

Evening Public Ledger

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is exclusively
entitled to the use of reproduction of all news
dispatches and other material appearing in this
paper, and also the local news published
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THAT "SUNK" SURPLUS
Information disclosed at the first open
meeting of the sinking-fund commission
yesterday afternoon justified the
action of the Mayor in ordering that
the public be advised.

There has been talk of a surplus of \$4,000,000, but no authoritative information
on the subject has been obtainable. Yesterday the Mayor announced that the surplus was \$3,304,000, and the controller remarked that \$1,000,000 of this sum would be needed to redeem bonds which fall due in a few weeks.

Public business, of course, is the business of the public. It has a right to know what its servants are doing. When it does not know, those who conceal information have only themselves to blame if they are criticized.

THE LITTLE POSTMASTER
THERE are more than 40,000 postmasters whose pay is measured by the amount of business done at their postoffices. In some small communities the pay is so small that, when the postmaster dies or moves away, it is difficult to find any one willing to take the place.

WHOSE MAN WILL IT BE?
IN ALL the discussions about which group of Pennsylvanians shall name the next speaker of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, one group seems to have been overlooked.

GETTING THE BARS READY
THE immigration committee of the House of Representatives has made a favorable report on the Johnson bill providing immigration for a period of two years. Arrangements are making to give preferential consideration to the bill.

WHAT THE BAPTISTS SAY
ATTENTION of those who are agitating for the passage of more rigid Sunday observance laws or for the literal enforcement of old blue laws is commanded to the report of the committee on civic righteousness submitted to the Baptist ministers' conference in this city yesterday.

the law to enforce a religious obligation, such efforts being wrong in principle and in practice futile.
This is the sanest pronouncement that has been made on the subject since the discussion began. It is based on a proper appreciation of the relation between the church and the state and an adequate understanding of the fallacy of trying to make people good by law.

SOLID FACTS SUPPORT FANCY OF A UNION STATION
The Time is Coming When This Key Must Unlock the Problem of Proper Railway Terminal Facilities in This City

THE Board of Trade has been wondering whether the Pennsylvania Railroad could be induced to reduce Broad Street Station to the rank of a terminus for suburban trains only, to leave Fifth street between the two rivers, to construct a tube under the Delaware and thus fashion a new loop of transportation lines around the great metropolitan area that has developed at the junction of two states.

HARDING'S "MESSAGE"
WHEN President-elect Harding addressed the Senate yesterday he did not announce in detail any of his policies. He was not expected to do so. Yet what he did say in his brief and dignified speech was significant.

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for western trains would be almost as direct as at present, for they could proceed up the Baltimore and Ohio-Reading tracks to the junction above Girard avenue bridge, over the present Pennsylvania bridge and then, after a brief turn to the south, to the place where the main line and the New York tracks now meet in West Philadelphia.

No new construction whatever is needed to connect the Reading system with the single main station. The Reading-Baltimore and Ohio tracks join those of the Reading main line and the Pennsylvania line at or near Falls of Schuylkill. By means of the present Richmond branch of the Reading trains tapping or passing Wayne Junction could join the line proceeding to that station at a point where switches now exist near Nicetown.

THE time is coming, even in cautious Philadelphia, when the union-station topic will be alive. Suggestions will be plentiful. Something like the above may be proposed. The practical advantages of others may be judged emphatically superior. The Board of Trade will probably take a hand. Other prominent factors in municipal life will contribute. Meanwhile, speculation is rampant as to constructive metropolitan habits. The prime necessity is a vigorous offensive against the local fortresses of precedent, convention and antiquated, debilitating custom. Once their walls are scaled, the rest is easy.

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"PUD" SLATER RECALLED

Death Notice Brings to Mind Reminiscences of Big Man's Legislative Career—An Absent-Minded Statesman

THE brief newspaper announcement that John F. Slater, a former member of the Legislature, had been killed when at home in this city, is a news item that in itself is not calculated to attract any wide attention.

JOHN F. SLATER, or "Pud," as he was known to hundreds, was unique in his way. It was the largest man, so far as any living recall of the subject makes, ever occupied a seat in the Legislature. I think it a perfectly safe assumption that he weighed at least a quarter of a ton.

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YESSIR, TIMES IS CHANGED!



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

GEORGE D. PORTER
On Humanizing the Police Force
GIVING the "cop" a chance, make life worth living for him and consider and treat him like a human being and there will be need for less criticism about the inefficiency of our police, is the opinion voiced by George D. Porter, director of public safety during the Blankenship administration.

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SHORT CUTS

Kenal Pasha apparently owns Angola's goat.
Why anybody should want Constantine for king is Greek to most of us.
Argentina must realize that the door of peace is none the stronger for a bolt.

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