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Philadelphia, Monday, July 30, 1917

### WHO'LL GET THE NICKEL?

THE price for gas in Philadelphia is now \$1 a thousand cubic feet. Of this amount the U. G. I. takes eighty cents who uses gas is taxed 25 per cent for the privilege of so doing.

On the first of January next, under the and the company, the latter will receive but seventy-five cents a thousand cubic feet for its product.

We have attempted to discover what the administration proposes to do in these circumstances. We wanted to know if the reduction of five cents a thousand cubic feet would be given the people or if the administration proposed simply to put the extra nickel in the treasury and thus increase the infamous gas tax from 25 per cent to 331-3 per cent. There was such holy indignation expressed at the thought that possibly a few cents might be added to the tax rate some years hence on account of transit that we expected to see even more holy indignation at the suggestion of keeping the poor man's nickel away from him. Gas being a necessity of life, as lived in the city, we anticipated that this chance to reduce the price to the consumer would he seized on with avidity by the gentlemen who conduct our finances. But their indignation is all the other way. "For heaven's sake, don't mention gas," we "We need the money and we want to put this thing over quietly. There'll be a kick if you say anything."

Yes, there will be a kick, and it is going to be the kind of kick that lands. We may able to get eighty-cent gas, because political inefficiency of administraue of the municipality appears to be insufficient to provide for proper conduct of the city's affairs and contractors' profits also, but we are going to get ninety-five-cent gas, and we are going to get it on the first of January. Our confidence results from a belief that buncoing of the people has been going on long enough to open their eyes. With their eyes open they will stand for this mulcting process about ten minutes. A community which did not demand and take this five-cent reduction for its own advantage would be a dastardly community, unworthy of respect, because it would have no respect for itself.

Nor are the jeremaids of political

financiers based on solid grounds. We are not far wrong in predicting that the pet return to the city under ninety-fivecent gas would be equal to the amount now got under one-dollar gas, owing to larger consumption under the lower rate. It is mere stubbornness to assume that a financial loss would result from the rection. Not that we feel the community ould be satisfied with ninety-five-cent ras. It is proposed only as an absolute maximum, in the belief that the full nickel reduction at least should go to the people; but a still lower rate would be entirely justified and doubtless the company could join with the city in sharing the ost of a further lessening of price. But bether that happens or not, the people get, from the first of January on, full benefit of the reduction provided in their interest by contract years ago. way to be sure of getting it is to e to vote this fall for any candidate incils who does not pledge himabsolutely and without equivocation vor of passing the five-cent reduction the people. The candidate who reto do that is not a people's candi-He is an equivocator and a shuffler a game, and is a champion of

for no Councilman this fall unvotes for you. He votes for you rotes to give you at least a ! tion in gas rates, and he linet you when he doesn't.

rights by mouth only.

BR CARS GONE

s, simply to save a franchise. It was an unimportant line and an unimportant franchise. But the theory that a few individuals could "own the street" indefi nitely seems to have caused little irrita-

tion in the minds of New Yorkers. This putting up with something inherently wrong just because it happens to be funny is a trait of the ironic American humor. It is the reason for our thinking the Englishman's sense of humor is at fault. It seems absurd to us that a Londoner should argue with a motorbus conductor over a halfpenny overcharge. At the same time we secretly envy the Londoner's refusal to overtip waiters. To get things done right one must take little things seriously, when those little things involve a big principle.

## A DEPLORABLE VETO

THE proposal to revive the Nautical A School was enthusiastically indorsed by all organizations in Philadelphia that knew anything about the subject. The Legislature promptly voted the necessary sums. City Councils would have appropriated the city's share of the money early in the fall. The Chamber of Commerce has appointed a committee to go to Washington and consult with the Government as to the best method of preparing a personnel to handle the new merchant ships. The State has appropriated millions for the common defense. Nevertheless, the Governor has vetoed the appropriation for the Nautical School. It is the one big concrete thing to be contributed immediately by the Commonwealth and Philadelpha to the prosecution of the war, but the Governor cannot

see his way clear to spending the money. He has been guilty of a grievous error and every effort must be made to rectify it. We do not know that it will be posand twenty cents is turned into the city sible to divert any of the general detreasury. This mean that every person fense fund to the Nautical School account, but we are hopeful that some means to go ahead will be found. The proper legislation is on the books. Possibly a committee of citizens, or one terms of the contract between the city citizen, would be glad to underwrite the proposition and contribute the \$50,000 which the Governor feels the State itself cannot afford.

#### GERMAN LIES IN AMERICAN THROATS

GIVE the pessimists enough paper and link and they'll have us disgracefully whipped before we have a chance to fire a shot. Is it patriotism to spread the impression that the German arms are invincible when, as a matter of fact, the very flower of the German machine, in the high-tide of its efficiency, was driven back at the Marne and was held in its trenches for two years while the British army was getting ready? German lies in American throats do no good to Ameri-

## WAR NATURALIZES ALIENS

WHETHER aliens should or should not be conscripted is a question to be decided by the law of necessity and not by sentimental notions about what they owe to America. If we had an unlimited food supply we might leave friendly aliens entirely to their own devices. But our food supply, in view of our responsibilities to our allies, is terribly limited, and every alien mouth that eats should also be made to explain why it eats here, in a country at war, instead of in Norway or in Brazil or wherever its owner came

Aliens who have in peace looked upon America as their permanent home virtually assume all the responsibilities of tion eats up public funds and the imperial citizenship the moment war is declared. dess they are prepared to plan a return to their homes. This was the view of the thousands of American tourists in France and England in August, 1914. Some wanted to stay out of curiosity, but the invariable advice they got from the more thoughtful was: "If you can't help, don't hinder. These people need all the food and other necessities they can command. They can spare nothing for aliens."

Treason is always plausible.

What's the use having Stockholm conferences when Senator La Follette cannot attend?

Puzzle: Find a P. R. T. official with a worried look on his face as a result of the negotiations pending with the Mayor.

We won't win the war by hauling freight 100 miles beyond Philadelphia when the ships can come right here to get it.

It is a pity that real preparedness did not begin while Roosevelt was President. But he did not have time to think

Some of our very best editors de nounced the Civil War as a failure as late as 1864. Grant did not have time to read

Our idea or a successful war would be one conducted along the line that a fellow out in Detroit uses in supplying locomotion for the world.

Blackberry jam costs too much and is about to lose its monopoly in the army ration. Yet in Chester and East St. Louis there seems to be a mania for blackbury

When vice in persona propria ap pears before a Magistrate it is lucky if it can recognize itself in the white garments of purity in which it is escorted out of the hall of justice.

According to our own "Hampy" Moore, the Augusta site is ideal for an encampment. He investigated it for the EVENING LEDGER, and his report is comforting to the guardsmen who shortly are to go there.

The Glasgow street railway system rned a surplus of about \$800,000 last year, which has been turned over to the on Good Fund. The new transit system in Philadelphia will eventually ney for the city and reduce faxes worth thinking about when the ta cry bloody murder and declare spayers will have to dig down

#### HIGH COURT OF Tom Daly's Column ENGLISH USAGE

It Hands Down a Divided Opinion on the Correct Form of an Evening Ledger Sentence

WE ARE going to take the reader be-hind the scenes and let him get some idea of the many difficulties which beset editors who strive to write correct Eng-

The other day one of the editorial writers of the Evening Lenger began an article with the phrase "There are a certain two men." When it was printed a question arose as to its grammatical

But the phrase was allowed to stand unchanged in all editions. It was decided to appeal to the judgment of experts in colleges in different parts of the country The result indicates that the division of opinion among the professors of English is as great as among those whose business it is to write it.

William H. Crawshaw, A. M., Litt. D. LL.D., dean and professor of English literature in Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y., who has written a textbook on English literature and has taught English composition, decides that the ex- Let them be oglin' as much as they pl'ase pression is incorrect. He writes:

The expression 'There are a certain two men' seems to me incorrect, although some of my friends here think otherwise. If the article were omitted the expression might pass muster, though I should not think it a happy one. The article, howthink it a happy one. The article, how-ever, distinctly emphanizes the singular idea, while "are" and "two" are as dis-tinctly pural. Of course, there is the analogy of such expressions as "here are a few" and "There are a good mt ny." There, however, "few" and "many" may ore easily taken in a collective sense and regarded as conveying either a singular or a plural idea. "Two," however, is more distributive in meaning, and it would be difficult to speak of "a two" as we say "a few" or even as we say "a thousand," taking the group as a whole Of course there still remains the logica incongruity between "are" and "a few suspect that the true justification for There are a few" and "There are a good many" is idiomatic usage and not the essibility of logically harmonizing the eas. You will observe that while we "There are a good many," we do not say "There are a many." The for-mer has become good idiomatic English. The latter has not justified itself as idlom and is therefore subject to the logical ob-jection. The same seems to me to be true of the expression, "There are a certain two." It is bad grammatical logic, and cannot plead that it is good idlom. It may be some day, but I think not yet. P. S. Your expression involves "A men" and that is proper only at the end

of a prayer. The Rev. Francis P. Donnelly, S. J., that the form of words is permissible. He writes:

I have had some fun with your question which I tried on others. Some have said the phrase is indefensible, logically and grammatically. Others have de-clared it defensible. Most advise not using it and it may be condemned as superfluous. "There are two men" would express the idea adequately, especially in this context. The writer has probably, working on analogy, made a plural of There is a certain man."

The phrase appears awkward to me. The reason may be that I am expecting a plural noun after "there are" and I am puzzled by "a certain," which commonly goes with a singular noun or a collective . I start a sentence with "A certain and I do not feel the same pause.

Another difficulty is the use of two men as a collective, especially in the editorial where the writer takes them at once as where the writer takes to me that "a different types. It seems to me that "a different types. "A certain" individualizes and groups. "A certain two men come every day" sounds all right to me, but I mean a particular definite two men whom I do not wish to take them together just as in the expression "any two men." These phrases seem to be extensions of the expression -any two, certain two, these two. Grammarians commonly say that "a" goes with singular nouns or collective nouns and they recommend using a singular verb although they admit that usage justifies the plural verb. Here, however, the dif-ficulty is rather using "a certain" with the plural noun where the rule is to use "certain" with plural and "a certain" with singular. It seems to me that in this case the rule could be followed, especially as the writer, as I have said, is not taking them as a pair or couple, but as separate types. In that case "There are two certain men" might stand grammatically. Yet, as we do not often use the phrase, it does not come trippingly

You see that I am not dogmatic on this point, but I would say, if I am forced, that the phrase, "There are a certain two men." has been defended and so is defensible, at least by usage and perhaps also grammatically and logically wkward and makes close readers

question it. In the context, however, I think, modestly and with deference to better heads and to more patient study, that, as the writer is not making a class of the two men, he is not using "a certain few, or two, etc.," in its accepted meaning. Josiah H. Penniman, A. B., Ph. D., LL.D., vice provost and professor of English literature in the University of Pennsylvania and author of many articles on literary topics, detends the phrase which it happens was written by a man who got his education at the University Professor Penniman, however, did not know it. He says:

This sentence is correct grammatically. though it seems an awkward way of cor

Any combination of words may be considered and used as the subject of a verb, and as such may come under the classification "collective noun" if the meaning warrants it. The awkwardness of the sentence arises from the "are a combination, which does not in itself sound right. The "a." however, must be taken with the phase "certain two men," which is equivalent to a collection like "group." A collection may be used with "group." A collection may be used with either a singular or a plural verb de-pending on the thought in the writer's mind. If the meaning is distributed the verb may be plural. If the meaning is not distributed the verb may be sin-

guiar.

If referring to the Siamese twins as "a certain two men," the writer would be referring to something "singular," or at least commonly so regarded.

Do you remember the old wheeze? Pants: Plural if you wear them, singu

As the offense, if it be an offense, was committed in Pennsylvania, the criminal must be tried in Professor Penniman's jurisdiction. He seems to be acquitted there. It may be argued, however, that those who commit crimes against the best English usage must be tried in a court whose jurisdiction is coterminous with the regions in which English is used and that the guilt or innocence of the

the expression correct or is it not?

THE GOLDEN GIRL Red hair! Isn't it quaret Once on a time I'd do nothin' but feer at it Now, faith,

Look at me teeth, See how I show them an' growl when you sneer at it.

"Muddy wid lies,"

Brown eyes?

'Dull an' deceitful," I once was decidin' them: But-whack!-Yours will go black Under me fist now, if you'd be deridin

What's more. Freckles galore

Made a complexion the worst I could deem of it; But now-

You must allow They give a touch o' pure gold to the cream of It.

Some girls Flaunt the red curls, But it is blue eyes in undher that gaze

Some own Freckles alone-

at ye. One charm Needn't alarm; Fear not the lass who is only unfolding

Blessed acid all three-Like my own Nora-Och! She is the golden one.

UNFORTUNATELY we've misiaid the Judge's name, but his courtroom is in New Bedford, Mass. Before him appeared a defendant, who, hoping for lenlency, pleaded, "Judge, I'm down and out." Whereupon said the wise Judge: "You're lown, but you're not out. Six months!"

COMES M. Harry Hoeffler to remonstrate with us because we permitted Phil Friend to say too little about Tony Sanzoni. "Do you know," he asked, backing us into a corner, "that nearly all the gardens of Arden still blossom by grace of the genius of Tony Sanzoni, flagman at Harvey Station, B. and O.? Do you know that he started to work at 4 every morning, although he wasn't due to show up until 7? Do you know that he terraced the railroad bank on which his garden grew and carried water from a none-too-contiguous spring to irrigate his flowers and vegetables? Do you know that there isn't a house in that neighborhood professor of English in the College of today which doesn't contain at least one the Holy Cross, at Worcester, Mass., is of the red-blue-and-yellow baskets he in doubt, but he is inclined to the belief wove, between times, of willow withes gathered and stained by his own restless hands? Do you know that a distinguished old Quaker family of the countryside sets apart a special day in each year upor which Tony is entertained and feasted

> THEY STOPPED outside the Thirtieth Street market, in West Philadelphia, to pass the time of day.

as guest of honor at the family seat

talk of some men and too little of others.'

There is in newspaper columns too much

"You'll not be mindin' if I hurry along, Mrs. McGettigan," said the short, stout "Oh, not at all, Mary Ann," said the

other, "but this is no skatin' weather, mind, I'm tellin' ye." "True for ye, but 'tis a weddin' that's in it this mornin'. Me nephew it is:

Nora's boy." "Oh, sure I hear he's doin' fine." "So he is, glory be! An illigant job he has, wid figurin' an' the like o' that,' "An' what's his job, Mary Ann?"

"A bookcase, no less." THE TALE OF THE JAPANESE FAN In the time of cherry biossoms

In the land of old Japan. In the town of Nagasaki, Lived a maiden and a man. Fair she was, a golden Hly,

Cultured to the last degree; Of the line of Samurai, Brilliant, bold and brave was he.

ind each evening when the moonlight Shot its ancient magic down On the groves of cherry blossoms And the temples and the town,

From her place beside her window Where she sat to watch the stars She could hear these words upfloating

Through the trellised bamboo bars: You're the one dear ray of moonlight That across my pathway aleams: You're the cherry bloom whose fragrance Scents and sweetens all my dreams!

Oh, descend, dear ray of moonlight, Of my life to be a part; Flutter down, O cherry blassom, Till I wear you on my heart!" How she listened to the pleading

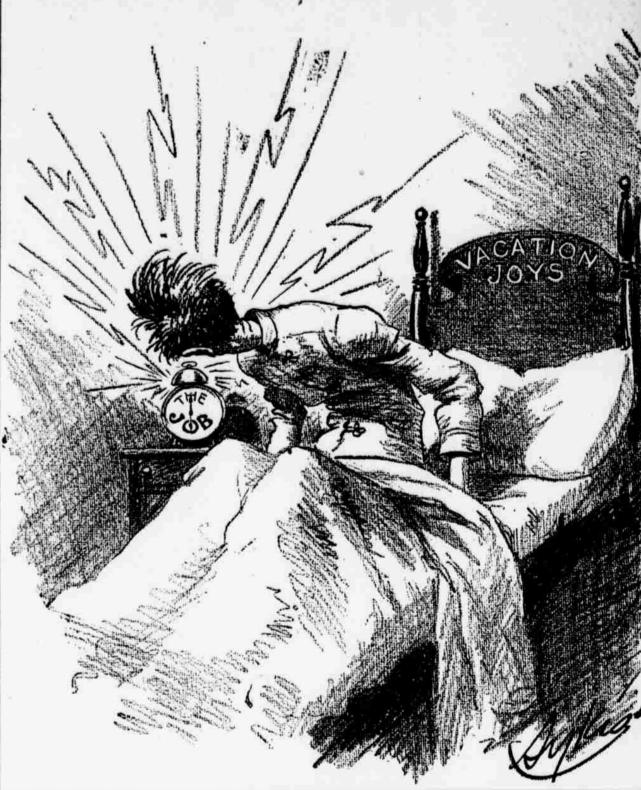
Of her fine and fair young man-How they loved, cloped and married, It is told upon this fan. Still; no doubt in groves Elusian Do they wander 'neath the stars-

Joyous-souled as when he wooed her 'Neath the trellised bamboo bars. ELEANOR ROGERS COX.

SOMEBODY in Youngstown sent us a letter yesterday from the new Tod House and awakened a memory of the old one. About ten years ago we were booked for a speech in that town and we registered at the Tod House. We registered on a card; the hotel used no book. Also, we paid in advance. (Oh, yes, we had baggage.) That was a terrible mistake, as our story will show in good time. Arrived at our room early in the afternoon, we called the chairman of the meeting and arranged to wait in our room until he came for us, which, he said, would be around 8 o'clock. At 6 we went down to dinner and back to our room. At 8 we were waiting, and at 8:15 and at 8:30. Then we got nervous. We tried to call our man on the phone. "Oh," cried the house operator, "they've been looking all over for you and paging you and everything. "Well," we said, "I've been here all the time." "Yes," said she, "but you paid in advance and the clerk lost all record SPELLBINDER of you."

#### Can This Be True? Semioficial advices state that since cer

tain stores stopped delivering goods wives, compelled to visit the stores reonally and seeing things they never ight of buying before, are carrying home more stuff than the dealers were in the habit of delivering before, YOU KNOW THAT FEELING



# THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Home-Defense Men Need Arms. Socialists and the Churches

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current 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 name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a puarantee of good faith.

HOME-DEFENSE MEN NEED ARMS

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—As a member of the Philadelphia Home Defense Reserve, I want to draw your attention to the fact that an article in your valuable paper, printed on July 21

escribes the experience of the writer. On Friday, July 20, while returning from he Pennsylvania Barge Club to my home 1811 North Logan Square, on a Callowhill force being badly beaten up by a crowd of men. I asked both the motorman and con ductor of the car to come with me to the aid of the officer, but they both refused to help. I asked several men who were standing around (American citizens, I pre to help rescue the yould help, several of the men saying,

"They are a bad gang to tackle."

Seeing the officer was on his back in a helpless condition, with his head and face covered with blood. I singled out on he men whom I saw deliberately kick the officer on the head, and struck him on his head with my walking cane, which un-fortunately was broken in contact. The blow had the desired effect, as the man ran off and the other men left the prostrated officer to attack me. For a few minutes it was "rough house," but an officer had een saved.

I have been badly cut in the mouth, biffed behind the ear, hit with a brick in the back (which a bystander said was thrown at my head by one of the gang) and have bruises received by a bootjack or a club that make it difficult for me to walk. My reason for reciting this story at length is that I want to ask the co-opera-tion of your valuable paper to impress the proper authorities to see that the volun citizen be so armed that he car east take care of himself while assist-

THOMAS E. ELDRIDGE, M. D. Home Defense Reserves, 9th District. Philadelphia, July 27.

SOCIALISTS AND THE CHURCHES To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—"The devil," says Shakespeare, quote Scripture to his purpose." Wh nly one way of saying that the Bible may be used to support anything at all, if you know your Bible, of course. There is no need, however, to bolster up Socialism by means of the Bible and approve it with a text. But that the principles and aims of Socialism are practically identical with the principles and aims of Christianity is too well known to all well-informed rea need any amplification here. The literature of Socialism, readily obtainable from any literature Socialist, contains abundant proof to this effect. The Encyclopaedia Britannica, by no manner of means a Socialist publication.

no manner of means a Socialist publication, says as much.

If churches today were not so completely commercialised and dominated by the dollar, perhaps more Socialists would be found darkening their doors and worshiping at their altars. Socialists do not take much stock in the routine practice of churchgoing in a grossly materialistic age such as we are living in today, when the measure of respectability and social standing is the measure of the dollars in one's pockets. Socialists look deeper. They see that the very pillars of the churches are precisely the ones who place the heaviest contributions on the offertory plate, and sing "All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee," when the simple fact is that what they "give" represents the product of unpaid labor. These people are the very ones whose prototypes Christ was moved to cast out of the Temple and to overthrow the tables of the money-changers, because they had made the house of prayer a den of thieves. (Matt. xxi, 12, 13.)

Hence it is that in a society wherein 12, 13.)

Hence it is that in a society who every one is rated by the dollar

choirs do not sing unto the Lord a new song for the glory of God, but for money. We are constantly reminded of the dollar ce ostensibly dedicated to the wor ship of the Creator.

Socialists, however, have no quarrel with

the display of material wealth per se. They have a very serious quarrel with the churches and ministers who are silent in the presence of monstrous social wrongs and injustices which heap up immense wealth in the possession of a few. Mere lip service in church will not right

these wrongs. That is why Socialists are everywhere out in the highways and hedge on their soap-boxes compelling the working people to come into the Socialist party

ALBERT C. HART. Merchantville, N. J., July 28.

POETS NEGLECT SAILORS To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir-Philadelphia, with its noble traditions of country-love, has a chance now to renew those traditions, not only through the service-at-arms of its young sons on lefield, but through the literary craft of its stay-at-homes. We have duced many literary men in this city. We have proof their work-George Boker's, for example -has lived, and will continue to live, be of sentiment that inform it. Boker's "Dirge for a Soldier" is one of the fine things the warrior. Other examples of this entirely proper pride in one fighting man could be plucked from the anthologies.

But Philadelphia, like most of the Unite states (like, indeed, most of the world), has been very one-sided in the matter. have we no navy poet, one who would give that arm of service its due in swinging singing lines—lines easily remembered, fit-ted for a musical setting? The whole tend ency of the present war has been to glorify the man in the trench. His blue brothe the ocean has been virtually forgotten. Even Sir Henry Newbolt, unofficial laureate of the British navy, has let many obvious

Is there no versifier in our city who will write stirring stanzas about the "gobbies," surely as deserving in their different way as their fellows in khaki? Or is the explana ion of this phenomenon the fact that sailors make up their own songs, or adapt them? At any rate, some such clever write as T. A. Daly ought to be able to endid poem about the unfairly neglected bluejackets.

LESLIE MARION. Philadelphia, July 25.

"SING AND FIGHT!"

Plattsburg recruits have learned a new Plattsburg recruits have learned a new slogan. It is "Sing and fight!" General Bell, one of the officers at the head of the training corps, made an address before the men gathered there, emphasizing the seriousness of the work undertaken by them. During the course of the talk he made the following statements:

following statements:

"A soldier must think only of his duty
and must do it in a way that all who survive him will be proud of the way he gave
up his life. You know whom we are going to fight. German soldiers sing while they march. I want you to see that our army beats them at their own game, for singing

men are fighting men.

"From you will be selected part of the first 10,000 officers, and I want you to take it upon yourselves as a duty to see that every company of our army has a marching tune, and that the men learn to sing it. You don't know how much further men. You don't know how much further men You don't know how inden turther men can march when they sing. Any rousing air will do. 'A Hot Time in the Old Town To-night' has a swing to it that will put ginger and courage in the hearts of men. Go to it. Sing and fight !"

Y. M. C. A. AND WAR

Y. M. C. A. AND WAR

It is strange to find in a war book one of the best descriptions of and tributes to the Y. M. C. A. that has been written. Only the other day a "man who knows" referred to the Y. M. C. A. in Arch street as "one of the best clubs in town"—the favorite club-home of many of Philadelphia's most fastidious and most successful and prosperous young business men.

Now, in Hodder Williams's "One Young Man," telling the experiences of an English clerk at the front, appears to be a corroboration of what the "man who knows" asserts: "We were told to make ourselves absolutely at home. Much to our surprise, no one came up and spoke to us about our souls; indeed, our hosts led the way into all the fun that was going, and nose of them had the milk-and-bun expression of countenance that we had conjured up in our mind" eye. You can imagine what our conception of I. M. C. A. members was. We imagined

# What Do You Know?

QUIZ

What South American city is reported the heaviest sufferer from the recent earth-quake?

2. Who originated the phrase "muddle through," and in what connection? . Who is Mme. Bochkarlova?

. Who was "the good gray poet"?

6. What German author, in a novel written before the war, described Berlin as "a faded Paris"?
7. What is a cunctative policy?

8. To what branch of United States military service do "gobs" belong? 9. What is a mullah?

10. Who was Perkin Warbeck? Answers to Saturday's Quiz

A bivouse is a temporary encampment with-out tents.

2. Frank A. Scott, of Cleveland, chairman of the General Munitions Board, will head the new industrial board or world bear

3. The sister of Lord Kitchener, popul thought to have died when a Bri cruiser was torpedoed, has just ste that she believes him to be alive.

Theodore Roosevelt has coined the phrase, "pawnbroker patriotism," in connection with America's part in the war. The Chester riots originated in the slaying of William McKinney, a white man, by

amburg, Germany, is reported to be suffer-ing most heavily from a cholera epidemic. 7. Jane, wife of Thomas Carlyle, is referred to in Leigh Hunt's "Jenny Kissed Me."

Many drafted men living in the suburbs, it is expected, will be forced to serve, be-cause their health is better than that of most city workers, "Syntax" is the construction of sentences.
 The French poet Montcorbler is more commonly known as Francois Villon.

## "BUILDING A RAILROAD TO NOWHERE"

DRESENT-DAY doubts about the "overdevelopment" of transportation facilities were not entertained so extensively in the Philadelphia of the fifties of the last century. Of course, there were a number of persons who called a certain project "building a railroad to nowhere"; but, in spite of the imaginative daring of this project, the pullbacks do not seem to have been able to hobble the forward-looking men of 1853.

The project was the creation of Atlantic City, and it seems to have been quite a success. But in the fiftles the long, narrow bit of sand called Absecon Beach seemed at first sight as desolate as a coral island in the Pacific. Occasionally an adventurous gunner would wander about the meadows in quest of small birds and walk on the white beach, where he did not dream so many thousands of bathers were to gather in later years. When the Camden and Atlantic was projected there were only two houses on the island, one a small notel and the other the habitation of fishermen.

Philadelphia enterprise and capital entirely controlled the venture. The promoters declared it was their intention to open a new communication with the seacoast, not so much for purposes of navigation and general commerce as for the establishment of a watering place with hope of employment for freight purposes in the transportation of oysters, fish and game from the bays and sounds on the coast.

The railroad was opened with a midsum-

mer excursion, in which 600 persons particlpated. The United States Hotel at Atlantic City was partly finished and a celebration took place there. To the enthusiastic excursionists, after a few hours in the July sun, the experiment began to seem hopsless, little as they would admit it. But the projectors persevered. They had connected their railroad stock interests with real setate purchases of lands on the beach. But some of them did not live to see their faith ustified in works. It was the slow proc of a quarter of a century that made vision come true. But even in the se