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Philadelphia, Friday, February 7, 1919

PAYING FOR WHAT YOU DON'T GET TELEPHONE users are complaining to the Public Service Commission that they are charged for calls when they have not been able to get the person whom they called. Other telephone users who have suffered in the same way are awaiting the

outcome of the inquiry. There ought to be some infallible system which will prevent a charge by a public corporation for a service which it does not render. It is annoying to call a number on the telephone and wait for the connection an unreasonable time without results. But to be charged for the abortive call is outrageous. That this has happened time after time is sworn to by the witnesses before the Public Service Commission. Of course, it is the indifference or carelessness of the employe which causes the charge for an unrendered service.

Where is the efficiency expert who can satisfactorily solve the problem? A big Job is awaiting him.

## MR. TAFT AT HIS BEST WE ARE already in an entangling alli-ance and we must see the thing

through." With his usual perceptive frankness, Mr. Taft thus appeals to the highest type of patriotism with reference to the league of nations. "Fixed ideas" are stubborn things; how obstinate is exemplified in the fact that the theory of American isolation has survived in some quarters even after par-

ticipation in the great war. Virtually the tradition of our aloofness was shattered by the role we played in that conflict. It is folly to seek to define our attitude in the old terms now when we accepted the new ones in 1917. The "shell of isolation" which Mr. Taft conemns cannot be regained, for actually it has ceased to exist. Those who long for it

are spinning the baseless fabric of a vision. The Americanism of the president of the League to Enforce Peace is unimpeachable. None of our statesmen is less Eur. peanized than he. First of all, however he is a realist. Neither party affiliations nor his profound judicial knowledge of American tradition, nor a desire for the ease from labors which he has justly earned have shadowed his zeal for facing facts with a view to deriving the best possible results. These are heartening proofs of his clear-sightedness.

John Quincy Adams was said to have served his country best after he had left the presidential office. With no reflection on the character of Mr. Taft's administration, it is easily demonstrable that he was never more stimulating to the cause of civilization than at the present moment, The league of nations is fortunate in having such a champion.

## IS IT A CITY OF REFUGE?

THE news from New York that a gunman who broke up a gambling game in that city and shot eleven men has fled to this city once more illustrates the truth of the saying that to those that have shall be given.

Word apparently has gone out that this is a safe place for such, and the New Yorker flees here as to a city of refuge. It is up to the police to prove how greatly mistaken is this notion.

# MUST THE SHIP GO AWAY EMPTY? STEAMSHIPS frequent ports where there are cargoes for them. This is a

fact which should be considered by the usiness men who are wondering why the shipping trade of this port does not grow more rapidly.

They soon will have an opportunity to prove that there is more business here than can be accommodated by the ships which make regular sailings. The Japanese freight steamer Malay will arrive in a day or two after having delivered a cargo of grain in France. It is on its way back to Japan, as it has been released from war service. If it can take on a cargo ere for the Far East and be assured of future cargoes the company which owns it will without doubt establish a regular vice through the Panama Canal to the Pacific. If there is no freight for it the ship will never steam up the Delaware

It is up to Philadelphia to provide the cargo instead of sending its freight by train to New York to be loaded on simple there. If our own manufacturers prefer to New York to be loaded on ships nother port no one can blame the shipmen when they take their vessels to

## A TIP FOR CENSUS TAKING

IETHING besides victory in war may rge from the draft machinery. The census will be taken next year.

tion. He urges that the same system which worked so well in war be employed

in the peaceful operation of census-taking. Statistical experts may counter his plan with practical objections, but on the surface at least its simplicity is alluring. Taking stock of the nation, both its personnel and resources, is a colossal job. If the use of the election machinery which worked so well in the draft can really relieve the arduousness, delays and expense of the great national inventory, nertia and tradition ought not to stand in the way.

#### WE HELPED OTHER PEOPLE: CAN WE NOT HELP OUR OWN:

#### The Plight of the Society for Organizing Charity and the Moral of the Accidental Samaritan

T IS most unfortunate that the appeals now being made on behalf, of the Society for Organizing Charity fall consistently to suggest the intensely human char acter of the service performed by this agency. Only those who are very humble now what the charity organization does and how it thinks. And they have nothing to give. If they had, the institution would not be threatened with extinction by pov-

The average man has pleasantly superficial notions about charity. He likes to put his hand in his pocket and shove out his dime or his dollar cheerfully to anybody who happens to appear in need. There is a glow of pleasant remance in this sort of thing, a tinge of color, a warming suggestion of something done from the heart

The far nobler service of those who devote themselves day after day to the unromantic poor is seldern heard of. How many of us know how bitter and how fre quent are the unavoidable casualties of peace? Only those who meet life at close quarters realize the tragic contrariness of the circumstances that surround the poor. Until the machinery of civilization works more smoothly there will always be unfortunates-helpless victims of their own imperfections or the imperfections of the social order itself. Those who help them do a far better service than any that may be laid to the credit of your Accidental Samaritan.

It is unthinkable, of course, that the Society for Organizing Charity should fall or be compelled to quit its work for want of money. No one who remembers the Belgians can say that we aren't generous. Indeed, there is hardly any little or harddriven land that we haven't been sharing with. "Are there any forlorn children in the world," the Accidental Samaritan might say, "or any desolate mothers that we haven't warmed and fed and cheered

Any one who knows the present plight of the Philadelphia charity organization might answer very simply and say, "Yes. Those at your own door!"

If this were not true the one organization which operates for the systematic relief of the poor in this city would not now be in difficultes.

Is a hungry tot in a downtown alley any ess appealing than a hungry child in Belgium? Are the women whose homes were swept by pestilence any less tragic as they sit dazed by grief and destitution or any less of a challenge to generous minds than the tormented refugees in another country?

These are our own people and we shall have to share their troubles. It is to the credit of the charity organization that it ent such money as it had freely at its nconspicuous work when its representatives were the only people who had time to think of the obligations near at hand And it is a good thing for the community and for the poor that the society is more scientific by a long way than the Accidental Samaritan, who likes to say that he isn't fond of mixing statistics with his good

deeds. In the end it is the Samaritan himself who is open to indictment. He is content to deal with poverty on the surface when ever he meets it and to go upon his way with an easy mind. Those who know poy erty better than he knows it aren't content with that method. Their way is no less generous than the Samaritan's. But it is more conscientious and more thorough They deal with the surface of povertyand then do their best to get down to annly a cure at its source. They are not only willing to give a man a dollar. They follow it up with an effort to give him a job and his self-respect.

It is not surprising that twenty-nine hospitals, settlements and similar organizations whose acquaintance with the unfortunate is closest and most personal should unite in a general appeal for the relief of the Society for Organizing Charity. For it is not merely as a relief organization that the society performs its best work. It s as a constructive critic of social conditions that the organization is most valable. Its reports and statistics are inexorable. It deals bravely with the circumstances that conspire to induce and enforce poverty and hardship in places where the poor themselves are the victims of conditions beyond their control. It is a constant challenge to the minds that have learned tolerate slums and ignorance and the dispiriting tenements whose children it loes its best to protect. It is, indeed, the relentless reporter of the other side of life. It has told us repeatedly how the other half lives. The reports of the society do not help to sustain our inherited complacency. And if its work is hampered we shall be without the one agency that tends constantly to keep in plain sight the needs for a constructive method in relation to the whole question of destitution.

For most poverty is needless or artificial What society needs is a better knowledge of its origins.

Meanwhile the Society for Organizing Charity is the one agency that can protect the unfortunate by a system that makes it impossible for dishonest people to monopothem. The maintenance of the charity organization in its present form is impera tive. There may be stress and strain during the period of readjustment. The epidemic left an incredible lot of hardship and many destitute families in its wake

of other agencies of relief, and it has succeeded in adding something to the efficiency of every institution devised for the protection and the welfare of unfortunate and

friendless people. In the end it is essentially a constructive force devised to relieve hardship without following the example of the Aceldental Samaritan, whose easy-going good nature often helps to give the man he helps a pauper's habit of mind.

And there is something wildly grotesque in the thought that we, who have been able to help everybody else who asked for help, were at last unwilling to aid those at home!

#### THE REDS ACCEPT; NOW WATCH THE SCRAMBLE!

THE Bolshevist acceptance of the invitation to attend the proposed Princes Islands conference should constitute a marked pressure on the other lagging fac-

It was comparatively easy for all sides to turn down the call for a meeting while the suggested convocation had imaginary aspects. Concerning a myth each faction ould bluster and their constituents take illusory comfort in showy exhibitions of false pride. But "stand-offishness" may now prove costly. The Omsk government and other parties will certainly not relish he consideration of claims from other sides while their own causes are not officially

The memory of the A B C Powers' conference at Niagara Falls is hardly a cheering precedent just now, but none the less its record should not make for unrelieved pessimism. Direct information about Russin must necessarily be the initial step in solving the most perplexing problem of the war. That much, at least, will be gained if the Marmora conference attracts enough representatives of the opposing

With the truth obtained, civilization should be able to decide upon some definite action. It may be unpalatable. It may be easier than has been thought. But at least it will put an end to floundering.

# THERE'S NO EMBARGO ON CALM

THINKING! SENATOR LEWIS, the Democratic "whip," in supporting the Weeks resolution calling on the State Department for information as to what steps had been taken to meet "British aggression," warned British officials to beware of awakening "the spirit of 1812" if they presisted in the extended embargo of American goods, which is to go into effect March 1.

It might be well for Senator Lewis to remember that the spirit of 1812 didn't go off half-cocked-if the mixed metaphor is

permissible. The British embargo on American goods may be ill-advised; it may work injury to American manufacturers; it may cause and justify retallatory measures; it may cause ill-feeling; it may be at variance with President Wilson's pronouncement concerning "trade barriers," and may even savor of ungratefulness for American aid and good will. It may do and be all of these things, but with it all it is well to remember that it is a matter that primarily concerns Great Britain. We may prove to her eventually that she is making mistake and cause her to correct it: but that is a matter that can be attended to without heat and without excitement.

The condition in Great Britain is virtually the same as that existing in France. The French Government's action in barring 4500 Ford autos seems to indicate, advices from Paris say, that a policy of exclusion us been definitely launched.

While France is painfully struggling to her feet we are not going to make too much fuss if she accidentally steps on our

Uncle Sam is big enough and strong enough to take care of himself. He may be depended upon to see that he is not the victim of imposition. But he is not going o grow hysterical when he may set things right with a little quiet talk-or a little economic pressure if it should appear nec-

## THE VITAL OUESTION

SMALL boy on the Boardwalk at At-A lantic City the other day said something to his mother and then called out to his younger brother a few steps ahead of him:

"Hey, Dan, would you mind if I had some candy and you didn't?"

The Bolshevist uprising in Russia and the discontent of the workers throughout the world are due to the fact that no one has thought to ask them if they minded some one else had luxuries and they

The men with the ability to buy luxuries have bought them with no consideration of any one else save as they said that the more they lavished on themselves the more work there would be for those who had to work.

The boy asked the question under the direction of his mother for the sake of peace. If his little brother minded he would have to go without candy. The moral of this is so plain that it points

The revolt in Portugal was not a royal ut merely a four-flush.

Old H. C. of L. is able to stand an wful lot of punishment before he eventually gets the k. o. With the first thrills still upon us, it is

hard to realize that air transportation will ever be a commonplace. Representative Padgett doubtless finds

congratulations from the President "nice though may-I-notty." The peace conferees are getting their

galt and the Wrong 'Un at Amerongen will soon know what's coming to him. Take it how we will, it is just a little

numillating to Father Penn to have to be told by Uncle Sam how to keep himself clean. "Germany has been cured, says Mr. Tar Well, it took a major operation to do it, and

### W. M. ROSSETTI Famous Man of Letters Who Introduced Whitman's Work in England

THE death in London, on February 5, of William Michael Rossetti removes the last of a famous generation of the talented English-Italian family. He was the brother of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Christina Rossetti. Well known as critic, editor of his brother's works and translator of Dante, probably his greatest interest to Philadelphians lies in his long friendship by correspondence) with Walt Whitman whose writings he introduced to English readers. He did everything in his power to encourage Whitman at a time when "Leaves of Grass" was being scoffed at in most literary circles; and raised sums of money to aid the Camden poet when he was reported in distress,

Rossetti was essentially a critic rather than a creator. His work was painstaking, patient and sound in judgment. His more gifted kinsmen were rarely fortunate to have had such an appreciator and executor in their own family. In respect to Whitman. Rossetti never asserted himself to be the first critic in England to appreciate the amazing power of the western poet; but in view of his energetic and unflagging efforts to show Whitman's more gracious and understandable phases to the English public it is only fair to speak of him as

Whitman's chief sponsor abroad. Rossetti in his book, "Some Reminiscences" (1906), tells the story of his interest in Whitman thus:

"I HAD known the 'Leaves of Grass' almost as soon as it was published in America in 1855, a copy of the book having come into the hands of Bell Scott in Newcastle and he having presented it to me, I read it with great delight; not supposing that it is impeccable in taste or unassailable in poetic or literary form, but finding in it a majestic and all-brotherly spirit, an untrammeled outlook on the multiplex aspects of life, and many magnificent bursts of sympathetic intuition allied to and strenuously embodying the innermost spirit of poetry. That the form in which this book is written falls short of some of the graces and fascinations attainable in poetry s a fact so manifest as not to deserve any discussion; but, on the other hand, I never could see that, because Whitman omits thymes and omits regularity of metre, and ntroduces into his compositions passages indistinguishable from ordinary prose, therefore his performance is mere literary bastardy and has no title to be numbered among poems. My brother once, in a letter addressed to me, called Whitman's writings 'sublimated Tupper.' But I conceive that he was quite wide of the mark in this. My friend Watts-Dunton, an adept n the criticism and writing of poetry, once told me, with all good will-in 1887-that, within a lapse of ten years from then, my character as a critic would be entirely lost secause I was a professed admirer of Whitman, Several things have happened since 1887; one of them is that the fame of Whitman stands now much higher than t did then-in America, in England and n some countries of foreign speech as well. It seems quite within the limits of possibility that 'Leaves of Grass' and 'Drum-Taps' may outlive some poetic volumes of recent years, highly lauded for literary competence and grace.

R. CAMDEN HOTTEN, the pub-MR. CAMBER man in The Chronicle (1867), and invited me to make a selection of his poems to publish. I was more than willing to com ply, and the selection came out in 1868. As some of Whitman's poems are regarded as indecent and others (though quite unconcerned with indecent subject-matter) contain phrases open to the same objection, I went on the principle of omitting everything to which any such imputation can attach. The consequence is that I excluded several of the compositions which are the most characteristic and the most praiseworthy. Let me say here that wholly dissent from the idea that White man is an immoral writer; but I amply agree with people who think that some of his writings put certain matters with a downrightness and crudity or even a coarseness of expression which is rightly resented on the grounds not only of decorum and delicacy but also of literary art.

66TT HAS sometimes been said that I was I the first person who introduced Whitman to British readers. I would willingly claim this credit if it truly pertained to me. I was, it is true, the first who brought out here a volume of his poems; but so far as reviewing him in a sympathetic spirit is concerned, others had preceded me. I gather that the first of all was George Henry Lewes [George Eliot's husband) in an article published toward 1856.

"Several letters from Whitman reached me about the date of my selection and in years ensuing. He was a punctual, business-like and warm-hearted correspondent not addicted to discursive utterances of any kind and totally free from 'tall talk ! Whatever he had to say was expressed with candor and moderation, At one time he surmised that I was intending to produce an expurgated edition of his writings. To this he was decidedly opposed; but he had no objection to my project as it really stood-that of a selection of particular pieces in which there was nothing to expurgate."

TN CONCLUDING his reminiscences writing in 1903) Rossetti made some interesting remarks on human progress during his long life. Looking about him at that time he found the matters most impressive to his mind "The immense development in the anti-dogmatic and antitraditional tendencies in religion; the freer field open to women, and their increased independence of character and mental atmosphere; the advance, limited though it as yet is, in socialistic ideas and schemes; and the enormous increase of artistic ac tivity and the multiform phases of art "

He adds that "The enthusiasm for ideals, which made possible such a colossal up-neaval as the French Revolution, is no-



"J-J-JUST AS E-EASY-"

TODAY is Charles Dickens's birthday. On | old name-stone marked Abbotsford place his visit to this city in 1842 he wrote in his diary, "Philadelphia is a handsome city but distractingly regular." We wonder if he would say the same were he here today?

As to the Ark Renewing our acquaintance with the inth chapter of Genesis, we note that the first thing Noah did after his long and trying voyage was to have a go at the

We were looking up the ark because we heard that a clergyman in Pittsburgh had estimated her measurements as 547 feet long, 91 feet broad and 54 feet high. We have never heard what became of her, but it is safe to assume that she is no longer seaworthy. If she were, Mr. Hurley would have had her running again long ago.

After-Breakfast Walks in Town Having recently deserted Marathon for the city, we now spend the after-breakfast half hour, which used to be consumed in the joyial smoking car of the Cinder and Bloodshot, as a member of the fine old order of the I. W. W.; that is, I Walk to Work. We are continually amazed and delighted by the wealth of color of city streets. If cities will only make their streets wide enough, the matter of beauty will take care of itself. .

Broad street is a whole palette of colors. Walking north from Pine street, for instance, on a clear winter morning, the western side of the way glows and shimmers with blending hues. After the curious putty-colored columns of the School of Industrial Art comes a mass of rich, mellow, red brick, in which a number of bright little shop windows show the change that is rapidly coming over South Broad street, A few years ago it was still a residence with the white marble steps and polished silver bell-pulls. It will shortly be a brisk shopping district, with towering apartment houses, like upper Broadway in New York. Broad street, after all, is almost the only street in central Philadelphia where large apartment houses can be fittingly displayed. Those vast Gibraltars of concrete need open space to sun

Beyond this patch of red brick and the ld-fashioned drug store at the corner of Spruce comes the pale green stone of a dismantled church, now used by the Union League as a soldiers and sailors' club. Then the square, straw-colored facade of the Shubert Theatre. The eye passes on to the faded port-wine color of the ancient Academy of Music, and above it looms the huge flank of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. which shines with a curious flesh-colored pink when there is a web of mist in the air. Steeped in a faint washing of blue, the tall, dark spire of the City Hall closes the prospect.

Another very agreeable after-breakfast walk is down Pine street, from Broad street to the Pennsylvania Hospital. We have noticed, by the way, two rather curious schoes of Sir Walter Scott slong Pine street. Just west of Broad street there is a little street, now called (we think). Carlisic street, but the original name of

We wonder when and why those two sections were so named?

Passing along Pine street, as one gets below Eleventh there is a fascinating huddle of old buildings, with tall chimneys pricking up, the backs of the houses along Clinton street. We don't know whether Mr. Frank H. Taylor has included this little group of old architectures in his delightful drawings of picturesque Philadelphia scenes; but if not, we hope he may do so. The little windows, with their white muslin curtains, shimmering in morning sunlight—one window has a lovely pot of jonquils peeping out-are a pleasing bit of composition. They usually lure us away from the antique shops and brick fronts of Pine street to walk along the quiet little causeway of Clinton street, one of the most agreeable bits of street in old Philadelphia. And, if we are not mistaken, it was at the old Carey house, at the corner

#### forgiven Boz for the rude things he said about Philadelphia after the hospitable

way in which this city greeted him. Shakespeare at New Place 1611. TO LEAVE the court's gay glitter and its cold, false heart To gaze on gilliflowers from a hawthor bower;

To drop the deadly fruit bought in the world's sad mart To gather balm, sweet basil, and Our Lady's flower;

of Tenth and Clinton, that Dickens was en-

tertained in 1842. We have never quite

To change the minion's sneer, the wanton's For eglantine and lily beds, for England's

rose: To veil from memory hatred, malice, gulle, And find, in a green pleasaunce fair, the

mind's repose; To dream of Eden gained, and passed the long exile;

Beauty's face;

Till through God's gift, the garden, looms the enchanted isle, And from the violet is born Miranda's

To dream of Wisdom's magic power, of

### FERRIER LANGWORTHY. As to That Convention

In spite of our best efforts to dissuade the American Press Humorists are still intending to hold their annual convention here during the week of June 22 Suggestions are in order from all highspirited Philadelphians as to what we can

of mischief while they are here. If any one has a copy of "On a Slow Train Through Arkansaw" they might lend it to us, so we can apring some of the fine old vintages. That will certainly prevent anything like a convention of drolls coming

do with these humorists to keep them out

here again. The trouble is, those fellows were here a few years ago and folks were too nice

Philadelphia has a mandate From the Joke Administrator

To be host to all the drolls.

# SONG

WHEN I am dead, my dearest, Sing no sad songs for me; Plant thou no roses at my head, Nor shady cypress tree:

Be the green grass above me With showers and dewdrops wet; And if thou wilt, remember. And if thou wilt, forget.

SHALL not see the shadows, I shall not feel the rain; I shall not hear the nightingale Sing on, as if in pain:

And dreaming through the twilight, Haply I may remember And haply may forget.

The fact that the United States nor eads the world in dyes gives color to the assertion that we can do any darn thing we set our minds to.

-Christina Rossetti (1830-94).

Our soldiers abroad are to continue their nusical education under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. They have already added a hord or two to the European concert.

Shell shock is absolutely curable, says a Philadelphia doctor back from the front. Let us hope that the Peace Conference will cure it for all time.

o many thrills as its bloody predecessor the war, and action is not so swift; but the celebrated authors are providing lots of human interest.

The grain chiefs' appeal to Congress to appropriate \$1,000,000,000 and give the President the power to make good his guarantee to the wheat growers is as certainly war measure as though the armistice his never been signed.

## What Do You Know?

. How long was Italy in the war?

2. Who was Saint Valentine?

3. Where is the Vendce and what prominent member of the Peace Conference was born there?

4. To the music of what patriotic Prussian song are the words of "God Save the King" and "America" set?

. What is the capital of Liberia? 6. What is a cigar which is open at be ends called?

7. What is the Chinese name for China?

8. Who commanded the American fleet the Mediterranean during the war? 9. How many plays did Shakespeare write? 10. Who is accredited with invention of the

# Answers to Yesterday's Quiz William H. Taft is president of League to Enforce Peace.

Letters may be sent to New Zeala the postage rate of three cen ounce or fraction thereof. The magnetic North Pole was thought by James Ross in 1831 to be in Kin William's Land in the Arctic part of Canada. Captain Amundsen, however has reported calculations on this subject to the Norwegian Government, but they have not yet been published.

Robert Pulton was born in Little Br 5. Dewey destroyed the Spanish flort Mantla Bay on May 1, 1888.

6. The statute knot or sea mile is fact long.