second Regiment
N. G. P.—The Second Pennsylvania Field Artillery is the only National Guard unit from Philadelphia now on the Mexican border, the First Pennsylvania Cavalry, which contains a squadron from this city, being now on its homeward journey. The artillery regiment, commanded by Colonel Hamilton D. Turner, left Philadelphia in June, 1916, as an infantry unit and was converted to an artillery regiment at Camp Stewart, near El Paso, Tex., as one of the steps to bring the Pennsylvania division up to the standard required by the Hay-Chamblin army bill.

More Paisley Shawls
A. P. M.—The University Museum recommends a large winter store with a few squares of your home as a reputable place to obtain an appraisal of the value of a Paisley shawl. Values of these shawls and of Indian shawls vary greatly, and can be determined only by personal examination, preferably at antique and art specialty stores.

SAM LOYD'S PUZZLE
"YOU are an odd lot of scholars and less than fourscore," said the schoolmaster. "When I place you three on a bench, Johnnie has to sit upon the rear bench alone; then when you are seated four on a bench Johnnie still has to sit alone, and when you crowd five to a bench, little Johnnie is left over." How many scholars were there in this odd class?

Answer to Saturday's Puzzle
The girl weighed 111 1/8 pounds. When she arrived, she ate 1 1/8 pounds of breakfast food and gathered 10 pounds of samples, which increased her weight ten per cent.

AS IT IS

SECURITY AND PROTECTION
PENNSYLVANIA INSURANCE LAWSS

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE
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The Northeast Corner

Casuals of the Day's Work
XXIII
ONE desires, therefore, to write this in the manner of Mr. John Galsworthy, thus:
It may have been said, and with a certain truth, that the man suffered from silence. He stood on the roof of a great house where in the summer flowers bloomed riotously. Now, in the depth of the winter season, they had retired, with a gloominess born of growing things, to the root places, seeking rest for the endeavor of the spring.
There was an eclipse of the moon.
That was why the man stood upon the roof and watched.
Presently there came the shadow—the shadow of the earth across the face of the moon, and the man saw the moon red as of blood or of war—of men slain; the blood of battle and sudden death.
Beyond, in the denseness of the stars, there showed the unwinning stars and the silences of the infinite.
No sound came from the city streets—yet the shadow of tragedy crept across the face of the moon—insistent, silent—moving as the hand of God—as the hand of doom ordained.
Then through the silence came a sudden clangor, as of bell of warning.
From below came the sound, and there was the cry of a man in incredible pain. Above were the silences of the stars. The shadow crept across the moon—blood red, as of a prophecy.
The ambulance swung down the street—and to the hospital.

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IT COST 100 TIMES MORE THAN ANY \$2.00 ATTRACTION, SO SHOULD BE WORTH \$200.00 A SEAT

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