

Illustrated Evening Ledger PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY. Charles W. Lummis, Vice President; Philip B. Martin, Secretary and Treasurer; John J. Whelan, Director.

SOME INSIDE FACTS ABOUT TRANSIT

IN THE majority campaign of 1915 a political agreement was entered into to the effect that, in the event of the election of Thomas B. Smith, a Director of City Transit acceptable to the P. R. T. would be appointed.

THE Mayor did not know Mr. Twining, but he summoned him to a conference at the Adelphi Hotel. At that conference Mr. Twining pointed out that he was neither a public speaker nor a politician, and he acquiesced in an agreement to the effect that as Director he would concern himself solely with engineering problems.

EVER before Mr. Twining's appointment P. R. T. engineers had prepared a hobtail transit plan of their own. They hoped to put it through by introducing a red herring in the form of a bus and cry that City Hall would collapse if subways were built under it.

THE Mayor then came along. It had been the intention of one faction to knife it, but the necessary funds were not forthcoming and there was little organized opposition, except in Dave Lane's backyard.

By October nothing had been done. Prices were rising and conditions becoming more and more unfavorable, but no bids for new work were published. The patience of the public was exhausted.

UP TO November of last year, then, it is plain that every move made by the Mayor was a move favorable to the P. R. T. dictated in two out of three cases by that company.

FOLLOWING the disastrous reception accorded its previous moves and realizing that it could put nothing over on the public while Taylor was on guard, the P. R. T. then opened negotiations with the former Director, in the hope that a lease could be formulated which would meet with his approval.

ment, when dealing with a virtual bankrupt, than he was willing to be with a company which had begun to show large earnings.

The whole transit situation was in a stalemate. In these circumstances, Mr. E. A. Van Valkenburg, editor of the North American, telephoned one evening to Mr. Ballard and to Mr. Taylor, expressed his regret that they were no longer in negotiation and urged that they meet once more in his office, which was neutral territory.

THE Mayor had known of the negotiations going on between the company and Mr. Taylor. He had not been antagonistic to them. Suddenly, however, from the chrysalis of passivity emerged a full-armed giant, who announced himself in loud language to be a champion of the people, who would smite this fellow Taylor who had become spokesman of a special interest in opposition to the public weal.

WE SUGGEST to the Mayor, Mr. Gaffney, Director Twining and Mr. Lewis, composing the board of strategy, that they abandon some of the impractical schemes which have been proposed, forget personalities and tackle the whole problem anew on frank grounds.

With twenty-three of the States "bone dry," beginning yesterday, the other twenty-five cannot consider partial prohibition an un-American institution.

WE HAVE no disposition in the present exigency to harass or embarrass the Mayor and his advisers in any practical scheme they may have for untangling the intricate knot into which they have managed to tie the transit program.

THE Officers' Reserve Corps of Engineers has been entirely filled. It is well to keep little facts like this on tap when the "glorious" begin croaking about wartime apathy and similar mournful myths.

THE precious quality of sincerity was the supreme feature of the late William Winter's play reviews. As a critic he felt honestly unable to indorse many modern stage developments, and this rigid attitude won him much opposition from a younger generation.

grant a certificate of public convenience for anything the Mayor wants, since Commissioner Magee has taken it upon himself, ex officio, to dictate the city's policy, but the public has very little confidence in a Public Service Commission that refused to permit the city to take advantage of excellent bids for work in the heart of the city, although authorizing it at the same time to build an elevated line through miles of vacant fields, a pet hobby of the Mayor's.

THE Frankford line to Bridge street should be rushed to completion and operated. We have reason to think that there is no necessity for municipal equipment of it, but that a suitable and temporary lease with the P. R. T. can be effected, if required.

WE DO not believe that the business leadership of Philadelphia can afford to permit the continuance any longer of the deplorable condition now existing. Indeed, Director Twining is on record as saying that the only problem is the rate of fare, that given the equivalent in revenue of seventeen tickets for a dollar, he can adjust all differences almost immediately, build and pay for the entire system, as planned, and show little if any deficit.

ALTHOUGH our eye is always skinned for just that sort of thing, for quite a quarter of a century we had passed under the sign, which may be seen upon the wall of the hotel on Tenth street above Chestnut, and had never consciously noticed it.

CON GOUCHER, now the dean of Philadelphia printers; Clay McKenna and some others still about town, who worked upon the Age in wartime, could tell you how the mob storming the office of that Democratic organ in the mid-hour of the Civil War found only Peter Dooner, foreman of the pressroom, and Jim Breen, a hunchback fly-boy, left to defend the place; and they could tell you how Peter barricaded the front door and went 'up to the roof, whence he treated the crowd to buckets of scalding water—this is on the house!" yelled Peter to the mob below; but they went away.

WE ARE coming in for our share of foolish war talk. More and more frequently we hear the suggestion that Germantown be rechristened. Early in 1915 we heard how the Germantown Tool Works had lost some of its trade in Australasia because of its name, and now in that part of the world the firm, for business purposes, is known as the Griffith Tool Company.

NOT a man was lost. There was not even a case of serious illness. The men landed in splendid morale, with keen, confident and eager spirit. The physical appearance of our men is truly inspiring.

THE news that the Crown Prince is again directing operations against Verdun ought to be the finest kind of encouragement to the French counter-attackers.

THE news that Clam-Martinic is to be something or other in Austria struck us first as a bit of information diverted from a restaurant menu. To class it with the oyster cocktail might be not altogether an inconcinnity. Maybe that's a new one for you.

WITH so many of our best youth already enlisted and with some of our colleges wondering if there'll be enough students about next year to resume classes, it may be idle to offer tips to athletic scouts, but here's an item from the Doylestown Intelligencer that might bear investigating.

Tom Daly's Column

THE MAKE-BELIEVE SISTER. They're 'n orphan 'sylum across our square. An' I got a make-b'lieve sister there. A dear little thing 'bout four years old, 'Til big blue eyes an' hair like gold An' the sweetest dimples I ever did see. When she stands at her window an' smiles at me.

DOONERS HOTEL. deer put in there for" he demanded. At first we gave it up, but then we saw a light. "That's a stag," we said; "it's a stag hotel, see?" "Well, well; I always thought it was meant for 'deer,' to let you know it wasn't cheap."

ATTILA OUTDONE BY THE KAISER. Comparison of the Methods of the Huns of the Fifth and of the Twentieth Centuries. By HENRI BAZIN. Staff Correspondent of the Evening Ledger in France.

THE other day in Nauten I was shown through the Public Library, M. Bellamy, the Mayor, who escorted me, pointed out an ancient portrait upon the wall of a great room, and said: "That is the picture of Attila. The painter is unknown. The picture was originally in the Chateau, and is said to have been the property of Louis XIII, removed from Paris at the request of Anna, Duchess of Brittany, who did not wish to have it present in her palace in Paris when she became Queen of France."

FOURTH OF JULY CONTEST. Come, though your methods be crude and empirical; Come, though your mood be sedate or satirical; Come with your rhymes and grow Fourth of Julyful; Maybe—cho knowst—you'll accomplish the miracle—

ATTILA OF THE FIFTH CENTURY. Attila became King of the Huns in 434, dividing for a year the kingly power with his brother Bleda, whom he later murdered that he might rule alone.

BEAT! BEAT! DRUMS! Beat! beat! drums! Blow, bugles, blow! Through the windows—through the doors—burst like a ruthless force Into the solemn church and scatter the congregation.



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What Do You Know? QUIZ

- 1. The Serbian Premier announces that his country will send a mission to Washington. Who is this statesman?
2. What were the so-called "Noyades" of the French Revolution?
3. What is the second largest city in Mexico?
4. Who is the Hawaiian delegate in Congress?
5. What is the present Pope?
6. What is the nearest French equivalent to the English "hat room"?
7. What is the name of the "Great Brumell" and when did he live?
8. Where is the Magnetic North Pole?
9. How many republics are there in Europe and what are they?
10. Who wrote that "one today is worth two tomorrow"?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz

- 1. Lens is in the French Department of Pas de Calais.
2. The Duke of Wellington's name was Arthur Wellesley.
3. Cinnabar is an important ore of mercury.
4. James Crichton, the Scotch scholar, celebrated for the great variety of his knowledge, was known as the "Admiral of Crichton."
5. The Hawaiian name of the island is Hawaii.
6. The Bulgarian name of Bulgaria is Bularia.
7. Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, was the English queen who said, "I should be sorry to do it any harm."
8. The Cyclades form a group of islands in the Aegean Sea.
9. General Brevintor, after whom the world-map projection has been named, was a celebrated geographer. His dates are 1511-1594.
10. Four candidates were named for President of the United States in 1860: Free-soil Stephen A. Douglas, Republican; John C. Fremont, Democratic; Abraham Lincoln, Illinois, Republican.

THE SUEZ CANAL

THE plan of a water connection between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea goes back to early Egyptian history. Such a canal seemed to have been constructed in the reigns of Seti I and Ramses II, about 1500 B. C., extending from the Nile to Lake Timsah and thence to the Red Sea.

But when De Lesseps found it impossible to enlist the large amount of capital needed to build the canal, he turned to Ferdinand de Lesseps, who had been a partner in the canal company and suggested to the Sultan of Turkey that the work be stopped. Egypt being under the suzerainty of Turkey, he turned to Said Pasha, secured from him a large loan for preliminary work and promoting, and later a subscription for nearly half the stock, which was about \$25,000,000. Said was not able to get his subscription and his warrants had to be cashed in London. The Egyptian Government had agreed to furnish labor at a nominal price, the native workers to be cared for by the company. The violation of the latter condition on the part of the canal company aroused a protest in the name of humanity, especially in Europe, and their health to be cared for on the canal, and suggested to the Sultan of Turkey that the work be stopped. Egypt being under the suzerainty of Turkey, he turned to Said Pasha, secured from him a large loan for preliminary work and promoting, and later a subscription for nearly half the stock, which was about \$25,000,000. Said was not able to get his subscription and his warrants had to be cashed in London. The Egyptian Government had agreed to furnish labor at a nominal price, the native workers to be cared for by the company. The violation of the latter condition on the part of the canal company aroused a protest in the name of humanity, especially in Europe, and their health to be cared for on the canal, and suggested to the Sultan of Turkey that the work be stopped.