

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
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PROBLEM IN APPLIED PATRIOTISM

CITIZENS could wish that our hotels, restaurants and trolley cars had the fecundity of rabbits. They might in that case be able to satisfy the demands of a population which has itself increased with such rapidity that congestion within the city rivals, if it does not equal, the freight congestion in New York.

We do not attempt to estimate the number of people who have been attracted to this territory during the last few months by the amazing increase in industrial pursuits. We do know that the new shift-building plants alone will require from 200,000 to 250,000 additional expert workmen in the district from Bristol to Wilmington, which means a new population of not less than a million. Moreover, the indications are that the demand for skilled labor will be just as great after the war as it is now, drawing, however, from a larger supply. The new Philadelphia is not a temporary Philadelphia. It is a Philadelphia that has come to stay. The extravagant estimates of yesterday are tomorrow criticized as having lacked vision. The new population which we hoped to have in the distant future we have now, and the influx continues.

We are amused sometimes at the inertia which fails to take advantage of the fact. Consider as an example of possibilities the Chestnut Street Opera House. It stood in the center of the city as a monument to a day that had passed. It was out of the theatre district, men said, although Keith's, almost opposite, seemed to keep its grip on a large clientele. Some gentlemen of astuteness, however, concluded that a vacant Chestnut Street Opera House was ridiculous. It seemed to be on a proper site. Why not utilize it, particularly as the demand for amusement seemed to reflect the increase in population? Some paint, some refitting, attractions of merit, according to the taste of the day, and the rehabilitated playhouse comes into its own almost overnight! Too often a community bewails as liabilities possessions that a little common sense would convert into very real assets.

We have an acute housing situation on our hands. The Government has concluded to solve its own problem by carrying through an enormous house-contruction program for the benefit of employes at Hog Island. There are some thousands of other workmen for whom no organized provision of any sort is being made, so far as we can discover. There are many houses in the city which have been virtually abandoned for years. Some of them earn no revenue whatever, while the value of others has seriously deteriorated. We believe that an energetic committee on the rehabilitation of old houses would add appreciably to the housing capacity of the city and at the same time offer accommodations considerably better than are now paid for in some quarters. There are, too, many enormous old houses of an era long passed, some of which have been converted into lodging houses and more of which are not being properly utilized. Many of them could with profit be converted into modern flats. The man of moderate income has to be provided for as well as the laborer.

A scientific survey of the possibilities for supplemental housing would, we believe, lead to positive results. The situation demands something more than private endeavor, although many men, supposedly inured, are overlooking opportunities to benefit their bank accounts and the community at the same time. Still the problem is a public problem, a municipal problem, and the municipal authorities ought to grapple with it. This thing of simply throwing up our hands and crying, "There are not enough houses" does no good. There are literally tens of thousands of cubic feet of inclosed space now valueless for housing, but which by the expenditure of some money and brains could be converted into comfortable quarters. There are lots that can be made into flats, there are houses that can be rehabilitated, there are some abandoned hotels that can again be put into use. Let us anticipate Government building by doing a little reconstruction ourselves. The energy that pumped into the Chestnut Street Opera House

can take some hundreds of housing liabilities in Philadelphia and transform them into housing assets, to the greater good of the city as well as of the owners. Let us show some practical patriotism and back it with brains and money.

NEW EMPIRE OF TRADE

ACCORDING to statements compiled by the National City Bank our imports from South America during 1917 were valued at \$377,000,000 more than in 1913 and our exports amounted to \$209,000,000 more than in 1914. We are doing about two and one-half times as much business with South America as we did before the war.

While the greater part of the increase may be attributed to war conditions, some part at least is due to the opening of the Panama Canal and the resulting ease of communication with the West Coast. The Chilean ports are now nearer to Philadelphia than the Brazilian ports. The intense hostility to Germany which is found generally in South America, the increasing appreciation of the value of American products as compared with those of Germany and the extension of our banking facilities are factors which aid in promoting a feeling of optimism so far as a continuance of South American trade is concerned.

We have enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to tie our fellow republics to us with commercial ties of the strongest kind. It is an opportunity which we must continue to cultivate with enthusiasm and courage.

LABOR VOTES FOR WAR

THE British labor party, by a vote of 1,853,000 to 722,000, supports the Lloyd George Government. More than the question of "peace or war" was at stake in the drawing of factional lines, wherefore it would be decidedly unfair to count the minority as a solid pacifist vote. The balloting was on a rather technical point, as to whether the Labor party members of the cabinet should resign. If the convention had so ordered, its action would not have meant a demand for peace or even for peace negotiations, but for a general election so that the Labor party could send a greatly increased representation to Parliament.

That party's leaders are stoutly in favor of President Wilson's peace conditions. They want to control Parliament, not in order to bring about a speedy peace, but to force through a program of radical labor legislation. This program is for after-the-war as well as present legislation and does not contemplate surrender to the enemy of any point at issue.

STEALTHY BLOWS AT AMERICA

THE alarming increase in fires and other domestic catastrophes as purely accidental, but it requires more faith than we possess. Scarcely a day passes that some factory engaged in the production of necessities war supplies is not destroyed. The loss of motortrucks in Philadelphia has been appalling. In Detroit it was discovered that whole consignments of delicate tools had been mutilated until they were worthless.

We need a few public executions in this country. We cannot afford to handle spies with kid gloves. They need bullets. We suggest to citizens generally that they be more than ever vigilant in watching suspicious characters, constituting themselves an unofficial supplementary intelligence bureau, and that they notify the police immediately if they observe actions on the part of anybody which seem to indicate destructive purposes.

ATROCITIES AT HOME

INSTEAD of the 2,500,000 who registered under selective conscription there should have been 15,000,000 or more. Between June 5, 1886, and June 5, 1896, we murdered enough men to make a whole modern army.

This fact has been brought home to the authorities by the effects of near-murder, which so many of the registrants showed. One-half of the deaths of young children are preventable today. Much more than one-half of the physical defects found in those who are unfit to be soldiers were preventable. Starting April 6, the first anniversary of our entry into the war, there is to be a "Children's year"—twelve months of work to save youngsters—and ten million women will be asked to help.

NOT THE WAY TO SMASH THE HUN

COAL consigned to New York for ships' bunkers is held up by the freight congestion. The ships, not getting the coal, are held up in New York. Were the ships at Philadelphia they would have their coal. Moreover, the railroads between here and New York would be relieved of the necessity of handling tons and tons of fuel. What is the use of talking about efficiency, organization, or co-ordination, or smashing the Hun while so stupid a situation is permitted to continue? The sensible thing is always the efficient thing.

Bishop Berry wants an anti-liquor Governor. We have one now and—a great deal of liquor.

There is nothing half-way about Senator Chamberlain. He is either terribly right or terribly wrong.

If the Bolsheviks can split the Central Powers we'll lend them the megaphone with which to do it.

Why John R. K. Scott for Lieutenant Governor? We understand that he wanted to be Governor without qualification.

PENNYPACKER NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH WHEN HORSE RAN WILD

Steed Bolted When Breech-Band Broke at Top of Hill Near Phoenixville—Carriage Was Wrecked, but Governor Escaped Unscathed

PENNYPACKER ATROPHICAPHY—No. 39
THIS successful effort to enhance the reputation of the State was a gratification to all of its decent citizens. There was, however, a fly in the ointment. The North American was lying in wait for a chance. When my proclamation was issued, calling upon all citizens and their descendants who could be present, the newspaper reporter, either through design or accident, copied the reference to the anniversary of the Battle of Fallen Timbers as the one hundredth instead of the one hundred and tenth. The editorials followed, saying that I made the battle occur after the death of Wayne. An examination of the original proclamation in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth disclosed, however, that it was the newspaper reporter who made the mistake, and the plan of attack fell flat. Those in charge of the agricultural display had, because of his supposed knowledge of the subject, employed a Democratic professor at the State College, and he bought a quantity of seeds, for which he paid \$22.50, and placed them on exhibition in the fair and the seeds had both been removed in May. The North American got hold of the story and cunningly exploited it on the nineteenth of August, just in time to reach the exposition on Pennsylvania Day, and as far as possible spoiled the demonstration. To make a sensation, it gave to the subject nine columns and seventeen pictures, with caricature and other nonsense. It talked of "unparalleled fraud" and "graft," though this suggestion in connection with a sum of \$22.50 was supremely silly. It concocted an interview with a member of the Commission, which he denied, in which he was made to say that not a leaf of Pennsylvania tobacco was in the exhibit, although a display of tobacco received the highest award at the fair. Indignant at the baseness of the news, and the way in which it was carried out, I did what I could at the moment and telegraphed to the Ledger, branding the publication as a malicious falsehood intended to harm the State. There is an honor among the members of this fraternity, as in another, which binds them together, and the Ledger suppressed the dispatch and endeavored to excuse the North American.

the family of Senator Pennybacker, and I had some correspondence with him. On October 3 I presided at a meeting in the Academy of Music, in Philadelphia, tendered by the United Irish League to John E. Redmond, the Irish Parliamentary leader, accompanied by two members of Parliament, Captain A. J. C. Donelan, of Cork, and Patrick O'Brien, of Kilkenny, Archbishop Ryan, an exceedingly able, blunt and persuasive man, participated. On October 6 I was at York to attend the fair, the guest of Senator E. K. Meesomer. At the horse race the driver of the leading horse, as he approached the goal, gently dropped the lines. His arms fell to his side and he rolled out upon the track dead.

On November 13 Mrs. Pennybacker and I, upon the invitation of Mr. George W. Atherton, the president of the State College, attended the dedication of the Carnegie Library connected with that institution. Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie were there, and Mrs. Carnegie M. Schwalb were there, and since we spent a day on terms with them in the same house we reached a stage of acquaintance. We found Schwalb healthy, hearty and earnest, and Carnegie shrewd and agreeable. The latter gave much attention to Mrs. Pennybacker and told her many incidents of his early life, and she has never been willing to listen to critical comments concerning him since. The coat of my evening suit of clothes was missing and I was compelled to appear at the table in street costume. Mrs. Pennybacker made her own explanations to account for my costume, and Mr. Carnegie accepted and covered them up with both graciousness and adroitness. Carnegie, Schwalb and I made addresses and Mrs. Carnegie expressed pleasure at seeing and hearing such an exhibition of State pride—a feeling, she said, utterly nonexistent in New York.

A Narrow Escape

On Sunday, December 3, I had a personal adventure. William D. Hunsicker, the farmer at Pennybacker's Mills, drove me in a buggy, with a rather wild horse, "John," to Phoenixville. A mile from that town the elevated dike between the Perkiomen Creek and the Schuylkill River falls abruptly toward the river. There is a very long, steep and dangerous hill, the road in the valley below crossing a ravine and small stream by means of a narrow unweaved and unprotected bridge. Deep gullies parallel the road on each side. As a general thing travelers make a detour of about a mile to avoid this sudden descent. For some reason Hunsicker concluded to drive down the hill. At the very top the breech-band broke, letting the harness fall upon the heels of the horse. He gave a kick, knocking the shafts to pieces, and started on a wild run. "We are in for it, Hunsicker. Keep in the middle of the road, if you can," were the only words uttered. The wagon swayed to and fro toward the gullies. Hunsicker's hat flew in one direction and mine in another. My umbrella was tossed into a gutter. When we reached the little bridge, where Hunsicker succeeded in bringing the horse to a stop, "John" was badly injured, and the wagon a wreck, but neither of us had a scratch. It was an experience to be remembered, but not to be repeated.

Tomorrow the first part of Governor Pennybacker's message to the Legislature in January, 1905, will be printed.

"JINGLE BELLS" ON THE WISSAHICKON

The Racing and the Softer Charms the Romantic Old Creek Has Held

IT THIS were the Evening Sporting Ledger we'd lay a bet and it would run in this wise: A bottle of Bryan G. J. Brut, to any horse man who can prove that he ever actually received one of the bottles of wine traditionally offered by certain Park roadhouses for the first cutter to skin over the season's first snow and claim it.

That that wine should have been terribly volatile stuff, for no horseman we ever talked to would admit that he ever got hold of it, though many have tried. It seems always to have been a myth and its growing mythical and mythical now that the automobile has come to push the horse out of favor.

Not that sleighing in the Park is no longer a tingling delight or that the jingle bells have ceased to "jingle all the way," but the love of devotees has been decimated for the reason mentioned above and more than decimated again by the exigencies of the war. On the East River Drive, where the brushes between high-steppers driven by William or Ham Danton, John E. Hill, John R. Bower, George Stinger, and a host of others, their activities ran through several decades, there is now too much danger from motorists to permit of the mettlesome speeding of the ost-consumption of the arrival of the first horseless carriage shifted to the flats along the Wissahickon, and there you'll find the sport's Wissahickon, and that's that. The sport's Wissahickon, as it is called, is a strip of land, clear air, bright sunshine and sparkling sky, horses galloping, every feeling tuned to joy and jollity.

"Sunlight" says he. Ah! but moonlight is the stuff that dreams are made of; and the snow holds and if the clouds will but take themselves off, the moon now waxing to the full will make paradise for many, even for those who merely sit by the fire and remember.

For on winter nights ghost-music plays (The bells of long-forgotten sleighs) Along the Wissahickon. And many a silver-headed wig (The bells of long-forgotten sleighs) Along the Wissahickon. For waffles hot and chicken. And grandmas now, who then were belles! How many a place, it seems awfully old (The bells of long-forgotten sleighs) Along the Wissahickon. T. A. D.

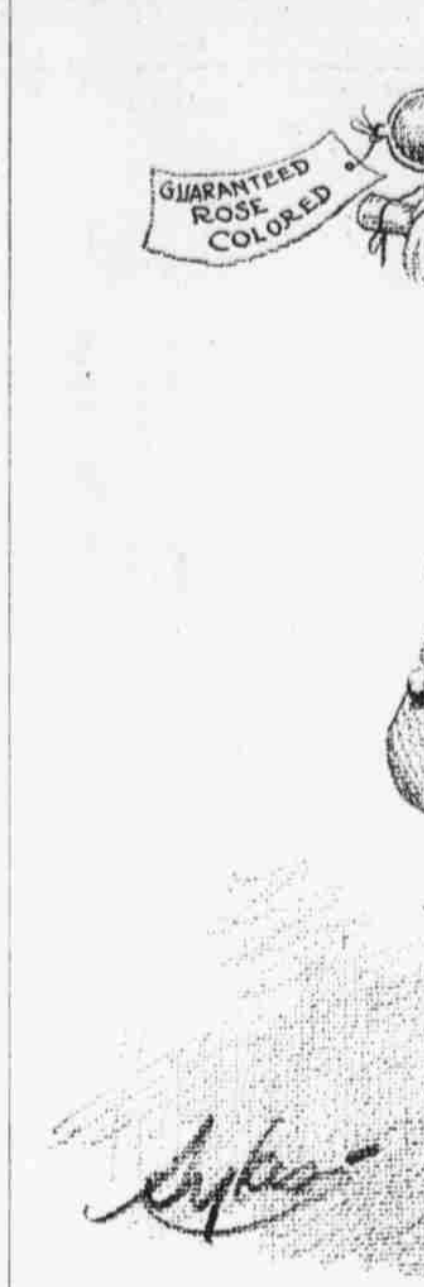
EDITORIAL EPIGRAMS

Wilhelm will now devote himself to writing an Easter address.—New York Sun.

Russia is making history like a stuttering man telling a funny story.—Kansas City Star.

Perhaps it was the intention to wait and capture machine guns from the Germans.—Kansas City Times.

BUT HE MUST BE THINKING



THE PRESIDENT VS. THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

Possibility of Present Conflict Between Executive and Congressional Groups Foreshadowed in Mr. Wilson's Writings 25 Years Ago

By H. S. WEBER

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Mr. Wilson has always seen the defects in our Constitution. He has always recognized the supreme power of Congress and the impotence of a President who did not have the support of Congress. In 1883 he suggested a radical re-organization of the Administration and Congress by the adoption of some form of "ministerial responsibility" such as the English cabinet has. He has seen that the present system of leadership in Congress, that all responsibility can be dodged through the multitudinous committees, no one of which represents the majority in either house. In 1883 he suggested "the preparation and initiation of legislation to a single committee in each house composed of the leading men of the majority in that house."

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For "Ministerial Responsibility"

Mr. Wilson has always seen the defects in our Constitution. He has always recognized the supreme power of Congress and the impotence of a President who did not have the support of Congress. In 1883 he suggested a radical re-organization of the Administration and Congress by the adoption of some form of "ministerial responsibility" such as the English cabinet has. He has seen that the present system of leadership in Congress, that all responsibility can be dodged through the multitudinous committees, no one of which represents the majority in either house. In 1883 he suggested "the preparation and initiation of legislation to a single committee in each house composed of the leading men of the majority in that house."

Such a change would be necessary as to the present precedents as