

Evening Ledger

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COME FORWARD, MEN!

THE politics of this city has long been in need of a major surgical operation. The cancer has worked its way deep into our institutions.

Revelation at the hearing yesterday got mighty close to the top when the two Vares themselves were declared by a witness to have had intimate knowledge of the importation of New York thugs.

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In a letter written by one Rowan to Haywood on August 2 it is declared that "the old bugaboo of 'patriotism' is being preached on all sides.

It was a frame-up, all right! We've got the cash, now let's get the airplanes. We all know where we're going and we are on our way.

There seems to be an effort to "camouflage" the issue. No matter how they fix prices, it requires patriotism to pay them.

NEW RULES FOR COASTWISE TRADE

Old Traditions Go by the Board With Admission of Foreign Ships

FOR more than a century the United States has been exceedingly jealous of its coastwise trade. Efforts of foreign nations, most favored in the matter of ship construction and operation, have been made from time to time to break through the protective barriers that have been reared, without avail.

It has always been the American contention that ships could be built cheaper abroad than at home and that efforts to induce American officers and seamen to work upon terms competitive with foreigners have failed.

Foreign vessels have had the privilege of entering our ports to discharge or to take on cargo, just as the same privilege has been extended to American vessels in foreign ports.

Republicans have generally supported it, but old-line Democrats, believing in free trade, have sought to bring about the system. As one of them said in the House last week: "Our laws now give monopoly to American ships."

Breaking Down the Barriers. Most everything President Wilson has asked for during this extraordinary session he has received at the hands of Congress.

Backed by Business Men. Before the bill was brought up in the House, Congress was advised that the introduction of certain large commercial boats among these were most of the trade organizations of Philadelphia, which have hitherto stood like a stone wall against any kind of free navigation laws that have hitherto confined our coastwise shipping to our own ships.

The Official Bulletin, we may suggest to George Creel, could be read more easily with the pages cut. General Maude's great thrust at the Turkish fighters was anything but a ladylike procedure, in spite of his name.

A wireless conversation has just been held between Long Island and Hawaii, 5000 miles. The world cannot be made small enough. A small world is a safe one.

The mate who said to his captain, "All I want from you is courtesy, and damned little of that," expressed the feelings of Philadelphia toward the new ship up.

Tom Daly's Column

OVERFEEDING. Ain't it funny how a chap'll Overeat, at his first grapple With a dish o' new-made scrappple? Our experience mayhap'll Work a cure In us for sure; And see may Answer "Nay!"

Second to none in our faith in Dr. Henry A. Garfield, who has promised us coal, we nevertheless cannot imagine him capable of achieving the cozy posture necessary to live up to a poem, contempt's description of him as "a man who speaks straight from the shoulder."

TOM BIRD, who went away with the Chestnut Hill crowd to Camp Meade the other day, is not one of the early variety, so he has asked his folks for an alarm clock. "I gotta beat the reveille," sez he, "because it takes me fifteen minutes to face me leggin'."

But let us take a leaf from the life of an ex-school teacher, Will Lou, who has been at Camp Meade only about a week, but that was enough for promotion: We came here last Thursday, and two days ago I managed to get my first shower bath by washing in coffee and tea.

BERT TAYLOR admits his propensity to speak of "white weeks," and we've experienced a like weakness for "whinter weat." Our brother-in-law, who is too old for the draft anyway, always speaks of "tatties."

Och! the year is gettin' grav. Like a man that's had his day, Waitin', jist, to fade away. An' none to pity. Och! the way the winds do blow! Little ease o' them ye'll know, Whether in the fields ye go Or in the city.

Everything's so high nowadays, honest to goodness you don't get full value unless your saving sense of humor culls a couple chuckles in every shop and on every trolley, train and tootie-trot.

Then there's the butcher whose face is as devoid of expression as a worm's. Imagine such remarks as these from a physio, less than apathetic: "Yes, I'll have chickens tomorrow, but they'll be alive—they keep better that way."

"The deceased," said a recent issue of the Stroudsburg Times, "was one of those persons who delight in not letting their left hand know what their right is doing, and vice versa."

It's rather hard to decide whether it would be the part of friendship to forward to the worthy Major Clapham this clipping from the current Cape May Star and Wave: Major Clapham has sent a cablegram stating that he and family have arrived safely in England. Mr. Clapham will be remembered as one of the most ardent supporters of the war.

KAISER DISAPPROVES OF LIBERTY BONDS

THE enthusiasm with which the country has risen to meet the Government's second Liberty Loan appeal is an enheartening as a great victory in the field. It will be good news to our men across the water. It is the most vivid and practical way to tell them we are with them every minute of the time in their fight against Kaiserism.

These bonds we buy are their weapons, airplanes, rifles, ammunition. These bonds are their comfort and relief; food, blankets, ether. But it is not enough merely to furnish the three billions. It must be done quickly, willingly and with a big margin to spare. The message must go like a shot straight from our pockets to the second-floor front suite de luxe in the palace at Potsdam, so that Potsdamers shall know exactly where it gets off.

It is a good thing to indict seditious men. That pleasure is reserved to the Grand Jury. But every citizen can indict the traitors in our midst by buying a bond. An overwhelming flood of bond buyers will silence the La Follettes more surely than expulsion from the Senate. For no tricky peace-at-any-price quibbler will attempt to address a crowd wearing Liberty Bond badges.

THE French are in no doubt about aerial reprisals. The English are. Americans have not been called upon to take a stand in the matter, as German machines have not brought the question home to us by bombing our cities. But the Allied nations, including America, are fighting as a unit against Germany and in the long run are responsible for each other's policies.

Reprisals upon noncombatants in the spirit of pure revenge is unquestionably wrong. As a means of preventing murder it can be defended. If the Germans started murdering prisoners and the only way to make them stop was to kill prisoners, there would be few objections to this reprisal. If the only way to stop German air raids is to raid German cities, Allied Governments owe it to their citizens to adopt this policy.

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AGRICULTURISTS URGED TO EXPERIMENT WITH FELDSPAR

Complains of Workhouse

TO the Editor of the Evening Ledger: The alarm caused by the shortage of potash for agricultural purposes in this country, due to the cutting off of the German supply, and which has been the occasion of several letters in the columns of the Evening Ledger discussing the possibility of increased production, would seem to ignore an inexhaustible supply of potash which, with some possible and as yet not well-defined limitations, is obtainable by virtually every American agriculturist at a reasonable cost.

A large proportion of the rock underlying the American continent consists of feldspar, much of which contains potash in varying proportions up to 18.8 per cent. To extract this potash commercially has long been an important problem of the industrial chemist, thus far unsolved. It has long been known, however, that potash feldspars decompose under the action of the elements, liberating their potash in a soluble form available for plant food.

Occasional experiments had been made during a half century until our Agricultural Department collected the work of preceding investigators and instituted a series of experiments to try out the theory practically. In the first place a very interesting principle was discovered: Whereas powdered feldspar liberated little potash by the action of water alone, when by the growth of a plant or by other means the separate potash was removed as liberated, nearly all the potash was completely liberated in a comparatively short time. The experiments as a whole showed that under the conditions of the tests the potash of finely ground feldspar appeared to be virtually as available for plant food as the ordinary soluble salts ordinarily used. The investigator is very cautious in his claims in view of the fact that the experiments could not be conducted under all the varying conditions to be met with in varying soils, climates and crops.

The subject is, however, of such great interest to every American agriculturist who needs potash in his fertilizer and the prospects of successful use seem so great that it seems incredible that it has not already been tried by agriculturists in general as a possible condition. At this time of potash scarcity it is certainly deserving of general trial. Probably the only ground feldspar now commercially available is that supplied to potteries and similar found practicable, although better results were obtained by finer grinding. The feldspar used should contain not less than 8 to 10 per cent potash. The experiments above referred to are described in Bulletin No. 104, Bureau of Plant Industry.

In view of the fact that in the decomposition of feldspar only the action of water was considered, and the well-known fact that carbon dioxide is an important agent in the decomposition of feldspar rocks, it has occurred to the writer that it might be well also to observe whether any improvement is secured by using soils yielding carbon dioxide, such as those containing humus or decaying organic matter. Possibly the feldspar and the organic matter might mutually hasten the decomposition of both.

WILLIAM R. JOHNSTON, Shippenburg, Pa., September 25.

SUFFRAGIST COMPLAINS OF JAIL. TO the Editor of the Evening Ledger: The following reply to Senator Timberlake's report on the Congressional investigation into the activities of the I. W. W. is published in the Philadelphia Record of September 28, 1917.

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What Do You Know? QUIZ

- 1. What President was in office during the military draft effected in this country? 2. What is an operative buffer? 3. What is a monstrosity? 4. What comprises the "personal department" of the English King's household? 5. Name the three leading dramatists of Great Britain. 6. Distinguish between equinox and solstice. 7. Give the origin of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. 8. What and where is Yarns? 9. How old is President Wilson? 10. The founder of the Nobel prizes was nominated for an invention. What was this?

THE WISTAR PARTIES

ONE of the features of old Philadelphia life which writers of memoirs and histories of the city have mentioned, given under the hospitable roof of Dr. Caspar Wistar, at Fourth and Pine, now Locust street. The house, which has been restored to much of its original beauty, and built about 1750, Dr. Wistar shipped out there for a time. In 1793 Doctor Wistar moved from High street (Market) to Fourth and Pine and lived there until his death in 1818.

He was a very busy man, having an extensive practice and a chair at the University. But he gave as much of his leisure hours as possible to his friends, who followed the custom of dropping in on Sunday afternoons. As the years passed by these social gatherings became one of Philadelphia's most cherished institutions. They included most Philadelphia's of distinction, and strangers of note stopping here for a few days were always made welcome. The house became the center of the literary and scientific society of the city.

Some of the most notable visitors were Baron von Humboldt, the naturalist; Samuel Plaud, the botanist; Josefa Correa de Sa, Samuel Breck, Dr. John W. Francis, Basil Walsh, Joseph Kopelman, Nicholas Biddle, Nathaniel Chapman and the older statesmen, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Mr. John Kuhn, both the William Shippen, Doctor Griffiths, William Rawls, Chief Justice Gresham, George Clymer, Peter Dueschene, John Heckewelder and John Vaughan. The entertainment was simple, consisting of wine and cake, tea and coffee, as Dr. Wistar's idea was an intellectual rather than a convivial gathering. The table was set on Sunday in the afternoon, and the guests usually ranged in number down to fifty. Invitations began in October and November and continued to be sent out until April, bringing together the best of the World civilization could produce of learning, courtesy, grace and good breeding. But Doctor Wistar's fame does not rest on the Wistar parties. He was the first of the first American translators of literature, and his translations of the best of the world's literature are still read and studied to this day.