

Evening Public Ledger

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THE IRON DIVISION

NO CONTINGENTS in the great war had a record nobler than that of the Iron Division, whose advance guard arrived in this country yesterday under Colonel Edward C. Shannon.

AN OVERDUE EXTINGUISHER

IT IS safe to assume that the few actors here and there who have been fishing for absent-minded laughs with shabby badinage at the expense of the Y. M. C. A. were not among the men who fought or labored in France.

THE DOCK FOR WILLIAM

NAPOLÉON, pursued by both Prussians and Bourbons, fled for his life on board the British man-of-war Bellerophon on July 15, 1815. His act eliminated a host of complexities in international jurisprudence.

AN INTERSTATE MOTOR WAR?

IN THE good old days before bread and gasoline, the two essentials of modern existence, took unto themselves wings of price, life was less of a strain than it is now.

retaliation on truck owners and other motor drivers from the other side of the river.

Jersey is a nice place. It is hard to keep away from. The state has a great and costly system of roads. The income from native motorists, says the Jersey Legislature, is not adequate for the maintenance of the highway system.

AIRING OUR FACTIONAL ROWS AT HARRISBURG A SCANDAL

But the Legislature Can Stop It by Giving Philadelphia a Home-Rule Charter at Once

WHEN the Philadelphians who went to Harrisburg today to urge the passage of the citizens' committee plan of charter revision circulate among the members of the Legislature they are likely to discover a state of sentiment which should force them to redouble their efforts.

The business of the Legislature has been hindered for years by the factional quarrels from this city carried to the state capital. The representatives of the smaller communities are more restive this year than ever before.

If Philadelphia is to have greater control over its own affairs it begins to look as if the city should have to get it this year or not at all, and as if we should have to depend upon the initiative of the up-state members of the Legislature.

The bills in question permit us to go about as far in the direction of home rule as is possible under the constitution in its present form.

With the Legislature in its present mood, now seems to be the time to take the first step toward municipal home rule. We assume that the members of the citizens' committee are not wholly ignorant of the state of mind in Harrisburg, and we assume also that they are not so inexperienced politically that they are unable to take advantage of that state of mind and use it for the benefit of the city.

The Legislature need not fear the consequences of its approval of these bills. They have been drafted by public-spirited men seeking solely the general good.

The proposal to create a metropolitan police department with a commissioner appointed by the Governor involves a continuance of the very thing against which the legislators are now indignantly protesting.

If Philadelphia is not fit to control its own police force, it is not fit to govern itself. This is axiomatic. Every member of the Legislature must admit it, whatever he may think it expedient to say under the direction of the men who are seeking political advantage from the proposed change.

The members need to make only the most casual inquiry to discover that in almost every city in the country in which the police have been controlled by an official appointed by the Governor the plan has failed to give satisfaction.

come, but they have absolutely no voice in the expenditure of the money and absolutely no say as to the conduct of the men who get the money.

We do not believe that the Legislature of Pennsylvania will consent to foist any such system upon Philadelphia, because it cannot be defended an instant before the bar of reason and common sense.

A PACT WITH RESERVATIONS

UNQUESTIONABLY the tinkering with the league of nations covenant has strengthened the prospects of its ratification. The pact as it stands now is not so formidable that aggressive nationalists in the various countries need be afraid of it.

If the sole object of the league commission was to draw up a document which would silence the timid, these changes are to be commended. But it so happens that a very few months ago the world was led to believe that the prime desire of the league makers was to devise an instrument so powerful that future wars would be impossible.

Incredible as it may appear, it cannot be disputed that mankind's loathing of war has ominously abated since Armistice Day, and hence criticism of the original pact has largely taken the form of objection to those provisions which were to have operated against nations doing what they pleased under certain conditions.

When the President more than a year ago enunciated his fourteen points, civilization longed for the most binding league conceivable. "Stop all war forever!" was the passionate cry of mankind.

But the wings of forgetfulness are terribly swift. Even the first covenant draft was milder than the sort of agreement for which men longed while the carnage was going on, and the revised version, so scrupulously careful not to involve irrevocable pledges, is weaker still.

Of late the pressure upon the covenant commission has been urging it to some kind of peace pact to which all the nations would agree. This feat has evidently been accomplished.

For all its shortcomings the covenant is infinitely superior to no compact at all. The hope of the world lies in its virtue as a basis. Should it prove to be the foundation for an eventually more binding society of the nations, one with sufficient teeth to render war really impossible, a wondrous structure will have been reared in Paris.

If the present chain which is to bind the nations is no stronger than its weakest link, it must be considered that the thoughtless new world has exhibited an antipathy to anything less frail.

What we have now is rather the best pact possible than the best possible pact.

It is cheering to observe that the transatlantic airplane flight may be accomplished before the first of July.

One cannot but feel that Congress missed a glorious opportunity when it stooped to impose luxury taxes on trinkets like pajamas, shoes and silk stockings.

Any one with a long memory may recall that Senator Penrose began his political career as a reformer.

There is slating in Russia, Egypt, Germany, Scandinavia, Korea, Poland, Serbia, Rumania and Tibet.

Maybe the landlords will need some of that extra rent by the time they have made the improvements demanded by the Housing Association.

Even though Martin G. Brumbaugh disclaims having spent any of the state's funds for liquor, it is difficult for him to escape the unhappy effect of "booze."

PENROSE AS A REFORMER

Pertinent Comment by the New York Evening Post on the Interesting Spectacle

The following interesting remarks about the local political situation appeared in the New York Evening Post of Saturday:

SENATOR PENROSE on the side of the reformers is no new spectacle, but somehow it never loses its piquancy. Now he goes to Harrisburg to lead in person the fight for a new charter for Philadelphia.

The bill containing the proposed revision is far from being as advanced as the Senator would prefer. It may satisfy ordinary reformers, but not a super-reformer.

Particularly cynical Philadelphians remark of the Vanc variety, for any fundamental change in the city charter would give a new opportunity for Penrose, who thus far, like Quix before him, has had to be content with the overlordship of the state outside of the city.

"THE ROCKING-HORSE"

KENNETH C. BEATON, who writes "Ye Towne Gossip" in the New York American and several other newspapers, has paid the following tribute to the latest book by Christopher Morley, "The Rocking-Horse" of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER:

I had just started to work, And had put the paper in the typewriter, And Jean came over, With her little girl Jerry, And Jean said: "I hope we won't disturb you."

GUY went abroad as an aviator in September, 1917. He thought he was bound for the United States, but he found himself quartered in a college at Oxford for wireless instruction.

"I'M STRONG for the English," said Guy. "They treated us like kings. When a man who has had his flying-school training over here gets to England he's likely to find he's got to go through it all again."

"The English are wonderful flyers," said Guy. "They're mostly very young, but a man ages rapidly in that job. They seem a bit quaint until you understand them, but they're the very devil in the air."

"It's a great game," said Guy. "When we were stationed at the bombing airbase near Lincoln, England, we used to fly over to Woodhall Spa, a kind of summer resort, every day for lunch."

The prospect that the peace treaties are to be in French suggests that Germany may have been unconsciously prophetic when her educators gave to the study of that language priority before all the other foreign tongues.

"BAH, VOT A WORLD! VUNST YOU VAS TOO BIG TO LICK; NOW YOU ISS TOO LIDDLE TO HIDE IN!"



THE CHAFFING DISH

Interview With Guy Wheeler

GUY WHEELER, our favorite Philadelphian, is back from France and apparently bears no malice for the number of letters we didn't write him while he was abroad.

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FROM A LITTLE HOUSE

I LIVE in a little house, But the door can open wide— I live in a little house, But the whole round world's outside!

The light marches in with the morning, The stars creep down at night, The high rain treads on my doorstep, The far winds call on their flight.

Some one with a morbidly developed curiosity writes to ask us what the Quizider, who runs the What Do You Know? just east of this, is like.

"I met you in the days of youth, Upon the chart and primer. You tried to teach me fact and truth, And set my mind a-simmer."

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What Do You Know?

- 1. What is the meaning of the word "nationalism," as used in the league-of-nations covenant?
2. Who is Gustav Ador?
3. Who is the author of the phrase, "In-spring, bold John Barleycorn"?

Italy proclaims that she "will settle her own affairs." If she would really act upon that decision the Fiume crisis would soon be settled and Jugo-Slavia would have nothing to complain about.

It begins to appear that the Victor Loan may be able to struggle over the top without the active assistance of the Rev. Dr. Mutchler.

Senator Borah says that so far he has given the revised covenant only "cursor reading."

The only reason why we are sorry Guy Wheeler has got back from the wars is that we are afraid he'll remember we've got his copy of "Erewhon" and ask us to return it.

Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.—Samuel Butler.

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