

Public Ledger

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GET RID OF THE CHAIR PADS IN THE CITY HALL

SCORES if not hundreds of clerks in the City Hall are performing the functions of chair pads and nothing more. There is no danger that the tax rate will have to be increased this year in order that the money may be found to pay them for covering the seat of a swivel chair in a public office.

AMERICAN LABOR AGREES

THREE peace propositions submitted by the American delegates to the Interallied Labor and Socialist conference in London are virtually identical with President Wilson's fourteen peace conditions.

THE GUN KICKED

THE most important developments thus far from the firing of the Austrian peace gun are seen in Berlin and in Vienna.

HOG ISLAND'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY

HOG ISLAND is a year old today. It is the eighth wonder of the world. A year ago it didn't exist.

THEY WERE BUILT

THE yard is built. It has launched ships. It is impossible praise for the men of the organization. Some large tribute is due, too, to those who worked during the bitter winter of recent years, with frozen concrete and iron-hard earth, and laid the foundations for the greatest shipyard in the world.

THERE IS NO ANSWER—YET

REASON was the charge that the Bolsheviks pressed against General Soukhouff, who has just been shot because he sold out the Russian army to the Germans in the early days of the war.

IMPERTINENT PATRIOTEERING MERITS REBUKE

Bullying the Public Into Doing Its Duty is a Betrayal of American Liberty

THE Pennsylvania Woman's Liberty Loan Committee's prompt repudiation of bond bullying may properly be construed as a wholesome rebuke to the whole noisy and "nosey" crew of prying and inquisitorial "patrioteers," fortunately small in number even if large in noise.

A plea was made for the adoption here of the so-called Minneapolis plan, involving a registration or census of all the inhabitants of Philadelphia County and estimates of the proportionate financial "responsibility" of each badgered individual, coupled with the threat of publishing the names of those persons failing to buy bonds.

The clear-headed patriot and alert common sense of the committee which has turned down this insolent and tyrannical scheme richly warrant applause. The mere fact, however, that a proposal of such effrontery was made and that it is even to be put through in several counties of the Third Federal Reserve District is emphatically alarming.

Such tactics are painfully reflective of a spirit of contempt for personal liberties. Such tactics are altogether too persistently being manifested in waves of inquisitive hysteria insidiously rising in a land which has dedicated its life to freedom.

The mere implication that Americans have to be bullied into patriotism is as insulting as it is false. The right to be resentful of methods thinly veiled with meretricious zeal, yet inherently Prussian in their despotic character, is unqualified and clear.

The pity of it is that hundreds of thousands of men and women who really love their country have been loath to protest. They have been gagged by the very natural feeling that resistance to the multiplicity of professional "patrioteering movements"—movements on which paid officials often thrive—might be construed as disloyalty. Such fears are essentially groundless.

Every American of common intelligence knows that the heart of his country beats in tune with its great ideal and unalterable purpose. Bureaucratic inquisitions, organized pestiferous proselytizing are incapable of accelerating those throbs. And even if they were not, a country which has to be browbeaten into saving itself is unworthy of free existence.

Antidotes for the spasms of the strident campaigner who shamelessly in the name of liberty abuses the privileges of freemen, intrudes on their privacy, lines them up in classes, tickets their resources, cross-indexes their confessions of proclivities, tastes, habits, origins and bank accounts are seriously needed today.

New York has just missed being victimized by an impertinent "questionnaire" for potential loan purchasers. The promoters of this dictatorial scheme had contemplated using the police as distributing agents. The Kaiser may thus intimidate his hapless subjects, but any imitation of his methods by us is a kind of flattery of which we have a right to be deeply ashamed.

Fortunately, it was realized in Manhattan that application of the draft machinery, approved by the country only as a necessary instrument in a crisis, is an exceptional prerogative of the Federal Government. Questionnaires circulated by private individuals organized in patrioteering bands come under the head of unreasonable interference with the rights of citizens.

E. Pusey Passmore, governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, has stated that no such inquisitorial sheets would be utilized in the forthcoming loan campaign here. That the idea was even hinted is disquietingly blood-heating. America is performing her colossal war task with such enthusiasm and efficiency, the tone of genuine patriotism is so high, the public is so eager and willing to help to the last increment of its ability that it needs neither to be patronized by the well-meaning propagandists nor threatened by those of more dubious intent.

Everybody knows that the various humanitarian and welfare organizations would be generously supported if the whole cargo of theatrical campaigning devices were thrown overboard. Everybody knows that the fourth Liberty Loan will soar over the top. And some of us have a notion that even with fewer "folders," with less specifying and fewer threatening fingers we would still do our duty.

One way to keep the noble and voluntary patriotism of the nation intact is to modulate the temper of the nodding. On the eve of a great campaign which will enrich the war treasury, it is well to remember that Prussianism can never be spiritually conquered by Prussian tactics. Sane Americanism will do the trick.

The Germans took \$150 in tribute from each Belgian family. Invest your surplus in Liberty Bonds and keep it safe.

MUST THE MILLS CLOSE?

UNDER ordinary circumstances the closing of a number of mills making carpets, rugs and wools, which it is announced is imminent, would be an industrial disaster. It would throw thousands of hands out of work and be followed by much suffering.

GRIDDLE CAKES

Green Escape AT THREE o'clock in the afternoon On a hot September day I began to dream of a highland stream And a frostbit russet tree. Of the swashing dip of a clipper ship (White canvas wet with spray) And the swirling green and milk-foam clean Along her canted lee.

I HEARD the quick staccato click Of the typist's pounding keys, And I had to brood of a wind more rude Than that by a motor fanned— And I lay inert in a flannel shirt To watch the rhyming seas Deploy and bend in a silver end On a beach of sun-blanchd sand.

THERE is no desk shall tame my lust For hills and windy skies; My secret hope of the sea's blue slope No clerical task shall dull; And though I print no echoed hint Of adventures I devise, My eyes still pine for the comely line Of an outboard vessel's hull.

WHEN I elope with an autumn day And make my green escape, I'll leave my pen to tamer men; Who have more docile souls; For forest aisles and office files Have a very different shape, And it's hard to woo the ocean blue In a row of pigeon holes!

Of course we would not want, publicly, to utter any lamentation about the decline and fall of the Empire of Rum, but we do hope that some one will be foresighted enough to tuck away a few beakers of the hard stuff so that when the Kaiser is ultimately canned there will be something left to irrigate the celebration.

Considering how doggedly most men are opposed to doing any work, it is really surprising how much gets done on the sly.

The equinox doesn't mean anything about equal knocks. It means, as far as the All-Damnedest is concerned, harder knocks than ever.

Some people might think that Stefanason was wasting his time spending five years in the Arctic, but when we learn that he discovered some new coal deposits we hasten forward with joyous verities. We only wish the explorer had brought some home in his binnacle.

Besides the coal deposits, Stefanason is said to have found a new Ireland somewhere up north. We don't believe that those Arctic regions are as cold as they have been reported.

Lenine is said to be practically recovered from his recent murder. Another instance of small assassinations denied their rights.

Lenine was wounded in the chest and Russia in the Brest-Litovsk. He has recovered from his wounds more quickly than she will.

Stout-hearted saloonkeepers say they will keep on selling the stuff until the last bottle is drained. Their motto is, Don't Give Up the Sip.

Would it be fair to call booze the Falstaff of life?

A Chestnut street bookshop displays in its window a volume called "The Private Life of William II and His Consort." The private life of Wilhelm does not bother us at all. It is his public life as imported into Belgium, France, Russia and Serbia that the world finds annoying.

Opera lovers will admit that when the Germans withdrew to the Siegfried Line they approach their Goetterdaemmerung.

We aren't moved to ecstasy by the recasting by the sounding statisticians with John E. Rovensky, a New York financier, proved to the American bankers' convention at Denver yesterday that our allies will owe us nine billion dollars after the war. One cannot but devote a moment to wondering how much we owe the nations that fought our battles for three years while we piled up most of this fabulous credit.

TO THE BRAVE!

NEAR one of the French battlefields the other day a firing squad of American soldiers sent a rifle volley over the grave of Miss Nellie J. Ward, of this city, a nurse at one of the bases, who was thus formally honored as one who died in battle.

The girl died of pneumonia, the result of service hardship. She died at her post.

Women can say truthfully that they had nothing to do with the war's beginning, yet they have served in it and shared in much of the suffering it entails with a wonderful fidelity to their instincts of tenderness. Their hands have comforted most of those who fell in the wild adventure. They share their strength with every lad when he battles at last with an enemy more relentless even than the Hun. They serve in silence for the most part and seldom let any one know what they think of war.

Surely the honors of the field should be given freely to those who go tranquilly to the death of warriors, asking no glory meanwhile and only the right to be kind!

Careful thought has been given to the letter of a correspondent who demands to be informed about the uses to which he can put Gasless Sundays.

If he is the ordinary type of fanatical deservewagoner he might put in the day inquiring into the purposes of the imposing structure with a tall spire that he will find in every community. And by going to and fro without mechanical aid he might learn, too, that feet were made for other purposes than kicking.

Notwithstanding the refusal of the Dartmouth student training corps to recognize college society interests, it remains inherently favorable to the preservation of the largest fraternity the world has ever seen—the international armed brotherhood of freedom.

Correspondents abroad continue to cable that the Germans had a hard time in the Vienna peace offer. Sooner or later these same correspondents will perceive that they are telling only half truths about the peace scare. It was their foot that the Germans put in it.

Advertisements in the Washington (D. C.) newspapers show that when you wish to rent a house there you often have to pay an agent's bonus of about \$150 before you can find shelter. Life in Washington might be summarized in three words: Patriots, patrioteers, patrioteers.

The scientists have urged electricians working in the neighborhood of live wires to wear straw hats as a means of avoiding shock. But what about the feelings of the other persons confronted with the spectral lids of last summer or yesterday?

There is an uncanny electric sector held by Judge Bonnell and his friends. Have they used up all their ammunition or are they preparing for a further retirement in accordance with plans previously prepared?

The hairdresser has now arrived in Brooklyn. Now prepare for the two-dollar shoe shine.

When Germany is being made over will they change its name?

It's a cinch to detect the prussic acid in the Austrian gas mask.

Serbia seems to have become gloriously insouciant of the "balk" in Balkans.



THIS IS ITALY'S GREAT DAY

SEPTEMBER 20 is the Fourth of July of Italy, the day when the Italians of all creeds and classes celebrate the completion of the work of unification begun by Cavour under Victor Emmanuel in the middle of the last century.

It is the anniversary of the day in 1870 when the troops of Victor Emmanuel under General Raffaele Cadorna made a breach in the walls of Rome at the Porta Pia against the brief resistance of the papal troops and took the Eternal City. So delighted were the Romans with the success of the venture that when a plebiscite was taken on October 2 only 1507 votes were cast against union to 133,681 for it.

There is no day which the Italians celebrate with greater joy or with more sincere gratification, because it is the anniversary of the day on which they were restored to the position of a great nation in the world, with an opportunity to recover to such an extent as might be granted them some of the glories with which their land had been associated.

Italians in all parts of the world, where they are gathered in sufficient numbers, join with the Italians at home in observing the anniversary, just as Americans celebrate the Fourth of July wherever they may be found on that date.

THE story of the making of modern Italy is one of the great romances of history. In 1860 the country was divided into two kingdoms—that of Sardinia, ruled over by Victor Emmanuel of the House of Savoy, and that of the Two Sicilies, ruled over by Ferdinand of the House of Bourbon. There were also three duchies and the Papal States, while Lombardy and Venice belonged to Austria. Under the advice of Cavour, Victor Emmanuel sent a small army to aid the French and the English in the Crimean War and thus secured the right to sit in the peace conference. At that conference he protested against Austrian misrule in the Italian provinces of Lombardy and Venice and laid the foundation for the ultimate recovery of this territory.

THEN followed the war between France and Austria, which was preceded by a secret agreement that the Italian provinces should be given to Italy after they had been won by France. After the battle of Solferino, when the Austrians were defeated, Lombardy was ceded to the Kingdom of Sardinia, but Venice remained Austrian. This was in 1859. As soon as it was evident that the Austrian power was weakened revolution broke out in the duchies of Modena, Parma and Tuscany and in the Papal State of Romagna, their dukes and papal legates were sent flying and annexation to Sardinia was asked. It was accomplished in 1860. Thus all northern Italy, with the exception of Venice and the Papal States, was brought under the rule of Victor Emmanuel.

IN THE same year the kingdom of the Two Sicilies was captured by Garibaldi, with the secret countenance of Cavour and his king, and it, too, was annexed to the growing Italian kingdom. There remained only Venice and the Papal States, with the city of Rome, to be brought into the union to complete the work which Cavour had undertaken. But Napoleon, who was acting as a sort of patron of Italy and also as a protector of the Pope, was not willing to displease the Church party by consenting to the destruction of the Pope's temporal power.

Venice came to Italy as a result of the war between Prussia and Austria in 1866.

Garibaldi in the Air Each pilot has his own mechanic, who does nothing but look after his bus, and is usually a finished mechanic in addition to being a crack pilot. In truth, I never ran across a more comical, likable, hard-working crew than the French aviation mechanics. They are mostly pure Parisian "gamins"—speaking the most extraordinary jargon, in which everything but the verbs (and half of them) are slang, of the most picturesque sort. Quick-witted, enormously interested in their work, intelligent and good-natured, they are the aristocrats of their trade, and know it. You should see them when they go on leave. Jean or Charlot, ordinarily the most oily and undignified of men, steps out of the squadron office arrayed in a superb blue uniform, orange tabs on his collar, a mirrorlike belt about his waist—shaven, shorn, shining with cleanliness, puffing an expensive-looking, slit-banded cigar. Is it fancy—or is there a slight condescension in his greeting? Well, it is natural—you can never hope to look so superbly like a field marshal.—Atlantic Monthly.

THE READER'S VIEWPOINT

Food Profiteering Sir—I am sure it would be a matter of very great interest to many were they to know when this disgusting, petty and un-American profiteering on the part of certain restaurants is to be put a stop to. It will certainly not stop until forced to do so. It is unnecessary to go into details as to the transparent devices used to gull the public. They are too well known. They are camouflaged behind patriotic placards, which are thus used to deceive and to abuse their purpose. They are certainly not intended to cut down the portions to a starvation size. The situation is paradoxical. In alleys behind many of these places examples of waste may be seen.

It is time something drastic is done. I travel about a good deal and I notice the profiteering is rife where the enlisted men of the army and navy are more or less mobilized. These men cannot say anything, but I know what they think. I do not think that the deal we are being handed is fair, and if a strong, matter-of-fact inquiry minus "whitewash" and disinterested motives, be established, I am sure the result would be startling. Prices elsewhere are at direct variance with this and some other centers not necessary to mention, as they are too well known, and many of the profiteers are also remembered for future reference. We have to buy bonds, and the more we are robbed the less we can buy, and I am sure the other fellow is not satisfied with a small per cent. REASON, Philadelphia, September 19.

Lunch for Fifty Cents To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—I chanced to read your editorial in your paper entitled, "Is Lunch a Luxury?" Some good points in it, but let me give you a pointer. I am a stranger in Philadelphia, but I call a strong, matter-of-fact inquiry minus "whitewash" and disinterested motives, be established, I am sure the result would be startling. Prices elsewhere are at direct variance with this and some other centers not necessary to mention, as they are too well known, and many of the profiteers are also remembered for future reference. We have to buy bonds, and the more we are robbed the less we can buy, and I am sure the other fellow is not satisfied with a small per cent. REASON, Philadelphia, September 17.

War Economy? Miss Marguerite Dunlevy and brother Rosa entertained a company of friends one evening recently.—Galesburg (Ill.) Mail.

What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. What are the so-called "sannaxes" used on the battlefield? 2. What is a sandowser and how did the word originate? 3. Where is the Kremlin? 4. What is an escarifier? 5. From what country was the territory of Alaska purchased by the United States? 6. Why are English South Africans called Boers? 7. Who said, "Bread is the staff of life"? 8. What country claims control of most of the Sahara Desert? 9. Who was Dick Turpin? 10. In what year and month was the Lutine sunk?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. General D'Esperey is commander of the Allied forces now conducting an offensive in Macedonia. 2. A claymore is a Scotch two-handed sword. 3. A snaf is a barbed fishing spear, a staff with an iron hook for landing large fish, and also a snaf for a fore-and-aft sail. 4. The house flag of a merchant or passenger ship is flown to identify the line to which the vessel belongs, and bears the emblem or device of the company. 5. Herodotus is called the "Father of History." 6. The potato is native to the continent of America, and was first imported to Europe from Peru. 7. The expression "cabbage and kins" is from Lewis Carroll's "The Walrus and the Carpenter." 8. Hagar (freeter, one of the most noted of American editors) ran for the presidency in 1876, and was defeated by Grant in 1877. 9. Thomas Cook, the first Englishman, arranged the first excursion in 1841. 10. The Lutine was a Dutch ship.

Famous Generals Pershing, Foch, French, Grant, Les, Coxey, DeWitt, Delivery.