

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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Published daily except Sundays, holidays and days when the circulation is less than 100. Office: 1207 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

same weight and that the center of population is the point about which American continental territory, conceived as a plane, balances perfectly.

In 1790 this gravity mark was fixed in Maryland twenty-three miles east of Baltimore. Progression westward was steady, at the rate of about five miles a year, until a spot near Bloomington, Ind., was attained in 1910. An eastward swing is now said to be discernible, for the first time in our records.

Whether this is the result of the war industries on the Atlantic seaboard, or of any check in western development, due to immigration conditions or to other consequences of the general conflict, is yet to be explained.

In any event the Census Bureau has a novelty to exploit and a mild sensation to examine, even if the public does remain comparatively calm.

MR. GOMPERS IN POLITICS IS A BIT TOO EXCLUSIVE

Should Modern Statesmen Worry About All Workers or Only About a Few of Them?

IT IS doubtful whether Mr. Gompers really believes in his heart that men elected to high offices solely because of a pledged devotion to trade-union principles and causes would be able to render the best possible service either to the country or to those who work for a living. Yet today's call from Washington for a concerted labor movement in national politics seems to have been written to dismay all candidates who are not "true and tried friends of organized labor."

What, precisely, are organized labor interests? How shall they be defined? Who actually knows—does Mr. Gompers actually know—how they may be best conserved in these mercurial times? Are organized labor's causes different from the causes to which Mr. Wilson and Mr. Taft, Mr. Hoover or the militant Senator H. Johnson give their energies in their various ways? Are they, in a word, different from the causes of the mass of toiling humanity?

Certainly the chief of the federation and his colleagues would not pretend that they are. Mr. Gompers and his advisers, if they were confronted by the necessity of choice between any able progressive of the hour and a man who only claims to recognize lay in his union affiliations, would find it extremely difficult to square their own best beliefs with the terms of their call for a trades union "block" in American politics.

It is fairer to the federation leader to suppose that he is playing his own inevitable game of politics with his supporters and doing a good service to the public meanwhile. His summons to the unions will bear analysis and invite approval only when it is viewed as wholesome political criticism in a realistic form. It ought to have a stimulating effect in quarters where mental and spiritual stimulants are greatly to be desired. It may go far, for the time at least, to make bulk less fashionable among seekers after conspicuous offices.

A more alert political intelligence among all people who work is sorely needed in the United States. A better general habit of political thinking is all that is needed to settle two-thirds of our troubles. If anybody can work toward such ends he ought to be applauded and encouraged. And only a very stupid politician will fail to recognize the very real trend of feeling that lies below the appeal to the unions and the recent movement intended to mobilize the sentiment of workers in this state in a new and exclusive voting organization.

Such groping about for a new means of expression was inevitable not only in trade unions but in the vast majority of people who work—which means the largest part of the population. It is due to many causes. And it is one of the results of the blunders, the ignorance, the laziness and the flagrant hypocrisy of those routine politicians whose failure to deal constructively or rationally with the complications left by the war has been almost as depressing as the war itself.

Even Mr. Gompers appears to realize that the complications of the hour are too general and too difficult to be settled by any one party or through any new code. He, too, is temporarily floundering.

The cry for union partisanship in office is an easy way around an obstacle. Yet it may prove to be unfortunate.

Voters are asked to believe that union leaders in Washington and elsewhere have a monopoly of the social virtues. They will not believe this, though in fairness to the men who wrote the appeal to the unions it may be assumed that they hoped to help all workers by helping themselves. They risked the announcement of a policy that may drive other powerful voting units to defensive action against them.

The text of their program seems like a wide departure from sound logic and sound political doctrine.

To appeal for labor is right and just, since to do so is to appeal in the interests of nine-tenths of the population of the country.

The appeal in the name of a small and exclusive part of the working majority which has new and untried doctrines which it desires to force into effect is a different matter altogether.

Yet the question of sincerity cannot be raised against those who now captain the labor unions. The question that may rise to trouble them is one of political wisdom. It is not necessary to go far backward in history to prove that they are not always wise in their choice of men.

Mr. Gompers and his group approved Mr. Foster—and for that reason they may properly be charged with responsibility for the loss of the steel strike. If Mr. Foster was misunderstood and lied about it was his own fault. In the final analysis he proved to be a young man who had vibrated like a straw in the wind between various radical political beliefs and who, after infinite travail and experience, was unable to make up his own mind about anything of importance. The steel strike was lost primarily because of Mr. Foster's leadership, which happened to be erratic and emotionless.

The coal strike was lost by leaders who insisted on striking the miners into violent conflict with the government at a time when the government was properly determined to protect the nation against methods of aggression tolerable only in warfare.

Public sympathy was lost to the unions when they tried to freeze and starve the

country. What justice was in their cause was forgotten in the shadow of the menace which they created. The error was not due to the men. It was due to their leaders.

The interests of working humanity are identical with the interests of the country. To assume that a man can benefit by laws and rules that impoverish his boss is to cherish an infantile delusion.

The fitness of a man for important work in politics is to be judged not by the narrowness of his interests but by the scope of his knowledge; not by the limitations of his vision but by its breadth.

If all the money in the country were suddenly divided evenly it would provide a hardly discernible addition to weekly wages.

Prosperity is not a question of special legislation. It is a question of production and national efficiency.

Justice similarly cannot be expected to come with laws enacted for the benefit of special sections of the population. It is attainable only through the more intelligent general exercise of the voting privilege.

The question now is whether leaders of the Federation of Labor, or the farmers whose support they seek, are foolish enough to think differently and whether the unions actually would, if they could, repeat in Congress the disastrous mistakes made by the spokesmen who have been misrepresenting them in recent strikes.

THE GERMAN INDEMNITY

OUTSIDE the Senate, whose particular interest in the peace treaty is centered in the League of Nations, criticism of the alleged harshness of the indemnity provisions.

Frank A. Vanderlip, a recognized authority on American finance, both in theory and practice, told a Philadelphia audience that Germany simply could not pay the sum demanded from her by the Allies. His reasoning, echoed in several quarters here and in England, has the appearance of soundness until that neglected document, the treaty itself, is reopened and reread.

The text does, indeed, specify the sum of the equivalent of 20,000,000,000 gold marks to be fixed by the reparation commission this year. The commission is also empowered to compel the issuance forthwith by Germany of 40,000,000,000 marks' worth of gold-bearing bonds. Beyond the 60,000,000,000 marks, equal on the par value basis to about \$14,000,000,000, payment by Germany for the havoc she wrought is to be arranged for by the commission.

It is particularly set forth that this international body shall be "guided by justice, equity and good faith" and that no further German bond issues can be made until the commission is "satisfied" that Germany can meet the interest and sinking fund obligations.

"Questions of determining the amount and conditions of bonds," declares the treaty, "or other obligations to be issued by the German Government and of fixing the time and manner for selling, negotiating and distributing such bonds," shall be the result of unanimous vote by the reparation commission. The same procedure applies to the question of postponing the payment of instalments beyond certain dates. In other words the huge indemnity which has been so much criticized is not yet a fixed sum. The commission, moreover, has a wide latitude in making its rulings. It "shall give to the German Government a just opportunity to be heard."

It is not therefore so much "revision" of the peace treaty as sane decisions on the part of the reparation commission which is necessary to prevent international financial justification. The many subjects requiring unanimity by the commissioners makes it imperative that the United States should be speedily represented in the vastly important machinery. Is it a square deal to predicate injustice or insanity by one reparation body? Is it indeed as fair as to condemn the peace treaty for provisions which it does not contain and to ignore its plain provisions?

David Hunter Miller, legal adviser of the American peace commission, recently exposed in the New York Evening Post some of the contagious misconceptions of the financial causes of the treaty of Versailles. His clarity of reasoning although welcome is no wise abnormal. Similar sound conclusions can be reached by any ordinary individual who will take the trouble to examine the pact signed by Germany last June. Chronic public ignorance of the treaty is by far its worst foe.

MILLIONAIRE AND MAMMOTH

Albert E. Turner Talks of a Bright Young Man—Why Major Starr Fired a Press Agent for Failing to Grasp an Idea

By GEORGE NOX MCINAIN

ALBERT E. TURNER'S reminiscences are always interesting and inspiring. One which he recalled and toward a confirmation of the adage that "What a man desireth that shall he receive."

He cited the case of a young man, whose name for obvious reasons is withheld, for he is today very prominent in financial circles in New York, who left a country village in the Middle West ten years ago with definite purpose of making a million in the metropolis.

His only experience had been a clerkship in a country bank.

For months after reaching New York he spent his spare time gathering all the available information about the whims, hobbies, ambitions, domestic and social relations and life history of great men in the world of finance, with whom, some day, he intended to establish a connection. One instance will serve.

Naturally, the newcomer came acquainted with himself to pleasant but formal greetings each Sunday.

A few months later he made it a point to call at the office of the gentleman in question to institute a casual inquiry upon a matter not connected with finance or religion. That visit broke the ice.

A year or so subsequently, for he determined to proceed with care and circumspection, after he had made progress along similar lines with other capitalists and when he had a solid financial proposition with convincing facts and figures, he appealed to the great investor.

He was recorded a courteous hearing, his idea caught on, and out of that grew other transactions which carried the shrewd and far-seeing young westerner far along toward the goal of his ambition.

MAJOR GEORGE O. STARR

MAJOR GEORGE O. STARR, who was for years the confidential representative and personal friend of P. T. Barnum.

Major Starr died since the beginning of the world war. In accordance with his desire, expressed in his will, his remains were cremated and his ashes scattered in the sea over a steamer in the ocean upon which his wife was coming to this country on business connected with his estate.

When the Barnum & Bailey corporation decided to invade Europe, Major Starr went in advance. It was his duty to prepare the way for the great undertaking, whose initial performances were to be given in London.

Major Starr's last wish was to see the world and the sea, and he went to sea in the same ship in which he died.

FROM DAY TO DAY

PRESIDENT WILSON has his private reasons for being angry at Lord Grey.

But why should the rest of us be otherwise than glad?

The British ambassador has broken down a rather silly diplomatic tradition that dates back to barbarous times; namely, that an ambassador might whisper in the ear of the sovereign of the country to which he was accredited, but that he might not talk to the people of that country.

Whispering in the ears of sovereigns and not talking to the people has been the cause of many wars.

You have the authority of Mr. Wilson himself for this.

LANE HAS HAD ENOUGH

RUMORS that Secretary Lane was to retire from the Department of the Interior are at last officially confirmed. His resignation is to take effect March 1.

Mr. Lane has been an efficient secretary and has been one of the ablest advisers of the President. But it is generally understood that he has been out of sympathy with many things done or left undone by the administration and that he had not been at work he would have resigned a year and a half ago, just as Secretary Garrison resigned from the War Department.

Mr. Lane has patriotically remained at his post as long as it has seemed to him that any good ends could be served by preserving the solidarity of the administration. He is now to engage in private business where he will doubtless win the success that he deserves.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- Name three victories won by Washington in the Revolutionary War?
- What is the population of the earth?
- What kind of animal is a hyrax?
- What is a palmer?
- What is a joss?
- What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "non sequitur"?
- What is a suffragan bishop?
- What Vice Presidents of the United States became Presidents?
- Where are the Olympic games to be held this year?
- What was the grand total of men in the American army on November 11, 1918?

ANSWERS TO SATURDAY'S QUIZ

- Kurt von Lersner is the German delegate who refused to transmit from Paris to Berlin the list of German demands by the allied governments for trial for alleged criminal offenses.
- Helium is a transparent gas, inferred as existing in the sun's atmosphere in 1868 and first obtained in 1895.
- The government has announced that it will sell the former German liners at auction.
- The Obi is a great river of Siberia, flowing north and east into the Gulf of Obi, an arm of the Arctic ocean.
- John U. Walter was the architect of the national Capitol.
- Oliver Wendell Holmes said "a cauliflower is only a cabbage that has gone to college."
- The gesture of biting one's thumb at a person indicates contempt with intention to offend or defy.
- Three American generals of the Mexican War were Scott, Taylor and Fremont.
- Ecirre is a game of cards for two persons. In French ecarte bystanders are permitted to advise, and the player losing leaves the table; his adviser takes his place.
- "Ecate" should be pronounced as though it were spelled "a-cich."



A Canadian Cure

FATHER LEGERE had a strong stubbly chin. And piercing brown eyes into which would steal in a glint of old Adam's original sin. His cassock was tumbled, his collar was mussed. His black shawl beaver was spotted with dust. But his flock, not his clothes, were the good father's trust. To lead them at tennis he panted and tore. No man pulled more stoutly, no boy shouldered more. On the first of July in a good tug-of-war. "We French are virtuous, but you English can play. And that's what I'm trying to teach, how you say the body is healthy the soul cannot stray. "And de same wid my women, I teach them to sew. In a one great big room, then each circle will know. Dey aint got the whole thing, and slowly will grow. "New friendship and pity and dey'll understand. Dat we all are alike in de palm of God's hand. And dat He has CHOSEN no people or land." PHOEBE HOFFMAN.

In order to make a contractor use a snow shovel it is sometimes necessary to use a club.

Of course, the rest of the country may be "in wrong," in which case the President is "firm" rather than "obstinate."

THE BUGLE

IF KNAVES beguile, by felon art, The shifting favor of the hour; If civic rule from right depart, And brazen impudence has power; If low ambition buy his place While merit waits in half disgrace, Still undecided sways the fight; The bugle still to charge commands; There is no truce of tongues or hands, No quarter, while one foeman stands To mock eternal Right!

—Hayard Taylor.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- Western farmers who remember trouble they have had with the I. W. W. will be chary about banking a movement indorsed by the Wobblies.
- The dickering for jobs suggests that Couzens is in some respects a board of "trade."
- Mr. Wilson cannot, at least, be charged with talking too much.
- Bryan, however, is not suffering from aphonia.
- Seventeen hundred optimists applied for liquor licenses last week.
- A financial League of Nations may yet be the first to arrive.
- The best Mr. Bryan can hope for is to add to his list of presidential defects.