

Evening Ledger

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Philadelphia, Friday, May 4, 1917



Billions for defense, but not one cent for graft!

The answer to the submarine problem is at Kiel.

Seeds of patriotism have at last brought forth great munition plants.

The truth is better when it's young; this should be remembered by the censors who handle war dispatches.

Many athletic-looking youths are now wearing fads on their collars. A gun on the shoulder would be more becoming.

Temperance is undoubtedly a good thing, but let us also be temperate in our remarks. Do not make suggestions which hurt a necessary business.

Even the old cans and paper which lie in the city dumps may now be transformed into money; about the only thing really going to waste is the professional politician.

The Frankfurter Zeitung's complaint that America has become as militaristic as Germany suggests how promptly the bully will whine when one attempts to fight him on anything like equal terms.

"President Wilson will late granite," thunders Dr. Johannes Kaempf, of the Reichstag. Philadelphians can best rector in the immortal words of the late Mayor Reubyn, "Ah, but think of the strain on stone!"

No one should waste much time with General Staff objections, based on General Staff suppositions of how America should raise armies.—New York Tribune.

Why, indeed, have a General Staff when the Tribune is always on the job?

If the Czar and his family are banished to England, as is now proposed, they might form a nice little club of crownless monarchs, of which ex-Empress Eugenie of France and ex-King Manuel of Portugal could be leading members.

With a vigilance committee forming in one part of the town and the police themselves fortifying in another to protect against present conditions, is it not possible that the city administration will forget politics long enough to introduce even some small measure of efficiency into the conduct of the several municipal departments? Never has there been such chaos and inefficiency, beginning in one department and ending in which other no man knows.

German revolutions seem to belong to the realm of delusive hopes. There is a ray of cheer, however, in the appointment of Philip Scheidemann, an avowed Social-Democrat, as head of a Reichstag committee to revise the German constitution. If there is no revolt in sight in the empire, there is at least considerable political unrest. Scheidemann is even mentioned as a possible successor to Bethmann-Hollweg as Chancellor. The former is said to have actively urged peace with Russia. His accession to power might mean new and more reasonable peace terms offered to all the belligerents. In any event, the career of a German Socialist, who is also a pro-Government man, is well worth watching.

No amount of money, however vast, is commensurate with the value of an invention that will crush the submarine menace. Financial encouragement of any one with an idea is imperative. The Government can equip great laboratories for experimentation. In an era when nobody blinks at billions, huge sums can and should be at once promised to the scientific miracle-worker who produces the device to subdue the Frankenstein monster of the U-boat which we ourselves created. No sum is too extravagant for that end. Let a million dollars be offered for a submarine killer. No man with an idea, however humble he may be, should be despised. Uncle Sam must give him workshops to develop his conceptions. The "Yankee of inventive mind" is supposedly a national type. Now is the chance for him to prove his mettle. The Government should back him to the utmost in all his endeavors.

City, it is said, has been sold for the

tical School that will help turn out officers for our huge new merchant marine that is under way is now definitely in sight. The recommendation that Councils appropriate \$25,000 was strongly urged yesterday by the joint Committee on Commerce and Navigation. The Vore bill provides that the city give this sum when the Legislature passes the measure devoting \$150,000 to the project. States like Massachusetts and New York, which maintain such schools, receive an annual appropriation from Congress of \$25,000. Congressman Moore has pledged himself to support this cause in Washington. The need for prompt action is imperative. American navigators must command American ships. Pennsylvania builds more vessels than any State in the Union. It is her plain duty to help officer them, and the Nautical School points the way.

CUT DOWN BREAD-EATING!

AMERICANS will continue to help the Kaiser's U-boat campaign of bread-wasting until they see clearly where it leads and what proportion of the horizon of war the submarine terror fills. It is no exaggeration to say that the monthly wastage of scores of ships and millions of bushels of wheat overshadows every other military and naval consideration. A nation that can do with the U-boat what Germany is doing can never be beaten except by extraordinary sacrifice.

The sacrifice that must be made is the immediate and continued cutting down of the consumption of bread in every American household. We must have wheat to waste, we must waste it in the cargoes that inevitably will be sent to the bottom of the Atlantic in order that at least two out of every three wheat cargoes reach their goal. The officer who orders his men to charge a battery does so in the deliberate knowledge that he must waste a number of his men in order to accomplish his purpose. In the same way do we know that we are being called upon to waste, deliberately, a certain percentage of our wheat that is now charging the battery of German U-boats to accomplish our purpose.

If so much necessary waste is the order of the day in this frightful situation, how dare we waste one crumb or crust of bread at home?

To use as much bread as we have been using, to refuse to cut down our consumption of it by one-half or three-quarters, is the equivalent of killing our own soldiers in camp. Berlin does not care whether Allied soldiers are killed in battle or die before they go into battle; the result is the same. And Berlin will not care whether U-boats sink wheat ships or Americans waste bread; the result will be the same. The battle line has come to our dinner tables. The Kaiser has called upon our stomachs to be his allies.

The U-boat is winning; the building of American ships can defeat it. But they will not defeat it unless there is enough wheat to put into the ships; wheat to waste. Perishable food, food that cannot be transported a long distance, vegetables and the like, can be eaten freely. But we must school ourselves to eat no more than one piece of wheat bread with them, because wheat is not perishable; it can be transported. It is the only thing that can keep the British navy and the 45,000,000 persons back of it holding our foe off for us until we are ready to give him the knockout.

The proclamations of the President and of the British King plead with their people to be sparing of food. Every citizen should take upon himself the duty of spreading this message. The egoist who has his own notions of what must be done and who goes his wasteful way should be roundly rebuked. The family must be content with half the loaf. For a new and terrible meaning has come into the old saying that "Half a loaf is better than no bread."

If England's navy and the Allied cause are starved out, our navy must fight Germany's single-handed. That would mean the loss of many thousands of American lives. We can save them by saving wheat.

PATRIOTIC RAILROAD WORK

A QUARTER of a million miles of American railroads are now under Federal control. The 175 companies that share in this mileage have turned over their properties to the Government without demanding a single guarantee. A board of five men appointed by the Council of National Defense controls the destinies of these organizations. Here is an example of constructive patriotism of the highest type.

Shipbuilding and food production take time. Equipment for rail transport purposes is already at hand. That not a moment has been lost in organizing these resources on a war basis vastly facilitates our handling of other problems of the conflict.

Chairman Willard, of the railroad board, has urged the suspension of full-crew laws in order to release expert rail-way workers for other service; the reduction of free time for loading and unloading freight from forty-eight to twenty-four hours in order to release a quarter of a million cars for one trip a year; and the cancellation of unnecessary passenger runs so that additional facilities can be devoted to carrying food-stuffs and munitions.

Such suggestions are of the most vital practical value. They, and the many others that will undoubtedly be forthcoming from the committee in Washington, should be heeded with the same patriotic fervor displayed by the railroad heads when they submitted without question to Government control. Constructive measures of this type will win the war.

SOME AMERICAN WAYS IN ENGLAND

Our Factory Methods, Adopted for War Purposes, Will Revolutionize British Industry

By GILBERT VIVIAN SELDES, LONDON, April 21.

INTEREST in "after-the-war" ebbs and flows in England. Not so long ago the talk of reconstruction became so prevalent that a minister of the crown had to warn the people in a memorable epigram. "Look after the war," he said, "and after-the-war will look after itself."

It has been my chance to meet a great many persons who have been imbricated by this rebuke and a number of others who simply cannot follow out the ministerial injunction. The former are the enthusiasts of reconstruction. The latter are the practical men who are trying to figure out what the effects of the war will do on the industry in England, what they will do with the munition factories, what time it will take to reconvert factories to normal uses, and so on.

These last points are of interest to America because of two things: she will have to meet the same sort of problems herself and she will be affected by the length of time demanded by England to get into her industrial stride. The situation, as regards the first point, may be different because of different arrangements. The British manufacturing plants devoted to war materials are of two classes, Government-owned and Government-controlled, and of these the latter are in the proportion of fifty to one. But the Government-owned industries will have the greater influence and will present the more pressing problem. There are ninety-five of them, according to the latest figure I can get, against 4500 controlled firms.

The Ministry of Munitions figures give some startling details about the owned plants. There are twelve factories making heavy shells and nothing else, and these twelve cover an area of seventy acres, and include 10,000 machine tools, using some 25,000 horsepower in operation. The other plants are of corresponding size. And, far more important, the factories built are of the very latest models—absolutely against the first principles of British factory building.

Factory Building Revolutionized

Each factory is sectionally built, and if the war goes on any length of time it will be possible to add new sections. And when the time comes to turn these factories over to other industrial uses it will be possible to divide factories easily, even between two totally different factories. These factories, with abundant light, arranged so that the progress from raw material to finished product is direct and involves no shipment across the factory floor, no turning back, no waste, are the highest type of American building. That they will serve after the war is the unanimous opinion of the building engineers to whom I have talked on the subject. I need hardly say that the Government has paid nothing as yet to the number which will be available for other than military use after the war. That depends still on the outcome.

But the effect of having these buildings in Britain will not be limited to the use made of them. They have already begun the process of revolutionizing factory building in Britain. I talked the other day to an expert in concrete building. His firm has been in the British field for many years and he told me that he had never seen a building of glass-and-steel type. He told me that the progress had been slow, but that since the war he had looked in all the time before war. Building is restricted just now and orders are piled to be completed after the war.

It was from an entirely different source that I was enabled to realize the importance of this change. A man who has been working in various publicity schemes and is himself connected with the largest firm of printers in England, told me that the transformation of factory buildings would increase production in Britain by 15 to 20 per cent.

"You have no idea of the loss we undergo here every day," he said. "We are wasting time and effort simply because we haven't arranged our factories. We haven't light enough to see by. We waste electricity and we waste time. We have to take down the shop and compare it with the old building and you will see what I mean."

"I went and I saw. I am ready to believe that you are right. The first problem to be solved in the industrial reconstruction of Britain, and that when it is solved the increase in production will alone pay off the war debt in two generations.

The example of the many of Government-owned plants has been followed in all the vast extensions of the controlled firms. Very few have been able to meet their obligations without increasing factory areas, and as controlled firms have had the privilege of building many of the additions have been planned on new models. The opinion of the factory wrights that has been expressed by a vast majority of the owners in his position would scrap the old buildings altogether, gradually tearing down and adding on sections of new factories.

Taking Workers From the Slums

The usual thing has happened to factories here. If they were not built near the slums the slums came and huddled up to the factory walls that has been changed. In the first place, many workers were, for the first time, able to live in something better than a slum. In the second, the workers' health was improved by the clean land and to tear down old buildings. The demand for light and air has had much to do with the change because the Health Department of the Ministry of Munitions has taken good care of the workers. Another improvement has been the removal of many factories to the countryside. In a variety of ways this first problem of restoring industry and reforming it has been met.

One final effect of the buildings themselves I can not, although it verges on another topic on which many more things can be said. The Government and the Government will sell or hand over to manufacturers are too big for the kind of manufacturing which Britain has known. Large-scale production is a novelty here. Mr. T. B. Ince, who has been in the industry for many years, and I am told that his coming to Cork with a tractor plant has, to put it delicately, given several manufacturers a good deal to think about. They are used to fifty feet in your old days. Buck up and use all of it now. Make us respectable by putting us to work, every inch of us. Look what munition made out of us!

When the world will begin to reconsider what Britain has made out of herself as a producing country with those war-time, wasteful, tripping methods she once employed, the world may well look with wonder into the future—into what Britain will be when she takes up production "in a new way" that will be a bound-to-come, and the beginning of it will be in the factory building.

Tom Daly's Column

RENAISSANCE

Carven gold and silver tissue grace the old-time renaissance. Beauty from the soul of Florence, gladness from the heart of France. So is spring as beauty-lovin' and artifice as fire. Painting shows in azure panels, weaving silks of ephemeris. Building blue-spices, blurring the red aureoles of the vase. Whirlspins dance her garden chancery, "Pluck the blossom ere it waxes."

THOMAS WALSH.

When Joe Potsdammer first thought he'd like to learn to sing he picked out for his teacher the now famous Louis Koemmenich, who was then the leader of Philadelphia's Junger Maennerchor. "Mr. Potsdammer," asked Koemmenich, after the first lesson, "did you expect some time to be a regular singer, even a parlor singer?" Joe disclaimed ambition of any sort. "All right, then," said Koemmenich. "I take your money."

UNRELIABLE NEWS

"Slavs Abandon Minsk." What's the blamin' rush? Wonder if they knew just what they were about?

"Slavs Abandon Minsk." Pish! and also tush! That's no sort of news to make a stir about.

"Slavs Abandon Minsk." Tommyrot and slush! That's the stuff to hold their flag aloft, I thought.

Always deaved the lush Slavs a head an' wash; They would ever leave a thing an' soft, I thought.

Gee! I tell you! Hush! Slavs abandon Minsk? Tush!

"Irish joke."

RUSSIANS GIVE UP MINSK

Headline in N. Y. Centemp. Gracious! and the warm weather coming on! Hey, Micholovitch! Lead the goat out of fainting distance.

Some far-sighted German, having in mind the perils of the sea and with an eye to psychological effect, must have had a hand in naming that sunken tanker the British Sun.

SPEAKING of riddles, here's the solution of one that mystified us much. We are now informed that the singer who warbled for the patriotic gathering on City Hall Plaza last Saturday was not our genial self, but J. G. Dailey, author and composer of "A Saloonish Nation in 1920," "America," and "Hats off to the Flag."

Marking Time

Absolute confidence have I none, But my aunt's charwoman's sister's son toward a policeman in Downing street. That he had a brother who had a friend—Who knew when the war was going to end.

—Romeo Current in London.

And our predicament's quite as queer! We have no "charwomen" over here. No have we, either, a Downing street; So we're unlikely ever to meet. Enough wise people to hear of one Who knows when gars will be begun.

The Redpath Lyceum Bureau gave a party at Rochester, N. Y., recently for the edification of its agents and several hundred chairmen of Chautauque committees. It brought Strickland Gillilan from Baltimore and Ralph Bingham from Philadelphia to show off. Strick began his stunt with this one: "Once upon a time a church gave an oyster supper. There were two oysters in the stew, and one sipped up to the other and said, 'What do they want with both of us?'"

TO THE PRESIDENT

President Wilson works day and night For to give our country's right And to lead the way to the right. What he says is to be right. We shall be ready for our country's call When he leads with pride and joy. The ten-year-old poetess.

REGINA ABRAMS.

The Noel Printing Company being in pressing need of help, offered a job to an ex-pressman who had been highly recommended. The "ex-pressman" explained with some difficulty that he was not an ex-pressman but an expressman.

NEVER KNEW IT TO FAIL

Or Flies in the Ointment

Letter came to us from a man we had never met asking us to do him a favor. It was a pleasant letter and he said nice things very prettily. "If you will come and be the club's guest at the dinner and give us a little talk, I'm sure the members will never forget you. You are already known to many of us by reputation; your name is a household word." And so on and so on. Fine, we thought—and then we looked at the top of the sheet. He had our first name "Richard" and he misspelled our surname.

The homespun sign painter who put forth the announcement displayed at an uptown movie house last week where Anita King was shown in film is sure no royalist at heart. Here's how he spaced it:

AN IT A KING

Love Does Affect the Eyes

Dear Boss—Second avenue, Asbury Park, is within two or three blocks of Wexley Lake, and far too distant for even a glimpse of Deal Lake, at the other end of the town. Moreover, there are no beachouses on the ocean front, but along the Boardwalk at intervals are the bath houses where surf suits may be donned.

George Weston, in his "Putting the Bee in Herbert" (last week's Saturday Evening Post), says:

At a boarding house on Second and avenue . . . She was sitting near the steps of the veranda, looking down the avenue at the moon. . . . Fairy boats festooned with paper lanterns made magical moving splashes of color in the rippling of Deal Lake." And again "Herbert and Nellie sauntered down the Boardwalk, past the beachouses . . ."

Are such inaccuracies the sign of genius or would you judge the author to be narrating an experience of his own, and, under the circumstances, forgive the lack of observation? HUGH MERR.

AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—This evening I read in your worthy paper a letter by one of your readers complaining of the fact that there is a possibility of not having the army sent over to Europe, as it has been stated in the Army and Navy Journal. The writer demanded the memory of the man who devotes more than half a lifetime to the task of creating and perfecting this auxiliary language, meant to be one of the most efficient means toward harmonizing national discords and bringing nearer to us the goal of each good man and woman in every nation—the goal of one united human brotherhood! H. STRAUB, Philadelphia, May 1.

MORE THAN A HUMORIST

A letter by Mark Twain has just come to light which is of unusual interest in connection with the recently published "Joan of Arc" before the training schools were called, speeches made and plays enacted successfully in Esperanto.

This, of course, was before the world war. After its inevitable conclusion, such an easy mode of expression will be more needed than ever before to cement anew the broken links of nations.

Least, not least, there is obvious commercial value in Esperanto, who no wide-awake business man can afford to overlook. The Japs have grasped the idea from the very beginning. Are we going to lag behind? Esperanto clubs or classes should spring up in every community. They would be the more fitting monument to the memory of the man who devoted more than half a lifetime to the task of creating and perfecting this auxiliary language.

It has been introduced in some schools of France and Germany as a foundation language, superseding the Latin. Among the cultured people of our own country many clubs were started, conventions were held, speeches made and plays enacted successfully in Esperanto.

Some persons do not know how to serve their country with their so-called patriotism. It is not patriotic enough to see the best in his country? And does he not know that we have among our authorities to men who achieved their most responsible positions through their proficiency and competence? Neither will any one ever doubt the patriotism of the leading men of our army and navy. They are undoubtedly laboring hard enough to work out plans for the welfare of our country.

Consequently I and, I may say, a great majority of patriotically devoted citizens of this country, cannot see the sense of the statement which appeared under the heading, "No Troops to Europe."

As for myself, I can by no means see how our beloved country would benefit merely by sending an army over to Europe. There by sending it here against a German host.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Esperanto as the Hope of Future Peace—The Question of Sending an Army to France

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of interest. It is an open forum and the Evening Ledger assumes no responsibility for the views of its correspondents. Letters must be signed by the sender and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

INVENTOR OF ESPERANTO

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—The death of Dr. L. Zamenhof, author of Esperanto, lately reported in your esteemed evening paper, must have been a shock to all admirers and students of this remarkable man's eminent life work.

And it was permitted well spoken by deplorable remarks concerning the man and his work.

A great thinker and linguist, Doctor Zamenhof observed how often the difference of language creates not only misunderstandings but also bad feeling and even hatred among people; at the same time he realized that if we were permitted to run down by deplorable remarks concerning the man and his work.

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What Do You Know?

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to every unperformed person should have are asked daily.

QUIZ

- 1. What is the meaning of "Give L'America and law is it pronounced?"
2. Who was Fremont?
3. Who is known as the "Father of the American West?"
4. How did the expression "Jeffersonian simplicity" originate?
5. What does "hip locusts" mean?
6. Lexington Market is one of the largest in the world. In what city?

- 7. Who is Johannes Kaempf, who said "President Wilson will 'bite granite'"?
8. What bird hides its head when danger threatens?
9. Name the capital of Poland?
10. What is "condemnation?"

Answers to Yesterday's Queries

- 1. A post village is a village that has no office.
2. Alfonso XIII is King of Spain.
3. Mt. Ararat is in northeastern Turkey, between the Black and the Caspian seas, not far from the corner where the Persian Gulf meets the Red Sea.
4. An omnibus bill is one authorizing a series of legislative measures, such as bills for the construction of a canal, for sanitation, forests, fortifications, etc.
5. Eilhu Root, former Secretary of State, was a noted poet of the thirteenth century in Russia.
6. Mushi is in Turkish Armenia, near the border with Constantinople on an air line.
7. Dante Alighieri, the "shakespeare of Italy" was a noted poet of the thirteenth century.
8. Lack of ships would be the cause of delay in sending American troops to France.
9. "Because he and I" is incorrect because "he" and "I" are the most objective forms follow a preposition.
10. "As the crew flies" means in a straight line, coming from the fact that the usually flies in a straight line.

Highest Mountain

E. W.—Blue Knob, in Bedford County, in the highest peak in Pennsylvania. Its altitude is 3125 feet.

Church of the Advocate

M. W.—The Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Eighteenth and Diamond Streets, Philadelphia, is very similar to the Cathedral at Amiens, France, though smaller. Both of these edifices are of types of the French Gothic style of architecture.

Minimum Army Height

CONSTANT READER—Only a person visit to the army recruiting office will decide whether or not you are eligible for enlistment. The minimum height for recruits is not less than eighteen years of age, five feet two inches and four men of twenty-one or more years five feet four inches. Since war was declared, however, this has been abolished, according to recruiting officers, to the extent that if an applicant is physically fit and otherwise appears to be a likely recruit a slight deficiency in height will not keep him out of the service.

"Noblesse Oblige"

E. T. W.—"Noblesse oblige" is French meaning "nobility obliges." It is used to denote the idea that accompanying rank or birth is the obligation or duty to act in a generous and noble manner. It is often used to mean "noblesse oblige," the "of" having a trace of the short "u" sound.

The Birkenhead Drill

K. D.—The troop ship Birkenhead, built off the coast of South Africa, June 7, 1852. The troops on board were going out to war, but to form part of the garrison in South Africa, and a number of the soldiers were accompanied by their wives and children. The ship struck a sunken rock at night and the sea poured into her. The women and children were placed in three boats, which were safe pushed off, while the soldiers stood at attention on the doomed ship's deck as they lay as if on the drill ground and went down with her. In all, 454 soldiers were thus bravely to their death. A few managed to swim ashore, while some clung to wreckage and were picked up next morning by a passing vessel, which had rescued the women and children who had perished from this tragic incident on June 15, 1852.

EXTENDING MONROE DOCTRINE

Nearly a hundred years ago President Monroe enunciated his famous doctrine. One of its main tenets was and is that any extension of monarchy on this side of the ocean is a menace to our free institutions. It has become even clearer lately that any spread of the Prussian autocratic power was a menace to free institutions over the world, as well as all others.

It was the Monroe Doctrine which in its day, the war for Democracy was won by sending an army over to Europe. There by sending it here against a German host.



FOR NON-ESSENTIALS

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Esperanto as the Hope of Future Peace—The Question of Sending an Army to France

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LOOKING FORWARD

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—I believe that the following lines are timely:

When this great war is over, An mighty battle cease; When guns are laid to cover, And all the world's at peace, 'Tis then perhaps we'll think of one, Who stood the scoff and jeers; And credit things which he has done, By plaudits and wild cheers. With Washington and Lincoln, ye, And then begs leave to submit a few additional remarks concerning the man and his work.

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