

Evening Public Ledger

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THE WATER SUPPLY
IF DOCTOR FURBUSH knew as much about municipal finance as he knows about sanitation he would have hesitated before putting the existing water system in the list of utilities that cry out to be abolished and replaced by better things.

TO say that dependence on Schuylkill water is unwise will not do any good. With vast outlays of money water might be brought from the Pocono regions through vintages such as now serve New York city. But there is the money to come from? The city is now deep in a financial morass, where it was permitted to drift during the reckless and lazy years that have passed. Until we are on solid ground again there is nothing to do but improve the present water system and increase the efficiency of the filter plants built to purify river water and render it generally wholesome.

Normally the filtration system operates successfully to this end. Water isn't as plentiful as it might be in Philadelphia. But ordinarily it is as free from impurities as the water which other cities obtain from mountain sources. A prolonged period of cold weather is responsible for the present condition of the water, which, according to chemists, is not unwholesome though it is unpalatable. A closer application of the state laws in regard to memory serves, by the late Dr. Samuel G. Dixon to protect all streams from pollution is a necessary proceeding. On the rivers we shall have to demand that money will have to be provided as soon as the city is able to afford it.

MORE ABOUT THE BRIDGE

EVERYBODY will devoutly hope that the architects connected with the Delaware bridge and the engineers for whom Mr. Quimby speaks will not emulate the example of Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and refuse to agree until one or the other group can be annihilated.

It may be said that Mr. Quimby, in demanding prior rights for engineers, is crossing his bridge before he comes to it. But it is not too early to recognize the need for a structure that, while serving practical needs, should not hurt eyes that look at it.

Architects and engineers have related functions. But who will be able to reconcile them if they begin to quarrel now?

RUSSIA'S EIGHT MILLION

THOSE alleged preparations for a Bolshevik high jump over the Himalayas and Hindu Kush, which so excited London a few weeks ago, seem to have been imperfectly advanced. However, this is only natural, since, according to a more recent report, that soviet government is now engaged in raising an army of 8,000,000 men, which General Brusiloff has been ordered to command.

Naturally some little time is required for marshaling these hordes, even in Communist Russia. Perhaps we shall have to wait a couple of weeks for the invasion of Panjab, of Mesopotamia, Persia and Poland.

Meanwhile there is opportunity to wonder whether winter, silly season, formerly slated for midsummer, has slipped around on the calendar. Such speculation might serve to explain several things. The repute of Russian humor, however, is not high and the run of the jokes which have crept into the incessant Bolshevik propaganda is probably the only thing about it which is unintentional.

In the present instance laughter is not likely to have been sought by the rumor mongers. That is a reason why it is wholesome to indulge ourselves.

HIGH PRICES AND BIRTH RATE

THE number of births in the state of New York last year was 36,000 below the normal, according to the state commissioner of health. He assigns the war and the high cost of living as the causes of this decrease. The birth rate for the first eight months of the year was 16 per cent lower than the average for the preceding five years.

These are disturbing figures. But they are nowhere near so disturbing as the vital statistics of France for recent years. The records for 1918, the year before the war, show that there were 604,000 births and 587,000 deaths in the whole country. In 1914 the births fell to 592,000 and the deaths rose to 647,000, without counting the lives lost in battle. The deaths from ordinary causes have remained around 640,000 annually for the succeeding years, but the births have fallen to 587,000 in 1915, 515,000 in 1916 and 345,000 in 1917, the latest year for which the figures are available on this side of the ocean.

This is worthy. It cuts the birth rate in half. One reason for this is the forced separation of parents. Another and compelling reason is the depreciation in value of money which has made it impossible for many to support a family.

cause in France. The cheap dollar is doubtless the principal cause for the falling birth rate of New York. It is likely that when the vital statistics of the other states are published they will show a similar decline due to similar causes.

Normal conditions will ultimately be restored both here and in France. They will be hastened if the purchasing power of the dollar can be restored to its pre-war state or if the pay of the salaried man can be increased so that he can buy with it as much as he bought in 1914.

AMERICA, SUCCESSOR OF ANCIENT BABYLON

This Country is Now the Commercial Center of the World, and a Piffing Senate Cannot Stop the Operation of Elemental Forces

THERE is a broader significance in Secretary Lansing's report to the Senate that the United States has achieved the economic position that Germany sought to win by war than is indicated by his recommendation that the bureau in Washington dealing with international trade be consolidated.

If we can understand how and why the United States has reached its present "position of economic preponderance," to use the phrase of the secretary of state, we may be able to shape our course in the present and the future with a closer regard to the great forces at work in the world than has lately been shown in Washington.

Mr. Lansing says that we are where we are because of the war. This is true in a narrow and restricted sense. But the war was really only an incident in the outworking of forces which were destroying the stability of the commercial equilibrium of nations.

At the close of the Spanish-American War Brooks Adams, a grandson of John Quincy Adams, called attention to the existing unstable equilibrium which threatened the supremacy of London as the world's commercial capital, and he prophesied that Great Britain would in the near future be compelled to take second place to either Germany or the United States. Unknown contingencies would decide whether it was to be Germany or the United States. The prophecy of Mr. Adams has been fulfilled before our eyes and the unforeseen contingency of the war instigated by Germany has turned the scale in favor of America.

Any one familiar with the history of the last two or three thousand years will recognize, as soon as his attention is directed to it, why America occupies its present position of economic supremacy. Before the development of the resources of this country the commercial capital of the world was where the trade of the East met the trade of the West.

It was because ancient Babylon was this meeting place that the Babylonian empire rose and flourished. The rise of the power of Rome threatened and finally overthrew the Babylonian commercial power. When Rome declined Constantinople flourished—and the East and the West met on the shores of the Bosphorus and the city was the center of the world's exchanges. Then the great commercial genius of the Venetian republic began to seek trade. For one reason or another the power of Constantinople waned and Venice succeeded the city on the Bosphorus as the point of exchange for the products of the Orient and the Occident.

Venice was succeeded by Antwerp through the enterprise of the Dutch navigators and because of the political and moral deterioration of the Venetians. The Napoleonic war destroyed the trade of Antwerp, which was diverted to British ports, and by 1810 London became the heir of the commercial traditions of Babylon, Rome, Constantinople, Venice and Antwerp, and for ninety years or thereabouts occupied a position of undoubted supremacy, buttressed by a monopoly of the trade of India, over which she exercised political control.

But events over which Great Britain had no control had been happening in these ninety years.

The United States had developed from a small agricultural nation into a great manufacturing people producing more pig iron—a trade barometer—than any other nation.

Germany after its consolidation in 1870 had devoted itself to commerce and to manufactures. Her production of pig iron increased by leaps and bounds. She was sending her products to every country of the globe. She had developed the port of Hamburg from an insignificant inland city many miles from the sea, on a shallow river, into one of the greatest shipping centers of the world, with cargoes from all climes were unloaded and transhipped to their ultimate destination.

As every shifting of the trade center in the past had been accompanied by great world cataclysms, the elements were arranged at the beginning of the present century for a new cataclysm. It did not come for fourteen years, but it was inevitable. Its inescapability does not acquit Germany of her crimes. It makes Germany guilty of the high crime of deliberately plotting to wrest from their natural course the forces at work and to compel them to do her bidding.

Germany lost the war and lost that position of economic supremacy for which she had been working. In her commercial collapse she has carried with her the rest of the nations of Europe. The United States remains the one great power with its resources unimpaired and in a position to hold the center of the commercial stage for many years. She stands between the East and the West in a position of great strategic strength.

The Senate, however, is blundering along on the theory that the United States can continue to occupy the center of the stage without coming in contact with any of the other parties to the play. It is a blunder so stupendous that its magnitude cannot be estimated at the present time.

All we know is that this country is a creature of the same forces that have been at work during all the centuries since Babylon gave way to Rome as the world's commercial center. We cannot escape from them. Whether we ratify the treaty unchanged, or revise it or reject it, we shall be rocked on the current of world affairs across both the oceans. Piffing quibbles about the right of Congress under a treaty to say when the armies are to be used are mere waste

of breath. Events beyond the control of Congress will dictate in this matter when the crisis comes. All that the Senate is doing nowadays is to hide its head in the sand lest it see what is impending.

Every lesson of history teaches that the present commercial equilibrium, with the United States holding the balance, is not permanent. How our own expansion in a hundred years has disturbed the old conditions should lead all men who think in decades instead of in seconds to consider the other undeveloped regions of the earth and their possibilities.

No man can tell what the state of China will be in fifty years. It is a country of vast population and undeveloped resources, and its people have only just begun to awaken from the millenniums of sleep and look about them. What 400,000,000 Chinese using modern industrial methods can do no man can foretell. Russia is still in its industrial infancy, and the Germans who were plotting to act as its tutors in the school of trade have not given up their purpose. It is conceivable that Russia and China may in a century shift the commercial capital to Peking. But both Africa and South America must be considered—continents neither of which has been more than scratched on the surface—as possible counterbalances against a swing to China.

The development of all these regions is as certain as fate. That they will affect this country for good or ill must be evident to every one who does not close his eyes to the obvious.

The duty of civilized men today is to consider these great potentialities and to confer with one another to devise some scheme which will permit readjustments as they become necessary, without resort to such an intolerable thing as war. The task is not easy, but its difficulties should not deter us from undertaking it. The surest way to bring about the disasters which the obstructing senators profess to fear is to turn their backs on the truth and saunter blindly into the abyss.

COMPERS ON BOLSHEVISM

ONE of the bitterest paragraphs in the arraignment of Bolshevist theory which Mr. Gompers has just published in Federation of Labor journals is flung at high-browed radical editors—those opinionated brahmins of class journalism who are disposed to see something reasonable in the Leninian philosophy.

The head of American trades unionism is not without justification in his assumption that they are capable of a good deal of harm. Not every one can digest the high-flavored economic theories which they expound. But there are a great many earnest and light-minded folk who like any theory for its sound alone. In what might be called the modern liberal movement they are the matinee crowd. For them the deft writing of the more pretentious ultra-radicals has a definite appeal. It is like music or hypnotism.

Mr. Gompers sees deeper into the whole matter. Unlike the matinee Bolsheviks, he does not approach it as one conscious of an inherited immunity from labor and labor's actual troubles. He is able to understand the meaning of the one great fact that stares out of bolshevized Russia and to read its implications more intelligently than any amateur dabbler in "liberal" doctrines.

This is the fact of compulsory labor. Emory Goldman and her followers were confronted by it when they first set foot in soviet territory. It is a new thing under the sun. In Russia "working units" under state control are common. The dictators ignore all individual rights and they have only hatred and contempt for the claim to freedom of action expressed in labor unions.

It is not strange that this astonishing reversal from civilized standards should enrage the federation leader. No imperious-minded capitalist ever thought of such a thing. Vast masses of men and women, denied the right of initiative, organized like the bees in working detachments at jobs selected for them by a system of government that also fixes their rate of pay at a figure suggested by the needs of the governors, didn't figure in the wildest dreams of the German autocracy. Such, however, are the foundations of bolshevism.

The spectacle doesn't trouble the newer "intellectual liberals," who, preaching to the proletariat, are still inherently well fed and true to their aristocratic tendencies. It does offend a man who has been a worker and the friend of workers.

We Don't Agree With 'em, But— The Socialist party demands of its candidates for political office that they signify their willingness to respond to a recall when their term of office expires. This is unusual, but not necessarily culpable. The disposition among some New York politicians to see something criminal in the practice awakens the thought in the minds of the ultra-charitable that hatred for lawlessness sometimes gives patriotism huddled eyes.

Figuratively Speaking— Howard E. Figg, who is conducting the government's inquiry into the high cost of clothing, will probably illustrate his reports. As thus: Figg—Cost-tails flying as wearer chases the fifty-cent dollar. Figg 2—Pants pecky. Empty.

The unanimity with which German newspapers endorse the action of Holland in refusing to give up the ex-laiser gives the lie to the frequently made assertion that the German people were the unwilling victims of a tyrannical military system.

There is nothing essentially revolutionary in the advocacy by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler of a commission on industrial relations to "represent the public alone." That is precisely what our courts represent; and the thing represented necessarily embraces all litigants, all parties to a dispute.

Influenza has procured a stay of proceedings in New York election cases. The profiteering landlord who said "Watch my smoke!" saw it go up the "chimney."

If you are conducting experiments in the field of psychic research, do so with grave purpose," says Sir Oliver Lodge. Yes, with beyond-the-grave purpose.

Where Sympathy doesn't prompt assistance in stricken Europe, Expediency presents educational moving pictures.

Beet sugar has temporarily put an end to the necessity for walking the sugar beat from store to store.

HOW A GAG KILLED A PARTY

The Alien and Sedition Laws Dealt to the Federalists, Who Made the Nation, a Blow From Which They Never Recovered

WHEN an American political party "goes west" it is permanently defunct. No transcendentalist, no scientific, has succeeded in establishing any communication with the Federalists as a faction, with the "Know Nothings," the Populists or the Whigs.

The physicist maintains that nothing is ever really destroyed. Yet parties are. Neither their nor the subtlest argon preserves them after the passing. As a rule the disintegration is slow. The issues grow atrophied. The funeral is obscure, unnoticed. Once, however, in the annals of this republic a great political party went out with a bang, in a tempest of sermony and in an uproar which affected the whole course of American history.

The Federalist faction, forever illustrious for having rescued the nation from chaos, strode to its fate with blind deliberation. Four laws, akin in spirit, slew this political body as surely as its tomb. The lessons of this legislation are still suggestive.

AS SO often happens, the blunder was made when the party responsible had reached a pinnacle of power and prosperity. The Federalists were unused to such general favor. It had been denied them during Washington's second administration, when the Anglophobes and the Gallophobes were on lively fighting terms.

But in 1798 the revolutionists in control of France frivolously and insolently jeopardized the old claims of friendship. President John Adams revealed the French insults to his commissioners, Marshall and Pickens, and made public in the N. Y. Z. correspondence, with its damning disclosure of the efforts to bribe the American representatives. The French Government had demanded that the President's message to Congress be modified, and had called for a bribe of \$20,000 and the negotiation by the United States of a loan in favor of the Directory.

American indignation was aroused to the boiling point. The country prepared vigorously for war, the navy and army were reorganized. For perhaps the only time in his life John Adams became widely popular. His position was still further entrenched by the exploits of the new frigate Constitution, which humbled a French man-of-war in the West Indies.

WITHIN a few months the political complexion of the country underwent a startling change. The Federalist party fully abused its power by the passage of repressive laws at variance with the spirit of the constitution and stupidly ineffective of the prevailing temper of the times.

Of notoriety memory, indeed, are the alien and sedition acts enacted by the Adams administration in the summer of 1798. The two least offensive of the four concerned the state and the treatment of foreigners. Provision was made for the disposition of aliens with whose government the United States might happen to be at war, and the qualification for naturalization was made fourteen instead of three years' residence.

Much more high-handed was the act authorizing the President to remove from the country aliens judged to be dangerous, without a reason or without a trial. The unconstitutionality of this law scarcely admitted of any doubt. Its operation was fixed at two years, during which time Adams never made any use of it. Although he had signed the law, he was not a customer. James, absorbed in his struggle from exercising this questionable authority.

But the sedition act was not moribund. By its provisions the publication of any false, scandalous or malicious writings against the government, Congress or the President, with intent to defame or to excite the hatred of the people against them, became a crime. In a word, the law comprehended the suppression of free speech and was in direct violation of the first amendment to the constitution. It was aimed directly at the Democratic-Republican newspaper editors. Yet the Federalists were also intemperate of speech and pen and the word "intemperate" was capable of the most drastic construction. The life of the law was nearly three years.

RESISTANCE to the gag was immediate. One of the first victims of the law was Matthew Lyon, a rabid Democratic-Republican member of Congress from Vermont. He fought with fists as well as quill, and on one occasion he had a rough-and-tumble fight on the floor of the House with the Federalist, Griswold.

Shortly after the sedition bill became a law Lyon in a Vermont newspaper violently criticized the government for "its ridiculous, pomp, foolish adulation and selfish avarice." He was fined \$1000 and sentenced to four months' imprisonment. A petition for his pardon was presented, but Adams refused to yield. While still in prison he was elected to Congress.

Another victim of the law was sent to jail for stating that Adams was "hardly in the infancy of political mistake." Hamilton was accused of buying a Democratic-Republican journal in order to proselytize for the Federalists.

"Offenses" of this sort were very different from the common and reasonable acts of comp. foolish adulation and selfish avarice." He was fined \$1000 and sentenced to four months' imprisonment. A petition for his pardon was presented, but Adams refused to yield. While still in prison he was elected to Congress.

The reaction was terrific. Jefferson heatedly drafted the famous Kentucky resolutions and Madison those of the Virginia Legislature. These pronouncements strikingly exemplify the evil of reckless auto-censorship. They enunciated vicious state rights sentiments, expressed sentiments concerning the constitution in the language almost of contempt, and for more than half a century were used as arguments on behalf of the principle of secession. Jefferson had followed up Adams's grievous error with one of his own.

The damage wrought by the resolutions, however, was reserved for the future. The blow to the Federalist party was instant. Adams failed of re-election. His party was irretrievably ruined. There were, of course, other causes for the downfall, but had the alien and sedition laws not been passed the Federalists might have survived their other mistakes. The Democratic-Republicans or the Democrats, as they were afterward called, controlled the United States through ten consecutive administrations.

POLITICAL poison undoubtedly lurks in laws which curtail free speech. The Federalist party swallowed its own corrosive concoction and committed suicide. Many noble principles of that body are current to day, but as an organization even its ghost vanished early in the nineteenth century.

If a wraith was left it was mute—perhaps, appropriately enough, gagged.

Curiously enough, remarked the dry humorist in the inventories of liquor stocks in the city being taken by internal revenue and prohibition agents consist of dry figures that make the mouth water.

SIC HIM, SAM!



THE CHAFFING DISH

Rittenhouse Square

QUADRANGLE clipped and cleanly swept and sleek. Garnished with nursemaids and with little And dainty girls, unspotted as to brook Or pinafore, expensive as to toys—

Along those graveled walks with well-bred eye And quadruped gait in timed accord, Parade the couples favored of the Lord And flavor May-time with gentility.

Bacchanlic with the rising sap of spring, Full often Irish Moll and Swedish Jimmy List to Antonio's tunes, and while they sing— Adorn the sacred greensward shake a shimmy.

O sanctitude of haughty Persian cats, And J. A. P. B. Tweedie in gray spats! ALEC B. STEVENSON.

Social Chat

A serious misadventure was narrowly averted at a local second-hand bookstore recently. Jim Shields, our particular bibliophile, was mistaken for a copy of "Sense and Sensibility," and was bought and paid for by a customer. James, absorbed in looking up some matters for the Dish, did not realize that was happening until they started to wrap him up.

Marathon is inconceivable, for Bill Stites, the well-proportioned commuter on the Cinder and Bloodshot, is going to leave. Bill has acquired what is known as a piece of property, down Riverway way, and the rabbit bounds, the foxtrot piece, and whatever it is that Bill keeps locked up in the cupboard under the cellar stairs, are all going down there with him.

We have the above on the authority of Hank Harris, upon whom and Fred Myers falls the burden of acting as nucleus of the new social order in Marathon. Hank has dark penetrating eyes as a manner of much charm; he would be useful as a social nucleus anywhere.

Edgar A. Guest, the copyright, 1920, poet, has just remarked for the 50th time that this is a glorious world and honest toil is sweet indeed.

The Bad Old Days

Herbert Swire, a kindly member of the Contributionship for the Insurance of the Chaffing Dish From Lack of Material, has sent us a pamphlet in which we learn that 200 years ago a fine of twelve pence was imposed on any one who smoked tobacco in the streets of Philadelphia, either by day or night. This was not a moral measure, however, but a precaution against fire.

Our dangerous rival, the Atlantic Monthly, has announced the forthcoming publication of the journal of a seven-year-old girl. The Atlantic says "the diary has nothing in it of precocious smartness." This, we take it, is a rebuke for that worldly wise infant Daisy Ashford.

We are going to take great pains to see that the Urchin compiles a full diary of his heart and mind as soon as he gets to intellectual maturity, which seems to be about seven years nowadays. If the public appetite for juvenile literature continues we may be able to retire on the Urchin's royalties a few years hence.

Strickland Gillilan, the well-known wag and author of "Of Agin, On Agin, Gone Agin, Finian," was in town yesterday. One of our secret agents, passing near Kelly street and hearing loud screams of laughter, hurried in and found Mr. Gillilan telling what are technically known as "good ones" to Judge Patterson, T. A. Daly and A. Edward Newton. Our representative repeated a number of these stories to us, and we regret to report that we found only one of them available for this department.

One of the ouija-board votaries, said Mr. Gillilan, once took his planchette to James Whitcomb Riley and asked him if there was any spirit he would like to get in communication with.

A LULLABY

(From a Play)

NOW silent falls the clacking mill; Sweet-sweeter smells the briar; The dew wells big on bud and twig; Then sing lully, lullay, with me; And softly, lull-lull-lo, love; 'Tis high time, and wild thyme, And no time, no, love.

The western sky has veiled her rose, The night wind to the yellow Sigheth, "Now, lovely, lean thy head, Thy tresses be my pillow"; Then sing lully, lullay, with me; And softly, lull-lull-lo, love; 'Tis high time, and wild thyme, And no time, no, love.

Cries in the brake; bells in the sea; The moon o'er moor and mountain Cruddles her light from height to height, Bedazzles pool and fountain, Leap fox; hoot owl; wail warbler sweet; 'Tis midnight now a-brewing; The Fairy Mab are all abroad, And Witches at their wooing. Then sing lully, lullay, with me; And softly, lull-lull-lo, love; 'Tis high time, and wild thyme, And no time, no, love. —Walter de la Mare, in the Anglo-French Review.

Price regulation is probably as hard to achieve as tongue regulation; and local economists realize the lingual difficulties.

If Lodge and Hitchcock could but develop amnesia in so far as politics is concerned it might help some.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. Who was Odin?
2. How many Presidents of the United States were elected by the House of Representatives?
3. When did Cicero live?
4. Of what state is Jefferson City the capital?
5. What was the first daily paper in America?
6. Name an American treaty of peace which was signed before the final battle was fought.
7. What is a hobnob?
8. What is the meaning of the word eel?
9. What is "L. S. Deism"?
10. What animals belong to the phocidae family?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. Hugh S. Cummings is surgeon general of the United States.
2. A recusant is a person refusing submission to authority or compliance with regulations.
3. William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was called "The Great Commoner," and his name was also applied to W. E. Gladstone and to Henry Clay.
4. Twenty-nine states have ratified the suffrage amendment.
5. "Float 'em and scout 'em; and scout 'em and scout 'em; thought is free," is from Shakespeare's comedy, "The Tempest."
6. When Andrew Jackson was born in Waxhaw in 1767 the boundary line between North and South Carolina was not fully determined. Investigation and subsequent demarcation of the frontiers established the fact that the future President was born in North Carolina, but throughout his life he insisted that he was a South Carolinian.
7. Iberia is Spain; the country of the Rhine, Iberus, or Ebro.
8. The French Marshal Casimir, commenting on the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in the Crimean War, declared "It is magnificent, but it's not war."
9. The Magna Charta was granted by King John of England in 1215.
10. Outriders are natives of Africa and parts of south-western Asia.

This Is Regrettable

Socrates, soaking icebergs in his beaker Of coffee, must render its potency weaker. The temperature he must attain this is seen By turning your Bible to Rev. III, 16.

One of the things that worries the world of spirits (so a reticent and bashful ghost whispers to us) is, suppose? George Crow should sigh for new worlds to conquer and should undertake to compel all the inhabitants of the Beyond to take courses in Memory, Concentration and Mental Purposefulness.

The reason why we have not written the promised essay On Keeping Children Covered at Night is that we have not yet solved the problem. In spite of long and patient researches, we have nothing constructively helpful to suggest. Only the observation that girls are worse than boys.

Dunraven Bleak, the world's greatest de-cleaning contractor, who submitted tenders for the final purging of our auditor, says that he has filed a petition in bankruptcy.

SOURBATES.