

Public Ledger

Public Ledger Company... EDITORIAL BOARD: Editor, R. K. Curtis, Chairman... GENERAL BUSINESS MANAGER: J. H. Martin...

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BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN OF COERCION

Now and then we have in America lynch parties. They had their years ago in San Francisco when the machinery of government failed properly to function and the scales of justice were impudently trifled with.

Last night was a horrible one in this city. A soft snow was followed by a hard rain. Horses slipped and fell on the highways. Pedestrians who were unprepared for the sort of weather they experienced reached home drenched to the skin.

Yet all last summer there was not one sweet, sunny day, not one glorious evening, that the streets of this community were not quite as dangerous, quite as destructive of health, as they were during the abnormal and utterly disagreeable weather of last night.

We know more than that. We know that the processes of law have fallen down, that the machinery of administration is running on loose bearings and that the citizens of Philadelphia have been compelled to have recourse to lynch law.

We refer, of course, to the organization of Minute Men by the Chamber of Commerce. These men are to take it upon themselves to report to the authorities and to the Chamber any delinquencies which they may observe in the cleaning of the streets.

Philadelphia business men intend to send city officials to do their duty. That is an extraordinary process, without authority of law, but it bears the command of public opinion, the commanding prestige of common purpose, and the high hope of some relief to citizens if it threatens the high profits of some citizens.

There are not ad copies of lynch law and there is little sympathy with the employment of extra-legal means to secure legal ends, but we have no hesitancy what-so-ever in commending emphatically the course determined on by the Chamber of Commerce. So will all citizens, with few exceptions, commend it if the program is carried out efficiently and arrived to its destination.

NOT AN ALARM, BUT A WARNING

The Philadelphia fuel administrator is not an alarmist, and his statement, printed on this page, is not an alarm to panic, but an alarmingly timely warning to face the facts and meet the conditions, admittedly grave here, with caution, conservation and co-operation.

Mr. Lewis is singularly frank in his presentation of the local situation, both as to its immediate distress and its scant prospect of alleviation. He has brushed aside surmises and theories, and, as he was asked to do by this newspaper, tells the truth as it appears to him, out of his months of devoted public service and with the first-hand knowledge of official experience.

Conservation and co-operation are not going to give each home a hothouse atmosphere, but they will keep the dwellers sufficiently and efficiently warm, if the cheerful glow of voluntary content is kindled in the spirit.

Two investigations are under way in the English-speaking capitals of this planet. Why did Haig let himself be taken by surprise in front of Cambrai? Why did our War Department get into a tangle over machine-gun manufacture from April until June?

These two inquiries will do no good whatever unless they subordinate the past to the future. The question is not "Who was to blame?" but "Can this happen again?"

We must watch the War Department like hawks and we must watch the critics of the War Department like hawks. Let us paraphrase that famous saying of Mr. Roosevelt to the effect that "The man who hates a foreign country (meaning England) more than he loves his own country dogs not love his country."

First, is Mr. Baker equipping the American troops in France at this moment with sufficient guns and ammunition? Second, is the manufacture and shipment of war material proceeding as rapidly as the dispatch of troops to France is proceeding?

When those two questions are answered we shall have plenty of time to find out what happened last spring.

An ounce of post-haste is better than a pound of post-mortems.

THE CONQUEROR OF JERUSALEM

Sir Edmund Allenby, Cavalryman and "Good Officer," Has Had Notable Career

This is the psychological moment for some genealogical sharp to produce an authenticated family tree of Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Henry Hyman Allenby, K. C. B., latest conqueror of Jerusalem. To fit the romance of the occasion it should date back at least as far as the crusades and should show that one of General Allenby's ancestors stood beside Richard Coeur de Lion on one of the two occasions when that doughty but unlucky warrior-marshal viewed from afar the walls of the coveted city which he was destined never to enter.

Allenby is a name with a Norman ring to it, and it is possible that one of Sir Edmund's forebears did actually "squire the impetuous Richard" in the crusades. The modern conqueror is no recent a figure in the war limelight for any biographer to have dug up such interesting facts. For the present General Allenby will have to be content with the honor that he has won for himself—and these seem ample. Of his ancestry the world knows only that he is not the descendant of a hundred belted earls, but merely comes from what the English are given to calling a "good family."

As military ages go in these modern war-times, General Allenby is not a young officer. Born April 23, 1861, he had passed the age when military geniuses of history gained their greatest laurels long before his name was known outside British army circles. As a matter of fact, probably no one would be surprised to learn that Sir Edmund had served in the Boer wars, and that his greatest laurels long before his name was known outside British army circles.

He was a good officer when, upon leaving Haileybury College, an excellent but unrenowned English secondary school, he entered the Infantry Brigade of the Buffs. He was a good officer, his conduct during the Boer wars, and that his greatest laurels long before his name was known outside British army circles.

That Sir Edmund is a cavalry officer by preference and by training should occasion no surprise. So far as the British army is concerned, this is a war which has been fought in the saddle. It is a war which has been fought in the saddle. It is a war which has been fought in the saddle.

Now that General Allenby has once more proved himself a good officer by winning Jerusalem for the British, the question arises, the question arises, the question arises. How much real importance should be attached to his success? From a purely sentimental point of view, the fall of the city is a matter of some importance. Doubtless it has much political value also; even the German press admitted this when the capture of the city was first reported.

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STEALING MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wild Days When Public Document Was Bartered to Highest Bidder

Once upon a time, when there were bad, unscrupulous men in the newspaper business—and worse ones on the outside ready to trade with them—the President's message to Congress was an object of barter and upon occasion represented a small king's ransom.

The Last and Biggest Killing Fifty years ago, or, let us say, forty, the stealing of the President's message was an annual scandal. It was a yearly expectation, and Newspaper Row in Washington was always full of sharp eyes and tingling ears on the eve of the first Monday of December.

Another story, very little less dramatic, but having the virtue of freedom from the sordidness marking the first, concerns the New York Herald. This, too, took place in the night between the first and second of December. On the Sunday evening before the opening of Congress it became known abroad in New York that the Herald in some way had secured an advance copy of the President's message and proposed to print it in the next day's paper.

The Modern Method This sort of thing, liable to break out every year, got to be such a potential promoter of nervous "preparation" that all the publishers of the nation welcomed the Government's announcement of a plan that would make everybody behave.

What Do You Know? Quiz 1. Who is General Overhatch? 2. Who wrote "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table"? 3. What is an oplet? 4. Where and what is the Smoler Institute? 5. What is the source of the quotation, "A thing done in haste is done in haste"? 6. Who was the author of "The Sign of the Cross"? 7. What is meant by adagio? 8. What Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States actually performed the duties of his office? 9. Where is Greenhatch? 10. What is dew?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Cappelle is three miles west of the Elve and three miles east of the Elve. 2. General Sir E. H. H. Allenby was in command of the Christian forces at the capture of Jerusalem. 3. Hyperbolic is a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used to give force or impressiveness to a statement. 4. New Haven is "The City of Elms." 5. James Russell Lowell wrote "The Vision of Sir Launfal." 6. Fela is the Austrian naval base on the Adriatic. 7. The Holy Grail, according to legend, was the chalice used by Christ in dismissing wine and blood to the disciples. Its discovery was the mission of medieval knighthood. 8. Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria is in command of the German forces in the Cambrai sector. 9. The Chamberlain is an endorsement made by the oil magnate to discontinue funds for various philanthropic and scientific purposes for 1918 and other years. 10. Charles de Gaulle was the author of "The Sign of the Cross" for the defeat of the British at the battle of Britain.

"GR-R-RR! SOON VILL I TEST YOUR METAL!"



PUBLIC MUST AID IN COAL CRISIS

Philadelphia Fuel Administrator Admits Gravity of Situation and Offers Constructive Suggestions as Fruit of Official Experience

By FRANCIS A. LEWIS Chairman of the Philadelphia Board of the Fuel Administration. I HAVE been asked to state briefly the anthracite coal situation in Philadelphia as it is today and to make any suggestions likely to prove helpful. It will be quite impossible to go into the ways and wherefores of things. I deal simply with concrete facts and leave it to those who have a liking for controversy to argue them out.

The Drain on the Supply Now, think of the drain on coal. It must be shipped abroad; it must be used to heat the contentments and for various other Government uses, first of all. There is enough anthracite coal in the ground to last for years, but with labor conditions as they are only a certain amount can be got out of the ground, and that is not much. The coal situation cannot materially improve during the war, and for wise reasons. The normal number of miners in the anthracite coal fields is 180,000; it is now 150,000; and to their credit it is said the 150,000 have produced more coal in 1917 than the 180,000 did in 1916. We cannot hope to increase this number.

War-time Conservation Again we must remember that we are at war and that coal must be conserved, and I venture to predict (not officially) that if buildings this winter continue to be abnormally heated in spite of warnings the owners may experience some difficulty in getting a supply of coal in 1918. If this war goes on, and there seems every prospect that it will, it is inevitable that the fuel situation will have to be taken into account in many things that are thought to be necessities but in reality are pure luxuries. A few days ago coal dealers were instructed not to sell coal for private garages. This was thought to be very hard. A private garage is a pure luxury, and surely thousands of homes in Philadelphia cannot be left cold in order to warm automobiles. My object in writing this article at the request of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER has been to explain the situation, to answer a number of questions that are constantly being addressed to me and to make suggestions as to how people can help to better conditions. I have no wish to alarm any one—panic will not bring another pound of coal into the city. Scolding is gaining by excitement. But I do want to impress upon my fellow citizens the gravity of the coal situation and to ask their help in dealing with it. I can assure them that no stone is being left unturned by the fuel administration here. But unless the citizens themselves are willing to aid, at least in the direction of stopping waste and getting along with as little fuel as possible, the task becomes much more difficult, and it will only lead to drastic rules and regulations which no one wants to resort to and which can so easily be avoided by an exhibition of patriotism coupled with patience and ordinary horse sense.

Tom Daly's Column

Comes Written by myself Lead Poetry

GIVING THINGS All Christians who correctly live know it is better far to give than to receive. And that should be the greatest joy to every Christian girl and boy on Christmas eve. I've bought some gifts to make folks glad and so much joy I have not had since I've been born. And I'll rejoice to watch their eyes and see their pleasure and surprise on Christmas morn.

ONE STAR (When a man dies in service the blue star on his flag should be changed to gold.) Last evening mother gathered us around her rocking chair. Her hand, so soft and gentle, smoothing sister's sunny hair, and told the story that we love about the golden star. That shone on Baby Jesus and the Wise Men from afar. And then, 'cause Father's with the troops protecting all of us, I folded up the Service Flag, so our star wouldn't miss. And crept to bed and fell asleep, and as I slept I dreamed That I was holding Father's hand, while up above it seemed The sky was white, just purest white, but filled with stars of blue. Then all at once some changed to gold; first one, then two by two, and Father's face just seemed to shine, and patting me he said: "Be Mother's man." And then I found that I was home in bed, With Mother kneeling there; and though I'm not so very old, She didn't have to tell me that our Service Star was gold.

CANFIELD calls attention to an ad in a Wilmington paper for "bookkeeper, man not subject to draft or woman," and asks us to advise upon the curious phenomenon. But others have counseled us to refrain from such trivial trumpery, so make your own meditations, please.