P. R. T. to Answer-More Light Needed

make some pretty broad promises for the

very low minimum by the way. There

Cars which cost \$4500 a year ago now

will cost twice that amount at least, but

even this would require only a million.

leaving still three quarters of a million

for other purposes out of the increased

receipts in the first year, and it will not

do to promise only vaguely to "improve

the service." The public will want to

know exactly how it is proposed to spend

this money, not only in the first year,

but in subsequent years, for once the

fares go up, it is going to be almost im-

possible to get them down again to the

five-cent level. If this is a "war

measure," as Mr. Mitten says, where is

the binding pledge that the fare will

But one important point scems to have

been overlooked entirely in the com-

pany's statement. The Pennsylvania

Public Service Commission-which has

the final say in a fare increase regardless

of action by Councils-has laid it down

as a fundamental principle of public utili-

ties law that no rate increases will be

granted to take the place of capital in-

vestment, but only to cover increased cost

in operating expenses, maintenance and

fixed charges. This principle is adhered

to by virtually every State Commission

How does the P. R. T. expect to get

around this fact in relation to the pur-

chase of cars and the making of exten-

sions? How by any conceivable argu-

ment can the purchase of rolling stock

and the acquirement of other plants be

brought under these heads? They are

clearly permanent capital investments

and should be paid for out of stock or

bond issues or other floating indebted-

The fact that the P. R. T. has diffi-

culty in negotiating such security does

not alter the principle. Rather it

strengthens the application. There would

be no such trouble under the city lease

because the city will support the com-

It is most unfortunate that such a

strategic diversion should be made at

this time when the city lease is pending

before the State Commission and it may

jeopard the speedy determination of that

issue. It would have been much better

faith, if the company, conceding the jus-

in the country.

ness.

pany's credit.

come down when the war ends?

would be another \$1.750,000 left.

REFORE there is anything like a general agreement for or against the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company's atest proposition for a flat six-cent fare, there are a number of important and pertinent questions calling for specific answers by the management. Thus far the published announcements

The and 14th Build

nutside of Philadelphia, in ada, or United States por-fility (50) cents per meath. ar, payable in advance. Liries one (51) doilar per

minoribers wishing address changed WALSUT KEYSTONE, MAIN 1000

all communications to Evening Public Independence Remore, Philadelphia BEDOND CLARS MAIL MATTER.

Philadelphis, Tuesday, May 14, 1918

AUDEVILLE IN POLITICS .

LD the political adventurers in vivania suffer dethronement or or inglorious repudiation in ire day of enlightenment after they may slip comfortably into of vaudeville and be happy and and at ease.

sents in the two factions of the indicate the dazzling capaof the leaders in that direction. The of George Wharton Pepper as a for the Vare crusade makes tration complete. Each slate is nparably rich in variety. Each hing for the wise and something foolish: something for the good

thing for the wicked: something highbrow and something for the is simple idea of universal appeal bly potent in a cause requiring support. It made at least one extremely rich. It is a relatively priment in politics.

mrose, in the possession of Mr. had most of those qualities of and gravity which are indispensathe face of a State campaign. The red heavily in this direction when Wharton Pepper loomed on the as a reserve force for Mr. Scott Denny O'Neil. The Brumbaugh suffered heavily when George d, their chauffeur candidate, was to surrender in the Sixth senatorial They lost a humorous act of condrawing power. Yet the Goverill at Harrisburg.

m, as the war correspondents still developing under cover. There armurs of "Kamerad" dimly heard camp and camp. There are whisurrenders and desertions. There tion that J. Denny O'Neil may Brest-Litovsked and mauled as the were mauled in the deal by hey lost all but their whiskers and mod name to the Germans, and that l's friends. Ah. well! Politics is and the politicians prefer to le tople know what they are doing only they have done it.

In it to be aircraft or airgraft?

PACIFISTS ALL the formal discussions of the it becomes more or less apthat those who most consistently o war are disposed to view its nd terrors from the personal angle. and oppression may be endured and horror and desolation may in prospect for countless multi-

biy from those tough northern shires where football is a religion—that dribbled a pigskin scross No Man's Land as it went to steel the enemy. And there was CHILL PACE INO SDX-CENT CAR FAREL an immortal Tommy, formerly a music hall comedian, who threw away his th helmet and went over the top in a silk hat and with a Charley Chuplin swagger followed by his pais roaring with laughter. That is the play spirit that contradicts the careful logarithms of the Great General Staff and will fill the Delaware with ships built of honor and winged with truth.

> Are we to have a pink trip slip for a six-cent fare, a la the famous jingle Isaac Bromley wrote and Mark Twain made

improvement of service, but the people famous? of Philadelphia, after a bitter experience THE PERMANENCE OF HOG ISLAND of many years with the traction interests, are inclined to demand something more TT IS about time that this city waked up than vague offers of this sort. Even a to the fact that the Hog Island shipyard cursory reading of the program will is not a temporary institution to be abanshow that it binds the company condoned when the war is over. We know that the impression has been general that cretely only to raising the pay of its ships are needed for the present crisis, that employes five cents an hour and the the cost of the big plant at Hog Island is purchase of 100 additional cars. to be included in the cost of the ships built Assuming that the increase for the within a year or two and that then the employes is reasonable, it will absorb, plant is to be scrapped. This impression according to the company's own figures, has been responsible for much of the delay \$1,750,000 out of the admitted increase in in transportation improvements and in gross yearly revenue of \$3,500,000-a

housing. The men who ought to have been pushing the preparations for the accommodation of the workmen have thought that they could get along with make hift ar rangements. Permanent improvements in transporta-

tion and permanent accommodations for the workmen are imperatively needed, because the shipyard is to be permanent. One of the attaches of the Emergency Fleet Corporation has announced that contracts are to be awarded which will keep the shipbuilders busy for ten years. This ought to arouse us to an appreciation of the necessity of providing all needed accommodations, not only for the ~orkmen, but for the ships which will be engaged in commerce after the war. We need more plers, we need drydccks and we need warehouses. Such initiative as has been shown has

originated in Washington and not here at home. Mr. Hurley, of the shipping board, is about to ask for \$3,000,000 to build two drydocks. The War Department is building warehouses for army stores which may possibly be used for peaceful commerce when the war ends. Our local authorities are looking over the ground to discover where it is best to locate a dry dock, but this has been done only after the port commission of the shipping board had made its own survey.

It is probable that for the next year or two, or so long as the war lasts, this city can best serve the country by co-operating with the national Government in all its port improvements, whatever they may be It would be foolish for us to attempt to duplicate on our own account plers or warehouses which the Government itself may build. But it will be fatal to the expansion of the business of this port if we allow ourselves to look to the Government for everything. Of course, much of the work to be done here must be paid for out of the national Treasury, but we

must do our share, and prepare to do it without delay. The fuel administration wants us to pu our coal in now, on the theory evidently that ton in time will relieve the mine.

**RELIGIOUS DEMOCRACY IN ACTION** A CONVENTION that is not a convention begins a session of a week in Atlantic City tomorrow. It is not a convention in the sense that it has no legislative power It is a convention in that it is the coming together of the representatives of several million church people. The Northern Bapilst Association, rep-

tice in the appeal of the men, had adresenting the Baptist churches in thirtyvanced wages out of the surplus fund of four States, is almost unique among remore than \$4,000,000 already piled up ligious bodies. It is a mass-meeting and little more, for the reason that the Baptist

fore becoming a Baptist clergyman. Ye

in practice there is the widest possible

toleration of differences of belief. Men es-

New England Baptist church whose pastor

# THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

Prefetory Remarks for an Obituary Notice of Von Hindenburg GERMAN prisoners taken in France are reported as saying that Hindenburg is

dead. Which probably means that, in their artless German way and in their genuine delight at being captured and out of the carnage, they remarked, "Hindenburg ist kaput." Meaning, of course, Hindenburg is done for: in other words, his great offendone for; in sive has failed.

But still the old chap must die some day: he is nearly seventy-one; he suffers from gall stones and gout; he has the souls of many millions of men on his back; we ourself wrote a tentative obit for him in this column some time ago; he can't be feeling any too secure.

Paul von Beneckendorff und von Hindenburg was born October 2, 1847, in Posen. If he had been born before 1793 the world would have been much better off, because then he would have been a Pole (Posen was annexed by Prussia in that year) and presumably his great military genius would have been thrown against Prussia.

When he left school his teachers said in their report to his parents: "Except for a certain talkativeness, his conduct was good. His progress in religion, Latin, French and geography was sufficient, but arithmetic below par." . .

That talkative trait has cropped out several times since. He was known as the greatest bore in the German War College, because he was continually talking about the strategic value of the Mazurian Lakes. When the Government wanted to drain those lakes and marshes for agricultural improvement Hindenburg nearly went out of his mind. He was saving those lakes to confound the Russians with. He did. It used to be a stock joke in Berlin that Hindy could always be found at a certain cafe drawing maps of his favorite lakes on the marble-topped table, using his finger and little puddles of beer to illustrate his plans of campaign.

When he said he would be in Paris by April of this year it was evidently another outcropping of that "certain talkativeness.

When he called Kitchener's new armies "a uniformed mob" that also was an overflow of words,

But when he said "We shall have peace before summer" he may have been thinking of himself. Has the old man got the peace he coveted?

He got his Iron Cross when it really meant something, for great personal bravery at Sedan, where he led a charge against the French.

When they say he is dead do they really mean physically dead or just obsolete? On Germany's part this has been a war of old men; men who were trained under Moltke. We have yet to hear of a German general in high command who is under sixty.

Another bad habit of Von Hindenburg's was that of contradicting the Kaiser. He was retired on a pension years ago for his inconvenient way of outmaneuvering the All-Damnedest in the annual field days. It was not because the Kaiser hated Hindenburg less, but because he hated the Russ more that Hindy was called on to stop Rennenkampff and Samsonoff by pushing the Mazurian Lakes underneath them. . .

Hindy's great ambition was to march into London as a conqueror. He had all he physical pres jestic a feat. Six feet tall, with a profile churches have consistently refused to surlike a basalt quarry and a jowl knotted render to any legislative body control over and tough as the root of an oak tree, he their independence of action. Each Baptist would have registered just the prope. fachurch is an independent organizatio cial storms for such a role. Unfortunately, with absolute liberty of action in theory some admirer of his wrote a long poem in It may call whom it pleases to serve a many cantos called "Hindenburg's March Into London," describing just how it would its pastor and it may ordain him to the ministry if it chooses. In practice, howbe done and what horrors would be inever, there is co-operation among churches flicted upon the hypocritical islanders. Of in ordaining ministers and a general agree course, that put the English on their guard ment in what a minister should believe b and spotled it all.



LET HIM FEEL YOUR MITE

# Six-Cent Fares and Carmen's Wages (Editorial from today's Public Ledger)

A fronts the municipal Administration and the community as a whole by reason of the sudden demand of the Rapid Transit Company for six-cent fares. The reason advanced by the company for its demand is the dissatisfaction of the employes with their present wages, and there is no doubt that there is a sound foundation for the fear that unless the men are paid a higher rate than they are now receiving, even with the two cents an hour just allowed them, serious labor difficulties may arise But the question of the justice of the men's demand ought not to be confused with the open question of the financial needs of

the Rapid Transit Company. Unless the company can by laying all its cards on the table satisfy the Mayor and the Director of City Transit that it is impossible for the company to meet the demands of oves without an increase of fare.

EXTRAORDINARY situation con- | shareholders) would be obliterated. The increased revenue resulting from the nat# ral annual growth of traffic, the abnormal industrial growth of the city owing to the war industries and the millions to be added by the 20 per cent fare increase now being asked would relieve the company of all anxiety as to its future financial position. Moreover, it must be noted that nothing is said in its present proposal about the discriminatory exchange tickets. They are apparently to continue, yielding a million a year to the company!

A six-cent fare may or may not be necessary. That issue cannot be decided intelligently without a great deal more information than is now in the possession of the city authorities concerning the company's accounts. The important points to be ascertained are whether the increased wages to which the employes are probably entitled cannot be met by the company from

# THE READER'S VIEWPOINT

### **Patriotism Manifesting Itself**

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir-I wish to acknowledge the great re-sults in response to the request of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER for pledge to dis-play the American flag as a constant replay the American flag as a constant re-minder of duty. I find many more flags shown in West Philadelphia. The display bids fair to become more general throughout the city. The great credit due your editorial department in showing public spirit is hereby acknowledged, and with grateful thanks for civic interest displayed. Philadelphia, May 13,

## Wrist Whistles Next

Just about the time the Paragraphers' Just about the time the Paragraphers' Union was being hard put to it to find any more fun in the wrist watch, a California gentleman came to the rescue with the wrist whistle. Ever hear of the wrist whistle fill Well, it's a device for policeman's whistle al-ways available. He will not be compelled to reach into his hip pocket for it, only to remember that he put his six-shooter thers and the whistle in his south vest pocket. So the next time you see a policeman holding the next time you see a policeman holding his wrist up to his mouth don't think he is bite his cuff button into the button

hole. He is only going to blow his whistle.-San Antonio Light.

**Omaha Starts Something** 

There appears in the newspapers of Omaha an advertisement signed and paid for by a number of public-spirited citizens, in which this striking sentence is used:

We believe the clock has struck the hour

when the elements in the community which stand for constructive betterment should get together \* \* to get the best municipal government obtainable for the city of Omaha.

city of Omaha. This sentiment ought to be re-schood and acted on by the representative citizens of every American municipality of whatever size. This is no time to permit the reins to fail into weak, incompetent or reckless hands or to place in positions of public trust any but men of known, tested, approved loyalty. In this time of national stress every unit

In this time of national stress every unit of the official body must be as sound as care-ful selection can make it.—Detroit Free

You Can't Eat Petroleum troleum peace." because the oil wells of

What Do You Know?

SIUQ

. Who wrote: "Presents, I often say, and

m any action to improve the The conscientious objector is his d, his own nation. His concerns nd with himself, though he may realize it.

by their own admissions, prefer posity spread over the world rather it with force or with personal This is a selfish doctrine. Pity quality of mind. But pity inbeen at its noblest and wisest ant forth armed with a sword.

Sproul and O'Neil expect Vare at the primaries, some one is bound ted.

### AIR MAIL

the first mail airplane drops the sky at Bustleton tomorrow will live up to tradition by once again in a revolutionary in transportation. Steam rail-rolleys, the telephone and the ad their first extensive trials the main traveled line that New York and Washington. d by these departures from nethod was never untouched with sut we grow wiser. No one lane nowadaya except, per-Congressmen from Kansas, lead the laughter a few years army requested modest ap-for experiments in aviation, r can fly!" Congress used to with imcracks. Ho, ho!" der of the country isn't much Kanses Congressmen. The smen from Kansas, ook to go from in two days used to

yearly in the improvement of its service, and then left the question of a proper rate of fare to adjustment, as provide with much more fairness and safeguards for the public interest under the terms of the lease.

If the six-cent fare goes through now, will the P. R. T. insist upon a still further increase to carry the new system, as contemplated under the terms of the lease, in case it shall be approved by the commission? Will not the management be likely to argue that the present increase only takes care of the present obligations and not those of the future. so that a seven or even eight cent carfare will be demanded to give the public real rapid transit, as so often promised and so often delayed?

pit it failed miserably. The other pastors These are only a few of the questions unanimously adopted a resolution that they which arise immediately to confront those had always stood for liberty of conscience who have the car-riders' interests at and were unwilling to recede from their heart, but they are enough to show that position. So the Atlantic City convention will be there can properly be no rush tactics in a gathering of ardent individualists, stick deciding the matter. It is up to Mr. lers for their rights as free men and ready Mitten and his colleagues to lay their to work with any one who will allow them cards face up on the table and hold their freedom. The convention may recnothing back if they expect to get what mmend policies, but they can be carried the public too must have-a square deal out only by general consent. This is carryand no bluffing. ing democracy to the farthest extreme. It

seems to work, for the denomination is It begins to seem as if Gutson Borgium prosperous and growing. ould pretty soon look like his name.

ad into the water no

## THE PLAY SPIRIT

their tasks the hot rivalry and

Now that the anti-loafing law has been signed in New York, some one will have to twenty-four hours each day in the corridors of the Broadway hotels. T 18 when he takes his work as seriously and flercely as his play that the Angloxon becomes terrible. The men of the laware shipyards, who, by some noble nd spiritual miracle have implanted in

Speaking of Mand Muller Maud Muller, on a summer's day, Raked the meadows sweet with hay; But how Maud would have been appalled By farmersties so overalled ; real of the baseball diamond and the grid-ron, have grasped the hem of a human and racial mystery that no Prussian will d racial mystery that no Prussian will ar be able to comprehend. Caunching ships is no longer the light-arted and irresponsible toil it once was. has taken on the desparate seriousness a game, and the workmen don't even a time off to amash a flask of cham-me or its equivalent in humbler fluid.

The Germans will have to find a better zouse for their failure on the Picardy front has the sumored death of Hindenburg.

Lenine is calling for help against the Germans a little lats, but better than not at all.

This is the

But it doesn't pay to be too flippant at the expense of Hindy, who was undoubtsentially Unitarians have held Baptist pasedly a soldier of extraordinary pugnacity. torates in peace for years. When an at-In any catalogue in which men are rated tempt was made recently to discipline a according to the number of lives they have blotted out, the roll of cathedrais they have had invited a Unitarian to supply his pulshattered and the casks of beer they have drunk, Hindy will stand pretty near the top of the list.

> And, as far as we are concerned, we can pay him no more sincere tribute than this: He is more useful to us dead than alive.



The Germans have an to Themselves. The Garmans have an to Themselves. Their army up to maxi-mum strength. They decrease the number of men per division. A German division now has \$000 men instead of 12,000. Perhaps by the time the great offensive is over the Hun division will be divided again. It's like Ben Franktin's maxim about doubling your income by halv-ing your desires.

So Was the Furchaser nut street alore were good judges of an in-vestment.

War Song of the Times

War bong or the on hand When you've got a job on hand That will need your grit and sand Then you work to beat the band, Your forehead wiping. ngl

now proposed in tria follow, logi

then it is the imperative duty of those officials to oppose resolutely and unconditionally any movement for such an inrease

As matters stand at present the com pany's cards are NOT on the table. There is nothing whatever in the two statements to the public on Sunday, published in esterday morning's papers, which throws light on the finances of the company. It is known from the last reports of the company, and from statements made by its counsel at the recent hearings before the Public Service Commission, that there is now a surplus in the treasury of between four and five million dollars. Yet the com-

pany is asking an increased passenge revenue of 20 per cent, which will undoubt edly amount to \$5,000,000 annually, instead of the \$3,500,000 or \$4,000,000 estimated in the company's statement. Of this increased revenue it proposes to apply about 5 per cent to the wages of the car men and other employes and it promise 100 more cars "available for next winter. The latter and other "property improve ments and addition to facilities" the company would seem to intend to pay for out of the increased revenue from six-cent fares, whereas all such outlays are properly chargeable to capital!

Another serious aspect of the situation calls for serious attention. There is pend ing before the Public Service Commission a contract between the city and the company, a contract which makes specific provision for increased fares should a real necessity arise. Doubtless it will be said that owing to delays in the approval of

the contract by the commission, and probable further delays resulting from litigation, the urgency of the labor situation has forced the company's hand and compelled it to appeal to Councils for imm diate re lief. But is it not singular that one party to a compact so vital to the well be to a compact so vital to the well being of the community should take a radical step involving a material change in that con-tract without a word of consultation with the party of the other part? Until the "petition" of the men for six-cent fares lasked out in the news of the LEDGERS a few days ago, and until the ad tapid Transit Company, the city tatives in the directorate of th Repid Transit Company and the other city officials most directly interested were kept in ignorance of this extremely important move on the part of the company. It must be deale to every one that if the

its present reserves, pending the tion of the lease question; and whether any such action as is proposed by the company ought not to be postponed in any

event until after the lease shall be approved and all legal questions involved shall have been determined by the court of last resort. Thus far the company has offered no convincing reasons for hasty action on the part of the city, and the community will look with confidence to the Mayor for prompt and definite action protecting the rights of the municipality in

the matter.

They're Near Enough Now '

"Can any one may." writes Conan Doyle to the London Times, "why every ship returning across the Atlantic does not take a full human cargo of the interned Germans, so that these uscless mouths may be fed over

Brick Factories for Real Peace Palaces The \$4,000,000,000 ordnance and munitions plant, to be by far the largest in the world, which is to be built for the Government by the United States Steel Corporation, will have much greater practical effect than Mr. Car-negies expensive Peace Palace at The Hague. --Boston Globe. "petroleum peace." because the oil wells of Rumania are now to gush generously into Germany. But this doesn't seem to guicken the pulse of the hungry women standing in line with their pitiful food cards.

#### Rough Rhymes From Alaska

Germany may find that she can lead the Ukraine to water, but she can't force her to drown herself. We note with consternation that our food administration Has decided that the doughnut must de-

part. And we view this one restriction as a per-sonal affliction. While the knowledge of its going breaks each heart.

Though it may help conservation, all the people of this nation Would gladly live on spuds and sawdust

buns. Could appeals make Hoover budge from his set and unjust grudge, And let the doughnut stay, we'd lick the

believe that indigestion should not enter

In the question should not enter When our toothsome, hole-y friend is on the rack, and though some harsh words are saying, the most of us are praying He'll relent and let us have our doughnut back.

Hoover! Think of all the widdles. "Native Bons," the wives and kiddles; Do not their tears your lenlancy begat! But 11 your decision's final that our treasure

Béward Donnine White is Chief Jr Be United Blates Supreme Court.
"The American Commencealith." 1 Institutions and notificed provide of a institutions and multiced provide of a function of the second provide a second count Berros, farmerty British American to Birs counter.

- absents"? 3. Identify "Ells." 3. Who is the new Lord Lieutenant of Irelai 4. Who was the Venerable Bode? 5. Name the author of "Waverley." 6. What Presidents of the United States h died in office? 7. For whom was Louisians name?? 8. What was the Comberiand Bond? 9. What is meant by "the tart"? 10. Where is the Lys Birer?
- Answers to Yesterday's Quis

western Bolgium,

1. Georgia was named for Hing

ller, of Alaska, in the Po One of the thin

matutinal Must go from us. Mr. Hoover, "we sh frot."