

Evening Public Ledger and THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... EDITORIAL BOARD: CHARLES H. CURTIS, Chairman... JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager...

to 23 o'clock than to 11 p. m., for sometimes the key initials are omitted in conversation and letters. Italy's railways employ the clearer scheme, and yet most of the Roman clock faces still conform to the twelve-hour arrangement.

The upheaval caused by the French Revolution must indeed have been titanic to have enabled its cocked savants successfully to introduce the metric system.

Anglophobia in America must have been rampant when we abandoned the unwieldy pounds, shillings and pence for the simpler dollar standard.

It will be a keen index of the power of innovation in these momentous days if the Senator from Colorado can put over his obviously commendable reform.

CITY HALL BOLSHEVISM FIGHTS A NEW CHARTER

The Vane Machine Is Revealing Symptoms of the Dull Unreason That Always Precedes Deserved Chastisement by the Public

IT IS plain that the Brothers Vane and their trained Councilmen have quite forgotten the roaring day in 1905, when crowds marched to City Hall and sat in both chambers with ropes in their hands and clipped in to buy tar and feathers.

No outcome of the political confusion in Philadelphia could be happier for the city at large than the sort of campaign that is being organized against the charter-revision scheme.

"Let us," say Uncle Dave and Brother Ed and Brother Bill in effect, "have all the city one happy Frog Hollow! Do not put profane hands on established institutions! Things are good enough as they are!"

Things are good enough—behind the barbed wire of the City Hall machine. But the champions of political prostitution in Councils haven't been trained to complain of any actual fault with the plans for a new city charter.

Scouts for Uncle Dave and Brother Bill turned up the shocking information that some of the gentlemen engaged in the plans for charter revision do not reside in Philadelphia, but in the suburbs.

But the residence of these gentlemen is different. Whereas the charter committee suburbanites vote where they live in the suburbs, Brother Ed and His Honor and Mr. Scott do not. They keep "voicing addresses" in the wards where they first rose to political power.

The plight of the Mayor and of the whole Vane machine is perfectly obvious. It has had plenty of rope and it is making the traditional use of it. A sane and presumably normal-minded population is asked to believe that a servile valet, bought and paid for, is more desirable than the system provided for in every ordinance of free government.

Uncle Dave and the Brothers Ed and Bill and those of their Councilmen who can think at all know that they have a difficult case to maintain. So, if the program already outlined for future sessions of the City Council is followed, the facts of the matter will be grandly set aside and the attack on the charter-

revision plan will be centered not on the theory involved, but on the personalities of the men who have outlined a new order of municipal administration that is decent and scientific.

Floods of cigar store oratory, all the adjectives available in limited vocabularies, shouts and cries, the spurious and detestable pretensions of ward politicians will be mobilized at future sessions of Council to show that men who live in the suburbs and work in the city should not have an interest in the city's affairs.

If disregard of law, class interest violently maintained and a dominance by inefficient and backward minds go with Bolshevism, then we have a Bolshevist city administration in Philadelphia. Keeping convicted felons on the police force is a good example of it.

Sooner or later there will be a revision of the city charter and a reform in the ward system of representation where a large part of the present corruption begins. The buying and selling, the dirt and dishonor of the present system will go. The times are changing and the bosses don't know it. The harder they fight the charter-revision plan the more clearly their selfishness and futility and viciousness will be revealed.

If Colonel House has any regard for precedent he will now quote Mark Twain on exaggerated reports.

WHERE THE LEAGUE MUST BIND

THE sound principle of international law underlying the doctrine that a blockade to be binding must be effective is inherently indispensable to the logic of a league of nations plan.

A league of nations which, when hard pressed, loyalties war, is really an alliance on the old disastrous sense, capable of giving rise to combinations and groupings of Powers containing the perilous germs of general conflict.

America cannot be true to her traditions and ideals and take up membership in an alliance which in any way authorizes war even as a last resort.

There is significance in the fact that representation at the Peace Conference is in proportion to the extent of the interest of each nation in the peace settlement.

The Possibilities Pup says he reads the newspapers with fear and trembling these days. He never knows the minute that he will hear that that Dove of Peace has been shot in the Balkans.

How Philadelphia would boil with indignation were the Peace Conference to consume as much time in getting started as she has done before trying Thomas B. Smith!

It begins to look as though the real "Emancipator of Sahara" will be President Wilson after June 29. The vote of the Nebraska Legislature now assures the prospect of a perfectly "working" time.

The Sphinx had a nut to crack. Director Wilson says he is a Sphinx. Some nut.

Skaters are not having much luck nowadays. The temperature is rising and frog stock falling.

There is no bread in Petrograd. No Government can walk upright without the support of the staff of life.

Petrograd citizens have nothing to eat but unground oats. That's a poor substitute for a decent meal.

Attendants at the Noble trial are humming a modern version of the old song: "Oh, Vane, and oh, Vane has that little doggone \$7500 gone?"

Here's hoping that the Paris delegates will promote a society affair not tainted by exclusiveness.

When the peace commissioners begin to tackle the question of boundaries they will understand something of the feelings of shoe troops going through barbed wire in No Man's Land.

THE GOWNSMAN

What is the Matter With Philadelphia? UNLIKE Shakespeare and several other remarkable personages, it shall not be said of the Gownsmen that he never repeats.

We seem to have reached a stage at least in which pretty much everybody, except the Mayor, is dissatisfied. For while most of us sincerely wish that we might be cleaner physically, morally, civically, there appear to be those among us who would like us to be even dirtier than we are and who do their part to make us so.

Like other patients, the dear old chap is beset with many doctors who, true to their kind, are deeply interested in diagnosis involving, as diagnosis always does, the calling of many very simple things by very hard names.

To be a doctor is to disagree not only with other doctors, but—as a diet—with most patients. Dr. John D. McElhenny, a practitioner of long standing—not invariably pat—at Harrisburg, appears to have mistaken the hectic flush of the war posters which recently glowed on the countenance of Philadelphia for the health of real art.

After his distressing experience at Coblenz, the Prince of Wales will undoubtedly ask the league of nations to do something about the American practice (and a poor practice it is) of cutting in at dances.

Important Notice We wish to inform those who call on us that the elevator boy has been instructed to remove from visitors all manuscript plans for the formation of the league of nations. These will be carefully returned when the caller departs.

The Gownsmen has been doctored many times, always wisely if sometimes none too well; but he is not the right kind of doctor—at least any other doctor will tell you so. However, he yields to the weakness of his kind in presenting his diagnosis of the case of William Penn Philadelphia, Esq., gentleman (though still much in trade), aged 237, the trouble apparently senile anemia—popularly called dry rot—aggravated by several unskilled surgical operations of reform, none of them radical enough.

And now to Holland see him run. A humbled man and wiser. A coward knave, a wily Hun. No longer known as Kaiser; A bragging fool, a "superman," Defeated at the Year.

Defeated at the Year. The doughboys gave his pride the sting. His arrogance has taken wing. And all the world delights to sing The downfall of the Kaiser.

And now to Holland see him run. A humbled man and wiser. A coward knave, a wily Hun. No longer known as Kaiser; A bragging fool, a "superman," Defeated at the Year.

Tomorrow is Ben Franklin's birthday, and if he were among us he would celebrate it by buying thrift stamps.

"Live long my son," said a Russian mother to her son when he was called to the colors, "but live so that your life may not seem long to any one else."

It only the nations would sign up the

A HIGHLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN RECONSTRUCTION



THE CHAFFING DISH

Latest News From Amerongen You are old, Kaiser Wilhelm. Count Benthinck said. And even your hair has gone white; And of course while we never will grudge you a bed, When food is so high, is it right?

Your nice little visit has lasted nine weeks. We're beginning to feel overtraining; If you push it too hard hospitality cracks, So you need not insist on remaining.

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Well, anyhow, you take in slack And cinch her up some way; Then start in getting ready For the labors of the day.

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My Little Kid Sister

WHEN I think of my little kid sister (I never thought much of her then) I don't even remember I kissed her, I certainly can't think when I used to tease her all that I could; I was glad that I made her cry, I didn't act just like a brother should; We weren't quite pals, she and I. I remember she asked me to go to a show— A picture, "The Call of the Wild"— I remember her look when I told her No: I sure was mean to that child. I remember I gave Dad and Mother a kiss As I left them to go off and fight, But I never paid any attention to Sis; I had cried her to sleep that night.

That I got a letter from Dad; It told me the kid was dangerously ill— The shock nearly drove me mad. Like a flash I went over the days gone by: How mean I had been to that kid— I prayed that night she wouldn't die; I cried, I admit I did. The crisis is over; she's going to get well; God knows how much I have missed her. God taught me a lesson, I'll remember it well. For He gave me my little kid sister. SGT. J. V. BERRE (discharged), Hog Island Shipyard.

The prominence given to Brazil in the Peace Conference recalls the appropriateness of her official motto at the present juncture. It is "Order and Progress."

Edwin H. Vane, having been unfavorably viewed by John M. Nohr, seems inclined to deny that the latter is "monarch of all he surveys."

What Do You Know?

- QUIZ 1. How many Presidents of the United States have been of Dutch paternal ancestry and who were they? 2. What class of gifts does tradition prescribe for a fourth wedding anniversary? 3. What is the longest river in the United States after the Missouri-Mississippi? 4. From what political party office has Vance McCormack just resigned? 5. What is the forepeak of a ship? 6. Where are the Atlas Mountains? 7. What is the Greek name for Greece? 8. What is the annual salary of the President of the United States? 9. Who wrote the celebrated novel, "Tom Jones"? 10. In what century did Mohammed live? Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Two renewals of the armistice with Germany have been made. 2. There have been six cabinet changes thus far in Wilson's administration. 3. Grant's Democratic opponent at the time of his first election to the presidency was Horatio C. Seymour. 4. The United States paid Denmark \$25,000,000 for the Virgin Islands, in the West Indies. 5. Sir Charles Wrenham, long popular on the London stage and John Mason, associated with many important productions in the theatre, died this week. 6. Brut champagne contains the addition of 3 to 5 per cent of liqueur. 7. A marabou is a large West African stork. 8. N. B. stands for "nota bene" (note well). 9. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" occurs in Samuel Butler's satirical poem, "Hudibras." 10. The highest mountain of the southern hemisphere is Aconcagua, in Chile. Its altitude is 29,526 feet.