

Evening Public Ledger THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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Philadelphia, Monday, September 9, 1919

BOG ISLAND AND HUMAN FRAILTY

The chronic inability of man to cut his acts to the measure of his ideals is characteristically displayed in the Federal investigators' report on Hog Island. Waste and extravagance in getting under way are charged. The chiefs of the huge undertaking point to the magnitude of their achievement and the necessity of turning out vessels as quickly as possible.

Explanation rather than ethical justification of their acts is thereby offered. The wish that better excuses for mistakes could have been offered is general.

It is regrettable, too, that blunders now happily rectified should have been committed at the outset. Hysteria over Hog Island conditions today is wholly unwarranted.

As it was in the beginning, is today official signing. And shall be forever more.

Of course, there are men who will try to drink enough between now and July of next year to do them for the remainder of their lives.

HIGH TAXES TO BE PERMANENT MR. KITCHIN has prophesied that the annual budget of the United States will be \$4,000,000,000 for many years after the war and that the Government will have to continue to levy heavy taxes on the wealth of the nation to meet its burdens.

It has been known that the burden of the war debt would weigh heavily for many years, but Mr. Kitchin is the first man in a position of authority to make a definite estimate of the tax bills of the future.

Here are his figures: Interest on the war debt, \$1,250,000,000; maintenance of the army and navy, \$1,000,000,000; pensions and insurance, \$1,000,000,000; ordinary expenses of the Government, \$750,000,000. Total, \$4,000,000,000.

Mr. Kitchin's figures may be a little too high, but if the war continues longer than is now expected they are more likely to be a little too low.

IMMINENCE OF PROHIBITION THE order of Mr. Hoover closing all breweries on December 1 and forbidding them to buy any more grain will probably result in a beerless country before the end of the year.

It is idle to deny the significance of Foch's present disposition of the Allied forces. The husbanding of American strength is evidently deliberate and purposeful. It would be presumptuous to forecast when the curtain will rise on a new act of the greatest drama in history.

It begins to look as though the school geographies would soon have to enlarge their chapter on imaginary lines enough to admit Hindenburg's.

THE LAST RESORT THE reported mysterious departure from Belgium of the German general staff suggests that it has gone to the bad—Bad Kissingen, Bad Nauheim or Bad Homburg.

THE Hun general staff has left Spa to give the Rhine the once over. The Hun general staff has left Spa to give the Rhine the once over.

THE EDUCATIONAL CRISIS

The Drafting of the Colleges for War Work Increases Responsibility of Public Schools THE responsibility of attending to the nonmilitary education of the youth will rest almost entirely upon the public schools until peace is made.

No more serious crisis ever threatened the educational authorities of the country. Higher education on the old-fashioned lines is to be virtually abandoned if we read aright the indications of the times.

But the work of education must continue in order that young men and young women may be prepared to enter the colleges when they resume their broader functions, and also in order that the boys and girls who will never go beyond the grammar school or the high school may be taught what they need to know.

THE public schools will find it difficult, however, to do their work. Those in this city, which open today, find themselves short of teachers.

THE Board of Public Education will do its best to solve the problems forced upon it by the extraordinary conditions.

It must not be allowed to slow up. The city owes it to the children and to itself that it continue the training of those who are to be the leaders in its public and business life and that no child who seeks a place in the schools should be excluded through lack of room, for part of a day at least, or through lack of teachers.

Food exposes are often painful, but those on Lehigh and South College avenues are productive only of satisfaction and healthier pocketbooks.

A WAR DRAMA IN PREPARATION THE report that but 7 per cent of the American troops sent to France are now engaged in the most active battle zone unmistakably indicates that the greatest reserve army in the history of warfare is in process of formation.

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In what was once one of the most charming and storied spots in all Flanders.

It is stimulating to speculate on what the spirit of Spa, were it vocal, would say of its vanished and unwelcome intruders.

Several of our readers may have been grieved by this flippancy, so we intend to amplify the thought a little.

Two of the accounts that we have seen of this episode have interested us a good deal. One was in a New York journal, which stated that when Mr. Foch arrived on the scene to do his al fresco painting he drove up in his limousine.

THE other account, which appeared in Philadelphia, must have come by word of mouth, for it ran thus: "Mr. Foch worked outside the Metropolitan Museum before an admiring audience for days till it (the poster) was finished."

Now for the "truth." Mr. Foch drove up not in his limousine, but in a flapper belonging to the marine corps. His own cars are laid up for the duration of the war.

These facts are given us by Mr. Foch himself, and upon our word we don't know whether we ought to believe him or not.

IT is all in the great liberty trust. The French get Ham and the American army is coming forward with the beans.

VON TIRPITZ'S LUCK EXEMPTION from responsibilities is the one great privilege of demotion.

THE idea is to write daily a small article concerning the trials and triumphs of a good American, who almost boils over with a surplus of "Win the war" and "Kill the Kaiser" spirit.

THE advance of the British under General Horne must be particularly annoying to Ludendorff. It is like being gored by an infuriated dilemma.

Count Reventlow, the fire-eating militarist, now asserts that Germany has never been inspired by the ambition of conquest—News item.

Hindenburg tells the Germans that they ought to be very grateful to him for shortening his battle line so nicely. But that can't fool them indefinitely.

When the Hun general staff left Spa, bound for some nice cool Dead Letter Office, two special trains were required to transport its documents.

Boy, Page Master Shakespeare The French are within ten miles of Laon. Laon, Macduff, And damn the Hun that first cries Hold, enough!

Hello, Boston! Printer's ink seeping from Boston intimates that a local board in that city has been told by Provost Marshal Crowder that "persons writing poetry" are engaged in an essential industry and are not subject to draft.

Very sad; nothing said about bean bakers. But if poets are eliminated how will the Back Bay regiments be recruited up to full strength?

After the closing of the breweries on December 1 the infiltration on the western front will have an added poignance.

Berlin, which now organizes itself under "laws relating to a state of siege," displays a keener gift of prophecy than at any time since the war began.

THE STILL, SMALL VOICE

NOT long ago we remarked as follows: "Whenever any one urges us to tell the truth we always reply that the truth is so inaccurate."

YOU have seen James Montgomery Flagg's recruiting poster entitled "Tell That to the Marines." It shows a red-haired man tearing off his coat in anger after reading some news about German atrocities.

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WAR THRILLS AT HOME

Here is a Broken Song of Railroad in the Day of the Ladies

Dear Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir: MOST of what you hear About the wild mistakes of The sweet young things who sell Tickets On Mr. McAdoo's railroads Isn't true.

Men of faith eager for Jersey-City Were cast out at a place called Chicago. A wild community Populated chiefly by Policemen.

There was a man, who, Fresh from dalliance With the Grand High Awful, Bo Of his lodge, Arrived, ere dawn, At Broad Street Station To beseech the gentle creature at a window For a ticket to Camden.

"BY TUNNEL" said a sweet soprano And golden echoes Let him know that the cost Was Twenty-eight dollars.

YEARS passed. "ALAS," whispered the suppliant at last From the depths of reverie, "How time changes all things!"

He really don't include the New York Sun in the above, but am convinced that, as a whole, you have it on any New York evening paper by a wide margin.

Going Down A \$600-foot drop of leap by parachute from a airplane traveling ninety miles an hour is reported from an American camp in Texas, which indicates that the parachute, which is a good deal older than the airplane, is near the experimental stage.

AUX POILUS

O, H. The wind blows sweet o'er the hills of France, And quiet shadows call The tired pollux where the poppies dance And the fairy whispers fall.

Long has the wind blown sweet and fair For the tired pollux's return; He has come—but to kiss and be gone again To where the star shells burn.

But the whispering winds from our own, far hills Have called to us sweet and low, "By the dream of home that your long, night fills, Stand and destroy the foe!"

"Let the pledge of youth from the western shores, Given to France in her woe, Be the bolt and the bar of freedom's doors, That all of the world may know."

So we shall stand as do France's own, Though time without count we pay, That Pierre may dream by his hearthstone Though ours may be far away.

Face to the dawn, through the fiery night We shall stand by the line to the end; For the worst that the gods can do is to write "He gave his all—for a friend." —Stars and Stripes.

The Longs in War As the marine corps has in its complement of about 45,000 fully 25 per cent of youth between nineteen and twenty, according to official figures, it is one of the best examples of the part which boys are taking in this war.

What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. Who is the present United States Attorney General? 2. What is a celestia? 3. What is the plural of the word scrupulous? 4. What is the capital of Saxony? 5. In addition to the name of the inhabitants of the northwestern part of France have you any other names for their own? What is this speech called?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz 1. Camille takes its name from the town of Cambrai, toward which Haig's forces are now driving. 2. Edward D. White, of Louisiana, is Chief Justice of the United States. 3. Neapolitan ice cream is made in strains of different flavors, and is eaten, naturally, originated in Naples. 4. A new life secure soon after the moon's first and third quarters, in which the water level is at its lowest. 5. Sanchez Frasca is the amusing, faithful and practical-minded servant of Don Quixote, Cervantes' celebrated novel of olden times. 6. "A in earnest" is French for "the most" and applies to a man selected by the dice from the bill of fare, in restaurants, to be the guest of honor at a banquet by the hotel or restaurant keeper.

Jonathan Swift wrote "Gulliver's Travels." 7. Anache from the sea name of Anacharsis, Thibault, one of the most distinguished warriors of the day. 8. Lord Haig is the present British Commander in the United States. 9. The name of the present British Ambassador to the United States. 10. The name of the present British Ambassador to the United States.