

Evening Public Ledger
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THE GREAT SUGAR MYSTERY

SOME pretty elaborate explanations will be necessary to dispel the general resentment inspired by news of vast exports of refined sugar from this city at a time when many households are altogether without that important food commodity.

England, it is said, has had a prior title to 34,500 tons of refined sugar taken from refineries in this city within the past sixty days. Is the sugar owned by the British Government? Or is it owned by a syndicate of British profiteers?

It is a notorious fact that vast quantities of American products are being held in some European ports to await the removal of the blockade which the Allies have established about Russia.

The fact that 34,500 tons of refined sugar has been and is being shipped abroad from Philadelphia while Philadelphia is an acute sugar rationer is a sweet case of refined cruelty.

IN THE MAYOR'S FOOTSTEPS

MAYOR SMITH, as the head of a bonding concern, has always insisted frankly that he had a right to mix his public and private business when the practice was to his own advantage.

Mr. Trainer's charges against Director Wilson, of the Department of Public Safety, imply merely that information relative to street accidents found an easy way from the police department to the law offices of a firm in which Director Wilson is a partner.

The Mayor may have been technically right in mixing his bonding business with municipal affairs. Mr. Wilson may have had no technical right to prevent his friends from following the course complained of.

Director Wilson wants 500 more patrolmen to protect the city. Putting on a spurt for the last lap?

NEW WOE FOR POLITICIANS

POLITICIANS in this state have been dreaming a sweet dream. Any student of political undercurrents knows that efforts began a year ago to mobilize feminine sentiment of the state in behalf of the different parties in order that when the franchise became universal large blocks of votes would be ready for delivery as necessary arose.

The sudden tragic rift in the Women's Republican Club yesterday, and the nature of the charges and counter-charges attending an explosion that experts had long expected, show how far at sea the wise men of the two parties actually have been.

associates, who seemingly became angry when he became ambitious. This is not according to political traditions, although creditable to the unselfish spirit of the resigners.

WILSON'S PLAN TO TAKE THE TARIFF OUT OF POLITICS

It Consists in Swinging the Democratic Party Over to the Historical Republican Position

MEMORIALS from political memories will find the President's abandonment of the historical position of the Democratic party on the tariff the most notable feature of his annual message to Congress.

The Democratic party has been committed for years to a tariff for revenue only, with as much of an approximation to free trade as was possible.

But now, in view of what has happened since he entered office, he is recommending that "the prejudice and passion engendered by decades of controversy between two schools of political and economic thought—the one believers in protection of American industries, the other believers in tariff for revenue only—must be subordinated to the single consideration of the public interest in the light of utterly changed conditions."

He goes so far as to recommend that in tariff legislation special consideration should be paid to "the establishment in America," and he suggests that this establishment can be brought about by an intelligent application of duties.

No protectionist could go any farther than this in pointing out the expediency of applying the policy of protection to an existing condition. Events have forced the leader of the opposition party to come around to the historic Republican position that the tariff is an expedient to be used for assisting in the development of industry here and that it should be used to the limit when circumstances justify it.

The necessity of modifying the tariff laws to meet the conditions brought about by the war has impressed itself on every one who has given any thought to the subject. This newspaper has been urging it upon the attention of Congress.

America has been clung from a debtor to a creditor nation since 1914. We have brought back from Europe nearly all of the American securities held there. We have lent about nine billion dollars to various European nations.

The tariff laws must be so framed as to make imports possible on such terms as will permit the expansion of international trade. This means that there must be a careful study of the whole problem of foreign trade with a view to the discovery of where it is expedient to apply the protective policy and where it is expedient to modify it.

Mr. Wilson has also reached the conclusion in which others anticipated him that the solution of the problem of the relations between labor and capital must be met by the creation of some sort of a tribunal for the settlement of disputes without upsetting industrial peace.

The public is a party in interest in all labor disputes. Its rights must be protected, and while the right of labor to strike must be admitted, its right to interfere with the orderly conduct of business by men not involved in its controversies must be surrendered in the interests of the rest of us.

He does not suggest the drafting of an industrial code, but all that he says points in this direction.

The best thought of the country is with him on these two important matters. It is with him also in the ends which he seeks in his recommendations for relief from the burden of high prices and for the suppression of bolshevistic propaganda, but there will be regret that the methods he proposed do not seem more adequate.

As to the suppression of bolshevism, he says: "With the free expression of opinion and with the advocacy of orderly political change, however fundamental, there must be no interference," but he urges the passage of Attorney General Palmer's anti-sedition bill, which would give to the courts power to interfere with "the free expression of opinion" and with "the advocacy of orderly political change."

It may be urged in extension that the President has not been able, in view of his illness, to give to Attorney General Palmer's bill that careful study which it should receive from every one jealous of the rights of free speech and a free press.

Every one will join with the President in his denunciation of profiteers. They have fallen so low that those who

to do them reverence. But it is doubtful if federal license for corporations engaged in interstate business and regulations compelling the wholesale price to be plainly marked on all articles where it is practicable would have the beneficent effect which Mr. Wilson anticipates.

As to marking the wholesale price on articles, it would do nothing more than give the purchaser an impression of the cost of retailing and confirm him in the knowledge which he already possesses. The wholesale price of eggs and potatoes and apples is no secret. The householder who buys five cents apiece for apples knows how much they cost a barrel.

Yet there are other recommendations made by the President which suggest that he favors general price fixing by the government. Such a policy might be defended in a temporary crisis, but as a permanent practice it would do more harm than good, because prices are dependent on so many complicated conditions and fluctuate so rapidly that no government bureau could find a just basis for action.

The treatment of temporary conditions such as bolshevistic agitation and profiteering is not what the country has a right to expect from the President. But when he speaks of industrial conditions and foreign trade, he utters words of soberness and truth which can be considered by Congress and by the whole country as a broad-minded, patriotic, statesmanlike contribution toward constructive legislation.

COAL: A CRISIS

IT IS difficult to estimate or even to imagine the losses and hardship that business men, wage-earners and the public at large will have to endure if the fuel restrictions tentatively proposed by Doctor Garfield are made generally effective because of a continuing paralysis of the soft-coal industry.

Suffering will be bitter and widespread if the coal has to be meagerly rationed only to preferred industries, and the losses in business will pass anything yet dreamed of in the United States. This is because restrictions of the war period were casual and limited to one day a week. As the matter looks now the country has to prepare for a coal famine that may continue for an indefinite period.

For the moment at least the Fuel Administration seems to be following a policy of drift and hoping ardently that the drift is in the right direction. But surface indications are not of a sort to encourage optimism. The government's strike injunction, necessary and justifiable as it was, added a new element of bitterness to the soft-coal strike. It has not served to renew production. Doctor Garfield's suggestion that the miners accept a wage increase less even than the operators had promised in conferences with the union leaders has further incensed the men. The effort in a number of the states to reopen the mines with volunteers is more picturesque than practical. Such a procedure hardens the mistaken conviction among the miners that the fight now on is primarily intended to break the unions.

Volunteers can do little in the mines. Mining is difficult work and it requires experienced hands. The enthusiasm of college men and others who are new in the pits will not long survive the danger and darkness of gangways hundreds of feet below the surface of the ground.

It is apparent that the Fuel Administration still shrinks from the sort of control which, as we have suggested before in these columns, would probably have brought order and productivity in the soft-coal fields. Such control would have to be sweeping and authoritative from one end of the soft-coal region to the other. It would be a trying task for which Doctor Garfield has neither equipment nor organization at present. But it would have enabled the government to summon all the miners back to work, with a promise of fair treatment at the outset and such an investigation of all their claims as would insure an equitable adjustment of wage scales later on.

The government may yet be forced to adopt such a program. Doctor Garfield's proposal for lightless nights and the withdrawal of fuel and light and power from nonessential industries opens the way to a period of suffering without any apparent end. For a time it will be possible to live without the industries classified as nonessential. But what is to become of the millions of families that depend on these identical industries for their very existence?

And a Miss Might There would be no dullness in the neighborhood of City Hall when the letter-carrier was due if the suggestion were acted upon to fix a contrivance on William Penn's hat to catch falling mail bags. There would always be possibility that the aviator would score a miss.

No Plan for Lazy Men or Lazy Minds All the new Congress has to do is to deal effectively with the Reds, regulate food transportation, smash the profiteers, provide employment for the soldier, adjust the relations between capital and labor; and, when those chores are attended to, solve the railroad problem and ratify the peace treaty.

Some Congressmen run to seed and some suffer from acedia.

Burglars in this city are still showing lack of judgment by stealing furs instead of sugar.

We may naturally expect from Mr. McAdoo an endorsement of the plea of the soft-coal operators for a price hearing.

We judge from the report of the weather bureau that December is going to be cold enough to give snappiness to the coal strike.

Every industrial plant closed down as a result of the coal strike helps to crystallize public sentiment against the mines being permitted to remain idle.

MAYOR-ELECT MOORE'S LETTER

How Congressman Vare's Colleagues Tried to Make Him Pay the Money They Lost on Bets Made on His Tips on the Mayor-ally Primaries

Washington, Dec. 2. LIKE the stock market on Blue Monday, Congress opened sluggishly. There was a listlessness in both houses, and the galleries showed no evidence of undue excitement. The House members who were held in session to do very little during the summer, because the President practically commanded them to remain after his return from Europe, felt as if they had had no vacation at all, and plunged into the "unanimous consent calendar" to consider a few public land bills just as if school had not let out.

The absence of Senator Penrose was noted, particularly because of rumors relating to his physical condition. Truth is the senator from Pennsylvania has been overworked and must lay off for probably a month or more. This is the way the physicians talk about it.

Congressman Henry W. Watson, of the Bucks-Montgomery district, did not get a very long vacation. The interstate and foreign commerce committee, of which he is a member, was obliged to sit until the last hour before to consider the railroad bill. The Langiorne member has decided views on the railroad situation and does not think the bill as finally brought from the committee solves the problem. He talks of the \$20,000,000 investment as if there were some people throughout the land, including widows and orphans, who have some rights with respect to railroad management; but sees government ownership looming up as a possibility if conditions remain as they are.

HOW many people know that Editor Thomas J. Lindsey, once secretary of the collector of the port, came within an ace of being secretary to a mayor? Tom was younger in those days than he is now, but no more vivacious. Apart from his editorial work and his proximity to the "deanship" of the profession, Mr. Lindsey has been chosen for sleeping purposes. If it is a Fourth of July celebration or a union athletic association affair you will generally find the veteran newspaper man on the job.

CAPTAIN JOHN P. VIRDEN is happy, and when the captain is happy George F. Sproule, secretary of the commissioners of navigation, is happy, and when he is happy nearly everybody along the wharves is in the same frame of mind. Captain Virden's smile is due to the appointment of his nephew, Henry Virden Rice, to a cadetship at West Point. Young Rice is the son of William L. Rice, the banker, and Edith Virden Rice, daughter of the late Henry P. Virden. Virden is a good old Delaware name and rumblehob to the origin of the Blue Hen's Chickens. Captain John keeps up the traditions as president of the pilots' association for the bay and river Delaware, and he is expecting young Virden Rice to do the same thing at West Point.

THE Engineers' Club of Philadelphia has an interesting membership list. Included in it are men who have traveled over the world and who have done big work in Philadelphia and throughout the nation. Joseph A. Steinmetz, the president, was recently invited to submit a list of members of the club who might be eligible for high station under the new city administration, but Mr. Steinmetz takes the ground that the club really stands for a principle and that it would be dangerous to mention names. If Mr. Steinmetz were given the opportunity to pick "the prettiest girl" he probably could not be more adroit.

NATHAN T. FOLWELL, whose judgment as former president of the Manufacturers' Club is entitled to weight, protests against "the mutilation of Logan Square and the multiplied dangers to children and others who cross the square because they really have to cross two boulevards instead of one."

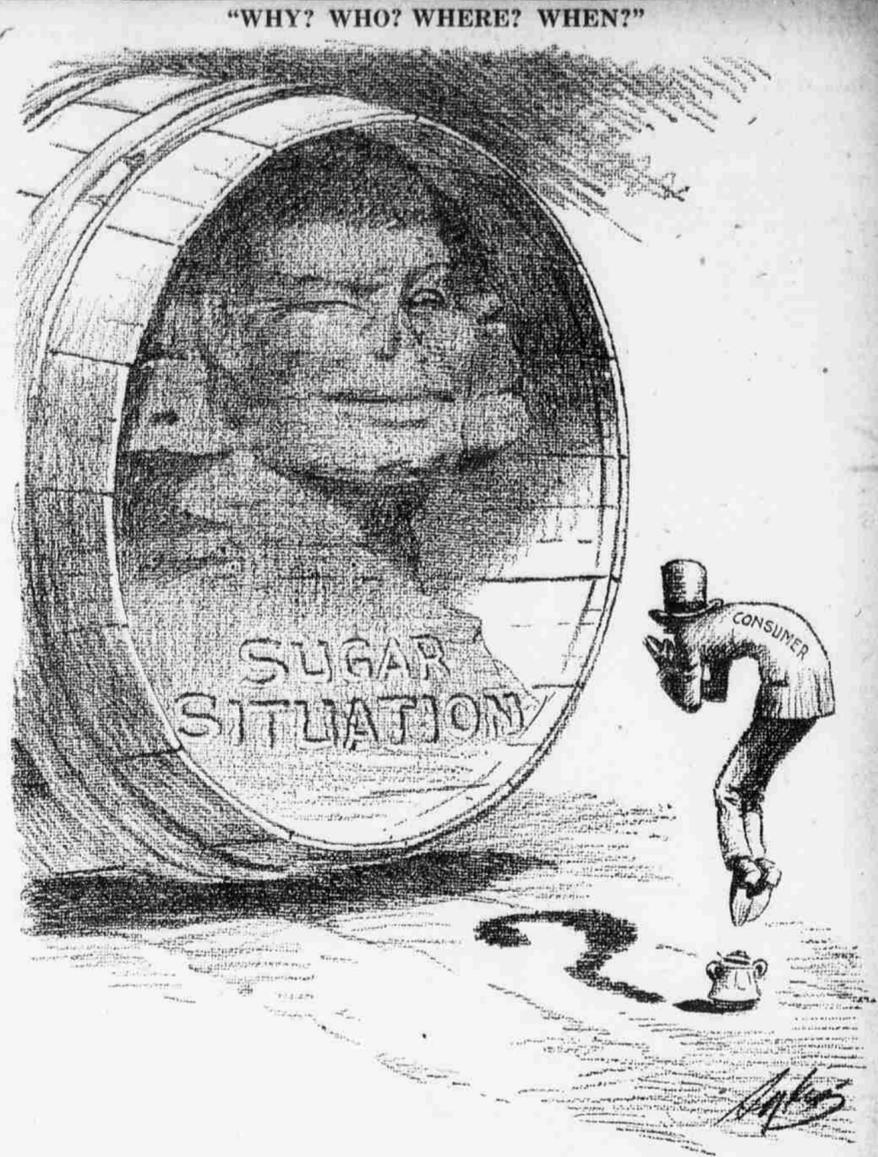
INEXORABLE TIME It is sorrowful to think that all the young girls who used to play ukuleles in the moonlight are now grown up and wrestling with the sugar shortage.

A VOICE FROM THE BACK BENCHES The only sort of strike I like is when on my hand set they strike. Then let the miners rave and rove! For I'll keep warm with my oil-stove. M. V. N. S.

Boy Howdy! Dear Sweeties—Just about this time of year the proper fixings for Chester county cider is a nice large bowl of old-time N. O. molasses gingerbread. In order to properly appreciate this delectable combination there should be a liberal helping of good pumpkin custard well seasoned and a dish of old-fashioned shellbark kernels. But boy, to appreciate it at the best, a nice fat roast rabbit stuffed with a liberal helping of Chester county sausage and bread crumbs toasted to a turn gives the proper tang to the delicious juice. Then your pipe and dream—"Oh wilderness were Paradise now!" But seriously, Soc, wasn't it Hennessy's XXX? DO DOOCIT, Oxford, Pa.

BANKER JOHN W. SPARKS is president of the New Jersey Society of Pennsylvania, and as such is accepting suggestions for the next dinner of the society, the ratification by New Jersey of the constitution of the United States. Mr. Sparks is an amiable president and like all his predecessors is of open mind on dinner details. The "open mind" in the New Jersey society generally gives play to some very brilliant suggestions from William J. Conlen, the secretary, whose range of vision is broadened by his constant visits to the boarders' suits and pilots from every shore. Whether New Jersey society will serve watermelon in December or produce any of the other Jersey truck farm specialties is a question—but such things have been done at former meetings of these Pennsylvanians of Jersey lineage.

SWEDEN must have had a change of heart. We haven't seen a dud outfit for quite a while.



THE CHAFFING DISH

Reminiscences of a Hard Guy With blankets like a clam. And found I'd joined the army. And made myself a bun. I simply rolled a cigarette. I didn't give a damn.

AND when I'd done my very best With caution and with horse. And found I had to listen To language that was coarse. Instead of wildly raving. It was the better plan To roll myself a cigarette. And not to give a damn!

SO, WHEN I went a-blinking With caution and with grin. And most devoutly hoping. When I should start to blink. When I should start to blink. I'd slide into the nearest hot. And try the same old plan. I'd roll myself a cigarette. And wouldn't give a damn. DE W. M. CALLEY.

Mexico killed two Americans last week. Conner killed forty-four, in Philadelphia alone. If we want to declare war on some one, let's tackle cancer first. It looks to us more dangerous.

It was William Wordsworth, we think, who said, "The poet writes under one restriction only, namely, the necessity of giving immediate pleasure." We doubt if any one ever had the hardihood to call Wordsworth "Bill," even his sister always addressed him respectfully as "William," but still he knew a good deal about poetry.

It is sorrowful to think that all the young girls who used to play ukuleles in the moonlight are now grown up and wrestling with the sugar shortage.

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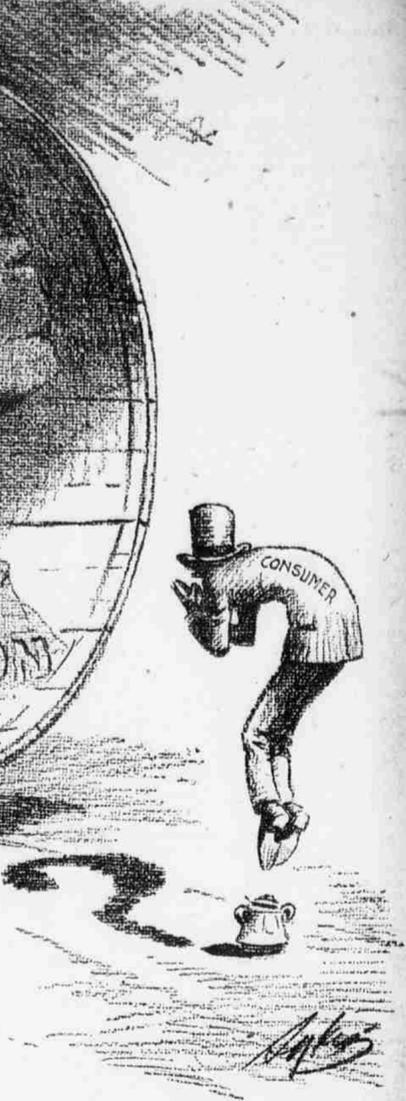
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Speaking of cider, the fellows who translated the King James version of the Bible had the right idea. In the course of their "diligently comparing and revising" they found that the Latin vulgate said (Judges xii, 7) "Drink no wine nor cider." These judicious men promptly canceled the word cider and substituted "strong drink."

We are glad to inform our client, W. F. Mead, of Allentown, that Mr. Fletcher Du Bois has been kind enough to send us the text of "Ezra's Junction," the poem Mr. Mead asked about. We will reprint it some day when business is dull.

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"WHY? WHO? WHERE? WHEN?"



If I Had Loved You More

If I had loved you more God would have had pity. He would never have left me here in this desolate place; Let me to go on my knees to the door of Heaven. Crying in vain for a little sight of your face.

How could I know that the earth would be dark without you? For you were always the lover and I the friend. Now if there were any hope that I might find you. I would go seeking you to the world's end.

"God is a jealous God! You have loved too wildly. You have loved too well," one said. I bowed my head. But my heart in scorn was crying. That you whom I had not loved enough are dead.

I look on my heart and see it is hard and narrow. That its leaves are slight and last but a little space. But why do I go on my knees to the door of Heaven. Crying in vain for a little sight of your face? —Hrigid Murray, in the Bookman.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ 1. What eminent expert on food has declared it possible to live in the United States on eleven cents a day? 2. What were the two kingdoms of the Jews in Bible times? 3. Who is the new assistant secretary of the treasury? 4. Where is Kerguelen Land? 5. How long after the opening of the American Revolution was the independence of the states declared? 6. How often is there a reapportionment of congressmen in the House of Representatives? 7. Who wrote "Bug-Jargal"? 8. What is a spitnaker? 9. What is the origin of the word cannibal? 10. What is caoutchouc?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. There will be a tie of Democrats and Republicans in the Senate if Truman H. Newberry is excluded and a Democrat replaces him. In that case the Vice President will have the deciding vote. 2. Penitentiaries are the innermost shrines or recesses. 3. Two books by Maria Edgeworth are "Castle Rackrent" and "Belinda." 4. Tasmania is the smallest state of the Australian commonwealth. 5. Polyandry; plurality of husbands. 6. Water hemlock, poison ivy and white hellebore are poisonous plants. 7. United Italy, since the acquisition of Rome in 1870, has had three kings. 8. They were Vittorio Emanuele II, Umberto and Vittorio Emanuele III. 9. Lady Astor represents a Plymouth division in Parliament. 10. The Federalists and the Whigs elected, respectively, two American Presidents. Washington and John Adams belonged to the former party and William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor to the latter.