

Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Tuesday, February 17, 1920

MORE TALK!

IN SUGGESTING that a tube to Camden might be better than a bridge Mr. Weglein was careful to assure the Business Science Club that he had an open mind.

Discussions supposed to be thorough delayed the bridge at least twenty days. Talk, if it is ever started again, can delay it for twenty years more.

Vehicle tunnels of the sort that the president of Council seems to have in mind are still in the experimental stage.

MISTS ON THE ADRIATIC

THE Fiume situation seems to be a case of complicated proposals mysteriously arrived at. Neither the American, the British, the French nor the Italian position has been publicly defined.

On the other hand, there are reports that the Rome government now demands an extensive strip of territory along the Dalmatian coast. President Wilson in the new note dispatched to the allied premiers is said to be opposed to such an acquisition at the expense of Yugoslavia.

OBSCURITY FOR WILHELM

THE alleged waiver of the Allies of their demand for the extradition of William Hohenzollern has at least one signal merit. It promises to dispose of an extremely tiresome subject. Opinions differ as to the extent of punishment which the exile of Amerongen morally deserves.

It is said that the Entente urges the transportation of the ex-emperor to one of the islands of the East Indian empire of the Netherlands.

THE SALE OF THOSE SHIPS

THE country will be glad to receive the assurance of the President that there is no basis for the report of a secret agreement between the shipping board and British interests for the sale of the thirty former German passenger ships taken over by the government during the war.

PEACE IN OUR TIME?

STRIKES of the scope that is possible in modern industry cost more than many good-sized wars of the past. The need for a peace of understanding throughout industry is as greatly to be desired as settled peace between nations.

members of the conference believe to be a workable method of strike prevention will be suggested in the forthcoming report it is presumed that some progress at least has been made in what the cynics like to regard as an impossible task.

Tentative expressions from Mr. Hoover and others serve to indicate what they have in mind. They would "humanize and dignify work of all kinds." Seeking a means to prevent strikes and to avert the hardship and losses of organized idleness, they would insist upon "good wages, reasonable hours and all-around decent treatment for working people."

MR. BRYAN'S EMERGENCE FROM A FIVE-YEAR ECLIPSE

Other Democratic Leaders Must Reckon With the Man Who Usually Senses Current Evils, Even Though He Prescribes Wrong Remedies

FROM his winter residence in Miami, in the region of palm trees and orange groves, where the well-to-do escape the cold season of the North in the balmy atmosphere of the far South, Mr. Bryan has given out the synopsis of what he regards as the proper platform for the Democratic party to adopt in San Francisco in June.

Consideration of the merits of the synopsis may be postponed for a moment in order that attention may first be concentrated on Mr. Bryan himself.

Who and what is he that he should tell the Democratic party what its platform should be? The Miami winter residence suggests part of what he is, but only part.

There is here political strategy of a very subtle kind. And there is also evidence in the accumulation of a considerable fortune in the period between the year when Mr. Bryan went to Chicago to report the proceedings of the Democratic National Convention in 1896 for an Omaha newspaper and left that convention as the presidential candidate of his party, and the time when he was able to cash in on his political prominence and invest the proceeds in landed property.

In these views of his will be found the whole secret of Mr. Bryan. They were the views of hundreds of thousands of worthy men and women of modest means in the Middle West. In expressing them Mr. Bryan merely put in words what the people among whom he had grown up were thinking.

His attack on "imperialism" was inspired by his knowledge that the average American was opposed to the entrance of the nation on any adventures of empire beyond the seas.

It may be argued that the success of constitutional prohibition, after his advocacy of it for years, proves the contrary. But it does so only apparently.

A recent instance of his power to read the minds of his countrymen is found in his Jackson Day dinner speech in Washington, when he protested against making the peace treaty an issue in the presidential campaign and demanded its early ratification by the Senate.

desires to get the treaty out of the way before the convention meets.

This brings us to the Miami platform. It is not so definite on some matters as one might wish, but on others Mr. Bryan has again sensed the feeling of great numbers of voters.

When the weather gets mild enough Mr. Bryan will go to his Lincoln farm and issue proclamations from that point of vantage, and he will laugh at the Nebraska politicians who think they can destroy his power by refusing to allow him to go to the convention as a delegate.

THE WATER CRISIS

IN SPITE of the fact that new pumping stations and new equipment are sorely needed, the immediate responsibility for the serious limitations on the water supply in certain sections of Philadelphia falls upon the public.

During the war period plumbing repairs were in abeyance. Water wastage by dripping pipes and spigots has resulted. Tenants of insufficiently heated buildings often keep the faucets running in cold weather to prevent the pipes from freezing.

Arguments for the universal installation of water meters here have been reiterated, but they now are more pertinent than ever. No real hardship would be involved if the arrangements for cost were properly made and there would be powerful spurs to discretion in the use of a water supply which under normal circumstances is exceedingly generous.

The present crisis is attributable to the continual cold spells and, so far as central Philadelphia is concerned, partly to the exhaustion of the reserve supply in the East Park Reservoir.

The obligations of the Water Department cannot, of course, be overlooked, but their bearing is upon the future. It is stated that new pumping stations necessary to minister to extravagance cannot be completed before eighteen months.

Broadly speaking, it is obvious that any great metropolitan district should have as much water as it wants.

The virtue of an action sometimes lies in its limitations. As for instance: That the lifting of the blockade of Russia is its natural consequence is manifested by the fact that it is but one case of the American Manufacturers' Export Association has warned its members against trading with soviet Russia because the government there is neither stable nor permanent.

The Original Dovecot

Holland has invited Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Switzerland to meet with her in the Carnegie Peace Palace in The Hague to discuss participation in the permanent court of international justice provided for by Article XIV of the League of Nations covenant.

Smoke Up!

The tobacco tax in January in the first Pennsylvania internal revenue district amounted to more than a million and a half dollars. There is no more peaceful and delightful way of raising revenue.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH FAMOUS MEN

Lansing Tells Story of Thomas Bailey Aldrich—Blaine in Philadelphia. Bryan's Sense of Humor

THE Washington newspaper correspondents will miss Secretary Lansing. In spite of the fact that the Department of State is supposed to be the most secretive place in the City of Ramoth, there was the utmost candor between the newsgatherers and the secretary of state.

More than one star newspaper man has possessed state secrets, the publication of which would have created mild sensations, but which were not printed for the very reason that they were secrets affecting the good of the nation.

Secretary Lansing frequently met the correspondents after the day's work was over and chatted informally about men and things. He was fond of telling a story of Thomas Bailey Aldrich, the writer, who was one of his friends.

Don't forget to see the Blinder. Don't forget to read his contract. Don't forget if's proofs.

JAMES G. BLAINE was another secretary of state who was highly esteemed by the newspaper men who came in contact with him.

During the war period plumbing repairs were in abeyance. Water wastage by dripping pipes and spigots has resulted. Tenants of insufficiently heated buildings often keep the faucets running in cold weather to prevent the pipes from freezing.

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"THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS TO MUZZLE THE BRUTE!"



DR. JOHNSON TALKS OF RAILROADS

Dean of Wharton School Tells Why Government Operation Proved a Failure

"GOVERNMENT operation of railroads has been a failure because the government gives way to pressure for wage increases, but does not have the moral courage to increase railroad revenues by a raise in rates," said Dr. Emory R. Johnson, dean of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, today.

"That is exactly where government operation breaks down in a democratic country," he continued. "The last twenty-six months have developed the inevitable shortcomings of government administration of the railroads."

It was made plain by Doctor Johnson that he was merely pointing out the lack of moral courage on the part of the government when the question comes up of raising rates in face of country-wide protests, to meet increasing operating expenses.

"The railroad board could not do anything about it," he said. "The railroad board could not do anything about it, and they were out into effect whether the people liked it or not."

Concerning the critical railroad situation, he said: "Can the railroads be successfully financed and operated when they are required to succeed to the extent that is demanded in the public interest they must not only be able to meet unavoidable expenses, they must have surplus revenue. If there is no income to be used in part for betterments and in part for building up a surplus, or reserve fund, their credit cannot be re-established, and their credit cannot be re-established and maintained and corporate ownership and operation of the railways will fail."

The country, according to Doctor Johnson, must decide between adequate revenues for the railroads or government ownership.

"The country has had two years' experience with government operation," he continued. "With the exception of the railroad employees very few people want the experiment continued. Free as the people of the United States are with government funds, they will not be disposed to make an initial investment of \$18,000,000,000 to \$20,000,000,000 in railroads and to raise a minimum of even five per cent of that sum—\$1,000,000,000—additional capital each year to provide for betterments and extensions."

"If shippers and travelers had been better served during government operation than they are during present operation, the public ownership of the railroads would be justified," he said. "The government is entitled to credit for

SIX TEAPOTS

JOHN ANDERSON, my Jo, John. When you and I were young, We had a wee blue teapot

When children first began To fill our house with laughter, As underneath the evening lamp Its smoking stream would flow, We often kissed above it there, John Anderson, my Jo.

When all our bairns grew up, We had a silver teapot. To fill each fragile cup, And in a merry scrimmage I got broken, John. You know I almost cried about it then, John Anderson, my Jo.

When our Mary was a bride, We had a silver teapot. That was rather high and wide, When Thomas brought his girl to see, Or Martha brought her beau, It held enough for all of us, John Anderson, my Jo.

When our birdings all had flown, And settled in new houses, With new teapots of their own, We had a small gray teapot. With gilt figures in a row—I broke it only yesterday, John Anderson, my Jo.

This one you've bought is blue, With rosy garlands, like the one We had when we were young. I like to think it is the same. We had so long ago— We've gone back thirty years tonight, John Anderson, my Jo.

What Do You Know?

1. When was the Maine blown up in Havana harbor?

2. Who was her commander?

3. What is agouti?

4. Who was Victor Cousin?

5. What mountain in the United States is ranked as an active volcano?

6. What is a celesta?

7. When did Gulliver live?

8. Of what country is Bucharest the capital?

9. Who was secretary of state under Garfield?

10. What was the value of a great?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Robert Lansing is a native of New York State.

2. Horatio was the first name of Lord Nelson and Lord Kitchener.

3. An exordium is the beginning or introductory part, especially of a discourse or treatise.

4. Edelweiss literally means noble white.

5. General Ambrose E. Burnside, who commanded the federal army at Fredericksburg, was nicknamed Kaiser Wilhelm.

6. The expression "the almighty dollar" was employed by Washington Irving in "Wolfert's Rood," in 1855. This use of the phrase is said to mark its debut.

7. To box the compass is to repeat in order the thirty-two points. The word box in this sense is from the Spanish "boxar," to sail around.

8. Teheran is the capital of Persia.

9. The Maoris are the aboriginal inhabitants of New Zealand.

10. Three scruples make a dram in apothecaries' weight.