

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... CHARLES H. LUDWIG, President... JOHN C. MARTIN, Editor

Published daily at Public Ledger Building... Subscription Terms... Single copies 10 cents

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Philadelphia, Saturday, November 29, 1919... SNIPING THE CHARTER... THE charges of Director Gruenberg, of the Bureau of Municipal Research...

Mr. Gruenberg is an expert in municipal affairs... He is familiar with the provisions of the charter, with the framing of which he had much to do, and he is interested solely in the efficient conduct of public business.

Union leaders and operators are alike fond of citing specific instances of earning power and working conditions to prove the logic of their claims... But the country is beginning to feel that individual cases prove little and that there is something fundamentally wrong in the coal fields which only a general and impartial survey, made in the national interest, can reveal and remedy.

If, therefore, government interference in this instance carries the assurance for the miners that their claims will be considered in detail; that there will be a new beginning; and that wage scales and working conditions will finally be revised and improved on a just basis, irrespective of present estimates, the newer plan should cause a prompt resumption of operations at the soft-coal mines.

It is becoming clear that there is more to the soft-coal controversy than wage rates. Mr. McAdoo and Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Labor; Doctor Garfield and the other members of the President's cabinet are men who might be expected to view the wage question impartially.

A vivid clue which indicated the state of mind of the strikers was given by one of the union leaders, who complained bitterly that Doctor Garfield is substituting academic estimates for a sense of justice.

It is possible to interpret that charge in the light of contentions advanced by Mr. Lewis at one of the recent conferences. He, like other representatives of the miners, objected to the system under which the soft-coal operators have been pooling their interests and concentrating productive effort in one or another field while leaving other regions to face long periods of uncertainty and enforced idleness.

There is nothing sinister in the desire of coal operators so to arrange their business as to save unnecessary shipping costs, especially when the withdrawal of wartime control has revived strong competition among various fields. And yet it is apparent that the habit is one certain to confuse existence for vast numbers of workers in many areas as the heavy demand for coal shifts from one point to another.

LADY ASTOR, M. P. INTO legislative halls abroad won far more attention than did Jeannette Rankin's progress toward Congress in our own country.

Astor proved a brilliant and earnest campaigner. She will be the first woman to enter Parliament. That fact alone makes history and is an index of the remarkable political changes of the day.

LET GOVERNMENT MINE FOR FACTS IN SOFT-COAL FIELDS... Federal Interference Should Be Preliminary to a Sweeping Survey in the National Interest

IT IS regrettable that the government has had to resume control in the soft-coal industry. Federal interference involves responsibilities for which there is now no adequate machinery at Washington.

THE miners' refusal to accept, under a government decree, a wage increase less than that which the operators themselves proposed, can easily be understood.

Under such circumstances it is not easy to fix values in the controversy. Unless a full disclosure of the facts is made not from a rumor hot-bed on the Rio Grande, but from the national capital, American opinion on the Jenkins case is inevitably confused.

There is, of course, a possibility that the administration has knowledge of facts that may soon change the whole complexion of the situation and that, in accordance with the pre-Adams diplomatic code, it has deliberately chosen to be enigmatic until a cardinal and effective play can be made.

Unquestionably, politics in Mexico is at the boiling point. The traditional next move is revolution. If Oregon, who recently announced his candidacy for the presidency, has really taken up arms, his emphy must have been foreseen by Carranza, whose answer was the intimidation policy exemplified by the fate of Angeles at Chihuahua.

With every fact in hand the Mexican problem would be tragically baffling. Sooner or later, however, a start toward solving it must be made. Frankness and resolute, candid policies are the prime necessities.

There is an impression in the mind of the country that coal costs enough in every retail market to provide a fair rate of wages to all miners and fair returns on all capital invested in the business. Unquestionably that general assumption will be justified by the facts if they are ever brought to light.

Congress is likely to be shy of the question. It didn't help Mr. Roosevelt

In the anthracite crisis of 1902. It hung back and left the President to take the risks and face the music. Mr. Wilson can expect to find this same spiritual aloofness in the House and Senate. He can force the coal crisis to the attention of Congress, however, and he can compel a showdown at least.

THE present situation justifies such action. Normally the government has no moral or legal right to interfere informally with the operation of privately conducted industries. That is not what the government is for. The sort of control which Mr. Garfield proposes, therefore, should be scientific, constructive and inspired by a sense of justice and a regard solely for national welfare if it is to be justified at all, even in a crisis like the one which now confronts the country.

THE imprisonment of Consular Agent Jenkins in Puebla, the execution of General Angeles and the report of a revolution in Mexico City are portentously timed. The sequence of events, however, and the relations of cause and effect are still obscure.

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MAYOR-ELECT MOORE'S LETTER... Presidential Politics Seen in McAdoo's Attempt to Blanket Palmer by Talking About Coal Prices

THE smartest man in Wilson's cabinet was McAdoo. Of southern origin (like the President) he studied law and engineering, dashed into New York with a great scheme for tunneling the river and made a go of it. Forging ahead in the metropolis in finance and politics, he finally landed in the President's cabinet as secretary of the treasury.

FOR a moment we may pause to contemplate the vigorous ex-secrtery in his various poses since quitting the treasury—resuming the practice of the law for instance, or championing the movies, and figuring as attorney for the Mary Pickfords and the Charlie Chaplins.

It is it any wonder Mr. McAdoo's facile mind reverts to those internal revenue reports which he had well in hand before leaving the treasury? Is Palmer to get away with the trick on sugar when coal is so high? What does Palmer know about the profits of the coal barons, and if he does know, being a Pennsylvanian, where some of those 200 to 1000 per cent profits referred to by Mr. McAdoo were supposed to have been made, would he care to use the information as campaign material?

THERE is nothing mean about Miss Mary B. Peirce, the businesslike daughter of the late Thomas May Peirce. As the head of a large Philadelphia educational establishment she goes after the biggest men in the country when commencement day rolls around, and these commencement come along with such studied regularity that Miss Peirce has become quite a figure in Washington, where the big orators are supposed to abound.

PATRONS of the stage are generally touched in more ways than one when the cry goes up for funds for the destitute actor. They know the actor is not a saving man, and being an artist and highly temperamental, does not know much about money.

BILLY ROPER, one of the new Council members here and abroad, has reached Princeton football for the last few weeks, has reached Boston. The new councilman is studying conditions in other cities. He says we are living in an age charged with dynamics and that the best thing can be expected, but that the best thing to do in a city like Philadelphia is to save money by eliminating waste.

WHAT is it all about? Governor Sprout is already on the hustings doing double time as a speechmaker and he gets better as he goes along. Some people suspect the Governor, largely because, in his mind, although the Governor says frankly that he considers it a duty not only to the touch with the people, but to keep posted as to their needs.

Passing the buck seems to be the favorite indoor sport of city officials.

HASH



THE CHAFFING DISH

April SHELLA, Sheila, Sheila! Sure 'tis I that's calling. Calling down the evening winds from the hills of France, Asking the April eves still at dusk's blue falling. Filled with silver shadows in a moonlit dance?

TINSEL

I USED to think the world to be A tinsel ball of revelry. A place of joy and happiness Where one might laugh with carelessness.

QUIZ

1. In what part of Mexico is Puebla, where Consular Agent Jenkins was imprisoned? 2. Who was the first American woman to become a concert violinist?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. The Monroe Doctrine received its name from statements in President Monroe's annual message to Congress in December, 1823, at the period of a suspected concert of the powers in the Holy Alliance to interfere in Spanish America.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our client Ann Dante came in to see us on Thanksgiving Day, and we asked her, in our genial fashion, what she had to be thankful for.

What Do You Know?

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DEBS TO DANCE WITH PRINCE

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