

THE WEATHER  
Unsettled tonight and Saturday, probably snow or rain  
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

# Tuesday Inquirer

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## BLANKENBURG, GREAT REFORM MAYOR, IS DEAD

### End Comes at Germantown After Long Illness

**DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO GOOD OF CITY**

Native of Germany, He Became Model Citizen of Adopted Land

**SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS**

Public Friends and Foes Unite in Expression of Regret

**Mayor Smith's Tribute to Dead Predecessor**

When told of the death of former Mayor Blankenburg today, Mayor Smith said: "I am very, very sorry to hear of the death of former Mayor Blankenburg. He was a well-intentioned man, a splendid citizen, and his death is a loss to the city of Philadelphia."

[A sketch of the career of former Mayor Blankenburg is printed on page 8.]

Rudolph Blankenburg, former Mayor of Philadelphia, one of its most patriotic adopted citizens and familiarly known as the "old war horse of reform," is dead. The end came at 7:45 o'clock this morning at his home, 138 West Walnut lane, Germantown.

He was unconscious for more than twenty-four hours before his death. There was no sign of suffering when he breathed his last. With Mr. Blankenburg in his last moments were his wife, Mrs. Lucretia Blankenburg, and his adopted daughter, Miss Adelpha.

Although he had been ill for the last three years, it was not generally believed Mr. Blankenburg's illness was of a critical nature. Those close to him often warned of the danger to reform that his health would stand the strain of campaigning, but he contended that he always felt better when he was out on the firing line for the cause of the people.

His last appearance at a public meeting was at the Academy of Music last October. He received an ovation when he appeared on the stage to advocate the election of the candidates of the Town Meeting party. Even then he was out against the advice of his attending physician. Mr. Blankenburg was frequently carried over many a crisis through the untiring vigilance and devoted attention of his wife, Mrs. Lucretia Blankenburg. Although a strong champion of reform herself, she had to keep a watchful eye on her energetic life partner, or he would have collapsed many years ago.

Mr. Blankenburg's health took a very serious turn during the last year of his administration as Mayor, and he was compelled to take several short vacations. He rested over the week-ends at his bungalow at Pocono Pines. But even in this nook, in the heart of the Poconos, he was not free from care, for very often he was bothered by politicians and office-seekers, who sought him for special favors.

**Apostle of Good Government**

The venerable fighter in behalf of the people was undoubtedly one of the most practical reformers in the United States. His record for himself was so well known that he was frequently summoned to other cities to speak in behalf of good government.

Mr. Blankenburg was 75 years old on March 12 last. He had been in business for better government for nearly forty years. He was one of the original members of the old Committee of One Hundred.

On the stump he spoke fearlessly and with little attention to picturesque language. He was fortified at all times by the fact that he was fighting for a cause which he believed to be worthy of his highest. The fact that he was on his seventy-fifth birthday did not seem to him a little bother, and he was as vigorous in his participation in former political fights.

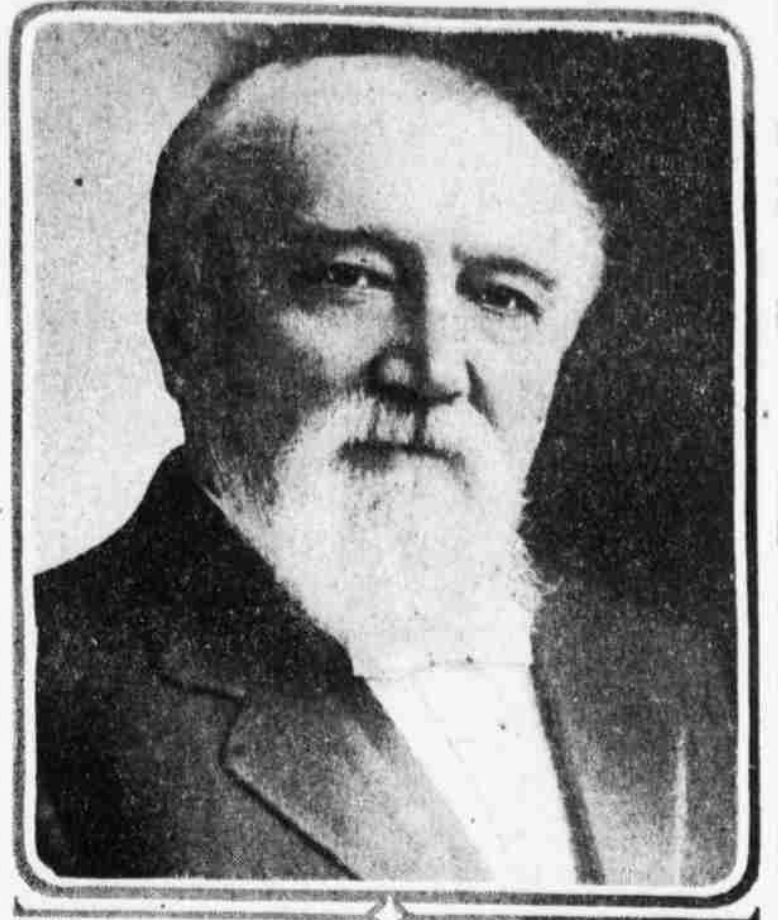
His election to the mayoralty in 1916 was the climax of one of the most successful reform campaigns ever fought in this country.

**A Practical Reformer**

To prove that he was a practical reformer Mayor Blankenburg immediately stopped assessments of the police and other officers held by ward bosses, wiped out the old Civil Service Commission, reorganizing it so that merit would be the basis of appointment at all times.

He brought about needed reforms in the city financial management by placing city funds in banks from

### EX-MAYOR RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG



"The Old War Horse" of Philadelphia Reform, who died at his home in Germantown early today.

## REFORM LEADER LAUDED IN DEATH

Partisan Feeling Dissolves in Tributes to Blankenburg's Memory

**ALL EXTOL HIS PROBITY**

Prominent men associated politically and socially with former Mayor Blankenburg today expressed sorrow at his death. Political friend and foe alike agreed that his death was a loss to the city, State and nation. All characterized him as the highest type of American citizen. Some of these expressions follow:

**George D. Porter**—Philadelphia has lost one of her best friends. There are thousands of persons here who will learn with sorrow of his death. He was one of Pennsylvania's foremost citizens, honored, respected and loved everywhere. To me his death is a personal loss.

**SENATOR E. H. VARI**—Mr. Blankenburg's career was one of sterling and recognized honesty. I knew him as a reformer since I came of age and in all that time never knew him to do anything that did not bear the stamp of sincerity. Like most reformers, he did not always use the best means to reach the ends he had in mind. Even men who differed with Mr. Blankenburg in politics give him full credit for wanting to better municipal conditions. He was a highly respected citizen, and as a Mayor did his best, and the city loses a good, honest man.

**WALTER GORHAM SMITH**—I would like to know the man who has not a Mayor did his best, and the city loses a good, honest man.

**Mayor Blankenburg** as I knew him in his public and private life was a man of the strongest convictions and a power in the public career in which he interested himself. His probity was unquestioned and he was an important figure in the civic life of Philadelphia.

**WALTER GORHAM SMITH**—I would like to know the man who has not a Mayor did his best, and the city loses a good, honest man.

**Harry J. Johnson, president Patrons' Benevolent Protective Association**—The death of the policeman of this city has lost their best friend. He was probably the only Mayor of this city who ever took an interest in the welfare of the policeman from a political point of view. He was always ready to lend an ear to any of the complaints of the policeman. In his death the police of this city have not only lost a good and faithful friend but a good pal.

**Farmer Mayor Weaver**—The death of Rudolph Blankenburg is a great shock to me. He was a stalwart independent, always fighting for the better things in civic affairs. He was as steadfast and honorable as it is possible for a man to be, and never in his long life did he compromise on his efforts to introduce reform in the city government and in politics. His death is a great loss to the community.

**Colonel Sheldon Porter**—"I was associated with Mr. Blankenburg for many years. In first became acquainted with him in the days of the Committee of One Hundred, and from that time on I was associated with him in his civic work. The greatest loss to the city is that he went through four years of his administration as Mayor without anybody ever complaining about his management. He was a fine, rugged character, absolutely honest, and an enthusiastic lover of his city and adopted country. A patriot of the highest order and respected by all who knew him."

## BLAMES MAYOR FOR VICE REPORT DISGRACING CITY

Fosdick Says Exposure Followed Refusal to Aid in Clean-Up

**"PHILADELPHIA A SNAG"**

Commission Chairman Disclaims "Purity" and Politics—Dry Zone Unlikely

**Points Emphasized in Fosdick Interview**

Mayor Smith and police department withheld co-operation with national investigators and result was public branding of Philadelphia as "worst city in country."

Not likely that "dry" zone will be established around Philadelphia except as a "last resort" in the event of further failure of authorities to aid Government in wiping out vice and "bootlegging."

Clean-up campaign of Fosdick commission is not of "purity league" or "reform" type, but one solely for development of 100 per cent physically fit fighters.

General Pershing is insistent that only fit men—physically and morally—be sent overseas.

Commission is not engaged in any official co-operation work anywhere with ministerial organizations and such inquiries by representatives of churches are entirely independent of Government campaign.

Very reports of only four American cities have been given publicity, and then only when city authorities decline to aid Government representatives in clean-up work.

Of these four cities, Philadelphia is the most conspicuous.

**Re a visit to Philadelphia**

Washington, April 12.—Mayor Smith and the police department of Philadelphia were today blamed for the "black eye" given Philadelphia when it was held up to public scorn throughout the country by widespread publication of the now famous "vice report," characterizing it as the "worst city in the country."

In the first interview he has given since the report was made public, Raymond E. Fosdick, chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities of the War and Navy Departments, told an Evening Public Ledger representative today that if the municipal authorities of Philadelphia had shown the slightest inclination to co-operate with the commission's representatives whose investigations influenced the report, the "black eye" would have been stamped out and Philadelphia would not have been saved the disgrace of a public "branding."

"But we couldn't get any help from the municipal authorities," declared Mr. Fosdick, "and we were forced to use extreme measures to protect the soldiers and sailors called to play their part in the war's greatest war."

"Our investigators emphasized the operations of disorderly house owners and 'bootleggers' and laid before the police authorities evidence of the widespread law violations. They told of the existence of every house of ill fame and every shady rooming house mentioned in the report and asked repeatedly that these reports be closed by the authorities as a protection to men in uniform about to embark for foreign service."

**Nation Needs Manhood**

"There is only one great purpose behind the work of the commission and that is to win the war," said Mr. Fosdick emphatically. "Manpower and manhood will win it, and we've got to conserve this physical and mental energy no matter what the cost. There's no sentiment or politics in this campaign. It's up to us to make our fighting men fit to fight and we're going to do it."

Chairman Fosdick, by way of emphasizing that lack of co-operation by Philadelphia's municipal authorities was responsible for publication of the vice report, declared that Philadelphia was one of only four cities in the country "investigated" by the commission when the "black eye" campaign was being waged. The others, he pointed out, were San Antonio, Seattle and Rock Island.

**"Mayor Pooch-Pooched"**

"I am sure we couldn't get the Mayor or the police department to take action. They merely pooch-pooched the idea of any such lawbreaking and camouflaged the situation, despite the indisputable evidence our investigators had developed. No amount of persuasion or no threats of drastic measures seemed to have the least effect."

"You know the result. We were forced to publish the report to clean up Philadelphia, and we've at last succeeded in eradicating the evil we complained about and of our boys in uniform—the country's representatives whom the nation depends upon to save the world for democracy."

All this talk about politics having a part in the exposure is pure bunk. I don't know Philadelphia's political situation at all. I do know there's a faction led by

## LOAN DRIVE GOES OVER \$40,000,000

Partisan Feeling Dissolves in Tributes to Blankenburg's Memory

**ALL EXTOL HIS PROBITY**

Official figures from Washington place the Third Federal Reserve District, of which Philadelphia is the center, fourth among the large cities in the third Liberty Loan drive, the figures upon which this standing is based were reported at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning and are, therefore, declared to stand somewhat nearer "the top" according to leaders in the local drive today.

The total sales in the United States are officially placed at little more than \$27,000,000, but it is understood they have reached an actual figure nearer \$30,000,000.

Washington reports today stated that Minneapolis has not been heard from, and Philadelphia likewise is missing in late reports, while an error in transmission prevented Cleveland from being in the list.

In addition to the total of \$21,550,757 officially announced by the Third Reserve District, subsequent subscriptions in the neighborhood of \$7,000,000, thus bringing this district into the \$30,000,000 class.

In spite of the inclement weather, subscriptions poured into the war coffers of the country in an unending stream constantly growing in volume. Many large subscriptions have been recorded, but many more will be forthcoming before the end of the drive is in sight.

Today few large public demonstrations are scheduled because of the wind, but in the Garden City Hotel a group of men has promised more cheerful conditions after today and all organizations of the city are preparing to make the most of the fair weather when it arrives.

**Workers in Rally**

Workers of the Baldwin Locomotive Works will meet today at noon at the United States Mint, Seventeenth and Spruce Streets, where it is expected that at least 10,000 will be present. Harry Laurier, the Scotch comedian, will address the workers. If it is raining at the time the meeting is scheduled, the meeting place will be changed to La La Temple.

St. Louis's Great Lakes Naval Training School Band will give a concert during the meeting. At 4:30 o'clock the band will give another concert in front of the Union League.

Labor leaders are rapidly bringing their men into the drive. Many rallies are scheduled for today in industrial plants throughout the district. Leaders met yesterday in the Adelphia Hotel to perfect their organization, pledging no strikes of labor men during the war.

Edward Keenan, president of the Central Labor Union, declared the Liberty Loan slacker during the crisis in the national history are not worthy of belonging to a union. He said:

"If a man is so strong in his sympathy with the Central Power and a Liberty Loan slacker, I say throw him out of the union. We can afford to have distinction of sentiment. This great contest

## ENEMY ALLIANCE CLOSE TO BREAK JUST YEAR AGO

Baring Secret Peace Bid to France Shows Czernin Statement False

**APPROVED ALSACE CLAIM**

Freedom for Belgium Also Pledged in Letter From Austrian Emperor

Paris, April 12.—That the Austro-German Alliance was seriously men breaking just one year ago is shown by an official note given out by the French Government containing the text of a secret "peace letter," written by Emperor Charles of Austria.

The letter, which was dated March 31, 1917, recognized France's claim to Alsace-Lorraine and pledged the restoration of Belgium and Serbia.

The letter was communicated to President Poincare by Prince Sixtus de Bourbon, the Austrian Emperor's brother-in-law. In it Charles asked that "England's views" be also ascertained.

The action of the French Government in making public this important communication shows up as false the recent statement by Count Czernin, the Austrian foreign minister, that France had made overtures for a separate peace to Austria. Just what the publication will have on relations between Vienna and Berlin cannot now be determined.

At the time the letter was written things were looking very black for the Central Powers. A heavily armed and developed Italy had broken out in the East, Germany over the submarine situation, the British armies in Turkey had captured Baghdad, shattering the German dream of an easy march to Persia, and the British navy had broken out in the North Atlantic. The Revolution had broken out in Russia and none could see how far the interest would spread westward.

## BRITISH COUNTER-DRIVE SWEEPS ENEMY FROM HOLD NEAR GIVENCHY

HOUSE INSISTS ON STRIKE RIGHT OF WAR LABOR

HINDENBURG SLIGHTLY HURT BY AIR BOMB

Foe Progressing at Another Point, Haig Reports

GERMANS HURL NEW MASSES OF TROOPS

Division of Opinion as to Hindenburg's Present Aims

AMIENS STILL OBJECTIVE

Simply Smashing Forward for Gains, Teuton Prisoners Say

**323 DAY OF BATTLE**

London, April 12.—The enemy captured Merville last night," Field Marshal Haig announced today.

"We fell back to new positions in the neighborhood of Neuve-Agliz."

LONDON, April 12.—The British, by a counter-attack have regained their positions north of Festubert (a mile north of Givenchy, just south of the Lys River, and about the center of the British northern front, into a part of which the enemy had forced its way. Field Marshal Haig reported today.

"In the neighborhood of Merville and Neuve-Agliz there was severe, continuous fighting last night," the statement continued. "The enemy's pressure is continuing to make progress."

The British center in the Flanders battle has thus been pushed back seven miles from the original line along the Lys River. It is shown by Haig's official statement.

(Merville is on the north bank of the Lys, three miles west of Estaires and seven miles west of Ypres, along which the line ran at the beginning of the battle. Neuve-Agliz is a mile and a half north-east of Merville.)

For the last twenty-four hours the Germans have been hurling huge masses of troops against the British and Portuguese positions along the Franco-Belgian frontier, having relaxed for the present their pressure against Amiens.

Following their retirement from Armentieres the British have fallen back to a point north of Steenwerk and Estaires, on the Lys, which indicates that the Germans, at some points, have advanced almost six miles since this new struggle started in the north.

Field Marshal Haig, in his official advice on Thursday night said that the Germans had pressed their attacks strongly along the entire battle front.

**British Counter-Thrusts**

Heavy and continuous assaults were driven home in the sector of the Lys River, between Loise and Lestrem (a mile south of the Lys).

The Fifty-first Division of the British army distinguished itself for gallantry in the fighting in this district and by powerful counter-thrusts threw back the Germans from some of the ground they had gained.

The Germans were able to gain some ground also in Belgium in the neighborhood of the Ploeghetert Wood. The enemy continued to throw fresh troops into the fighting between Ploeghetert and Ypres, but was unable to shake the British front in that region. All of the assaults were repelled with heavy losses.

Low-flying airplanes participated in the fighting. The Germans forced Lestrean, Creek, exploding across near Lestrean. But their exploit was extremely costly. The British machine guns slaughtering them in great numbers. Although waves after waves came up they were unable to advance beyond the village.

The battle around Armentieres has been severe and on a smaller scale than that for Amiens. The former really is two independent, synchronized battles, pinching off Armentieres by an attack on a ten-mile front south and on a six-mile front north of the city.

Some German prisoners taken at Ypres declare there were no fixed objectives after the initial ones. They were ordered to push on as far as they could.

Military critics are divided in opinion.

## HOUSE INSISTS ON STRIKE RIGHT OF WAR LABOR

Leaders Serve Notice They Will Not Yield to "Sabotage" Bill Objections

WASHINGTON, April 12.—House leaders served notice on the Senate today that under no circumstances would they yield to the demand from the right for the elimination of the labor exemption clause from the "sabotage" bill.

Proponents of an agreement on the measure were anything but promising. The Senate, aroused to indignation against what Senator McComb called "Bulwark" labor, was equally determined to reject all measures granting immunity to strikers in work.

While the measure remains in deadlock the right of striking during the war remains unchanged. The bill will not be used in any way until the two houses settle their dispute over labor's right during the war.

Members, however, the House committee of Justice, which originated the bill, was trying to point a way to an understanding.

**Child Run Over by Trolley Car, Dies**

Infant, Irma Hagaman, seven years old, of 2100 Locust Street, died yesterday at St. Joseph's Hospital from injuries received when she was run over by a trolley car yesterday morning at Levittown and Locust streets.

## IRISH CONVENTION ADOPTS HOME RULE PLAN, 100 TO 42

London, April 12.—The plan for proposed self-government of Ireland was adopted by the Irish convention, 100 to 42, it was officially reported by that body today. The plan provides for the establishment of a parliament for the whole of Ireland, with full power for all internal legislation, administration, and direct taxation. Self-government, the report says, is to become a law immediately. The Ulsterites filed a dissenting minority report.

**MOTORCAR'S VICTIM FOUND HURT ON SIREET**

David Johnson, sixty-seven years old, a salesman, of 2220 North Broad street, was found today lying on Broad street near Susquehanna avenue cut and bruised on the face and body. He was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital. The police believe that he was struck by a speeding automobile.

## FREAKISH WINTER MOVES TO AVERT FAMINE IN APRIL

Queer Storm "Pocketed" Consumption Survey Ordered to Fix Emergency Priorities

FORECAST IS DOUBTFUL MYERS TO MAKE CENSUS

**WEATHER FORECAST**

Unsettled and somewhat cold today and Saturday, probably rain or snow.

Philadelphia is fighting hard to get out of the weather.

"This time it is a weather rebel. That is what Weather Forecaster Miles called it today when he declared that this is one of the most freakish April storms Philadelphia has had in many years."

The fight to "go over the coast" means that off the North Jersey coast is a storm center that includes Philadelphia in its fanning-out course. To the north there is a high pressure zone, and the same conditions exist to the east as well, evidently, although the Weather Bureau received no reports from Philadelphia's storm.

"The storm is not in a pocket from which it is unable to escape."

Forecasters Miles said that it may all break up in a few hours and then again it may stay for a day or two.

Winds, strong and grainy, battered the city yesterday morning, but the day and the day before, while there was a good deal of grumbling, comments on the weather were uttered in the spirit of relief. Today the general denunciation of the weatherman was summed up in the terse and feeling declaration: "This thing's gone far enough."

At 6 a. m. the thermometer stood at 26 degrees. At 7 o'clock it had retreated to the 25-degree mark and at 8:30 had reached the 24 degree mark. It is the belief of the Weather Bureau that it will stay at this mark during the remainder of the day.

During the three days the sleet and rain storm has been raging over the city, a total of 2.5 inches of rain has fallen. Of this amount, .60 of an inch fell during the twenty-four hours ending at 8 a. m. today.

High winds again turned umbrellas inside-out and whipped the waters of the city into perilous roughness, endangering ferriesboats and other craft.

Winds were not as high as yesterday morning at 2 o'clock, the velocity this morning being but twenty-two miles an hour, and the temperature at 2 o'clock was 42. In the morning, however, reports began to come in indicating that as much, if not more, damage had been done by the winds of the last few hours.

## WIND RINGS FIRE ALARMS

Crossed Wires Make Gloucester City Hunt Imaginary Blazes

Crossed wires leading to the fire alarm bell in the tower of the Gloucester City Hall were so awayed by the wind as to strike a distinct and accurate alarm, calling out firemen and citizens. No blaze could be found and the mysterious alarm frames became convinced they were being made the targets of practical jokes.

Investigators revealed that crossed wires, swung by the wind, had caused the alarm.

## HELP US IDENTIFY U. S. SOLDIERS

The Evening Public Ledger requests its readers to notify it of residents of Philadelphia, the entire State of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, whose names appear in the casualty lists from France today or at any time in the future.

This move is made in the interest of public information, as the address of soldiers are not given in the casualty lists.

Publication of this request, has the approval of the Division of Needs, Committee on Preparedness, Washington.

## BIGGER COAL SHORTAGE NEXT YEAR, FORESEEN

Fuel Administration and Coal Association Join in Warning Against Coming Famine

Washington, April 12.—A coal shortage next year which will exceed that of the winter just passed and necessitate even more drastic measures than were used in the "hard-fought" holidays, is foreseen by the conference of State fuel administrators with Mr. Charles F. Adams, administrator, which closed last night.

The Southern National Coal Association issues a statement which is substantiated by figures furnished by the United States Geological Survey, showing the alarming conditions.

Writing the public of the impending shortage the fuel administrators have adopted a resolution designed to prepare the public to make it ready to accept whatever measures may be decided upon to avert a fuel famine next winter. It asks all individuals, industries and communities to accept unconditionally whatever measures are imposed, and admits that unless effective measures for relief are taken at once the coal supply will fall seriously short of the needs of the country.

## TWO 'ACES' FLY HERE SUNDAY

Briton, Frenchman and American to Soar on Belmont Plateau

Philadelphians will have an opportunity Sunday afternoon to see "flying aces" of two nations in action when exhibition flights will be given at the Belmont Plateau by Colonel W. F. Lee, of the British army, and Lieutenant Guyon, of the French aviation forces. An American birdman, yet to be selected, will also fly.

The flights will be given as part of the campaign for enlistments being conducted by the British and French legations, which are at Sixteenth and Chestnut streets.

The exhibition will begin at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon and will consist of some of the most spectacular feats known to fliers on the battle fronts of Europe.

## "At the Back of the Front"

A War Nurse's Intimate Diary is a vivid account of the conditions which American soldiers are facing in Picardy, Toul and Verdun.

This personal narrative will appear in daily installments beginning in TOMORROW'S Evening Public Ledger.