

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
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"STEP ON THE GAS"

THE suggestion that one or two experts in the manufacture of gas be appointed to negotiate with the United Gas Improvement Company...

A FAKE WITH A COMEBACK

IT IS hardly worth while to inquire into the origin of the yarn that jury lists are made up from the registration records...

ANIMAL TAMER NEEDED

EVERYBODY likes to rail at fining squires like those who have been holding forth jubilantly at Millbourne and Paoli...

SENATOR PENROSE'S chapter and verse indorsement of the Voters' League candidates and Mayor Moore's Administration blew the Job Combine full of holes.

THE fifty-fifty deal went into smithereens when he named each one of the men on the reform ticket and asked that the people of Philadelphia nominate them on September 20 in the name of decent government.

NEXT CONTROLLER MUST BE UNCONTROLLED!

Why Candidate Edwin Wolf Declares This Vitaly Important Office Should Be Kept "Free From Selfish Political or Business Influences of Any Kind"

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

THE City Controller, next to the Mayor, is the most important official in Philadelphia.

As a result of our local system of politics, the office has been relegated to a comparatively unimportant place.

This condition is a result of deliberate design and failure to comply with the provisions of the new charter.

Will B. Hadley, the present Controller, who is seeking re-election as the candidate of the Combine bosses and the friend of certain financial interests, is largely responsible for this anomalous and, to taxpayers, costly condition.

Mr. Hadley was named Controller, following the death of John Walton, by Governor Sprout last year. It was on the personal recommendation of Mayor Moore.

Immediately following his induction into office Controller Hadley inaugurated a policy of secrecy and obstruction with regard to the affairs of his office.

He surrendered his official independence and prerogatives to the blandishments of the old Combine. He joined hands with the enemies of Mayor Moore.

Today Mr. Hadley is publicly attesting his fidelity to Combine rule by appearing as one of its star campaign orators.

Details of municipal finance, the piling up of excess reserves and other public funds in the hands of the Sinking Fund Commission need not be presented at this time. A few general facts will suffice.

The city's sinking fund today contains approximately \$48,000,000 in securities and cash.

This vast sum is controlled by a Board of Commissioners, composed of Mayor J. Hampton Moore, E. T. Stotesbury, of the banking firm of Drexel & Co. and J. P. Morgan & Co., and Will B. Hadley, City Controller.

The Mayor and City Controller are members by virtue of their offices. The third member is supposed to be elected annually by Council. No election has been held for years.

Commissioner Stotesbury is the financial adviser to the commission just as Controller Hadley is its accountant.

Mayor Moore is the non-technical member. His knowledge of its involved affairs, since he is not a banker or an accountant, must naturally depend largely upon information furnished by his colleagues.

The affairs of the Sinking Fund Commission have been for years, but most conspicuously of late, clouded in mystery. Its meetings were held with hermetically sealed doors. The public was rigorously excluded. Nothing was disclosed except such matters as were sanctioned by the Commissioners.

In defense of this undemocratic proceeding Controller Hadley has declared that this board, holding millions of the public's money in its grasp, was a law unto itself. That it was, in fact, an extra-judicial body.

These star chamber sessions were persisted in until Mayor Moore became identified with the commission. It was his insistence that the deliberations of the board were public business that finally induced his colleagues, Stotesbury and Hadley, to agree to public sessions.

The taxpayers' interest in this matter, particularly the small house owner, to whom any reduction of the tax rate is of paramount importance, is apparent from the following fact.

It is a leaf from the past record of the Sinking Fund Commission with which every taxpayer, big and little, should be familiar.

AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT

Story of How Lister, the English Surgeon, Adapted Pasteur's Theory of Germs to His Use in the Surgery

By SARAH D. LOWRIE

I WAS spending a week-end with a friend this summer and, being rather wretched one night, I lighted the lamp on my nightstand and fell to reading a book that I found there ready at hand.

It was a biography of Lord Lister, the great English surgeon of the late nineteenth century, and the discoverer of modern antiseptic treatment.

He took Pasteur's discovery of germs and turned it to practical use in surgery. One forgets that before he proved that suppuration of wounds came from an infection from the outside, and could be counteracted and even obviated by sterilizing applications before and during and after operations, the hospitals had been veritable pesthouses and about every operation in three fatal.

The after-dressing of the wounds was as careless—from a modern point of view—as the preliminary preparation, and the terrible hospital gangrene, the deep-seated abscesses, the almost inevitable retardation of healing were taken as a matter of course by doctors and nurses, as was also the fatal febrile attack which arose from those veritably putrefying sores.

The rich suffered less than the poor, because they could be nursed at home in rooms uncontaminated by the germs of past occupants, but even for the well-to-do such wounds as came from compound fractures, or crushed bones or less serious lacerations or tumor growths were more often fatal than not.

The strange thing about it was that the great surgeons of Edinburgh and of London and America would not accept the germ theory of disease until it was demonstrated in his surgical wards in Glasgow, then in Edinburgh and finally in London.

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Through the course of years there had been accumulated large sums that were inactive. These funds if taken from the hands of the commission and applied to the general expense fund of the municipality would, it was demonstrated, reduce the tax rate of the people.

After a vast amount of quibbling and objection on the part of the commission Council finally obtained a small part of these excess funds, amounting to \$1,160,000, which reduced the tax rate proportionately that year.

How much excess reserve is now held by the commission which might be available to reduce the present tax rate is a problem. The people at least are entitled to know the facts.

Under the present system of accounting it is a matter of surmise. Reports on the subject are so meager as to carry no information or else conceal the facts.

Controller Hadley has openly defied Council. A resolution asking for full information on its affairs has never been answered.

Demands in the past for full information concerning the loans and reserves, amounting to millions of dollars, have brought out the suggestion from certain large financial interests that, if persisted in, the effect would be to injure the city's credit in the bond markets of the country.

Was this a treacherous threat held over the heads of honest and disinterested inquirers by individuals who desired to control the city's millions in the Sinking Fund?

Controller Hadley has been a party to a policy of secrecy. He has taken refuge in the defense, if not expressed in words at least in deeds, that "it is none of the public's business."

Two successive Controllers of the great State of New York assumed the same attitude and they were indicted.

The imperative need, as a solution to this state of affairs, is the election to the controllership of a man fearless of publicity and with no special interests to serve, one familiar with public affairs and public financing; concretely, a City Controller who will fling open the barred windows of the office and let the public have a glimpse of its inner workings.

In this connection a sentence from the letter of Edwin Wolf, accepting the nomination of the Voters' League to be its candidate for City Controller, is pertinent: "As I view it," says Mr. Wolf, "the administration of the office of Controller should be strictly in line with clear legal directions, along modern and progressive lines and entirely free from selfish political or business influences of any kind."

LOOKS LIKE A "KILL" FROM HERE



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

FRANCES R. BARTHOLOMEW On Settlement Work

THE abandonment of the Eighth Ward Settlement after a period of activity of twenty-three years may ultimately result in the establishment of settlement work elsewhere and prove to be the ounce of prevention which is worth the pound of cure in preventing various "Hell's Half Acres."

"My idea of real settlement work," said Miss Bartholomew, in discussing what had been accomplished in the Eighth Ward, "is to prevent the formation of such conditions in other parts of the city, if the plans of Miss Frances R. Bartholomew, head of the Eighth Ward Settlement since its inauguration, are carried out."

"The work of the Eighth Ward Settlement, as the name indicates, was confined to that ward, but it was not a happy choice for a name and it led to misunderstandings, some humorous and others not at all so. On one occasion I found the house nearly swamped with a regular cargo of beer and whisky which had been sent here and which the driver insisted had been consigned to the 'Eighth Ward Club,' and that was the end of the matter."

"We worked definitely in 'Hell's Half Acre,' as it came generally to be known. This territory extended from Eighth to Twelfth street and from Walnut to Chestnut. It was also known as the 'Village of Vice,' and it had its own customs and laws and the city skirted around it."

"It presented a curious manifestation of city conditions of twenty-three years ago. Being politically protected made it almost impossible to do much effective work, and it was an almost constant fight against the criminals, but against the politicians who protected them."

"It is true that the population was overwhelmingly Negro, but the real reason for this was human depravity, protected by political agencies."

"Nor must it be supposed that all the residents of this district were criminals. There were many good families and honest men who lived in this particular district, and these were let alone and were respected by all. That they were unfortunate in their living environment was a matter of no difference to these strong characters."

"The small house for which Philadelphia is noted all over the country also had its inception in this district. Most of the houses here are very old and they were built by the wealthier class of people for their helpers and servants in the day when Eighth and Chestnut streets was the western frontier of the city. As these people moved away to other neighborhoods as the city spread the houses formerly occupied by their servants fell to a constantly increasing less desirable class, until finally it became the 'Village of Vice.'"

"The result of this was that the best work of the undertakers of the settlement is now and has been for years in other parts of the city, while many others through our work went to school, some even to college, and many of these sought their life work outside of the city altogether."

"Contrary to the general belief of the public, it is rarely if ever that the criminal wants a 'chance.' It is ridiculous to suppose for a moment that an overnight prayer meeting will transform a criminal into a good man."

"As a rule the criminal is made of poor stuff, and the real truth about crime and criminals are never the things that people wish them they did not realize for result think. Crime is far more often the result of weakness of character than anything else. As a matter of fact, it takes almost as much

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. Who said "Many are called, but few are chosen"?
2. Who was King of France at the time of the discovery of America by Columbus?
3. What was the year of the great hurricane in Galveston, Texas?
4. What is the largest nation in the world without a seacoast?
5. Where was the quail train beginning?
6. Who wrote the quatrain beginning, "I never saw a purple cow"?
7. When did Garibaldi die?
8. Against whom did Samuel J. Tilden run for President of the United States?
9. What was the principal source of illuminating gas?
10. What are the principal sources of illuminating gas?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. Voltaire spent most of his life in the eighteenth century. His dates are 1694-1778. His real name was Francois Marie Arouet. On his release from the Bastille in 1778 he began to write his name as Voltaire.
2. The so-called "Five Intolerable Acts" of the American Revolution were enacted by the British authorities in Massachusetts on June 1, 1774, closed the port of Boston to all commerce, save food, fuel and military supplies; the second remodeled the charter of Massachusetts to take away the executive power from the hands of the democratic parts of the Government; the third required that English officers and magistrates charged with the duties of the office should be tried in some other province than the one in which they were appointed; the fourth called for the quartering of soldiers in the homes of the people who failed voluntarily to provide suitable quarters, and the fifth was the Quebec Act, which extended the boundaries of Quebec province to the Ohio River, taking in what are now the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, and establishing therein an arbitrary form of government.
3. The Conway Cabal of the American Revolution was engineered by Thomas Conway, an Englishman who had long been in the service of France. He had served in the American Army in the early part of the war, and was promoted when Washington, believing the movement against the British to be a plot, was ordered to leave the country. Conway was exposed by a member of Gates' staff under the influence of Bogue shortly afterwards. Conway, expecting to die from a wound received in a duel, wrote to Washington expressing his regret for the plot.
4. Tutuila is the name of the chief island of American Samoa in the South Pacific.
5. Levi P. Morton was Vice President of the United States under Benjamin Harrison.
6. Tampico, the oil port of Mexico, is situated on the Gulf of Mexico about ninety miles south of the Tropic of Cancer.
7. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State met here in the President at the Cabinet table.
8. Henry VII was King of England at the time of the discovery of America.
9. The Duke of Wellington declared that he would fight Napoleon for half so much money as a battle worth.
10. The treaty of peace between the Allies and Hungary is called the Treaty of Trianon.

SHORT CUTS

It isn't reformed spelling that makes dyestuffs die stuffs.
Since Germany has paid her August dues Mr. Keynes is probably not so sure he was that figures can't lie.
The declaration that no sharks have been reported at the shore applies strictly to the water variety. Hooch is something else again.
When Congress views the Treasury estimate of Government needs it may grieve over the realization that here is a Mellon that can't be cut.
Not the least instructive trip disarmament conferees could take, say late in October, would be one along the entire Canadian border, where nothing more warlike is to be seen than rinds on hooch.
The per capita circulation in August was fifty-nine cents less than in July. The amount is easily accounted for so far as the bay favorite is concerned. He bought handkerchiefs marked down from sixty cents.