THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

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 an 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 to be taken as an indorsement of its views by this paper.

Communications will not be returned unless accompanied by postage, nor will manuscript be saved.

Our Social Lack

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have read several letters in your Forum reflecting on the lack of consideration of people one for the other, and of the growing practice in this respect. I feel that in this country lack of consideration of others is growing. We have all experienced annoyances from the minor boors, who open windows in railroad cars, puff smoke in women's faces, step ahead of you in line at ticket booths and jostle you off the sidewalk. The boor whose summary execution would be justifiable homicide is the knave who rushes out to a waiting taxi ordered by some one else, and tells the driver it is for him the car is waiting and drives off with a feeling of personal satisfaction that he has done a smart trick.

That has recently happened twice to the writer. The golfer (and I regret that there are some such poor specimens on the courses) who impersonates you to secure your caddy can, on detection, be promptly disciplined by dismissal or suspension from your club. But it seems to me that there is no relief from the stranger who carries off your taxi while you wait on the curb with murder in your soul.

D. W. L.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

Americans on the Rhine

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—A few days ago I read in your paper a little bit of news dated from Coblenz, in which it was stated that if the question of returning to the United States were submitted to the vote of our American boys, 98 per cent of them would vote to stay where they are. I wonder if your readers have gotten the real import of this article. It means that we still have an army of 20,000 men in Germany who live on the fat of a land the mothers of which have not even enough milk to feed their babies.

The pay of a private amounts to at least $20 a day in the value of the money there, in return for which the soldiers have nothing to do but "keep in order" a "well-behaving populace which has to pay for its occupation, costing for the whole occupied region millions of dollars a day (an arrangement to continue for fifteen years). I do not blame the boys for wanting to stay under such conditions, who would not? But it certainly drives the blush of shame into the cheeks of every true American to know that we are part and parcel of such a pact.

It has been said that the German Government has hinted at rather wanting the Americans at Coblenz than the French, who would replace our boys with African troops. That is very likely, but, if true, for heaven's sake, let it then be said that we have our soldiers "over there," not so much for keeping in order a "well-behaved people, but for protecting them against possible crimes committed at other places against an offending, helpless populace. Let the American honor be vindicated.

J. W. BLEEKER.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

Equal Tax Distribution

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Your commendable editorial referring to the sales tax brings out the fact that a tax distributed over all the people appears the most equitable. There are certain objections to the sales tax as proposed by Mr. Smoot's bill, as it was to be levied in addition to all other taxes.

You may remember that a labor representative appeared before the Senate Finance Committee and said that labor strenuously objected to a sales tax, and almost immediately the Senate committee stated that it would make no recommendations. If we are to have an income and profits tax, which every one knows is passed on to the ultimate consumer, and on top of this a sales tax added, there is justification for opposition.

If, however, we use a basis which will tax incomes and profits directly as they are, and retain the merits of even distribution suggested by a sales tax, the complications now incident to the determination of incomes and profits and the depression in business due to the tendency for capital to withhold from enterprise and business expansion will be removed. I appeared before the Ways and Means Committee and discussed the basis for taxation inclosed. The only difficulty seemingly is the fear of the labor vote on anything approaching a sales tax.

In discussing the matter with labor, however, I have found that they appreciate that if profits and incomes are taxed as the money received is spent, there will not be the tendency for business to add the cost of their taxes to the prices, and the workingman realizes that as a result a suit of clothes now costing $25 would cost but $20, with but a twenty-cent or forty-cent tax.

The Ways and Means Committee's suggested changes in the tax basis whereby corporations will be taxed 15 per cent on their profits simply means that this additional tax will be multiplied in its passing on through the various organizations to the final consumer.

C. P. LANDRETH.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

Women in Jobs

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—One of the reasons why our heroes are walking the streets begging is because so many employers continue women in their employ that were taken on to fill the places of the boys called to support the honor of our flag. Such employers are no less than traitors. This is their method for punishing them for the part they took in the conflict. The women that continue in their places are equally guilty. Our Government is a grievous offender. Look at the number of women taken into the postoffice and criminals that are still there.

I know of a department in the Postoffice where three girls are employed and a chief clerk tells me that two men would do more work and save $1600 per year. Thousands of married folks are both working so they can enjoy the luxuries, while the poor devils that risked their all are begging for a bite to eat and a place to lay their heads. These employers and the women who are the beneficiaries should be considered slackers and treated as such.

F. L. GRAHAM.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

The Three-Plane Navy

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—We note in your editorial columns, Saturday, July 30, under "Air or Sea Navies," a resume of the "aircraft-dreadnought" controversy, with your own conclusions thereon, in which we partially concur. However, we make free to criticize in your editorial a delinquency similar to that charged against Senator King, viz., no mention whatsoever is made therein of submarines. Air or sea navies? Yes! How about the third plane of a three-plane navy? You will find that the submarine bears considerable weight in the speeches made by Senator King, and if you will closely scrutinize the Appropriation Bill you will find that the submarine has been entirely obliterated therefrom.

Therefore, invoking your own arguments of "Aircraft versus Dreadnought," we invite attention to the following facts in what is really a three-plane discussion of "Air, Sea or Sub-sea Navies," and wish to state in advance our profound belief in a three-plane, well-balanced navy, which the United States does not now possess and which, if editorials such as the above are allowed to pass unchallenged, we shall never possess.

For the effect of submarines on dreadnoughts we cite "The Grand Fleet," by Viscount Jellicoe, additional destroyers, padlocked harbors, actions broken off, because of even the suspected presence of submarines.

Taking the "Lessons of the Greatest War in History," to quote your editorial, have you read "The Crisis of the World War" by Viscount Jellicoe? What was the crisis? What caused it? Have you forgotten our war cries, "Ships, More Ships!" "A Bridge of Ships!" "Food Will Win the War!"

All this caused by some 200 submarines, not more than thirty of which operated at any one time, crews and base personnel of which never exceeded 10,000 men. Opposed by the combined navies and shipbuilding facilities of the world!

However, for your approval and despite the fact that the German submarines, save under exceptional circumstances, were ordered to ignore war craft, merchant tonnage quite properly being their sole tactical object, we offer the following record of men of war sunk by submarines:

Based on data printed in "Information Concerning the United States Navy and Other Navies, Office of Naval Intelligence, U. S. N.," it appears that the Allies and the United States lost 437 naval vessels, eighty-three of which were lost through enemy submarines, which accounted for nine battleships, eleven cruisers, three light cruisers and four submarines.

According to Jane's Fighting Ships (1919), enemy submarines sank nine battleships, twenty-nine cruisers and destroyers, submarines, etc., unlisted here. Admiral Sims' dispatch No. 7280, May 1, 1918, to the Navy Department, was "The most effective type to oppose them (German submarines) is the submarine."

With the above before you and the memory of 850,000 to 900,000 tons of shipping being sunk per month in 1917, will you explain why submarines were stricken from the Naval Bill?

Further, in view of the lessons of the World War, are you aware that we have not a single mine-laying submarine, not a single cruiser submarine and not one effective fleet submarine?

Believing in your patriotism, we call upon you to publish the above in the hope that there is yet time to educate the people to the necessity of a three-plane navy.

NAUTILUS.

Philadelphia, August 8, 1921.

Sinking of the Alaska

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Let an ex-sailor give a few facts about the sinking of the steamship Alaska off Cape Mendocino. For sixteen months I went to sea on one of the San Francisco and Portland Steamship Company's ships, at the time when the same company lost the steamship Bear in about the same place as the Alaska foundered. It was under the same weather conditions also.

Do the steamship companies consider the lives of the passengers and crew? Just the big iron dollar is what counts. When a ship leaves Astoria and gets over the Columbia River bar safely the navigator seems to forget that safety first sign in the wheelhouse.

If you will take up a map you will notice that after leaving the Columbia River a due south course is taken until you reach Blunts Reef lightship. But in a fog, should the quartermaster get a fraction of a point off his course and run that way for, say, a half hour, what is the result? Two ships in the same company and many lives are lost.

Why worry about the ships? They are insured, but the passengers and their families are the losers, just because a captain is forced to keep his ship on running time in order to save expenses.

AN EX-SAILOR.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

Questions Answered

To Copyright Book

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How much does it cost to have a book copyrighted?

G. W. L.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

The fee for copyright on a book is $1, which should be sent, with application for copyright, to the Copyright Office, Washington, D. C.

Origin of "Midshipmen"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How did the terms "midshipmen," as applied to the men at the Naval Academy, originate?

H. W. L.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

The title originated in the British navy more than 200 years ago, when the "young gentlemen" who were under instruction on these vessels for the purpose of becoming officers, were given quarters amidships abreast the mainmast on the lower deck.

Carrying Arms, Etc.

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I would like to know through your People's Forum if a policeman has any more right to carry concealed deadly weapons than a citizen. If not, why are they allowed to carry them? Is there a permit or license given to carry arms?

If a man is robbed and the stolen goods are found in a pawnshop, does the man who was robbed have to pay what was loaned on them or does the pawnbroker lose what he loaned on them?

What is the difference between a summons and a warrant; also what charges are they used for?

F. A. LANE.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

A policeman is allowed to carry a pistol and a club as part of his equipment for protection.

The pawnbroker loses the loan. If an article can be proved to have been stolen and located at a pawnshop, the broker must give it up to the owner without any charge whatever.

A summons is a writ commanding an officer of the law to notify a person to appear in court to answer a complaint against him, and a warrant is a writ directed to a constable or other responsible person requiring him to arrest the person therein named for a crime he is supposed to have committed.

Men Lost in the World War

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Do you know what State lost the largest number of men in the World War; that is, the largest number according to the number of men enlisted?

G. W. K.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

The State of Montana lost the greatest number of men in the World War, in proportion to its total number in service. Out of 39,511 men enlisted, 681 were killed on the firing line.

About Gilbert Charles Stuart

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please print a brief sketch in your People's Forum of the portrait painter, Gilbert Charles Stuart.

MRS. W. L. O.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

Gilbert Charles Stuart was an American portrait painter, born in Narragansett, R. I., in 1756. He became the protege of a Scotch painter named Alexander, whom he accompanied to Edinburgh, but was set adrift by the death of his patron, and for some years led a wandering life in London and America, till his great gift as a portrait painter was recognized. In 1792 he returned to America and painted portraits of Washington, Jefferson and other noted Americans. He died in 1828 and is buried in one of the tombs of the old burying ground on the Boston Common.

Two Kinds of Banks

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please tell me the difference between a national bank and a Federal Reserve bank. In case of a failure, which gives the depositor the greatest protection?

G. W. L.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

National banks can be members of the Federal Reserve system. The Federal Reserve bank proper does not deal with individual depositors, but only with banks. It is difficult to tell what you have in mind without knowing how your question arises.

Michigan State Bonus

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I sent in my application a long time ago for the Michigan State bonus, and have received no word about it. How can I find out if they are going to pay me, and if I am eligible for it?

F. S. A.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

You will have to write again direct to the State Bonus Board. The States usually pay the bonus in the order in which application is made, and yours was probably preceded by hundreds of other applications.

To Copyright Song

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please print in your People's Forum the proper method of procedure to have a popular song published. Should the writer obtain a copyright before sending it to a publisher?

R. H. BESSOM.

Philadelphia, August 1, 1921.

You cannot have a song copyrighted until it is published and two copies submitted to the copyright office in Washington.

The People's Forum will appear daily in the Evening Public Ledger, and also in the Sunday Public Ledger. Letters discussing timely topics will be printed, as well as requested poems, and questions of general interest will be answered.

Huckleberries and Blueberries

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have sometimes heard them called huckleberries and again blueberries. Which is the correct name, or are there two kinds of berries?

G. W. L.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

In England the distinction is very clearly drawn. The huckleberry is restricted to plants of the genus Gaylussacia, and contains large brittle seeds. The blueberry is applied to species of the genus Vaccinium in which the seeds are so small that they are not noticeable when the berries are eaten. The latter is superior from a market standpoint.

Poems and Songs Desired

A Kipling Poem

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—"R. A. N." in a recent issue, asked for the following poem. It is one of Rudyard Kipling's "Chapter Headings" and can be found in either "The Pride of His Youth," a short story, or under "Chapter Headings" in his collected songs. It is as follows:

"Stopped in the straight when the race was his own!
Look at him cutting it—cur to the bone!"
Ask ere the youngster be rated or chidden,
What did he carry and how was he ridden?
Maybe they used him too much at the start,
Maybe Fate's weight-cloths are breaking his heart.

H. H.

Philadelphia, August 8, 1921.

The Author of Lines Given

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please state who wrote the lines:

"Then join in hands, brave Americans all!
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

H. A. L.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

These are two lines from the famous "Liberty Song," written by John Dickinson in 1768.

An Alice Cary Poem

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In the People's Forum recently "S. A. L." asked for the name of the author of a poem, and quoted four lines. The author is Alice Cary, and the poem is entitled "Nobility." The complete verse is as follows:

"True worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, not in dreaming,
Of great things to do by and by.
For whatever men say in their blindness,
And spite of the fancies of youth;
There is nothing so kingly as kindness,
And nothing so royal as truth."

H. M. E.

West Chester, Pa., August 8, 1921.

"Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I inclose herewith the words of the song requested on August 7 by Charles Ramos.

HARRY JACOBS.

Phoenixville, Pa., August 8, 1921.

HER BRIGHT SMILE HAUNTS ME STILL

'Tis years since last we met,
And we may not meet again.
I've struggled to forget,
But the struggle was in vain.
For her voice is on the breeze,
And her spirit comes at will.
In the midnight on the seas
Her bright smile haunts me still

REFRAIN

For her voice is on the breeze,
And her spirit comes at will.
In the midnight on the seas
Her bright smile haunts me still.

I have sailed 'neath alien skies.
I have trod the desert path,
I have seen the storm arise,
Like a giant in his wrath,
Every danger I have known
That a reckless life can fill,
Still her presence is not flown.
Her bright smile haunts me still.

At the first sweet dawn of light,
When I gaze upon the deep,
Her form still greets my sight,
While the stars their vigils keep.
When I close my aching eyes
Sweet dreams my senses fill,
Or from sleep when I arise,
Her bright smile haunts me still.

Also sent in by "J. S. C." Holmesburg, Philadelphia, and "A Reader," Philadelphia.

Belshazzar's Feast

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I inclose herewith the poem entitled "Belshazzar's Feast," which I presume is the one recently requested.

M. D. REED.

Hagerstown, Md., August 7, 1921.

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

The king was on his throne,
The satraps thronged the hall;
A thousand bright lights shone
O'er that high festival.

A thousand cups of gold,
In Judea deemed divine,
Jehovah's vessels hold
The godless heathen's wine.

In that same hour and hall,
The fingers of a hand
Came forth against the wall
And wrote as if on sand.

The fingers of a man—
A solitary hand—
Along the letters ran,
And traced them like a wand.

The monarch saw and shook
And bade no more rejoice;
All bloodless waxed his look
And tremulous his voice.

"Let the men of lore appear,
The wisest of the earth,
To expound these words of fear
Which mar our royal mirth."

Chaldea's seers were good,
But here they had no skill;
The unknown letters stood
Untold, and awful still.

And Babel's men of age
Were wise, and deep in lore;
But here they were not sage;
They saw, but knew no more.

A captive in the land,
A stranger and a youth,
He heard the king's command,
He saw the writing's truth.

The lamps around were bright,
The prophecy in view;
He read it on that night
The morrow proved it true.

Belshazzar's grave is made,
His kingdom passed away,
He, in the balance weighed,
Was light and worthless clay.

The shroud, his robe of state,
His canopy is stone;
The Mede is at his gate,
The Persian on his throne.

"Thou Hast Learned to Love"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Kindly publish in your People's Forum the words of the song "Thou Hast Learned to Love Another."

MABEL T. FRAME.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1921.

THOU HAST LEARNED TO LOVE ANOTHER

Thou hast learned to love another,
Thou hast broken every vow;
We have parted from each other,
And my heart is lonely now.

I have taught my looks to shun thee
When coldly we have met,
For another smile has won thee
And I must, I must forget.

Oh! was it well to sever
This heart from thine forever?
Can I forget thee never?
Farewell, farewell, forever.

For thy look was cold and altered,
And thy voice was stern and high.
How my traitor courage faltered
When I glanced to meet thine eye.

Oh! woman's love will grieve her,
And woman's pride will leave her;
Life is fled when love deceives her;
Farewell, farewell, forever.

English Aviator Hurt; Pilot Killed

Cairo, Egypt, Aug. 16.—(By A. P.)—Colonel C. R. Newman, chief of staff of the British Army in Egypt, was seriously injured when an airplane in which he was riding crashed to the ground late yesterday. The pilot of the machine was killed.

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