

Evening Ledger

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Philadelphia, Friday, June 15, 1917

"What is so rare as a day in June? Why, one that's dry all afternoon."
We're getting the ships, we've got the men and we've got the money, too!

"Blest be the bonds that tie" two billion dollars' worth of Americanism to the cause of liberty.
Let there be no slackening in rounding up the slacker who tried to make registration business slack.

The recent Russian victory on the Caucasus front is clear proof of Petrograd's determination that the Kurds shan't have their way.
We are inclined to suspect that the Kaiser's idea that the war will be over before America can get into it may turn into the fact that America will be over before the Kaiser can get out of it.

Does the German paper which fore-shadows the English Government's abandonment of air-raided London realize that an occupation of Berlin by George the Fifth would also very neatly fulfill such a prophecy?
Little Italy is preparing to give the Italian envoys a royal reception next Wednesday, and with its usual generosity is preparing something more than cheers. Its Red Cross fund is expected to leap above the \$50,000 mark by the middle of next week.

One of the German air bombs crashed straight through a crowded London school, with results that need not be retold. This is the manner in which Germany asks for peace on her own terms—the terms of fire and sword.
Although the French are having great troubles with General Pershing's name, some of them calling it "Parshe-shang" and others "Peurchigne," they are at least braver than Champ Clark, who sidestepped the difficulties of "Joffre" entirely and merely introduced the illustrious soldier to the House of Representatives as "The Marshal."

Washington's proposal to Berlin, through the Spanish Government, that German and American officers taken prisoner shall receive the same rate of pay as officers of corresponding rank in the capturing forces, in accordance with The Hague Convention, is not to be taken as a concession or a ploy. On the contrary, it will engage to Berlin that we are prepared for just such a long-drawn-out conflict as the German Government fears, a conflict in which both Germans and Americans will take thousands of prisoners concerning whose treatment it is necessary to fix rules in advance. Incidentally, this proposal may remind Berlin that in the swapping of prisoners we can afford to lose two men to the Germans' one.

Right at the start General Pershing has achieved a superlatively brilliant victory. He has aroused Paris. Before the war such enthusiasm in the French capital was common. Paris was ready to cheer a dethroned tribal monarch, a dis-solute Shah, a popular actress or a Balkan princeling. Nothing was easier to play upon than the so-called facile French temperament. But the war converted Paris into a city of stoics, so reserved indeed, in her expression of emotion that superficial observers have even called her attitude one of apathy. In the dark days before the Marne, during the epic months of Verdun, at the dawn of the Somme offensive, this same passionless calm prevailed. That Pershing has broken it is unanswerable proof of the vanquished of the reception accorded to the vanquisher of America's army. Paris permits herself a thrill over the scene. French hearts throb at the thought that their land and America, long one in ideal, are at last one in arms. Surely there was seldom a more just excuse for losing the floodgates of emotion.

The success of the Liberty Loan secured as it was by many indications, would undoubtedly have been made certain far earlier in the campaign had there been any modern American precedents to guide the workings of the great undertaking. But it was something altogether new and strange in our history. Man-

takes there doubtless were in the first advertising and explaining of the loan, but every other Allied nation has had to go through this apprenticeship and has profited by experience. This is proved by the fact that the later loans of England and France were vastly more successful than the earlier ones. The campaign of education has laid the foundations for efficient work in collecting future loans. It was not only the people who needed educating, but the educators themselves. The loan salesman knows now, best and why they slipped up. The public will realize, when foreign comment on the loans begins to arrive, the truth of the star argument, "Germany is watching us," for Germany did watch and pray that our first loan would falter.

THE REAL ISSUE IN TRANSIT

IN HIS report of March 29, 1916, Director Twining made the following statement:
All the subway and elevated lines included in the Taylor plan can be built and the two systems unified without any increase in the tax rates, if the people are willing to pay an average fare not to exceed five and three-quarter cents.

The estimates made in this department show that the ideal condition, the profitable operation of the unified system on a five-cent fare, may eventually be actually possible.
The fare should not delude themselves into the belief that the average fare is only five cents now.

We believe that we do not err in stating that the opinions then expressed by Director Twining are his opinions now. In his mind, the big dominating difficulty is that of fare, a problem occasioned wholly by the fact that temporarily more than five cents' worth of service would be given by the high-speed system for a nickel.

Mr. Twining, in other words, does not believe that the comprehensive system is lacking in feasibility, but only in immediate feasibility on a five-cent fare. From his public statements we gather that all difficulty between the company and the city would dissolve overnight and an operating agreement quickly be reached were it agreed that an average basic fare of seventeen tickets for \$1 would be instituted if returns indicated the necessity for it. More than that, the Director is convinced, we venture to say, that the superior service rendered would justify such a temporary fare, particularly as, in his opinion, reductions would be possible within a few years.

The essential difference, therefore, between the views of Mr. Taylor and those of Director Twining is this: Mr. Taylor, who has invariably maintained that there would be deficits in early years of operation, believes that no increase of fare should be levied to meet the city's interest charges on transit bonds, since later surpluses will make up for early deficits, and offsets, in the form of increased tax receipts, etc., will justify the nickel fare; Mr. Twining thinks that the deficits should be met from the beginning by a fare equal to the cost of the service and that the amount of increase in fare in these circumstances would be at the worst but a fraction of a cent, the increase being only temporary. With the views of either adopted the company would be fairly protected.

In either case it is admitted that no deficit would result from the operation of the Frankford elevated, and that the necessity for providing for any deficit would not appear until the Broad street subway and the rest of the new system came into operation.

The whole transit muddle, therefore, resolves itself into very simple elements: There will be a deficit in the early years of operation; shall it be met by an increase in the average fare, taking the form of a temporary transfer charge on the high-speed lines, or out of offsets such as increased tax returns resulting from the improvement in transit?

One method or the other is necessary, and either assures the magnificent public improvement. We suggest that with the issue in this form there should be little difficulty in reaching a solution of the whole problem.

THE FOE IN OUR MIDST

There is but one choice. We have made it. We be to the man or group of men that see to stand in our way.—President Wilson.

THE day has gone past for leniency to the nagging pacifist. This nation is under arms. The armed forces must have nothing but open foes to contend with. Disloyal persons and malcontents in the rear of our troops, sowing dissension and discontent, will be ostracized by all patriotic citizens. By the civil law they have free speech. But there is no restriction upon the application of the unwritten social law which is more powerful than the written law.

Let each social circle read out of its midst those individuals who keep winning their one little question, "But won't somebody tell me what we are fighting for?" The answer is: "Not if you don't know what we are fighting for go tell your neighbors to the police. Perhaps they will be able to analyze your delicate doubts."

Vaguely these disloyal ones protest they are "for peace." So does Germany want peace. "Peace, peace, peace has been the talk of her Foreign Office for now a year and more," says the President. Yes, peace that would make us pay an indemnity or consent to some similar disgrace—that is the kind of peace that Germany wants. The type of pacifist who wants peace on terms humiliating to the United States had better learn to do his wanting in silence. For he will have to be silent in the time soon to come when our thousands are on the firing line and we begin to pay the cost of standing for the right.

PRESENT STATE OF GERMAN ARMY

Six Million Men Can Be Counted On—Early Allied Victory Depends on U. S. and Russia

By HENRI BAZIN
Staff Correspondent of the Evening Ledger in France.

IN AUGUST, 1914, Germany had available in armed and mobilizable form, including partial effectives and the classes of 1917-18, both of which it was never thought would be called, a grand total in round figures of 3,000,000 men. Today she has a grand total of 6,000,000 to the last available man; and of this figure 1,000,000 are virtually useless as trained soldiers either through youth or age.

These figures are not haphazard. They are based upon careful notes I have obtained permission to make from administrative and military records in Paris, for the purpose of determining just what the present status of the Boche army is in men and possibilities, and also just what the losses of the last thirty-three months aggregate. The reports I examined are minutely careful in detail and based on pre-war and information obtained since August, 1914. They are, I am told, within 2 per cent still right—and men who will never fight again. They cover in the former the present strictly effective units of German armies on all fronts and behind them.

They show that the losses in men killed or taken prisoner since 1914 total 1,750,000, and that the wounded and mutilated who will never fight again total 1,250,000 men. The direct deaths of the military rate in Germany is considered. It creates a total decrease in the population of the Kaiser's realm of 3,000,000. It shows, moreover, that the lack of the Boche has never been so bad in its history, even in the Thirty Years' War.

Desperate Sacrifice of Men

All reports from the western front tell the same tale of enormous German losses and ruthless sacrifice of life in counter-attacks. I have personally looked upon the evidence, with the other day, of the Boche front July 20th men out of 4000 mowed down like grass under a farmer's scythe in less than an hour. They had advanced in columns, and in the confusion of the fighting, each man touching his neighbor's elbow. They have always done so, at the Marne, at Ypres, at Verdun, on the Somme, and at the present front. The teachings of "Corporal Spring," as the father of Frederic II. was known. It is based upon more direct control of the men by the officers, getting the momentum of the attack, and committing the right of going on the file, with certain death from behind if they hesitate, go forward in close order to possible death.

It was with this in mind, of something I had seen, and his bearing on the great conflict, that I asked permission to make the inquiry upon which this article is based, to the effect that the Boche army still has available and also its loss during the duration of the war.

In a study as to the significance of these figures, it must be noted that in warfare a defensive is but a forced-for-provisional condition adopted by the least strong of two belligerents until the wearing down or material decrease in the number of the attacking side reaches a percentage. And it follows that if this cannot be secured automatically a waste of material, lives or otherwise, results, leading, if unstoppered, to certain defeat and disaster.

Hindenburg's Retreat

It would be silly to assume that defeat in Germany's immediate portion, or even near immediate portion. But it is ultimately undeniable. It is logically inevitable. At this writing, it is only a matter of time before a great offensive of the very first magnitude. Her so-called strategic defensive is a solid failure. The conclusion as to the result of the present campaign is clear. How soon that will be depends very largely upon the United States. Let it be remembered that in March, when the Boche German public opinion, Hindenburg's retreat began. It was a retreat, not a withdrawal. Hindenburg's retreat is a withdrawal. He establishes a new zone between Arras and Soissons for military reasons. He retreats everywhere at will, and in the end, the Boche statements are the cold facts of official communications. They record undeniably victorious drives by France and England; the mowing of the Boche in the field of battle, the loss of the Boche of Vimy Heights, the loss to Oppy, the plateau of Chemin-des-Dames with the appalling casualties of the Boche, and the heights of Villers-au-Bols, of the heights at Moronvillers, of more than 600 pieces of artillery of all calibers, of 49,000 prisoners, of 200,000 dead and wounded—all in thirty days. And I have not named all the towns and villages redeemed. Nor have I mentioned that beyond Craonne the country is a plain.

This is of especial interest, in view of the far greater Allied force, of future pro rata Boche loss, of the active troops in battle of United States troops. On all fronts, the Boche army is being broken up, with 500,000 men of direct communication, and 1,000,000 in barracks. These last include the classes of 1917-18—that is, boys and young men who are being trained in the way of the Boche. The Prussian Ministry of War has sent to the west front new reserves amounting to two and a half times as many men as were engaged in the war of 1914. These approximately 1,200,000 men are included in the front, communication lines and barracks reserves. And it has been decreased that means that the Boche military service can be employed in agricultural pursuits. Hence it is certain the Boche army will be broken up in the near future. Their number could be partially replaced by physical exempts and by men free from military duty through large families.

Reduced Size of Army Units

A German battalion today numbers 750 to 800 men, against 1200 in 1914. And each battalion includes 100 men who are non-combatants. Whole fighting battalions have been taken by the English where the total was but 600 men. The German army consists of 250 such divisions in maximum quanta today. In the middle of 1914 it totaled but 219, of which 143 were on the western front. The Russian, Macedonian and Rumanian. Of the forty-four divisions in reserve on the west front, thirty-three have been engaged. It has been reduced to three-quarters of its original strength. The Boche army has been identified through prisoners taken and by aeroplane scouts. Also, twelve divisions transferred from the Russian front, in the last eight days. The Russian front and the Russian situation generally is the weak link in the Allied chain. The strongest link is the Allied chain in the United States. But it is only in the foreign army for army, the Boche is in line for front driving on the western front. If Russia holds the barbed wire in the Russian front, the United States can hold 1,000,000 men in France. If Russia does not hold the 500,000 will get real action; they and as many more soon to come from England, plus all France. It has to give, in round figures 1,000,000.

Two weeks ago, to my way of thinking, based upon careful records, the end of the war was near. The Russian situation is grave enough to warrant conceding that end, provided it does not ameliorate. But despite its victory is as certain as the sun in the morning. Hindenburg's window.

Tom Daly's Column

AND CAN THE DEAD NOT SEE?
If we knew a post well enough to suggest an idea to him, we should tell him to write a poem about General Pershing—about what he is thinking, these days, of social and war.

And can the dead not see? Do they not hear
The rustling of the leaves in April showers,
The jangle chiming of our earthly hours
And the low moan of men when death is near?

Do they not see our eyes dilate with fear?
Have they forgot the fragrant smell of flowers?
And do they sit and gaze in distant towers
At some more glorious and undying sphere?

The dead are here; they see and understand.
They lead victorious armies in the fight;
They linger on with old, familiar things.
By fireless hearths in empty rooms they stand;
And when I go adventuring in the night
I feel the rushing tumult of their wings!
WILL LOU.

YOU KNOW what the editor means, of course, but only an Irishman could be expected to put it in quite the way the Terone Courier and Dungannon News makes this announcement in its issue of May 24:
We have been able this week to reduce the size of the paper to four pages without omitting any of the news. The saving of paper is considerable, but our readers can rely on our giving them the full news of the district and reverting to the larger paper when necessary for this purpose. At present paper is not obtainable at any price, and any saving in this way secures publication going on much longer than would otherwise be the case.

May spiders and fleas on his hide walk!
The guy who throws gum on the sidewalk!
And this is a bit of the news that wasn't omitted from the four pages:
Home-coming of Dr. Beattie, M. D., and his bride—on Tuesday, in the shades of evening, to the fact that the wedding was made by many young men of Philadelphia and neighborhood who always have a desire to honor all those who enter the bonds of matrimony. Dr. Beattie and his bride were met by Mrs. Beattie, daughter of the late John Beattie, Esq., and one of the late John Beattie, Esq., and a large gathering of people assembled, and a large gathering of people assembled, and a large gathering of people assembled, and a large gathering of people assembled.

For midocean's nethermost cave meant!
The slouch who throws gum on the pavement.
The German word for Honor is Ehre, which, as the Germans pronounce it, is almost "airy," but even closer to "error."

UP TO DATE
May winds and these June showers
Bring Fourth of July flowers.
D. J. W.

Housewives who carry their pocket-books with 'em but leave their brains at home when they go marketing should be interested in this sign in a chain grocery store on South Sixteenth street: "Sugar 8 cents per lb., 12 lbs. for \$1."

Indeed, it's the absolute crass fault!—
This throwing of gum on the asphalt!
WHAT THE BELL SAID YESTERDAY
In my youth my lusty voice
Bode the nation to rejoice
That it was forever free
From the bonds of tyranny,
Ring, ring, ring,
To all lands this message fling—
America shall know no King;
Ring, ring, ring.

When our war-embattled stars
Passed triumph through the fires
From Columbia's altar stone
I their covenant mad known.
Peal, peal, peal,
Never more dare monarch's heel
Tread our blessed Commonwealth—
Peal, peal, peal.

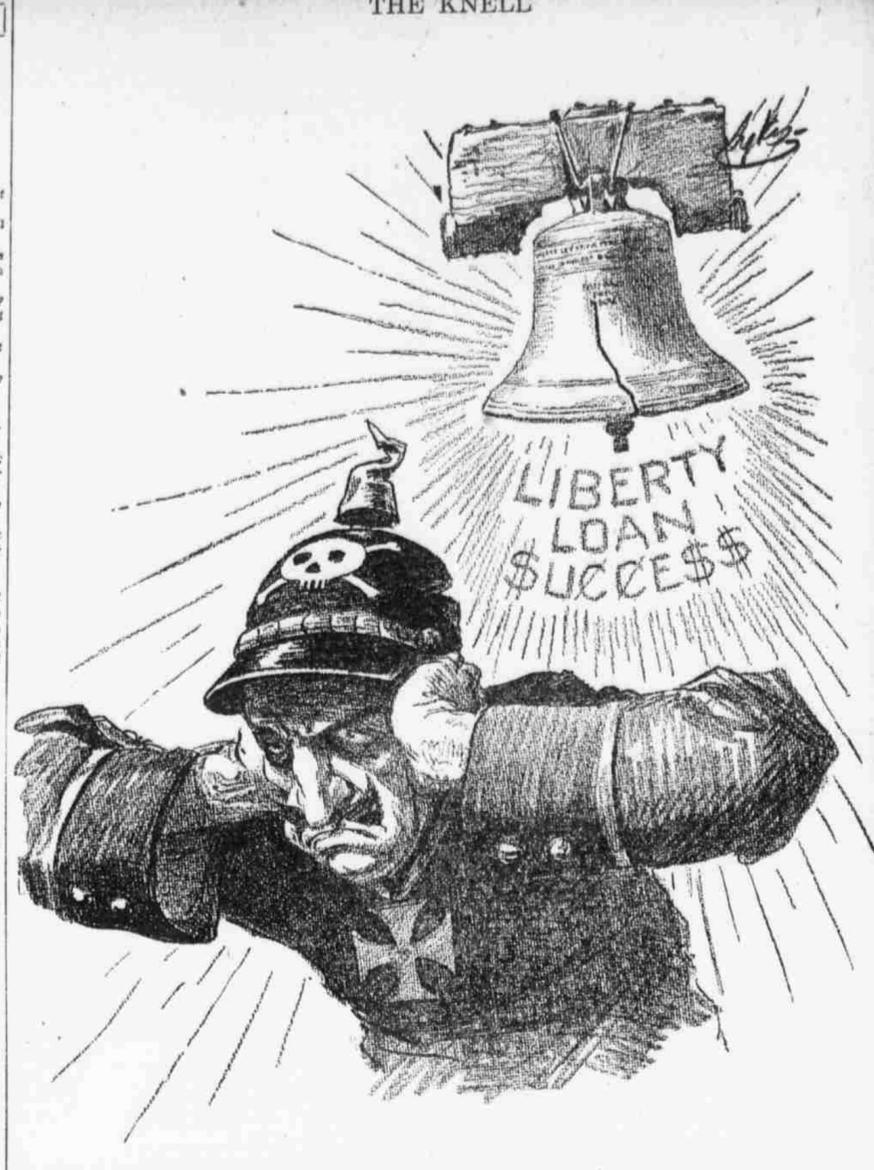
Now, again, at duty's call
I appeal to patriots all;
Cracked and age-worn though I be,
Still I sound for liberty.
Lend, lend, lend, lend—
To the foe this challenge send,
Flag and freeds I defend;
Lend, lend, lend, lend.
GEORGE B. KING.

Ungallant
THIS happened at a breakfast table in Wayne on Sunday morning:
"Billy, did you clean your teeth this morning?"
"Yes, mother, I did. All the tooth-brushes are wet but Harriet's."

Way! Way! for our vials of wrath!
Way!
That creature threw gum in our path-way!
LAST day for the Liberty Bond. Yes, and last call for contributions to the fund to purchase young Philip Cotnam's painting for the Red Cross. Having \$25 on hand, we only need three more quarters to make up the \$10. Who'll send 'em in? If we could get you into this office and show you Philip's painting we'd get your quarter, all right. The masterpiece reached us yesterday. It's the best oil painting of its painter's age that we ever saw. You'll find a reproduction of the painting on another page of this paper, but that will give you no notion of the really praiseworthy color scheme nor of the ingenuity of the young man. His stretcher he made of pieces of a soapbox and for canvas he used the reverse side of a piece of oilcloth table-cover. The painting and the money will be laid in the lap of the Red Cross on Saturday.

Experience of Other Large Cities
In a recent study of the largest fifty cities in the country the Public Education Association of Philadelphia finds that thirty-four have school boards of from three to nine members, the commonest number being five. Twenty-eight elect their members at large, and in every case report satisfactory results. Among cities having boards of five to nine members:
Louisville reports five members elected at large for four years "Very satisfactory."
Cleveland has seven members, elected at large. "Formerly had a large board elected by wards."
Reports from cities having boards of from twelve to thirty members follow:
St. Louis has twelve members elected for six years at large. The strong point claimed is: "Representation of the whole voting population."
Providence has thirty members, elected by wards. Weak points—"Scatters responsibility, obstructs effectiveness, does not insure election of those best qualified."
Detroit has twenty-one members elected by wards. Strong points—"There are none." Weak points—"Obviously the impossibility of having the city properly represented. The people have voted to abolish the present method and establish a board of seven members elected at large."

And, speaking of soles, here's a soulful invoking of everything doulful:
May Fate him to Evil Chance,
Tether An' tight on a halibut to this death!



ARGUMENT FOR A SMALL SCHOOL BOARD

It Increases Efficiency, Concentrates Responsibility and When Elected the Interest of the People in Educational Affairs Becomes More Intimate

WHY should Philadelphia have a smaller school board?

First. Because a small board can and does work more effectively and expeditiously, dealing with large problems of policy and giving heed to the broader needs and purposes of the public school system.
Second. Because the change will break up the system of committee administration, inherited from the early times when paid experts were unknown. The committee system is largely responsible for the cumbersome administrative methods that have held back and are still holding back the Philadelphia schools from the position in the educational world that should be attained by the third city in the country.

Third. Because in a small board responsibility is centralized and fixed. Less of the personal element is brought into administrative affairs, and thereby is less opportunity for a small group of members to become the dominant influence in the board.
Why should the board be elected at large rather than appointed, as at present?

First. Because the appointment of such officers is incompatible with the primal idea of the functions of the judiciary.
Second. Because a body of men chosen by the duty of collecting and disbursing a quarter of the city's entire revenue should be directly responsible to the people who are taxed to raise this revenue, and therefore the people should have a direct share in the choice of those who manage it.

Under the present form of organization of the Philadelphia School Board the duties performed by its numerous committees are occasionally of large importance and concern the policy of the school department. Such matters should be handled by the entire board, and therefore the people should have a direct share in the choice of those who manage it.

The record of every meeting of the board consists largely of long recitals of administrative matters, approval of the acts of committees and other trivial items that in any city of 100,000 inhabitants would never come to the board's attention, but could be disposed of by the board's paid administrative officers.

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Against the restriction upon dual office-holding an argument has been offered, last month, has passed a law reducing the New York city board from forty-six to seven members.
Pennsylvania System
All second class school districts in Pennsylvania have the members elected at large. Reports from some of them follow:
Scranton suggests "seven instead of nine; election at large satisfactory."
Chester reports: "Site and manner of choice satisfactory."
Lancaster—"Would prefer a board of five members, elected at large."
Altoona is satisfied with the number, and reports: "Our directors are elected by the city at large, which is certainly the best way."
Harrisburg "thinks the size is right; if any change, it should be smaller. The election at large is all right."

Reading reports: "Size satisfactory; would prefer election on nonpartisan ballot."
York—"Satisfied with both the number and election."

What Do You Know?

QUIZ
1. Who is the official United States representative with the Italian mission?
2. How much did President Wilson subscribe to the Liberty Loan?
3. What freaks of fashion are doomed to go as a war economy?
4. What is the Committee of Public Information?
5. Who is John Sparco?
6. What new line of endeavor has the United States Just entered?
7. Who is Tuan Chi-Jui?
8. When was the first steel pen used?
9. What is the largest city in Canada?
10. What State is known as "the mother of Presidents"?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. Brigadier General Frank McIntire is military attaché of the War Department.
2. Count Morris Fletcher is the new Hungarian Premier, succeeding Tisa.
3. Approximately 10,000,000 miles of exchange and toll telegraph and telephone lines, requiring more than 10,000,000 telephone stations, are now under Government construction.
4. Tseu Ju-lin, now Minister of Foreign Affairs, is called "the brains of the Chinese cabinet."
5. The D. N. L. built in New Haven and recently erected by the United States, after a voyage of five miles an hour, is our latest aeroplane.
6. The Miles emblem seventeen square miles of Belgium and is familiarly known as the "mother of Presidents."
7. Dr. J. Neelands is in direct charge of distributing supplies in Belgium.
8. Submarine, in times of peace, rather over.
9. Waukesha, Wis. first constructed in 1416.
10. St. William's Laurier, leader of Canada's Liberal party, was resigned.

AN IDEAL ISLE OF EXILE

The idea of banishing the Kaiser to St. Helena in the event of an Allied victory is often a favorite source of imaginative exercises in England. The conception is grounded in historical precedent, and the remoteness of this little island is still an important asset, as it was in Napoleon's day. St. Helena is familiarly regarded as the most isolated inhabited land on earth. As a matter of fact, however, St. Helena's seclusion is far surpassed by its nearest, yet far distant neighbor, Tristan da Cunha, in the South Atlantic. Excepting the polar regions, this little-known "colony" of England is the most inaccessible spot in any ocean. Curiously enough, a great war was partly responsible for its present isolation.

Tristan da Cunha is one of a group of three small islands, lying in the South Atlantic on latitude 37 south and longitude 12 west. It is 2600 miles from the Cape of Good Hope, 1500 from St. Helena and 4000 miles from Cape Horn. The first permanent settlement on the island was made by Thomas Currie, an Englishman, in 1810. Some of the later settlers came from Cape Colony, a few from Italy and Asia, and from shipwrecked vessels. It was Americans, however, who gave a fleeting glimpse of prosperity to Tristan when they used it for a port of call on their way to the great whaling days before the Civil War.

In that struggle, however, the Confederate sea raiders destroyed American premises, and are daring forever. No regular liners, and even few tramps and sailing vessels, call at Tristan today, and the population, who keep a few sheep and cattle and grow some wheat, potatoes, peaches and apples, now number but ninety-five souls. They navigate between the three islands in small canvas boats of their own making and are daring sailors. Sharp wool furnishes the Islanders with clothing material. Occasionally they are visited by a British ship bringing needed supplies.

The islands were discovered in 1506 by the Portuguese admiral Tristan, and more properly, Tristan da Cunha, on a voyage to India. They rise from a submarine elevation, which runs down the center of the Atlantic and on which are likewise situated Ascension, St. Paul's Rocks and the Azores. The average depth on this ridge is about 1700 fathoms. The depth between the islands is in some places 1000 fathoms. Tristan, the largest island, has an area of sixteen square miles, is nearly circular in form and has a great volcanic cone, 700 feet high, usually capped with snow in the center. On all sides of the island but one rise precipitous cliffs from 100 to 200 feet high.

On the whole, Tristan da Cunha would be a reasonably safe place of exile for a certain present-day dweller in Europe.

Finally, the success of any great public institution in a democracy must rest ultimately upon the honesty, interest and intelligence of the electorate. To admit that an institution so universally sustained by the whole public and so closely related to the homes and lives of the whole people cannot be entrusted to the care of a body of citizens chosen by the people, but must be put in care of a body of men in whose honesty and integrity the people have no voice and who are completely beyond their reach, is to confess the failure of democracy.

Against the restriction upon dual office-holding an argument has been offered,