

Evening Public Ledger THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... CRUIS H. K. CURTIS, PASTOR... DAVID R. SMILEY, Editor... JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager...

LABOR AND THE DRAFT

Is the Senate Sneaking a Big Stick Into the New Army Bill?

SINCE the first days of the war Congress has been developing an odd talent for evading decisions of the sort that appear unlikely to win applause from the galleries. The Senate, like the House, has often exhibited dazzling footwork in eluding issues that seem to invite unfavorable reactions of general sentiment.

It isn't surprising therefore to find the new draft bill containing some loose ends and ambiguities, evasive where it should be definite, murky in those clauses that should be most clearly phrased and reverting, in a crucial provision, to "the discretion of the President."

To scrutinize this epochal measure in its present form is like scrutinizing a fog. Objectives, aims and purposes are not plain. Approximately 16,000,000 additional men will be made available for selective service under the bill. It is commonly understood in the Senate and in the House that the War Department hopes to have 3,000,000 men in France next summer.

Obviously one of the purposes of the new draft bill is to eliminate waste, idleness and lost motion in the war industries. This is apparent in the sweeping clause which provides that any man in a war industry who does not continue to work will automatically be drafted for service with the colors.

The President, of course, since the courage of the Senate committee appears to have run out when it copied this nice detail of discredited English legislation!

Did Mr. Wilson himself anticipate such a course? Did he seek or does he welcome the power which Mr. Reed, of Missouri, would provide for him?

Official news that some—even one—of the insects had been swatted would allay the growing irritation, Mr. Daniels.

It's easy to understand why Germany is now blaming her Pleadry defeat on fog. There's nothing so distressing as a victory mist.

A NEW NATION

THE recognition of the independence of the Czechoslovaks by the British follows similar action by the French and Italians. It was forecast by the United States when Secretary Lansing issued his statement expressing the sympathy of this country with the national aspirations of the non-German races of Austria-Hungary.

The work of the Czechoslovak armies in Russia entitles them to recognition by the Entente Allies. They have formed the rallying point for the opponents of the pro-German Bolsheviks and their achievements have made it possible for the substantial and responsible elements among the Russians to hope for deliverance from the reign of terror which has prevailed since the Kerensky government fell.

The Emergency Fleet Corporation is satisfied with the showing of the concrete ships, but it is ships in the concrete which is troubling Germany.

FRANK B. WILLIS has been nominated for the governorship of Ohio for the third time by the Republicans. A similar honor has come to James B. Cox at the hands of the Democrats.

Willis beat Cox in 1914 by 31,000 plurality and Cox beat Willis in 1916 by 5000 votes. There was a presidential election two years ago and Wilson carried the State by 89,000. Cox was evidently a weak candidate.

It looks very much as if this were Willis's turn to win again. As at any rate, he will have the support of the dry forces, for he favors the ratification of the prohibition amendment to the national Constitution.

Speaking of the rights of little nations, Mexico reminds the British that she intends to insist on hers.

CONCRETE SHIPS SATISFACTORY MR. BRUNIER, in charge of the construction of ships of concrete, reports that the Emergency Fleet Corporation is satisfied with the showing made by the ships already constructed and will build many more than the original forty provided for in the original plans.

This is interesting news, for the concrete ships cost much less than ships built of wood and only about a third as much as ships built of steel. But they are not likely to displace steel ships. In fact, steel has already been announced that steel will serve its purpose in increasing the merchant fleet.

hope to cure the existing evils by conscriptive measures.

Industry must discipline itself. We will get through somehow as things are. But legislation of a sort likely to rouse class consciousness and a sense of enforced discrimination is likely to spoil the unity of spirit that is the chief strength of the nation at this time.

Therefore, a fuller explanation of the purposes of the eighteen-to-forty-five draft bill is required at once, either in the Senate or from the War Department or from the White House, if only to remove the doubts and suspicions which Senator Reed and his colleagues in their maneuvering have managed to set up.

The news that England "has pronounced the Czechoslovaks a nation" may provoke varied opinions on some counts, but admiration for her labial dexterity is unshaded.

A MOMENTOUS MONTH

THERE is considerable difference between being a humble commuter, ever fearful that the train will go without him, and the traffic manager who makes the timetables, and can stop or start the express whenever he feels like it.

From March 21 to July 14, 1918, Ludendorff was the war's traffic manager. His timetable kept the Allies anxiously on the jump and the danger of missing connections was ever present.

In all the history of warfare there has been no such sudden and sweeping transfer of victorious authority as this. "First Marne" was succeeded by a long stalemate. Meade's triumph at Gettysburg was clouded by his inability to continue an offensive against Lee, nor could the Southern commander press his advantage after Chancellorsville.

The definite passage of the initiative to the Allies at the very moment when the Hun hordes were booked to reach the climax of their power is an achievement whose luster cannot be dimmed, even if the road to complete victory is longer than even the most conservative foresee.

In dramatic celerity the event is overwhelming. The tide of war, four years in reaching its flood, was turned in the momentous month which ended yesterday.

"Ice tea dropped at many cafes," says a headline, and the fact that not a drop was spilled convinces us that the fountain clerk is a conserving patriot as well as a juggler.

SELF-DETERMINATION IN AUGUST

FORMERLY it was a scrap of paper and occasionally a circle of celluloid. Generally just now it is a loop of linen, but ever has it been a ring of ruthlessness. Winter winds insistently invade its recesses, yet summer zephyrs fear its formidable front as the Hun does Foch's.

Over in Germany a man named Simon inscribed on his classification card a false measurement of his neckband. The fact that this offense landed him in jail is sufficient evidence of the collar's sanctity in Hunland.

Did Mr. Wilson himself anticipate such a course? Did he seek or does he welcome the power which Mr. Reed, of Missouri, would provide for him? Since Mr. Reed frankly dislikes Mr. Wilson, it may be assumed fairly that he seized the occasion to kill two birds with one stone—to evade a decision which he and his conferees should have made under their own authority and to add a little more of confusion to the President's tasks.

We are, so far as the industrial side of the war goes, muddling through, sure enough. There is an appalling waste of time, money and energy in the war preparations. It may seem to those who must bear the brunt of responsibility in Washington that the correction of some of the apparent evils by force of the draft laws is logical enough.

But it isn't logical. It is, perhaps, the most dangerous suggestion made in America since the war began.

At any cost the nation must keep the military function and the industrial function of the war, and the laws governing the one and the other, separate and forever apart. It must permit no hint or suggestion of interaction between legislation devised for the development of the military establishment and legislation devised for the direction and development of war industries.

It is pleasant to know that the Carlisle Indians are now working at Hog Island since we can be sure that a few persons at least will understand the significance of the names painted on the new ships.

Registration is vexation, and enlistment's very bad; The troops at sea bewilder me, And victory drives me mad.

Certainly, for the Present The distinction seems to have been earned.

Lieutenant Sam Katcher, here recruiting for the Marines, has fallen a victim to a recruiting officer himself. The officer's name is Dan Cupid, and he wears an excellent hot weather uniform.

France paid America a graceful tribute in renaming the Belleau wood after the marines and yet relettering her maps was really unnecessary. The forest of Ourscamp lies also in the war zone.

There's no offense whatever in the weather man's "marked coolness." In fact, it proclaims him as rather a good fellow after all.

The alleged naval battle off Copenhagen was probably only the usual Skaggerak.

BEEF, IRON AND WINE

The Smell of Apples

WE STOPPED in at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel yesterday afternoon to look at the apples. The dining room of a big hotel is not usually a place one would associate with a country orchard, but the International Apple Shippers are holding their convention there, and arrayed in shining piles on the long tables are all the apples you ever heard of.

THERE were big, glossy, green apples and bright red apples and yellow apples and that particularly delicious kind (we don't remember the name) that is the palest possible cream color—almost white. There were apples of strange shapes, almost like a pear (sheepskins, we believe they call them) and the Maiden Blush apples, with their delicate shading of yellow and pink.

WE RAN into Mr. R. A. Troth, of Orleans, Ind., whose apples had just arrived. He was laying them out on exhibition, and we watched them with amazement. Such greens and reds and yellows! There used to be an old legend about apple packers putting the biggest fruit at the top of the barrel, but we don't believe a man could associate long with such magnificent fruit and still be dishonest. We are all molded by the things we work with.

AND we suppose there is hardly a man who has not an apple orchard tucked away in his heart somewhere. There must be some deep reason for the old suspicion that the Garden of Eden was an apple orchard.

AN APPLE orchard, if it is to fill the heart of man to the full with affectionate satisfaction, should straggle down a hillside toward a lake and a white road where the sun shines hotly. Some of its branches should trail over an old, lichened and weather-stained stone wall, dropping their fruit into the highway for thirsty pedestrians.

TO PUT it differently, I once heard Major Rockwell, a first-rate surgeon, who recruited the Columbia Ambulance Company in which I enlisted, say that one man is about as brave as another, and that the two things that count are brains and endurance. Not that there aren't genuine ambushes (slackers), some intelligent, educated ones, too, who haven't room in their narrow hearts for the greatest emotion that has ever swept over this earth.

BUT no really first-class person needs to pass through this ordeal—needs to prove his courage. Courage, both moral and physical, is the inalienable possession of every first-class person. Chances are he never had to win it himself—his ancestors settled that for him two or three generations before. But he's got it, and when he runs away from serious responsibilities in order to prove something which is already self-evident, he is merely indulging in romantic folly.

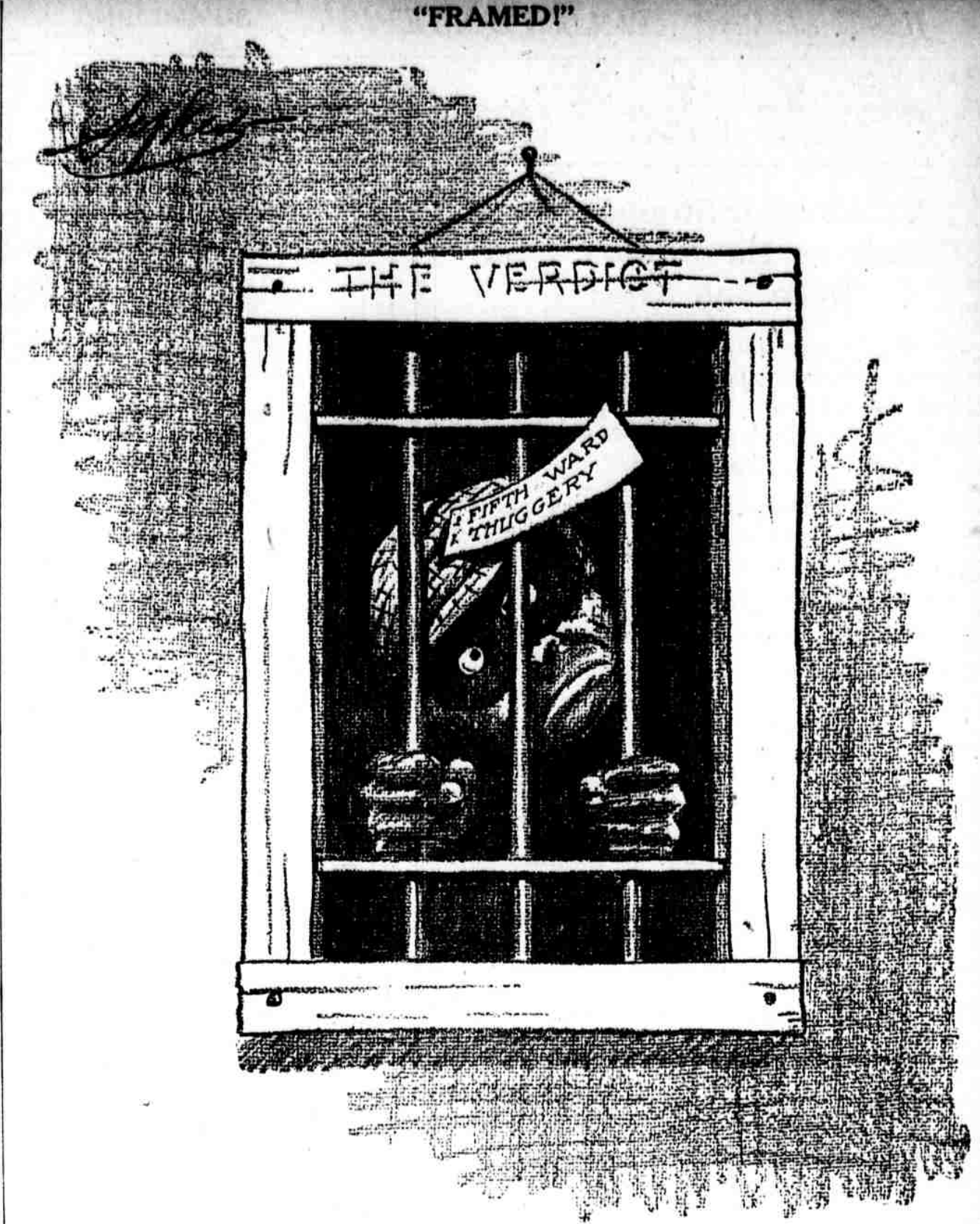
I BELIEVE that this war, and America's entrance into the war, are the greatest events in the history of the world, and that compacted in all the suffering and tragedy and heartbreaking trifling and boredom there is the most glorious hope that ever came into men's hearts—the most stupendous vindication of the divinity of man.

Major W. A. Bishop, king of all armiers, with seventy-two confirmed machines to his credit, was in the air during the battle of Arras, and in his book, "Winged Warfare," he describes the extraordinary effect of artillery fire when viewed from a height. The flames from the guns gave the impression of a long ribbon of incandescent light, and the air seemed literally filled with shells. But the spectacle of the advancing infantry was the most remarkable.

It is a good many of them had to be sent to the obstinacy asylums. The others have been made wild animal trainers in the zoo or doorkeepers at moving-picture shows and department stores. They have been allowed to retain their uniforms, and have been very useful. Almost every movie has a doorkeeper with an iron cross.

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THE JOB THAT NO ONE WANTED

By Private James F. Rorty, A. E. F. Extract from a letter from France.

LET me tell you something about the matter of physical courage—something which you probably know already but which needs repeating. Physical courage is about the cheapest, most widely distributed virtue which the world has in its arsenal—not that it isn't fine and thrilling and admirable. It is all that and I have seen enough of it to redeem my faith in mankind. But it is not exceptional. Lord, the average human being is magnificent in extremity and for that let us be thankful.

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The Reader's Viewpoint

Who Invented Ice Cream?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—You say that the Italians are credited with the invention of ice cream. My information is that the first ice cream was made by a London confectioner named Gunton. It was introduced into America by Dolly Madison, who served it at a reception at the White House. In 1811 it was added to the cake and wine which had been served at the Winter parties in Philadelphia from their invention. Nancy Johnson, the wife of an American naval officer, invented the ice cream freezer which made it possible to freeze the cream more satisfactorily than by merely packing the mixture of cream and flavoring in ice. I know that there is a tradition that ice cream was discovered accidentally when Martha Washington left some sweetened cream out doors on a cold night; but this is merely one of those interesting and curious tales that grow up about every great improvement in the manner of living.

Rioting and Voting

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—It is more than certain that the mob violence at Strawberry Mansion, extending over a district reaching to Twenty-seventh and York streets and resulting in damage to property, the infliction of bodily injury, etc., will not lead any well-balanced person to argue that men should never have been permitted to enjoy the vote. Nor will any one be likely to recommend depriving even the rioters themselves of the vote. In a few days the whole affair will be hushed up.

Why is it, therefore, that the action of a handful of women at Washington—action attended neither with damage to property nor assault and battery, etc.—should lead your editor to fear that some votes for the suffrage amendment will be lost in the United States Senate?

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. What is chicle? 2. What is the meaning of "dolce far niente"? 3. Where is Surinam? 4. What is an latherbom? 5. How many Presidents of the United States died in office and who were they? 6. What is the title of the heir apparent to the throne of Spain? 7. Who wrote, "They also serve who only stand and wait"? 8. After whom is the month of August named? 9. Which is the port side of a ship? 10. Who commanded the German U-boat which sank the Lusitania?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. Cuthbert is the deep-water port of Hamburg. 2. The line "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin" occurs in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and "Cressida" and is spoken by Ulysses. 3. The present King of Italy is a member of the House of Savoy. 4. During his political career Grover Cleveland was married three times. 5. The word lather is derived from the French verb "lather," to pour, and hence literally means a pouring place. 6. The Japanese are the race numerically predominant in Hawaii. 7. "The Insect" is frequently inscribed on tombstones, in Latin for "Here lies." 8. In the South the battle of Antietam is generally known as the battle of Sharpsburg. 9. A lather is a small two-masted sailing vessel. 10. The Temple of Cancer is the northern boundary of the Tropic of Cancer.