

Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Thursday, October 16, 1919

AN OFFSPRING OF WAR WORK

IT IS one of the salutary lessons of a crisis that humanity is enabled to realize lapses that it has tolerated in less exciting times. The Community Service of Philadelphia, for example, would have had a fertile field for its activities in ante-bellum days.

TOWARD A SCHOOL SURVEY

FREDERICK P. GRUENBERG'S skeptical pleasure over progress made toward the conducting of a school survey has its origin, of course, in the frequent rebuff, which an admirably conceived enterprise has encountered.

While the Philadelphia schools will compare favorably with those of many cities in the land, there are still facilities to be eliminated and there is room for solid improvement and more effective organization.

"HICK CROSSINGS"

THERE are cities in this country and in Europe where any one who crosses a heavily traveled street in the middle of a block is likely to be snapped up by a policeman and charged with a misdemeanor.

In communities where the danger of that odd performance has been fully realized through disastrous experience an attempt to get across a street by worming through rapidly moving motor traffic is known as a "hick crossing."

The effort of the Rotary Club to stop the practice on Market, Chestnut and other crowded streets is commendable. An ordinance aimed at a habit that is a constant source of danger would be wise.

Why do business organizations find it necessary to lead a municipal administration around by the hand to show it the needs of the city? One wonders whether the Rotary Club can show the police department how to handle a parade without isolating shops and business houses, stalling traffic for hours and creating a general atmosphere of siege.

PAINLESS TELEPHONY

IN ABOUT fifteen years, upon the word of L. H. Kinnard, vice president and general manager of the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, we shall have automatic telephones all up and down the land. You will twist a tiny dial with numbers on it to make a "call"; there will be a flash of mechanical magic at central and lo! the thing will be done without the aid of an intervening voice.

promised to have automatic telephones in general use in about fifteen years, we may feel assured of reduced costs, since machines aren't troubled by the high cost of living.

SUGAR IS A FAIR GAUGE OF THE WORLD'S PROSPERITY

Rationing Would Not Be Necessary if the Public Did Not Have Money Enough to Buy More Than There Is

THE consumption of sugar is a measure of prosperity. Little of it is used in the industrially backward countries, for the people have not money enough to pay for it.

Consequently, the necessity of restoring sugar rations indicates that the people of this country are so prosperous that they have money enough to buy more sugar than is available for them.

There is likely to be a scarcity until normal production is resumed through the cultivation of the sugar beet in Germany and Russia. We have come to regard sugar as a necessity; but, as a matter of fact, it is a luxury available, as indicated in the first paragraph of this article, only to those who have money to buy it.

The natives of India have to get along with very little of it because they are poor. In the year before the war, when consumption was normal, the Italians were rich enough to buy only 10.45 pounds per capita, while the English consumed 89.69 pounds.

The available supply this year is about five billion pounds less than in 1914, and this deficit is five hundred million pounds greater than the total world production in 1865.

The period between 1900 and 1910 was one of the most prosperous of which there is any record. Wealth was increasing rapidly in all civilized countries. The wages of workmen were being raised. Work was available during the period as a whole for all who were willing to do it.

We have become so accustomed to sugar that we regard it as a necessity without which it would be a hardship to live. It is exactly as necessary as the trolley car and the telephone and the electric light.

Our ancestors, however, got along without all these things. Sugar, as a matter of fact, was once used chiefly as a medicine and its price was comparatively as high as that of quinine during our Civil War.

It was not until the introduction of tea and coffee into Europe that sugar began to be used commonly. Since that time its consumption has spread rapidly, assisted by the increasing prosperity of the working people.

Sugar was made at first exclusively of the juices of sugar cane, which originated in India, was introduced from there into China, on the east, and into Persia, on the west. From Persia the Spanish and Portuguese discoverers carried it to the Madeira Islands and thence to San Domingo.

And now Cuba produces more cane sugar than any other country, and her yield is approached only by that of Java. Beet sugar as an article of commerce dates only from the beginning of the last century. That there was sugar in the beet root was discovered by a German physicist in 1747, but nothing came of it until the Napoleonic wars cut short the supply of cane sugar available in Europe.

cles which they could not get on account of the blockade. When peace came cane sugar displaced the more expensive beet root product, and it was not until 1830 that the processes were cheapened so that beets could compete with cane in a free market.

In the meantime, while sugar rationing continues, we shall have to adjust ourselves to the consumption of a few pounds less sugar a month. Instead of three lumps in a cup of coffee we may use only two. Our cakes can be made without icing. If we have been buying a box of candy to take home for the children every day or two, we can reduce the amount of candy consumed and improve the digestion of the children.

The surest way to court unpopularity will be to hoard sugar in violation of the regulations. No one who has any respect for the golden rule will try to get more than his share and cause others to go without.

TIME TO BRACE UP

FROM the White House, from Mr. Taft, from the strike areas and from the labor conference there came yesterday various intimations of what is wrong with the country and proof that the trouble is transitory and yet serious enough.

Unquestionably there has been a nervous general reaction from war tension and a revival of the hard self-interest that is the opposite of such impulses as swayed the country while the fight was on. The inspiration of the war, as Mr. Taft suggested, no longer sustains us in a community of interest.

The Senate's callousness in the face of Mr. Wilson's dramatic illness, the collapse of Mr. Gompers, who wore himself out in good causes, the news from the strike areas, the insane opportunism of the mine workers and the very apparent efforts of each side at the labor conference to seek not decent solutions, but positions of dominant advantage for themselves, are related symptoms of a relaxed social consciousness.

Mr. Gompers, like Mr. Wilson, was the advocate of rationality, of humane principles. He exhausted himself trying to be heard above the bedlam. It used to be the habit of many business men to characterize Gompers as a radical.

Yet even while Gompers was making his great appeal for reason the labor conference was talking in circles. It had still to be "urged" from the White House. Are we to suppose that representative Americans, in a time like this, must shoulder their responsibilities upon a man perilously ill?

The forced settlements that both sides are seeking in the steel strike will do no one any good. They cannot last. It is up to the Washington conference to find saner methods. And it is up to the conference, too, to find a way by which a strike in the soft coal regions or government seizure of the bituminous industry may be avoided.

The country will judge both men and causes by what is done, or left undone, at the labor conference and its judgments will be heavy. It is sick of force. It is disgusted with the aggressive ignorance of radical agitators. But it is sick, too, of the vanity and selfishness of men who refuse to stoop from their familiar clouds to discuss with their workers matters that are of concern to the whole nation.

It is time for all people to brace up, to get back to common-sense grounds, to be decent and to think of the country first and of their own selfish interests afterward.

Unfortunate Fortunate Phorology States is quoted as saying that the fouler the atmosphere and the more bacteria one breathed the more immune one would be from disease. This is what might be termed making a fool of the truth.

Where Interest Wanes Interest in the air derby is said to be waning. The trouble with the race is that it has scientific value; and utility of any kind means sport. That's the difference between driving a coach and four and driving a truck.

"Cracky" Said Huck Finn thought was anarchistic literature proved to be a translation of "Tom Sawyer." And, of course, the most explosive thing found therein was a burst of laughter.

The Building Owners' Association has asked the Mayor for cleaner streets. It may yet decide to wait for the new broom. Rent-hoarding has received its hardest blow to date: The bricklayers' strike is over. Don't be cross, but cross at crossings.

THE GOWNSMAN

The Story of "The Gladiator" IN THE late eighteenth-century, when Edwin Forrest, the great American tragedian, was in the zenith of his fame, he patriotically conceived the idea of encouraging the development of American drama, and among several other efforts, some of which cost him dear, he offered a prize for the composition of the best tragedy by an American author.

JAMES MONTGOMERY BIRD was an alert and capable all-round literary man in his day. He was versed in whatever was going on, however he made literature only his avocation and followed in the prevailing fashion of his time. Bird was one of several notable examples of the physician who has distinguished himself in letters.

"THE Gladiator" was first acted here in Philadelphia in October, 1831. Forrest in the leading role of Spartacus. The subject Bird derived from that extraordinary event, the revolt of the Roman slaves and their temporary success even when pitted against Roman legions. The details of the story of Spartacus, the Thracian are numerous, largely in the form of legend. The tragedy was a success from the first and was constantly spoken of in its time as marking the very height and perfection of Forrest's acting.

OUR neighborhood is very genteel. I doubt if any one who has not lived in Philadelphia can imagine how genteel it is. Visitors from out of town are wont to sigh with rapture when they see our trim blocks of tall brick dwellings—that even cornice running in a smooth line for several hundred yards really is quite a sight—and exclaim, "Oh I wish we had something like this in New York!"

"THE Gladiator" was a great and immediate success in America and Forrest continued to act in it, taking it over to England with him and making his first appearance in London at Drury Lane in 1836 in the role of Spartacus. Perhaps it should not be quoted to the credit of the English, that they preferred Forrest to Shakespeare, although they praised his rugged conception of the part of Spartacus while looking askance upon Bird's "American tragedy."

IT IS somewhat remarkable that so well known a play as "The Gladiator" should have awaited print until this present year. When it received, with the other plays of Bird, the attention of careful and scholarly editing at the hands of Dr. Clement E. Foust, sometime instructor at the University of Pennsylvania. It would seem that Foust, who had bought the play outright, would never consent to its printing, for the obvious reason that it was a more valuable property and better protected remaining in his own hands in manuscript form. Herein, by the way, is reproduced precisely the conditions of Shakespeare's plays in his lifetime, which he himself preferred to keep in manuscript, rather than allow them to get into print.

THERE are a number of very odd features about our neighborhood. There is a large schoolhouse at the next corner, but as far as I can see, it is not used as a school, not for children, at any rate. Sometimes, about 8 o'clock in the evening, I see the building gloriously illuminated, and a lonely lady stooped and assiduous at a table. She seems quite solitary. Perhaps her researches are so poignant that the school board has prescribed entire silence. But midway down the block is a very jolly little private school, in which very gentle children may be seen approaching early in the morning. The little girls come with a bustle of starch, on foot, accompanied by governesses; the small boys arrive in limousines. They are small boys dressed very much in the English manner, with heavy woolen stockings ending just below the knee. They probably do not realize that their tailor has carefully planned them to look like dear little English boys. Then there is a very mysterious small theatre, near by. If it were a movie theatre, what a boon it would be! But no, it is devoted to a strange cult called the religion of business, which meets there on Sundays. Before that, there was a Korean congress there. There is a lovely green room in this theatre, but not much long green in the box office. Philadelphia prefers Al Jolson to Hank Hansen.

WE HAVE our tincture of vie de boheme, though, in our little French table d'hotel, a thoroughly atmospheric place. Delightful Madam B., with her racy philosophy of life, what delicious soups and salads she serves!

LOOKING FOR A NEW ROOST



TRAVELS IN PHILADELPHIA

By Christopher Morley

Our Neighborhood

Happy indeed are those who have learned the way to her little tables, and heard her cheerful cry "A la cuisine!" when one of her small dogs prowls into the dining room. Equally unique is the old curiosity shop near-by, one of the few genuine "notion" shops left in the city (though there is a delightful one on Market street near Seventeenth street which is to step into a country village).

WE ARE no less human on our street, but it takes a bit more study to get at the secret. There is a certain reticence about us. It would take an earthquake to cause much fraternization along our street. Perhaps it is because three houses out of every four bear the tablets of doctors. The average layman fears to stop and speak to his neighbor for fear it will develop into a professional matter. We board up our front windows at night with heavy wooden shutters. We have no drugists, only "apothecaries." These apothecaries are closed on Sundays. They sell stamps in little insignia capsules, to be quite sanitary, two twos in a capsule for five cents. In their shops you can still get soda water with "plain cream" and shaved ice, such as was customary twenty-five years ago.

THE little cigar and magazine shop on the corner is the political and social focus of the neighborhood. I shall never forget the pallid and ghastly countenance of the newsdealer when the rumor first went the rounds that Hammy was elected. Every evening a little gathering of local sages meets in the shop; on tilted chairs, in a haze of tobacco, they while the hours away. In tobacco the host adheres to the standard beliefs, but in literature he is enterprising. Until recently, his was the only place I know in Philadelphia where one could get the Illustrated London News every week.

Enrollment at the universities of the country is as gratifying as the enrollment for service in the same institutions when Uncle Sam needed men. Germany has agreed to join in the blockade of soviet Russia, says a dispatch from Berlin. Then there is either a "snake" or a "must" in it. The country will rejoice when the President himself is able to give an authoritative opinion to the rumors concerning his physical condition.

CHANGE

HIS step was young as in the last decade. He never thought that he was getting old. Until he felt his heart was sore afraid at some new problem which half slipped his hold. It came like that strange sudden shock of grief. That quivers through one's pulses on the day. One wakes to realize, though years seemed brief, The hair of some loved woman has turned gray. —Charlotte Becker, in New York Sun.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha says the Turkish nation will prove to the world its entire fitness for remaining in possession of its "sacred soil." Meaning, of course, that the soil is sacred because of the innocent blood shed upon it. The sudden shifting of Uncle Sam into the ranks of the rent profiteers is a shock to the tenants. But perhaps he doesn't know the company he is keeping.

Now the Dope King has been deposed, steps should be taken to demobilize his army of addicts. Sir Arthur Whitten Brown will tell tonight how Aviator Artie Brown crossed the Atlantic in an airplane. Red Russia is palling to a pink.

What Do You Know?

- QUIZ
1. What is the lowest rank entitling a nobleman to sit in the House of Lords?
2. Which one of Napoleon's brothers married an American?
3. Who was she?
4. What article of apparel particularly typifies a cardinal?
5. What is the psalter?
6. What is a dulcimer?
7. Name two famous comedies by Beaumarchais.
8. What are prunes?
9. A bachelor is sometimes described as a Benedict. What is the error in this word?
10. What is the principal duty of the Vice President of the United States?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. The town of Gary is in Indiana.
2. Louis Philippe was the last king of France, although officially his title was "King of the French."
3. In obsolete Scotch a caddie was a military cadet. Later the word came to mean one who waits for chances to do errands or other odd jobs. In the eighteenth century a caddie was an Edinburgh commissioner.
4. Napoleon died of malignant cancer.
5. The brothers Grim were German philologists and collectors of the famous fairy tales.
6. Frederick Douglass was an American orator and journalist. He was the son of a negro by a white man and was active in the Massachusetts anti-slavery movement before the Civil War. He was for several years United States marshal of the District of Columbia and was minister to Haiti in 1858.
7. Japanese suicide is not "hara-kari," but "hara-kiri."
8. A cachalot is a whale with teeth in the lower jaw.
9. The two Presidents of the United States who died a natural death in office were William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor. They were both Whigs.
10. The Spanish name for Spain is Espana.