

Evening Public Ledger

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH... PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... CHARLES H. BENTLEY, President...

EDITORIAL BOARD: DAVID E. SMILEY, Editor... JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager...

Published daily at Public Ledger Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

Subscription rates: Philadelphia, \$5.00 per year... Outside Philadelphia, \$6.00 per year...

Member of the Associated Press... THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches...

SEEING HARRISBURG... ANY ONE who goes seeking signs of the new inspiration that the war was presumed to have brought to all men...

It is reasonable to suppose that members of the Legislature read the newspapers, and it is equally reasonable to suppose that they would be determined, at a time like this, to concentrate attention upon the various practical questions that press painfully upon all people who work in business or at jobs to sustain the commonwealth.

The debates upon the sedition bill and the "dry" bills have been dolorous and infinitely wearying. Vast work is to be done. Bills of actual importance are on the side tracks.

Surveys and investigations are becoming fashionable again. What a joyous time the state would have if, by some reversal of a familiar order, a committee of citizens could be appointed to investigate the Legislature!

THE ROAD TO BANKRUPTCY

EVERY business man knows that he is headed straight for the bankruptcy courts when he mortgages his property to raise money to pay current operating expenses.

It is because of such waste of the city's capital as is contemplated in this bond issue that it has been found difficult to raise money for needed public improvements.

WHY DO NAUGHTY PLAYS PLAY?

RABBI WISE, of New York, in a blazing arraignment of what he piquantly calls "the lingo drama," said bluntly what a great many persons have been fearing to utter.

eager crowds away. Not long ago at one of the Broad street theatres a group of college girls clamored at a ticket window for admission to a modern comedy delicately, yet not too delicately, woven around a series of misadventures in a hotel suite.

REPUBLICAN PARTY NEARS THE DAY OF OPPORTUNITY

It Will Turn to Dusk, However, Unless Congress Handles Its Problems With Constructive Statesmanship

As a liaison officer, Frederick H. Gillett, speaker-elect of the House of Representatives, displays convincing credentials. The link, the maintenance of which he forecasts, is the authentic and traditional bond between national development and the Republican party.

Mr. Gillett keenly senses the situation. The keynote of his address to the Manufacturers' Club was the emphasis laid upon the magnitude of the task confronting the new Congress and the only spirit in which the vast enterprise can be successfully carried out.

In this broad forecast of the impending drama—one of the most interesting and important in the whole history of American politics—it would be mere perversity to conceive Mr. Gillett as weakening in his party affiliations. What he means by partisanship in this instance is, of course, simply that sort of fatuous blundering which grasps at temporary political advantages and is befuddled and obstructive when it comes to the larger issues.

Healthy party rivalry, on the other hand, is the very backbone of our domestic polity. What Republicans throughout the land would like to see is a party that would be so identified with the belief that it is doing the right thing in the right way.

Out of power, the capacity for such an achievement is not always easy to prove and criticism remains the somewhat dismal function of the opposition. But it is needless now for the Republican party to be infatuated with a fault-finding role.

Such procedures are admirable safeguards in a democracy. They will not, however, restore the liaison between the Republicanism in the best party sense and national development in its widest implications in which so many millions of Americans for years rejoiced.

Leadership is the first personal essential in the Republican camp, and it is the irony of politics that this question is complicated somewhat in the same fashion as in the past Democratic Congresses.

It is worth recalling that Mr. Penrose and Theodore Roosevelt represented the poles of political thought, and yet a canny appreciation of the inevitable necessities of the Pennsylvania senator's support of a presidential candidate to whom "game" principles were anathema.

Opportunity to reveal the vitality of that faith will be presented in an array of problems the complexity of which lends even to our completed job of winning the war the color of elemental simplicity.

Nothing could so completely vindicate Republican pretensions of ability to control the machinery which speeds the movement of the nation as the unscrubbling of the transportation mess with skill, justice and financial insight, the passage of measures insuring the

durability of America's present maritime eminence and the rational handling of war taxation.

Fortunately, the latter subject is coming up in the right way at last. Mr. Penrose's hard sense of realities inspires him to friendliness for the long overdue budget system. As an antidote to wasteful expenditure and the imperfect understanding of taxation sources the stabilizing effect upon the national finances should be incalculable.

It is obvious, too, that the co-operation, of which Mr. Gillett has somewhat cautiously expressed his hope, should operate promptly and decisively against the continuance of some of the absurd taxes authorized at the last session of Congress.

There are all sorts of effective ways of liquidating the war debts without resorting to such clumsy and inequitably oppressive methods. Financial acumen sincerely applied is capable of suggesting convenient and productive means.

Many idle words have been spilled concerning a "shortage" of domestic industries in these days, when the cables tingle with international happenings of deep moment. Few mockeries of the truth have ever been more flagrant.

Errors will be terribly costly. The margin of success in the last congressional election was insufficiently great to justify mere obstructionist spleen and small-spirited political juggling. The party which was defeated in 1916 and 1912, partly because of its warped vision westward, has craved for the chance to prove its mastery of vigorous constructiveness and genuine statesmanship.

BACK HOME!

THE city is filled with people who are moving in from the four corners of the state to meet the men of the Twenty-eighth Division. The Governor did a logical and gracious thing when he proclaimed Thursday a general holiday.

Most of the men who left America for France had never been far from home. They return in many ways changed. That is apparent at any port of embarkation, for it is not in any formal fashion that the long awaited reunions occur, but at remembered corners of little streets in little towns; in a word whispered to a girl, or to a woman with hungry arms, or at old firesides after the bands have stopped playing.

Men come back filled with an inexplicable tenderness for their home country. And why shouldn't they? It is the strength of their own land that is in them. Its winds and skies were their life. You have to travel abroad to be really patriotic. It is only those who never have been away who can think of internationalism in the sense intended by the newer theorists.

It was like him... "You will never reign," said a seer to the crown prince of Germany. The C. P. of G. seems to have been easy with his money all his life. He doubtless paid a large fee for information that any one might have freely given to any German prince in Europe a few years ago.

What Did You Expect? We observe that the Fiume controversy is nearing settlement. And it is observable, too, that Orlando called upon the Americans before the Americans called upon Orlando.

Out with your flag! But—do you wear a Victory Button? The Democratic candidates for the governorship in New Jersey have shaken hands. Misery, some one said, loves company. The President's preliminary message to Congress will be short. The details of the proposed peace will be discussed personally by the President when he returns. And thus Congress is again condemned temporarily to the silence which it abhors. Mr. Taft's declaration that "my health is as good as a man with my conscience can expect" is sufficiently sweeping to convince truly patriotic Americans that he will be present to rejoice us for many, many years.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Governor Sproul and Governor Edge "Mentioned" for the Presidency. The Philadelphia George W. Norris Confused With the George W. Norris From Nebraska

Washington, D. C., May 14.

IT IS the dull and uncertain season approaching a new session of Congress. Hence the prominence given to members and others who drop in to the clubs here with "a few fleeting thoughts" about matters of state. For want of live news matter any old thing like the league of nations or the scraps in the Republican and Democratic parties is sufficient to fill up. More recently—although it is very early in the game and there is mighty little to go upon—the boys have been stirring up some presidential stuff.

There are all sorts of effective ways of liquidating the war debts without resorting to such clumsy and inequitably oppressive methods. Financial acumen sincerely applied is capable of suggesting convenient and productive means.

CONGRESSMAN WATSON'S luncheon in support of the upper Delaware river brought out some excellent speeches on the prospects of the stream above Philadelphia.

GENERAL WILLIAM H. BIXBY, predecessor of General Black as the head of the United States army engineers, who was over in Philadelphia recently, is now one of Uncle Sam's re-retired officers.

THEY will get those Norrises mixed. There are no George W.'s in Washington, one the farm loan commissioner, who studied law and became a banker in Philadelphia, and the other a Nebraska lawyer, who was elected to Congress and is now a senator. No one who knows these two worthies would say they were "like two peas in a pod." They are very different and distinct persons. But down in Porto Rico—it shows how generally fame spreads—the were appearing to members of Congress for an extension of the farm loan act.

In Praise of Jane... Her cheeks are plump, her nose is straight, Her eyes are large and widely blue, Brown curls adorn her tiny pate, She smiles ("my babies really do).

Psychic Insults... For five months one staggering psychic insult from abroad has followed another. Night after night this great people goes to sleep without any hope for the future.

When preacher and politician meet—their not necessarily "comes the tug-o-war." The Rev. Dr. Lina Bowman, of the Park Avenue Church, stands high in Methodist councils, but he knows the world has to be dealt with as it is, and therefore mixes with the people. Ferd Zweig succeeded Magistrate Dave Scott as Republican leader of the Seventeenth Ward.

It is hard to see the fantastic absurdity of a German professor when he really gets going. Herr Aberhalden lives well up to the standard of grotesque miscalculation set by Haecel and others. One might have thought that the Germania would have observed a good deal of restraint in the tactics of the Allies and the associated powers since last November.



THE CHAFFING DISH

Tomorrow is the day of days. Let's crave unclouded sky when you and I will go to praise the troops parading by. We'll jostle in some crowded bunch, be trod on by the fat, we'll have to do without our lunch and spill our new straw hat, we'll all be worn to little bits by shoes and jams and pushes while watching those who walked Fritz and penalized the Bushes. Our corus will suffer much, we fear, but here is our decision: We'll sacrifice a shine to cheer Our Own Keystone Division

Our good Scottish friend, John McMaster, trustee of the banks and boxes of bowing Dons, has been rejoicing in some hawthorn blossoms that were sent him and has graciously shared them with us. We hope it is no breach of confidence to admit that Mr. McMaster is the author of the following lines modestly signed "Sandy":

On a Gift of Hawthorn Blossoms... White ruy may strews earth with flowers, And lilies sweet its face adorn, No fairer, sweeter flower for me Than leafy, fragrant, flowering thorn.

In Praise of Jane... Her cheeks are plump, her nose is straight, Her eyes are large and widely blue, Brown curls adorn her tiny pate, She smiles ("my babies really do).

Psychic Insults... For five months one staggering psychic insult from abroad has followed another. Night after night this great people goes to sleep without any hope for the future.

When preacher and politician meet—their not necessarily "comes the tug-o-war." The Rev. Dr. Lina Bowman, of the Park Avenue Church, stands high in Methodist councils, but he knows the world has to be dealt with as it is, and therefore mixes with the people. Ferd Zweig succeeded Magistrate Dave Scott as Republican leader of the Seventeenth Ward.

Our Newly Fathomed Depths

WHO'S he that dares, with impious tread, Invade the eternal solitudes. That, all unbidden and unsought, Within the glacial zone intrudes.

Who's he, by science schooled in flight, Would gaze on Andes from above, O'er top Mont Blanc's majestic dome, And Himalaya's fastness prove?

Who's he that dares, with impious tread, Invade the eternal solitudes. That, all unbidden and unsought, Within the glacial zone intrudes.

What Do You Know?

- QUIZ 1. What day is fixed by the constitution for the opening of the regular session of Congress? 2. What is a sabbatical year in the modern sense? 3. Who said "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb"? 4. What is a decedon or deodand? 5. What is the largest city in Kansas? 6. Where is the Manche? 7. Who was called the "Man of Destiny"? 8. What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "Nil desperandum"? 9. What proportion of an iceberg is below the surface of the water? 10. Who is the "speaker-elect" of the House of Representatives? Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Helsinki is the capital of Finland. 2. A kilometer is 3280.84 feet. 3. The route of the American transatlantic aviators will take them to the towns of Horta and Ponta Delgada in the Azores. 4. The word route should be pronounced as though spelled "root." 5. Sobriquet; nickname; assumed name. 6. Contretemps; unlucky accident; hitch. 7. Zenobia was queen of Palmyra. Her armies were defeated by those of the Roman emperor Aurelian in 271 A. D. and she was taken captive to Rome. 8. John Adams, John Quincy Adams and Theodore Roosevelt were Presidents of the United States who were graduates of Harvard. 9. Continued fair weather may be foretold when spiders spin on the grass. 10. David F. Houston is secretary of agriculture.