

Evening Ledger
PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
CURTIS H. K. CURTIS, PRESIDENT
Editorial Board: Curtis H. K. Curtis, Chairman, E. P. Whalley, Editor

either the whole work shall cease or the American commission shall continue to direct it as heretofore. Ten million helpless persons in Belgium and northern France await the decision.

ECONOMIZE AND PREPARE

THERE is no call for us to lose our heads, but we should economize and prepare at once in order that we may be ready for any emergency.

It took England and France two years to adjust themselves to modern war conditions. Russia has not learned the trick yet. For thirty months the reports of western Europe's growing efficiency and struggle against mudsuckers have been an open lesson for the whole neutral world.

We should profit by this vast store of human experience. It would be folly to go through the whole wretched business of middle for ourselves through any vain presumption that American methods are superior to those of Europe. Europeans, through an untold agony that has destroyed or wrecked between twenty-five and forty million lives, have learned to abstain from luxuries, to economize in comforts, to be frugal even of necessities. The average man and woman will not be called upon for advice about military or naval preparedness.

There is a very wide and comprehensive field for thought in that part of ex-President Taft's speech in the Brooklyn Academy of Music when he asked: "What would be our situation today if the English navy were not between us and Germany?"

There is something humorous in the haste with which the Senate Judiciary Committee has made a favorable report on Attorney General Gregory's seventeen bills. Intended to equip the Government for protecting its neutrality at a time when the neutrality of the United States may be changed into belligerency at any moment.

The President did not need the assurance of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee that all the funds necessary would be placed at his disposal. Congress can be trusted to respond to the undoubted sentiment of the nation that it co-operate with the Executive to the fullest extent, and vote whatever sums may be required to prepare us to meet the crisis and to see it through to the end.

Conditions undoubtedly justify the President's shipping proclamation. A national emergency exists which makes it imperative that every ship under American registry shall be and remain at the disposal of the American people.

"STARVING ENGLAND" is the slogan that comes handiest to the German official mind in explaining its new submarine policy, and for home consumption it is probably as good as any to justify it to a desperate populace.

Two contradictory threats have come from Germany. One is that England will be starved in thirty days. The other is that "Germany will sink a million tons a month of England's eleven or twelve million tons."

Events are moving so fast that comment on conditions at 12 o'clock may be out of date at 3. But there were some indications when this was written that Germany was attempting to modify her submarine order and practice to meet the demands and the rights of the neutrals.

HOW WAR COMES HOME TO A MAN

Weariness With the Long Story of Tragedy Disappears When American Rights Are Challenged

By ROBERT HILDRETH
WHEN did the European war begin? Ask something easy. Ask "How old is Ann?" or something like that. I doubt not the European war began about the beginning of time, for do we not hear that condition, including civilization, is a process of creative synthesis and that each event and development in the process is conditioned by precedent facts and factors?

Awakened by a Blow
But no, it is not true, after all, that I have lost my responsiveness to the vivid events. Of a sudden came the German slap in the face of my country. Then came the announcement that Bernstorff had been handed his hat, and President Wilson, America's President, had gone before Congress. I thrilled once more.

"The Great War" It is called, this fearful conflict in Europe. Say, rather, the little war. It is man's largest, most magnificent work, that makes its continuation possible. When man is great enough there will be no wars. War is contemptible. It is illogical. Such is my attitude, philosophically; such, in other words, was my attitude at the beginning of the European war.

When War Was "Impossible"
All this autobiography is of recent days. My first recollection of the war takes me back to the last week in July, 1914. It was after the assassination of the Archduke what was his name, and before any of the numerous declarations of war. I was riding on an elevated train in New York city, hanging to a strap with one hand and holding a morning newspaper in the other.

Only a few events in my mental history of the war stand out. I remember my early interest in maps, in military strategy, in new methods of warfare—the aeroplane, the submarine, the tank. My interest in the front of the trenches and in the front line. I remember the Lusitania and the President's historic address at Philadelphia.

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THE HOT COAL



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Conduct of the Firemen at the Market Street Fire—White House Pickets 'Condemned'
This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. It is an open forum for the views of its correspondents. Letters must be sent by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

EFFICIENCY AT SATURDAY'S FIRE

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—It is to be hoped that the Finance Committee of Councils and other city officials were included in the thousands of spectators who witnessed the destruction of the Gimbel warehouses. It might help in making them look with more favor on the firemen's demands.

ENCOURAGEMENT

The youth was in love, and he made us all know it; He has such a far-away look in his eyes. He threatened to be as an amateur poet. He uttered sighs! So I said: "Little man, if you're smitten with Mabel, Go tell her the secret you have to impart."

All Points of the Compass

Rubaiyat of a Commuter XLIX
My Wife and I were journeying last Spring to Willow Grove, where Vaudevilleans sing. A Fairy in a Shriwaal winked at me. My Wife said: "My! but she's the Sassy Thing!"

Old Doc Evans, the How-to-Keep-Well savant of the Chicago Tribune, says "heating cream to 150 degrees (sixty degrees short of the boiling temperature) will kill all the bacteria in it."

South American Trade
T. R.—Detailed information on trade relations of the South American countries may be obtained from Superintendent Poe, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Widener Building.

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Tom Daly's Column

McAroni Ballads LXXVIII
DA FINE ITALIAN HAND
Joe Gessapaina can't write hees own name, But he can write othra theenge, just da same; An' mebbe you, too, Bayfore he es through, We'll read 'at he's wrote an' be glad dat he came.

LOCAL ITEMS

Dave Barrows and his brother, the Germantown florist, have been entertaining a crippled snowbird all winter. It broke its wing somehow last fall, but managed to hop into the hospitable hothouse, where it was out of cat-reach and where generally daily offerings of crumbs have helped it to keep body and soul together.

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. There are about 112,000 men in the United States regular army. 2. Captain Robert Lee Russell is commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. 3. Colonel Robert Montgomery is commandant of the Frankford Arsenal.

Famous Triplets

Three aces. Three strikes. Three balls. *Three stars. *Hennessey, Beefeinander and as well as top lookandisten might also be considered eligible.

NEWLYWEDS

Before buying your Household Furniture inspect my styles. I can save you money. UNDERSTANDING A SPECIALTY Emblaming Free of Charge ARNOLD FURNITURE STORE Campbelltown, Pa.

DIG AT US

The poet of the column. *Thanks he has a Celtic soul, But I'll give a tartan solemn Every T A D must be a ple.

SAM LOYD'S PUZZLE

MR. and MRS. NEWLYWED were told by the furniture dealer that his terms were \$5 cash and \$5 per month until the goods were paid for, but in case they wished to pay spot cash, \$10 would be thrown off, making the articles cost only \$45. They accepted the installment proposition, so who can tell what interest they paid for the use of the money?