

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Calls for United Effort
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—The public is finally being stirred up on this unjust increased assessment situation, and it looks as if there was going to be a united effort against what is nothing more than a further hold-up of the taxpayers, who are now so overburdened that they do not know which way to turn. It is only through a united effort can the property owners win. There is talk of an "immense mass-meeting." There should not be one of these meetings, for only a small per cent of the indignant citizens could be accommodated at one meeting, no matter how "immense" it might be. There should be a mass-meeting in every ward of the city, and the protest should be so long and so loud that City Hall and the Board of Tax Reviewers could not afford to close their ears to it.

The people of this city have rarely, if ever before, been stirred up over such a situation as they are in the present effort to tax their properties way out of proportion to their value. They will not be satisfied until they know what this money is needed for, and that there must be equity shown around. They will insist on the assessors showing them in black and white that all property owners have been treated alike, and that no favoritism has been shown.

The people, just at this time, when all sorts of financial burdens are being heaped upon their shoulders, will not agree to a higher assessment for the purpose of filling up the City Hall treasury for their own past experience what a temptation a full treasury is to bring out extravagant expenditures for unnecessary, and the opportunity it gives for the long-haired City Hall politicians to line their pockets with this money that has been taken from people, the great majority of whom cannot afford the "bough."

I really believe the war has put the fighting spirit into the people of this city, and that in future we will find that they will not submit to all sorts of indignities without a protest. They want to make this first effort a success, under all considerations, for it means much for those that may follow. If the situation cannot be cleared through a protest, it must then be cleared by routing out of office those offenders, and something has to be done by the people in order that they may save their homes and everything that is dear to them. I am every reader of the Evening Public Ledger appointing myself a committee of one to assist in the furthering of the work of protecting the homes.

Women on the Defensive
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—It would seem to me that many of the writers to the Evening Public Ledger's interesting Forum column have placed the women on the defensive, and I have been wondering why it is that so few of them—so very few—have come to the defense of their sex. The writers would appear to blame most of the family differences between husband and wife upon the latter, and to add "injury to insult." An English writer has rushed into print and has told the readers that he found our intelligent people crooked and our women rude.

I am sorry that I have not the accomplishment of a more fluent pen, for I should like to write a scathing rebuke against these defamers of my sex. I feel my defenses, however, and can only state that the shoe is on the other foot. When it comes to trouble-making, I think the American

Letters to the Editor should be as brief and to the point as possible, avoiding anything that would open a denominational or sectarian discussion. No attention will be paid to anonymous letters. Names and addresses must be signed as evidence of good faith, although names will not be printed if request is made that they be omitted. The publication of a letter is not returned unless accompanied by postage, nor will manuscript be saved.

Free Press and Free Speech
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—We boast of a free country, free speech and a free press, and we live under a protected flag, but what is there to protect a man from a dragon's tongue or the pen of a ready writer? It is true that men in politics are subject to attacks more violent than the man in civil life, but why should they be mauled and belied by those who are unrestrained and unbridled? A man occupying any high position should be respected and honored for the office he holds and not be subject to violent and insane attacks.

Romance in Christmas Stories
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—In last evening's Larkoon Mrs. L. W. Harrow declares the annual "lies" told to children around Christmas time as to Santa Claus, and she states she would like to hear from other readers on the subject. First of all, I wonder whether she is a mother or an unmarried woman. It sounds as though the latter were the case, in spite of the "Mrs." for I fall to comprehend how any mother can hold such ideas as to what is by far the greatest happiness of childhood—and only earliest childhood at that—for they do their bodies and become adults. If the story of Santa Claus is a lie, as she states (and she, furthermore, doesn't believe "fairly tales" should be told to children), why does she not have their Christmas gifts arrive by express and let the little tots sign the driver's receipt book for them? If too young to write, it would afford a grand opportunity for her to assist them in making a cross, thus introducing them to the first principles of business formalities.

Why, in view of shielding them from lies, does she permit them to dress a doll? The doll requires the clothes. Why let them "cook" dinner on top stoves without heat? Nothing will cook there. It is imposing on their innocence. Why let them buy sublin masks for "Hallowe'en"? There are no jobs for the tender little minds believe they appear annually. Why let one be crowned "queen of the May"? There is no such person any more than prince of July or king of September. It is a fall, and consequently a lying, ceremony.

Why give a boy a hobbyhorse and teach him how to whip it and drive it? The horse is dead. Why not "own up" and tell him if it "don't let the 'lie' pass on until he gains sufficient wisdom to discover your full deception. The Lord knows there are years enough after the age of seven when Santa Claus' cheery countenance will be recognized simply as a fond remembrance to fully offset the three or four years, commencing at about three years of age, when he was accepted as a reality. Is there any other thing in a reality that appeals so strongly to a little one as Santa

Class? She also remembers the "fake story of the Christmas tree" for childhood's ears. Yet I'll wager she lets them hang Christmas wreaths in the windows. What's the difference, pray? What "false doctrine" can there be about or concerning a Christmas tree? Is it any more a "fake" than handling them their presents from the "savior table"? Or does she think they ought to have their Christmas presents at all? Why not give them toys on July 4 or February 22?

The tree story a fake? Thank God, I enjoyed and marveled at our family tree! And for years and years after I grew to manhood and middle age I have been without home trees of my own that I could at least a glimpse of a tree in some home window; and I feel that since I have been blessed And the "fake" in the tree story (wherever it is) has never as yet forced its lie upon my notice.

Vigorously Defends Her Sex
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—I have noted the outrageous insult that has been leveled against women who work by one who signs himself "R. M. M." in Tuesday's Evening Public Ledger, November 9, 1920. The freedom of woman has in no way benefited them; the "opportunity" for true home life and education of some years ago had not reached the pinnacle on which it now stands; therefore that accounts for the educational conditions some years ago. I am a telephone operator, and believe me, I help to support the family just as well as and maybe better than the worker of twenty years ago. I wonder how "R. M. M." would care to be a servant in a "well-kept family." Just because you are a waitress doesn't say that you aren't as respectable as those who push a pan.

Women, thank goodness, have freed themselves from the dictates of man and are at last coming into their own. And now that we are securing our freedom we will endeavor to enlighten you and your followers on the real and not the erroneous and capotential standing you would have if you believe we take in the "real business world." In twenty years from now, sir, women will be supreme and the grinder that you would confine us to, along with your ridiculous ideas that infest your mind, will be abolished.

Allow me, sir, to introduce you to the twentieth century woman, and take this from a defender of "why women work" ready for a challenge. D. M. J. Philadelphia, November 10, 1920.

Origin of "Knickerbocker"
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Kindly tell me the origin of the word "knickerbocker" in your People's Forum. W. L. C. Philadelphia, November 16, 1920.

"Knickerbocker" was originally the name of an old Dutch burgher family of New York. The name is now used to denote any old resident of the city. "Diedrich Knickerbocker" is the imaginary author of Washington Irving's "History of New York."

Territorial Growth of Our Country
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Please answer two questions for me, should the territorial growth of the United States since the Revolution, tell me

What are the qualities of good literature. W. L. FAINE, Philadelphia, November 18, 1920.

At the time of the signing of the treaty of peace with Great Britain in 1782, the area of the thirteen original states was 2,971,000 square miles. Subsequent additions are as follows: Louisiana purchase, 527,897 square miles; 1819, through treaty with Spain, 524,885 square miles; 1810, Florida, 52,964; 1848, Texas, 520,100; 1848, Oregon, 282,641; 1848, Mexican cession, 529,189; 1853, Gadsden purchase, 29,670; 1867, Alaska, 586,380; 1898, Hawaiian Islands, 6,460; 1909, Guam, 189; 1898, Philippines Islands and Porto Rico, 118,893; 1909, Samoa, 71; 1901, additional Philippine Islands, 681; 1904, Panama canal zone, 486; Danish West India, 148 square miles.

Where Song is Found
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—The poem asked for by "T. L. R." is entitled "I Love the Merry, Merry Sunshine." It was written by Stephen Glover and is set to music in the "Musical Cabinet," compiled by Jonathan Woodman and published by Mason Brothers, New York. It was used in the public schools in the "Ode." L. M. T. Philadelphia, November 17, 1920.

We Do Not Know of Any
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Would you like to know if there is a free school for music and where. JACK GREENBERG, Philadelphia, November 10, 1920.

Origin of the Word "Tobacco"
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Will you kindly answer in your People's Forum where the name "tobacco" originated? Philadelphia, November 9, 1920.

Compound Interest
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Can any of your expert mathematicians tell me the shortest and simplest way to compute compound interest on any sum of money at any amount of interest? I would be very grateful for the information, and many others would also appreciate it. C. R. C. Camden, N. J., November 16, 1920.

To Copyright Photoplay
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Please advise in the People's Forum the steps to be taken to have a photoplay copyrighted. Also the cost of same. V. Philadelphia, November 19, 1920.

Poems and Songs Desired
Wants Remainder of Poem
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Will you please print the inclosed verse and see if a reader can send in the rest of the poem? I do not recall its title. The day had been one long struggle. Such as all teachers know: When the hands and feet are restless. And the childish mind so slow. My head aches with the burden. And my lips forget their smile. When aches the smallest scholar Comes toddling down the aisle. MRS. E. L. FETTERER, Philadelphia, November 10, 1920.

Wants Mrs. Halvey's Poem
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—I saw in the People's Forum the other day the words of a poem supplied by Mrs. M. M. Halvey, who is an officer of the American Anti-Vivisection Society. Mrs. Halvey was one of Philadelphia's most famous poets. Can you supply one of her most popular verses, "Growing Up is Growing Away"? I heartily congratulate the Evening Public Ledger upon the Forum. I find it has many readers. Philadelphia, November 17, 1920.

"The Friendly Hand"
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Please print in your very interesting People's Forum the poem which ends each verse with the line "When a fellow lays his hand upon your shoulder in a friendly sort of way." MRS. W. L. HENSON, Philadelphia, November 18, 1920.

Oh, the world's a curious compound, with its honey and its gall, With its tears and bitter crosses, but a good world after all. An' a good 'dud must have made it—leastwise that's what I say, When a hand rests on my shoulder in a friendly sort of way.

A Kipling Poem
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Please print in your Forum Kipling's "The Ladie" and oblige an old reader. W. B. HAUN, Meyerdale, Pa., November 10, 1920.

"Was That Somebody You?"
To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—Will you please print in your People's Forum the little poem beginning "Somebody did a golden deed." Philadelphia, November 18, 1920.

Somebody did a golden deed, Somebody sang a cheerful song, Brightening the skies the whole day long. Was that somebody you? Somebody thought 'tis sweet to live, Willingly said, "I'm glad to give." Somebody sang a cheerful song, Bravely he lived to shield the right— Was that somebody you?

Somebody filed the day with light, Constantly chased away the night, Somebody's work bore joy and peace, Surely his life shall never cease— Was that somebody you?

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