

Evening Public Ledger

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FREEDOM OF THE TAXIS

THE purpose of the ordinance which the City Solicitor Connelly has drawn is to break up the taxicab monopoly. Certain taxicab companies profess to have the exclusive right to occupy certain stands and they drive off every taxicab and every private automobile that "trespasses" on their preserves.

It is proposed also to require every operator of a motorcar for hire to secure a certificate of public convenience, not with the purpose of restricting the number of such operators, but to prevent the operation of cars by untrustworthy persons.

BLATHER AND BUNCOMBE

THE Senate is one-half of the treaty-making power of one of the twenty or more nations that drafted the peace treaty. It is attempting to rewrite the treaty to suit itself, regardless of the views of the other half of the treaty-making power.

TOO BUSY FOR FASHIONS

IF QUEENS like Elizabeth of Belgium set the fashions women would have to worry less about following them. The queen, who designs her own gowns, was asked what she thought of the trend of fashions.

NERVE IN NORRISTOWN

THE motormen and conductors of the Norristown division of the Reading Transit Company think they know better how to operate a street-car line than their employers. They are said to be seriously considering a proposition of the company that they take over the Norristown lines and operate them.

AN OLD-CLOTHES CLUB

THE only difference between the city employes in Chicago and those here is that those in the West who have to wear old clothes have organized a club. An overcoat or a suit costs so much nowadays that the man who appears in a new suit always has to explain where he got the money to pay for it.

been wearing old clothes for a year or two, and our stock of apparel fit to be seen is getting low. If it can be made fashionable to appear in patches then a lot of us can get through the winter without going into debt.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOW BEGIN WHERE THE CONFERENCE QUIET

Epochal Legislation Necessary to Regulate Opposed Groups That Deem Themselves Bigger Than the Country. ONE clear gain remains to the public from the dismal wreck of the industrial conference.

With the news of the adjournment the nation will realize with a shock that its peace, its welfare and even its safety rest, for the time being, not with the President or with Congress or with any elected representative of its common purpose.

Control of forces that deeply and intimately affect the life of the country is whipped out of the people's hands. Affairs that are of the profoundest consequence to the public at large are in the hands of men whose aims and purposes we do not even know.

The avowed intention of the miners' leaders to tie up the country by stopping the output of soft coal is lawless. It is almost an act of war. It is a return to the blockade and to the harsh theory of attrition, and it is meant to inflict the heaviest punishment on noncombatants.

There may be some ground for the assertion of labor that it is fighting an industrial feudalism in the last ditch. But what does it hope to win? Feudal powers of its own? The right to dictate to a free country? The elimination of all private industry and all private initiative by cumulative and impossible demands pressed and enforced under the privilege of collective bargaining?

The employers' group would have had to bolt in self-defense if labor had not bolted first. The adjournment of the conference has opened the way to a struggle in which the whole country may be drawn wretchedly along in disgraceful confusion.

So the responsibilities of the occasion are now shifted to Congress and the President. It is the duty of Congress to formulate and establish an industrial code, to define the related rights of labor and capital in industry, to fix limits beyond which unbalanced trades unionists on the one hand and backward-minded employers on the other may not go in pursuit of their own selfish aims.

The commission on unrest that young Mr. Rockefeller suggested in a moment of desperation can tell us nothing that we do not know. Labor and capital actually seem braced for a finish fight. Yet neither side can be crushed without disaster of one sort or another to the country.

The manner in which the smash occurred will make propaganda for the anarchists of trades unionism. It will harden the diehards and the suspicious already existing on the side of capital. It will revive old hatreds and open old sores.

Congress, unless it shirks a duty of dominant importance, will have to do what the industrial conference might have done had it a rational will and the ability to rise above selfish concerns. The rights of individuals who acquire or seize extraordinary power in the economic system will have to be defined. The right to just rewards for industry, labor, talent, initiative will have to

be assured anew to all men, whether they are capitalists or laborers. It is idle to deny the right of collective bargaining to those who work with their hands, but it is important that some limits be set upon the operation of a principle that may be easily abused or even made the cause of disaster.

Feudalism in industry will have to go. The trusts and the railroads and the utilities have been regulated, but no trust, no railroad and no utility ever held the potentialities for good or evil that now lie with trades unionists and with concentrated capital.

The rights of individuals are, after all and in any event, of minor importance. Such stresses and strains are now contemplated in this country must be measured not for their effect upon any individual, but for their possible reactions upon the whole life and spirit of the nation.

If ever there was a need for peace without victory it is now. The soft-coal miners can never hope to win with their outrageous claims. But the nation may properly ask itself whether rational settlements are not better than any sort of defeat—whether any good could come in the future from a conflict in which millions of men were crushed in a cause which they believed fair and just.

What Congress will have to do is set up a new code of morality applicable to new conditions of existence forced upon the country by progressive industrialism. That would not be an easy task for Congress, which frankly loathes precedent-making. Politicians would have to venture into unexplored fields which are by no means inviting to cautious and politically minded men.

An interpreter able to talk in a voice of unmistakable authority is needed between the conflicting forces of industry. We shall have to have a means for identifying outlaws and for punishing those who, in one way or another, threaten the peace of the country.

Capital squirmed—but it accepted regulation in the past. It will have to accept a little more of it. Labor alone insists upon its right to supreme authority. But labor, in some of its highly organized activities, will have to be regulated too.

It is a tragic fact of history that all great advances in human welfare and every great reform in legislation have come only after stress and agony, after crises long drawn out, after pain that roused the patient and tolerant mind of the public to a mood for initiative and action.

Mr. Gompers has threatened war and his opponents have answered his challenge. It remains to be seen now whether the common-sense and the rational view that the industrial conference could not attain can be achieved only at the cost of widespread misery and bitterness and the pain that is the best of all teachers.

Surprising Themselves. Insurance men in convention in New York see no reduction in rates for snobs as a result of prohibition. Alcohol addicts may become candy addicts, they say, and the death rate, as a consequence, may be just as high. Perhaps it is the shock that will kill them.

The Optimist. Bernard Baruch says the industrial congress was a success in one particular—it brought the great issues of capital and labor to the attention of the American public as nothing else would have done. But it is the fear of many that the American public knows no more of the merits of the controversy than it did at the beginning.

Fact and Fiction. The fictionist is handicapped in the telling of a story where the reporter of fact has easy sailing. The fictionist has to be plausible, while fact cheerfully deals in "impossibilities." The tug that overturned itself in the Delaware river by pulling at a hawser that had fouled its keel is a case in point.

The Belgian Parliament has been dissolved by a royal decree dated Los Angeles, Calif., October 17. Oh, well, the Belgians have nothing on us in the matter of long-distance runs. We received one or two de-crees from Paris that were similarly potent.

There is less than 1 per cent of alcoholic content in the knowledge that the prohibition enforcement bill may be slightly delayed by the withholding of the President's signature. Casey is donning his Santa Claus suit preparatory to a visit to our soldier boys in Siberia. And for once Santa will be appropriately appraised.

The King of the Belgians blushed when tribute was paid to him in Harrisburg. And it is a safe bet that he won everything in sight with the royal flush. Drivers of street flushers are on strike. Sympathizers will tell them that if they win they're straight; if they lose they're four-flushers.

Railroad corporations may be able to convince the Interstate Commerce Commission that transportation rates ought to be increased 25 per cent, but they can hardly hope to convince shippers that they ought to pay it. There is talk of another peace offer from Russian Bolsheviks to the Allies. But how can the Allies make peace with the leaders of a school of thought that is assailing them in their own territories?

Members of the Tenants' Association evidently do not believe that to the evictors belong the spoils. Members of the Harbor mission, knowing how prohibition works in Turkey, will feel quite at home in a dry United States.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Federal Employes Who Do Not Strike. When Roosevelt Appointed a Negro—The Handshake of George W. Coles

RECENT strikes have caused widespread discussion of labor unions. Who it has been figured out by economists that the striker generally loses, although strikes also serve to affect capital and sometimes undermine the employing institution. New conditions have arisen in the labor world which have aroused a more direct interest in what the organized workman is doing, with the result that public sentiment is beginning to determine the success or failure of strike undertakings.

ADMIRAL BENSON, who won international distinction as the director general of naval operations, has indicated his purpose to attend the Charleston convention of waterway men. The admiral took a lively interest in Delaware river development when he was at the head of the Philadelphia Navy Yard and his appointment at Charleston will be very acceptable to the many Philadelphians who are going to talk up their city at that place.

ALTHOUGH a reformer, Theodore Roosevelt was also an eminently practical politician. An instance in which the late John Stephens Durham figured will suffice. Durham was a colored lawyer and editor who had formerly been minister to Haiti. His desire to become a member of the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission after the Spanish American war was taken up at the White House by Mr. Moore, who was then president of the National Republican League. It was argued that Mr. Durham was a highly creditable representative of the colored race; that he had mastered the Spanish language; was a good lawyer and had done effective literary work.

REVEREND C. H. B. TURNER, rector of Saint Peter's Church, Lewes, Delaware, received from an elderly lady many years ago one of those quaint bits of penmanship characteristic of our forefathers, indited by John Porter, of Wilmington. The American public knows no more of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays' when the construction work on the canal had reached a point where the last separating barrier of earth could be removed.

Something very odd must have happened to the Spruce street cars yesterday morning. We were salivating up Seventeenth, in our usual hopeful vein, when we saw a car go expecting to have to wait fifteen minutes for the next one. When we got half way up the block we saw another one trundle past. But don't deary the harmless guy who never seems to think to buy King Richard bid high for a horse, Poor Dick was sore in need of course, That don't deary the harmless guy Who never seems to think to buy His matches; for this careless man, Whose match requests make you mad, May just produce the match you need. To save your life, like Richard's need. T. W. F.

GEORGE W. COLES, the generalissimo of the Town Meeting party, is the author of a new style of handshake which is getting the better of the boys around the mayoralty campaign headquarters. It doesn't make much difference whether he uses the right hands or the left, the shake is so individualistic as to be worthy of imitation. Some of these observing politicians who have come to admire the reform champion's gestures as they previously enjoyed his eloquence, have accounted for the phenomenon in two ways: first, that George W. has been oblonging the gesture to the shake in point to the Delaware City, when the shake was first acquired due to the fact that Mr. Coles is the treasurer of the United Republic Campaign committee.

H. C. L. has been monkeying with the slang dictionary. A fellow nowadays has absolutely nothing to do with a nickel. The relations of landlord and tenant continue to be a trifle strained.



THE CHAFFING DISH

That Which Talks. THE brightest talkers rest on the hills of Ballybatin. As the light reclines on satin Snug at a woman's breasts. 'Twas a song I put on the place For one, in Ballybatin. Who goes to town in satin Trimmed with ferny lace. And who has won her? Sure, The man in Ballybatin Who talked about lace and satin. My dreams and I were poor. FRANCIS CARLIN.

Give Him a Match! BREATHE there a man with soul so dead, Who claims that he has seldom said, "Give you a match?" There may be those Who've always matches in their clothes, And never pull this little line, But this is drawing "system" fine. And don't appeal to me, I like That comradeship of Pat and Mike, That free and easy point of view That gives a match and takes one, too. Without the thought that matches cost, Two cents a box, count that day lost. For they may mean new friendships given. King Richard bid high for a horse, Poor Dick was sore in need of course, That don't deary the harmless guy Who never seems to think to buy His matches; for this careless man, Whose match requests make you mad, May just produce the match you need. To save your life, like Richard's need. T. W. F.

Our Strange Experience. Something very odd must have happened to the Spruce street cars yesterday morning. We were salivating up Seventeenth, in our usual hopeful vein, when we saw a car go expecting to have to wait fifteen minutes for the next one. When we got half way up the block we saw another one trundle past. But don't deary the harmless guy who never seems to think to buy King Richard bid high for a horse, Poor Dick was sore in need of course, That don't deary the harmless guy Who never seems to think to buy His matches; for this careless man, Whose match requests make you mad, May just produce the match you need. To save your life, like Richard's need. T. W. F.

Georgians, our own bookworm, is rollicking in her little cardboard box just as though we weren't going away. Heartless, we call it. William Rose Benet, who is unquestionably the best poet born in this country on February 2, 1886, is in town today. Bill is also beyond a peradventure the best poet who ever lived in the Frankford Arsenal, which he did, successfully, from 1890 to 1894.

Our friend Mrs. Andrew McGill was president of a woman's club in California that was very eager to get Mark Twain to address them. She wrote to Mark inviting him and offering huge sums for a lecture, but Mark was an old man and replied it was the far for him to go. Whereupon Mrs.

THE CULPRIT

MY GRANDFATHER related this to me, And I forgot it for a score of years, Until today, I pass it on to you: A lovely woman had her portrait drawn, And liking it—as well as she might—she caused A golden frame to be constructed for it, Of curious work and wonderful design, And very costly. And a certain man Of her acquaintance, whom she looked upon Indifferently, stole the lovely thing, (Yes, frame and all) and carried it away. Yet, though she knew the thief, she said no word. But smiled a little to herself. And then she had a greater artist paint again A lovelier picture of her lovely face, And placed it in another golden frame. There came another man, and this was one On whom she looked with more than passing favor; But he was impetuous, and he Stole the rich frame but let the portrait lie. Whereat she raged and called upon the law, And had the culprit taken, tried and hanged! —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ. 1. Can the United States Senate negotiate a treaty with a foreign power? 2. What is the correct pronunciation of "Box," the pen name assumed by Charles Dickens? 3. What is nostalgia? 4. What is the origin of the word scalawag? 5. The British are now building the largest airship in the world. How does its length compare with that of the largest steamship? 6. Who were the two Italian generalissimos in the war? 7. In what battle did Thomas J. Jackson win his title of "Stonewall"? 8. To what political party does Senator Reed belong? 9. Of what country is the mother of King Alfonso a native? 10. What people are chiefly responsible for the use of the arch in architecture?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz. 1. General Yudenitch, the anti-Bolshevik commander, won a notable victory during the world war by the capture of Erzerum from the Turks. 2. George Washington received a rudimentary education at Fredricksburg, Va. He attended no college. After leaving school in 1747, he instructed himself in mathematics and surveying. 3. Letvia is another name for Lithuania, which formerly formed part of the Russian empire. It has a coast line on the Baltic sea. Vilna and Kovno are among the principal cities. 4. A caret is a mark, a small inverted "v," placed below a line to show a place of omission. 5. Etiquette originally meant a ticket or card and referred to the ancient custom of delivering a card of directions and regulations to be observed by all those who attended court. 6. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the Interior, has been serving as chairman of the labor conferences in Washington. 7. A distinguishing feature of American battleships is the basket mast. 8. Santos, Brazil, is the great coffee port of South America. 9. William Caxton, who died in 1401, is called the Father of English Printing. 10. A marsupial is an animal of the class of mammals which carry their young in a pouch. SOCRATES.

Here is another memorandum, which seems to contain the germ of an idea which we thought highly of and planned to spring on the world by way of the Chaffing Dish. This memorandum, which we find written on the back of a telegram sent us by a man offering us a barrel of clams if we would write a Travel in Philadelphia about his restaurant, says: Life is comparatively simple for the man who is a complete optimist or a complete cynic. It is very trying for the creature who is a mixture of both. Unfortunately, we don't like clams. SOCRATES.