

Evening Public Ledger

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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THE SPOKESMAN OF THE WORLD'S CONSCIENCE

President Wilson is Backed in That Capacity by United American Opinion, in Spite of Disputes About Details

EUROPE is being fed with American criticism of the President and his peace plans, according to the dispatches from Clinton W. Gilbert, staff correspondent of this newspaper with the peace delegation in Paris, and no favorable American comment is cabled, or at least published, abroad.

Those European statesmen who for reasons of their own wish to make it difficult for Mr. Wilson to carry his points are making the most of the situation thus created, if they have not deliberately created it themselves. It is important that the people of Europe to whom Mr. Wilson is appealing over the heads of certain of their statesmen should know that America stands behind Mr. Wilson to the last man on the general principles which he has laid down.

We went into the war to assist in establishing justice and fair play for ourselves and for the rest of the world. We know that if nothing is done to guarantee these things to the rest of the world we shall suffer in the long run.

What difference of opinion there is over here arises out of questions of detail. Senator Lodge and Senator Knox are not opposing the establishment of a just peace. They are discussing the order in which certain matters shall be considered and the emphasis which shall be given to this point or that in framing the peace treaty.

Their views should be enlightening to the President and to Lloyd George, to Clemenceau and Orlando; but no one should make the mistake of assuming that they are evidence of divided opinion here on the great issues at stake. Nor should any one so far misread the significance of the November election here as to assume that it was a rebuke and a rejection of the President as the representative of the nation in foreign affairs, although Mr. Wilson himself, by a great strategic blunder, opened the door for a misinterpretation of the election when he appealed for a Democratic Congress as a personal endorsement for its effect on European opinion.

The congressional election was carried against the President primarily on domestic issues. So far as war issues were involved the nation voted for a more vigorous prosecution of the fighting against Prussia. This is what every Republican paper of standing said after the election. And it is the truth.

It may be a little embarrassing for Mr. Wilson to admit that he misjudged the temper of the nation in his pre-election appeal and to insist now that the nation, after all, indorsed with added emphasis those things which he has gone to Europe to secure for us and for all men, but it may be necessary for him to do it in the interests of the great cause to which he has dedicated his abilities. And if the news associations, or the special correspondents of the European newspapers interested in strengthening the hands of the European statesmen, do not send to London and Paris the American comment indicating general approval of the main purposes of the President, then the State Department should see to it that the Foreign Office abroad get that comment direct from Washington.

In spite of the fact that he is pleading for simple justice, the ability of Mr. Wilson to win his points will depend in large measure on his ability to impress those with whom he deals in his representative character as spokesman of a hundred million justice-loving freemen.

Everything that Mr. Wilson has said on the other side indicates that he appreciates the difficulties of his position. He is the spokesman of the aspirations of America and he is testing out the sentiment of the people of France to discover whether the ideals which he has held up are their ideals—ideals which their statesmen must respect. Now that he is in England for a few days he is likely to pursue the same wise course in the hope that he can muster back of him that irresistible power of public sentiment which politicians disregard at their peril. He has set out to convince the statesmen that the people must have their way at the Peace Conference and his hands should be upheld by every believer in democracy throughout the world. It is unfortunate that Senators Lodge, Knox and others here who are criticizing the details of his program are willfully providing ammunition for those reactionary European statesmen who wish the Versailles conference to resemble the notorious Vienna congress as closely as possible.

Time, however, is working with Mr. Wilson. The impression may prevail for a few days or for a few weeks that there is divided opinion here, but ultimately it will be discovered that the division is not over fundamental principles at all.

THE CHAFFING DISH

Referred to the League of Nations Dear Sociates—What do you think ought to be done with fathers who insist on playing with the clockwork trains, given to their little boys? HARRY (age eight).

It is always darkest just before the dawn. A correspondent questions the correctness of our statement that Burns used the word "cootie." As the rebuke comes from one who is himself a Scotsman and was born in an adjoining parish to that of the poet, we hesitate to argue the matter. But in our edition the first stanza of the "Address to the Deil" is printed thus: O thou! whatever title suit thee. Auld Hornie, Satan, Nick, or Clootie. Wha in Joncavern grim and sootie. Closed under hatches. Spatges about the brunstane cootie. To scaud poor wretches. Is this version incorrect?

You Guess It, of Course There are three subjects that always arouse correspondence whenever mentioned in a newspaper. One is Robert Burns, one is Ireland, and the third is—well, we won't say what it is, not wishing to start any controversy.

Oliver Twisted The other day we repeated a verse of Oliver Herford's which has aroused some emulation among local bards. The piece in question—a typical Oliver twist—was this: It is not fair to visit all The blame on Eve for Adam's fall: The most Eve did was to display Contributory negligence. To which Stanley Kidder, Wilson, of these parts, who lives up to his middle name better than most of us, emits as follows: Qui mel i pense applies most rare To such as blush for the First Pair. For surely it were in fra dig To hold that either cared a fig.

We imagine that Abraham Lincoln had a very enjoyable time spitting rails. Spitting things is always fun, whether they are rails, quarts, infinitives, sides, hairs or differences.

The Unforgivable Syntax A certain young man never knew Just when to say whom and when who. "The question of choosing." He said, "is confusing; I wonder if which wouldn't do?" Nothing is so illegitimate As a noun when his verbs do not fit him; It makes him disturbed If not properly verb-ed. If he asks for the plural, why git him it!

Live and lay offer slips to the pen. That have bothered most excellent men: You can say that you lay In bed—yesterday. If you do it today, you're a hen!

A person we met at a play Was cruel to pronounce all day: She would frequently cry "Between you and I. If only us girls had our way!"

Some of those whose palms were greased by Herr Bernstorff are beginning to realize that the game was not worth the scandal.

We trust no one will be so ungracious this winter as to refer to decollete gowns as an instance of low visibility.

SOCRATES. THE READER'S VIEWPOINT

Brazilians Friendly to Americans To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—A good many of the American people do not realize how they are appreciated by their neighbors in the southern nations. A great many of them think they are hated; they are regarded nothing but foes by the Latin-American people. These ideas I gathered personally while I was studying in Philadelphia. In fact, some of the questions I could not answer correctly, for I was only sixteen years of age when I left Brazil for the United States, but promised I should let them know as soon as I returned home.

I stayed in Philadelphia for six years and came back home a few months ago. During this time I have been in close contact with people from Para, Ceara, Pernambuco, Bahia, San Paulo, Matto-Grosso and Rio de Janeiro, six of the twenty Brazilian States, and the capital of the republic, respectively. My first impression was that all these people had but the same idea about the American people. Their opinion is well related in what follows: America is known all over as a nation of practical people. Any device or object that reveals a practical idea in America, Brazilians have followed the French in their way of dressing, but since two or three years ago American fashions, fashions and women, has been gradually adopted throughout the country. It combines simplicity with comfort and yet becomes exceedingly elegant.

Over the country, thanks to American activities, Americans have introduced hockey and baseball in San Paulo, and at Rio de Janeiro is becoming quite popular. The whole of America moving pictures flood the whole of Brazil, from north to south and from east to west, and the people prefer them to any other make. They know by heart, but mostly in the houses of the most famous players of the Fox Film, Paramount, Triangle, Famous Players, Inc., etc. Girls of high society go wild over George Walsh; in fact, they get so ridiculous as to place his pictures in their bedrooms. The fellows, however, prefer Pauline Frederick and June Carrick. American pictures are well appreciated here, and they are their originality, original effect and revelation of real life.

America has sent down some of her people as merchantmen, representatives of corporations, etc., since Brazil is a young nation of possibilities. Thus, American people have been judged in all their particulars by these types. Since they did not show much interest in our manners were reflected on all of their countrymen, and only began to change their impression has been changed, due to better types of men, such as tourists, diplomats, leaders, etc. Now the Americans are considered as "manly" people, that is, discarding all sort of ridicularism.

War has brought forth all the capable, most intellectual men. Wilson was soon picked as the foremost of the diplomatic. He is known in Brazil as the man of the present, the hero of the world, a great thinker, an impartial and independent speaker. His opinions concerning the Liberty Loan, peace and commerce have been published in good Portuguese translation in the best Brazilian papers. His integrity is known by all who read his speeches.

The elected President of Brazil will take oath on November 15 next, the day of the proclamation of the republic. One of the most important items on his program, according to what has been said by the newspapers, is to provide all means for a closer relation with the United States, thereby proving the great affinity existing between these two great republics.

SEBASTIAO FRAGUELLI, Curumba, Matto-Grosso, Brazil, December 1, 1918.

JACK'S BACK, GOD BLESS HIM!

Not Even Cigars Are Safe on the P. R. To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—I've never been much of a fellow to knock, but things are getting pretty bad and I've simply got to register this one kick. It used to be that a fellow could buy a fat cigar or two after work, stow them away in his vest pocket and get them safely home to enhance the comfort of his armchair. Well, it can't be done now in Philadelphia.

You can buy the cigars all right, and stow them away all right; but when you hit the mobs that storm our street cars, knock down, bend and fight as you will, they can't be saved. All the football tactics all the art of self-defense that long P. R. riding may have taught you won't save you from the fatal elbow.

Therefore, I protest. It seems to me that a nickel is enough to pay for the privilege of making your way into a car every evening, of avoiding violently hither and yon in embarrassing proximity to somebody else's wife, with another woman's hatpin gently taking your left ear. Even when you count the exhilaration of the danger, the benefit of the exercise and the free massage the crowd administers, a nickel seems enough. The sacrifice of those evening cigars is simply too much to ask.

Therefore, I protest again. This ought to be a free country, at least free enough so that a poor man could get his stogie home intact, especially since they're getting to be more precious than platinum. And I say that if any street-car company won't guarantee that cigars can be transported upon its cars in commensurate safety, that company should provide its patrons with cast-iron cigar cases, or cases, or free smokes, or do some other reasonable thing. I'm not pigish in this matter. Of course, I don't expect any such company to provide more care, although that would help.

Philadelphia, December 26. H. P. S.

The internal condition of Germany seems to prove that the Germans were right when they said they'd never leave off fighting.

The ascendancy of the plane people was a logical and visible feature of the President's reception at Dover.

With the bull's eye closed indefinitely for repairs, it was inevitable that the Eddystone rifle plant should shut up shop.

Under the Burlington system, Christmas cards are likely to become a prominent feature of New Year's Day.

After all, it is a good sign that the Peace Conference will not meet on January 1, thus saving us the usual quail about New Year's resolutions.

What Do You Know? QUIZ

1. Where is the town of Chatham, where President Wilson addressed the American troops? 2. What treaty of vital import in the history of France was made in that place and when was it signed? 3. How old was William Shakespeare at the time of his death? 4. How does Charles Cross get his name? 5. Who was the Holy Roman Empire come to an end? 6. What is the "Atanarcatu de Gotha" and who is it so called? 7. In what group of islands is Guam? 8. Who was the "Lionel Lincoln" the shoulder looper of an American general? 9. What is the largest river in Europe? 10. What is a Sicutary position?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. The town of Wolf is in the Berlin-Vierthel. 2. A side is an ancient structure, often in the form of a round tower, in which grain is stored. It is a form of fermentation and is used for food. 3. Aline Rene Le Sage (1668-1717) wrote "The History of the Royal Academy of Sciences." 4. St. John is the capital of New Brunswick. 5. The Senate Committee on Appropriations has estimated that the cost of the war to the United States was \$35,000,000,000. 6. Catalonia, the chief city of which is Barcelona, is the part of Spain now demanded by the French. 7. Charles Macintosh, a Scotch chemist, is noted as an inventor of waterproof fabric. His dates are 1766-1840. 8. Macintosh was the name of "Miss Donna" Herald's dress in the "Lionel Lincoln." 9. Joseph Jefferson, the comedian, and John Ford, the tragedian, were celebrated American stage actors. 10. The Nile.

The first aerial Santa Claus, an army aviator who dropped his Christmas gift to his best girl in Brooklyn from a height of 1000 feet in the air, wrecked his machine on the roof of the young lady's home. We would like to hear that young man's superior talk to him.

Old Thoughts After Christmas

A NEW thought for Christmas? Who ever wanted a new thought for Christmas? That man should be shot who would try to brain one. It is an impertinence even to write about Christmas. Christmas is a matter that humanity has taken so deeply to heart that we will not have our festival meddled with by bungling hands. No efficiency expert would dare tell us that Christmas is inefficient; that the clockwork toys will soon be broken; that no one can eat a peppermint cane a yard long; that the curves on our chart of longitude should be ironed, out so that the "peak load" of December would be evenly distributed through the year. No surface daze tell us that we drove postmen and shoghrils into Bolshevikian by overtaxing them with our frenzied purchasing or that it is absurd to send to a friend in a steam-heated apartment a box of provisions, or that a bright little picture card of a gentleman in Georgian costume drinking ale by a roaring fire of logs, none in his senses, I say, would emit such sophistry, for Christmas is a law unto itself and is not conducted by card-index.

Even the postmen and shoghrils, severe though their labor, would not have matters altered. There is none of us who does not enjoy hardship and battle that contribute to the happiness of others.

There is an efficiency of the heart that transcends and contradicts that of things. Things of the spirit differ from things of the matter in that the more you give the better time than the audience. To modernize the adage, to give is more fun than to receive. Especially if you have not enough to give to those who don't expect it. Surprise is the first reason for a baby's laughter. And at Christmas time when we are all in a childish hope, surprise is the favor of our kindest joys. We all remember the thrill with which we once heard behind some closed door, the rattle and crackle of paper and the rustle and rustle of a parcel being tied up. We knew that we were going to be surprised—a delicious refinement and luxurious seasoning of the emotion.

Christmas, then, conforms to this deeper efficiency of the heart. We are not methodical in kindness; we do not "fill orders" for consignments of affection. We let our kindness ramble and explore; old forgotten friendships pop up in our minds and we mail a card to Harry Hunt, of Minneapolis (from whom we have not heard for half a dozen years) "just to surprise him." We send a customer, just to surprise him, would be a sin against kindness, because it is no surprise of abuse. But no one is ever a sin against kindness, because it is no surprise of abuse. It is the coin of the realm, current everywhere. And we do not try to measure our kindnesses to the capacity of our friends. Friends are not measured in calories. How many times this year have you "turned" your stock of kindness?

It is the gradual approach to the Great Surprise that lends full savor to the experience. It has been thought by some that Christmas would gain in excitement if no one knew when it was to be; if (keeping the festival within the winter months) some public functionary (say, Mr. Creel) were to announce some unexpected morning, "A week from today will be Christmas!" Then what a scurrying and joyful frenzy—what a festooning of shops and mad purchasing of gifts! But it would not be half the fun of the slow approach of the familiar date. All through November and December we watch, it drawing nearer; we see the shop windows begin to glow with red and green and lively colors; we note the altered demeanor of bellboys and janitors as the Date flows quietly toward us; we pass Christmas in the hazy perplexity of "Only four days more" when we suddenly realize it is too late to make our shopping the display of lucid affection; we are forced to announce some unexpected morning, "A week from today will be Christmas!" Then what a scurrying and joyful frenzy—what a festooning of shops and mad purchasing of gifts! But it would not be half the fun of the slow approach of the familiar date. 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