

Evening Public Ledger

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A CARD INDEX WON'T DO IT

The only important function of the Un-
employment Commission will be to
register the unemployed and classify them
according to their needs...

BEHIND THE SCENES

While most of the world is talking of a
Conference for the Limitation of Armaments
and disarmament, the French people are
concerned with the revival and expansion of armament...

MORE JUDGES NEEDED

IF CONGRESS fails to pass the bill pro-
viding for eighteen new Federal Judges
it will not be for the reason that the new
Judges are unnecessary.

ELKTON MARRIAGES

STORIES of hasty marriages and bitter
regret unfolded monotonously from day
to day in the Domestic Relations Court...

SENATE VAUDEVILLE

POLITICS is sometimes responsible for
curious distortions of logic. Senator
Sheppard, of Texas, has been arguing
vehemently against the separate treaties...

THE BIG BROTHERS

THE acceptance by President Harding of
the honorary presidency of the Big
Brother Federation calls attention to one
of the most beneficent philanthropies in the
country.

WHY NOT A REAL CUT IN THE TAX RATE?

Commissioner Stotesbury and Controller Hadley Can Help, as Well as the
Mayor and Council, if They Will Release Unnecessary
Reserves Now Isolated in the Sinking Fund

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

IT IS conceded there is to be a reduction in the tax rate for the coming year.

For once there is unanimity of purpose between Mayor Moore and City
Council.

After consultation with his Directors, the Mayor has issued instructions for
a budget of the most rigid economy in the various departments. When presented
to Council the budget, it is believed, will represent ultimate safety in the city's
operating expenses.

As it was an "Organization" Administration that boosted the tax rate to its
present level, the "Organization" majority in Council is only doing the consistent
thing in making an effort to ease the burden it imposed.

It has been intimated that the reiterated promises of the majority in Council to
reduce the tax rate is a lure to attract public attention away from a contemplated
manipulation of the new gas contract.

It is a reflection on the intelligence of the people of Philadelphia. It is a crude
intimation that it is not possible for them to follow the reduction of the tax rate
and at the same time keep an eye on Council's action on the gas lease whereby
they stand to win or lose millions of dollars on their gas bills.

Controller Hadley has set forth in an alluring and attractive form the possi-
bilities of a reduced tax rate.

He points out that it is possible by soul-paring economies to reduce the tax
burden of the people anywhere from twenty-five to fifty cents for the coming year,
that is to say, reduce it from \$2.15, the present city rate, to \$1.90 or even \$1.65.

But why does Controller Hadley fail to point out where it is possible to reduce
the rate at least seventy cents to \$1.40 instead of a paltry twenty-five or fifty cents?
Mr. Hadley is the chief fiscal officer of the municipality. He is presumably
the watchdog of the Treasury. Is it possible that Fido has gone to sleep?

It has been pointed out by this newspaper on several occasions recently where
the Sinking Fund Commission, the majority members of which are E. T. Stotes-
bury and W. B. Hadley, holds large excess reserves of city money.

Mayor Moore is also a member of the Sinking Fund Commission. He would
unquestionably endorse any suggestion to lower the tax rate, even if it went so far as
to take a few unemployed millions from the sacrosanct Sinking Fund.

Fiscal experts figure that for every million dollars saved to the city the tax rate
of the people is thereby reduced five cents.

Several years back Councils compelled the Sinking Fund Commissioners to
release their grip on a million and a half dollars or so. The tax rate was thereby
reduced seven cents. That is a matter of record.

Controller Hadley, even at the command of Council, has declined to reveal the
mysterious secrets of the Sinking Fund.

It is estimated, however, that there is at the present time between \$4,000,000
and \$5,000,000 of excess surplus, which means money in the fund that is not work-
ing except to draw a low rate of interest from some of the favored banking
institutions.

If Commissioner Stotesbury and Controller Hadley would only release this
fund and turn it over to the City Treasury for the general running expenses of the
municipality, see what would happen? It would be the same as money saved.

The tax rate for next year could be lowered an additional twenty-five cents.
Instead of the rate being cut down from \$2.15 to \$1.65, it could be brought down to
\$1.40.

Cannot Council pause from its amusing pastime of learning how to make gas
long enough to beseech Commissioner E. T. Stotesbury and Controller W. B.
Hadley, majority members of the Sinking Fund Commission, to aid in reducing the
people's tax to \$1.40?

Mr. Stotesbury is recognized as an imposing figure in Philadelphia finance.
He is a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., of New York. He is the titular
and actual head of the Philadelphia firm of Drexel & Co.

It should require no special pleading to point out to such an eminent authority
what a financial advantage would accrue to every property holder in Philadelphia
from such a material reduction in the tax rate.

Mr. Hadley, the Controller, is an expert accountant. He is familiar with
municipal finance. He will coincide, as he always does, with Commissioner Stotes-
bury in any action that may be taken on this tax-relief measure.

Is there any reason, therefore, why the tax rate for the ensuing year should
not be reduced from \$2.15 to \$1.40?

It can be done if the Mayor, Council, Commissioner Stotesbury and Controller
Hadley will get together and do the right thing by the people.

home on parole and the attention of a Big
Brother was directed to him. The man
secured a job for him at work that inter-
ested him, and he kept track of the youth.

The latter was surprised and grateful to
discover that any one cared about him, and
he responded quickly. He became con-
tacted with his work at peace with his family and
at the last report was in the way of becoming
a useful citizen.

The Big Brothers are kind-hearted men
who are willing to put themselves to the
trouble of looking after a boy who needs a
friend. The President is too busy to find
time to look after any wayward boys in
Washington, but his acceptance of an office
in the federation ought to be followed by the
volunteering of a large number of kindly
men to co-operate with the Big Brothers in
every city where they are active.

THE necessity for electric traction in long
tunnels is poignantly demonstrated in a
shocking railway disaster in Paris. The
underground section of the State railroad
leading to the St. Lazare Station is low-
vaulted and ill-ventilated, and in times of
heavy traffic, as during the commuting hours,
smoke clouds perilously limit the vision of
engineers.

Tunnels of the cramped, restricted type
are common in Europe than in this coun-
try, where most of the railways, originally
built and cheaply built, have been at some
time reconstructed. There are, however,
especially in the older sections of the United
States, subterranean survivals vapor-choked
and badly lighted, potentially almost as dan-
gerous as the modern ones so horribly disas-
tered in Paris. Baltimore, with its electric
engines, was a pioneer in a reform which has
been conspicuously carried out elsewhere in
under-river tubes and urban subways.

The lesson of the Paris tragedy will not
be adequately learned until steam loco-
motives are excluded from all tunnels of any
considerable size. No system of signals,
however expertly operated, is proof against
the confusion that can be wrought by dense
billows of smoke confined in a narrow pas-
sage.

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Within these divisions are forty-two dis-
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Each district has three sergeants, with
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into three shifts, that each group of men,
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The highest salary in this climb upward
is about \$4,000. With each promotion the
responsibility increases and the hardships of
the profession decrease until the duties are
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as in the old days, but is a paid force, and
against the old age pensions—that is, it is
the duty of the Mayor, directly over the
police force is the Superintendent of Police.
Under him is an assistant superintendent or
commissioner.

AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT

City Doesn't Look Half Bad After a
Season in the Country, Though the
Country Has a Charm All Its Own

By SARAH D. LOWRIE

COMING back to town after a long vaca-
tion I was struck by three changes
which marked this coming back as unique.

The streets actually looked clean. The
rain-sodden mud, which was previously
less expensive to drive in. And the police
force, represented by the traffic officers at
all events, had an air of military spruceness
that was what you might call convincing.

But it is convincing that the recent
visit of Major Warburton on the Mayor's staff of
commissioners was becoming visible to the
naked eye.

Under an efficient officer and a City
Trooper the State Constabulary could get a
snap and spirit that made it an honorable
body to work in and a splendid model for
other States to copy. It would be reasonable
to expect that the constabulary, with the expe-
rience of Major Warburton could bring a new
impetus to the reorganization of the city
police force that would be as much to the
liking of the men themselves as to the rank
and file of the citizens.

There is no reason why a policeman
should not be as honorable as a Judge.
He enforces the law, so do they, and
his power entitles him to as much re-
spect as a clergyman or a school teacher.

He receives better pay to begin with than
a clergyman and has a chance of earning
more in the course of his promotion than
most college professors. He can establish
himself quicker than most business men, for
he receives within a few months of his ap-
plication for membership in the city a
salary higher than an ordinary beginner
can aspire to.

His training is a very many one. He
must excel in physical tests, and he must
display quickness of action, bravery, courage
and judgment if he is to forge ahead. He has
to be an out-of-doors man, and it is part of
his duty to dress well and carry himself
with the air of a gentleman.

More so, a class of American
citizens it is to his class that the newly
arrived would-be American must look for
direction. It is his duty to arrest law-
breakers to be sure, but it is also his duty
to protect helpless or wronged or lost or
foolish people. Better than most men, he
even protect fools and sinners against them-
selves.

A man who can come up to the reason-
able requirements of police regulations and
who is between twenty-one and thirty-five
years of age and a citizen in good standing
in the community can apply and stands a
good chance of being accepted on the force.

After passing the by means seven ex-
aminations and taking the three months'
preliminary training, an officer's salary of
\$1,825 a year is his. His steps of prefer-
ence, if he makes good, will be from police-
man to sergeant, and from sergeant to cap-
tain, and from lieutenant to captain. The
city department chief under which he serves
is the Director of Public Safety, an ap-
pointee of the Mayor. Directly over the
police force is the Superintendent of Police.
Under him is an assistant superintendent or
commissioner.

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The highest salary in this climb upward
is about \$4,000. With each promotion the
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"SINCE NOBODY'S LOOKIN'!"



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

George W. Elliott

On Fire Prevention

FIRE-PREVENTION DAY should be
made one of the most important days
of the entire calendar, according to Fire
Marshal George W. Elliott, because it is a day
which, if properly observed and its lessons
taken to heart, will have a beneficial
influence upon the lives and the pocketbooks
of the whole American people.

"Fire-Prevention Day," said Marshal
Elliott, "falls on October 9 each year, but
this year, as the 9th is on Sunday, it will
be observed on Monday, October 10. The
date was fixed in order to commemorate the
anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871.

"The day is each year becoming more
and more generally observed. The President
of the United States, the Governors of many
of the States, including our own, and the
Mayors of most of the great cities, again in-
cluding Philadelphia, have issued proclama-
tions calling upon the citizens to observe the
day, in an endeavor to get the citizens to
co-operate in fire prevention.

"The annual fire losses in the United
States have grown to such a tremendous
amount that the Government is now con-
sidering the problem. The 'National Ash Pile,'
as it has been well termed, has now grown
to 500,000,000 a year.

"Of this enormous total, Philadelphia's
contribution last year was \$8,000,000, re-
sulting from 4955 fires, as against \$3,918,245
in 1919 and \$3,911,350 in 1918.

"Of the 4955 fires in Philadelphia in the
last year, it is conservatively estimated that
the causes of fully 60 per cent of them were
easily within the control of the householder.
Of the remaining 40 per cent, there is not the
slightest doubt that a goodly number may
be classed as 'crooked' fires; that is, where
there was a deliberate fraud practiced upon
the public.

"The prevention aims chiefly at the preven-
tion of those fires which result from
carelessness on the part of the citizens rather
than those which are caused by design or
intent, and at the enforcement of laws and
ordinances in the matter of building erection
and occupancy. Then, too, an effort which
may not be entirely within the scope of fire
prevention is now being made in order that
every citizen of the United States may be
brought to realize the enormous per capita
cost of the fire waste.

"In Philadelphia, based on a population
of 1,825,000, the per capita loss last year
was \$4.77, and this, it must be remembered,
is a loss in created values which had to be
replaced. This loss of \$4.77 per person in
this city does not include the per capita cost
of fire protection or suppression, by which I
mean the cost of maintaining the fire de-
partment, the cost of water and the many
other items which enter into the extinguish-
ment of fires.

"This per capita fire waste is a direct tax
upon each of our citizens, and if the Phila-
delphia loss is very heavy the cost is felt by
the citizens of the whole United States as
well.

"When I say a direct tax I mean that
everything we use, everything we eat and
everything we buy has figured into it as a
part of the cost of production, this amount
to cover the cost of the fire waste. Therefore
the matter of fire prevention has come to be
an economic problem which must be con-
sidered seriously in the economic life of the
Nation.

Must Pay the Price
The citizens of Philadelphia must
awaken to the fact that they cannot have
301 fires a year resulting from the careless
use of cigars and cigarettes, 841 fires each
year resulting from the careless use of
matches, 212 fires every year caused by mis-
cellaneous logs and 100 fires each year re-
sulting from rubbish, without paying the
cost of them, and that cost is high.

"As direct evidence of the carelessness
which is usually manifested in our everyday
life and the huge part which it plays in the
great national fire waste, reference need
only be made to the tabulation of the origin
of the various fires in this city.

"This table shows very clearly the part
which soot in chimneys and uncleanly
play in the year's fire record. It shows that
fires from soot increase month by month,
from one in the month of August to twenty-
five in the month of January, and, simi-
larly, fires from defective chimneys in-
crease from one in the month of August to
sixteen in the month of January. From this
it is easy to recognize that if the chimneys
were cleaned properly, as they should be
during the warm weather, a large propor-
tion, if not all, of these fires would have
been prevented.

"Fire always has its origin at some par-
ticular place and for some particular reason.
In order to prevent them it is only necessary
for each citizen to learn that the rubbish
pile, the bottle, the careless handling of
matches, the carelessly used cigar or cigar-
ette, the oily floor mop stored in a closet,
the putting of hot ashes into wooden boxes
and similar everyday conditions cause fires
which contribute very largely in a seemingly
small way to the great waste that is caus-
ing a heavy direct tax upon every individual
in the country—a tax which is unheard of
and unknown in any other great civilized
nation of the world.

"It takes a very little thing sometimes to
start a very big fire, and it is this fact
which Fire-Prevention Day seeks to in-
culcate into the minds of the citizens of the
Nation. An ounce of prevention is worth a
pound of cure in almost any case, but in
the case of fire above all others.

"American resources have been taxed to
the limit within the last thirty years to
replace the property destroyed by fires.
And in these figures the loss by forest fires
is not included. This, too, is a very heavy
loss, and in many cases results from entirely
preventable causes. The Government is also
put to very heavy expense to guard against
forest fires and to maintain a force sufficient
to fight them when discovered.

"The only way in which to reduce this
enormous loss is to have fewer fires. And
the best way to do this is for every citizen
to learn care on Fire-Prevention Day and
to practice the lesson then learned through-
out the entire year. Care in the small things
is the greatest of all, especially in the care-
ful handling of fire in all its forms and the
preventing of the accumulation of large piles
of rubbish of any kind. This is the best
and, in fact, the only way to reduce the
absolutely useless and unnecessary fire waste
which is becoming a staggering load upon
the Nation.

Today's Birthdays
George P. McLean, United States Sen-
ator from Connecticut, born at Simsbury,
Conn., sixty-four years ago.
Frederick Hale, United States Senator
from Maine, born in Detroit, Mich., forty-
seven years ago.
Joseph E. Ransdell, United States Sen-
ator from Louisiana, born at Alexandria,
La., sixty-two years ago.
Patrick H. Kelley, Representative in Con-
gress of the Sixth Michigan district, born
in Cass County, Michigan, fifty-four years
ago.

What Do You Know?
QUIZ
1. How many poet laureates of England
have followed Tennyson and who were
they?
2. What is meant by the "bons aninonny"?
3. Name the most celebrated allegorist
of the American "Arabian Nights."
4. Of what party is the present Conserva-
tive Party of England?
5. How many planets are there in the solar
system?
6. Which city of France at the time of
the American Revolution was given to
the British?
7. What is meant by a "black-belt"?
8. Where and what were Seattle and
"Harbors"?
9. What is a myrmidon?
Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. Alfonso d'Albuquerque, the celebrated
Portuguese navigator, conqueror and
founder of the Portuguese Empire in
Brazil, was known as the "Portu-
guese Mars." He was born in Lisbon
about 1482 and died in Goa, India,
in 1500.
2. The fact that such a thousand ships
"as that of Helen of Troy" astro-
nautically flew in the sky, was the
plot of "The Faustian" by Marlowe's
play, "The Faustus."
3. Malarbone is a name often given to
the western coast of British India,
properly confined to the southern part
of the Indian States during the first
of Grover Cleveland, 1847-1855.
4. Alcock is the name given to several kinds
of wire from Alaska, the ancient
Greek poet, their reputed inventor.
5. Senator Kenyon is from Iowa.
6. The American colonial confederacy
was formed in Albany on June 19, 1774. New
Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode
Island, Connecticut, New York, Penn-
sylvania and Maryland were the col-
onies represented.
7. The invention of the hydro-airplane in
1911 is ascribed to G. H. C. Currier.
8. A grig is a small cat, a grasshopper or
cricket.
9. "Rotten State" (literally, reason to be)
is a French phrase, meaning to be in
a state of affairs, or justifies or origi-
nally caused a thing's existence.

SHORT CUTS

It isn't generally known, but lots of
things happened in the world yesterday be-
sides baseball.

The strictness with which Japan keeps
aliens away from her possessions robs her
plan for social equality of much of its force.

The Shipping Board has apparently not
yet made up its mind whether the Levathan
is a whale of a ship or just a white ele-
phant.

The endocrine balance may be check-
ful of interest, but said interest save to a
savant) is not quite so evident as that of a
bank balance.

The resignation of the Prohibition Di-
rector of New York State betokens a Hart
bowed down by New York State. The job is
distasteful to him, he says.

There is little comfort for business and
small encouragement for its revival in the
declaration of Senator Penrose that the
pending Revenue Bill is merely a temporary
measure.

One unexpected thing the Limitation of
Armaments Conference may bring about is
American recognition of the fact that there
is in existence a body known as the League
of Nations.

It is, of course, yet too early to decide
whether the prophet who picked a Peckin-
gough for popular approval picked a peach
or a plum. There are still several games
to be played.

France will defend her present army at
the Limitation of Armaments Conference,
and Hindenburg, Ludendorff and Stines
brought to break into the news to furnish her
with good reasons.

Sylvia Pankhurst, expelled from the
British Communist Party, is said to have
joined the German Red group. And once
upon a time he had a notion that all Sylvia
wanted was the vote.

If the man who had monkey glands
transplanted in his innards could see re-
sult, ditch winning baseball in a World
Series he would have no difficulty in keeping
on the front page of the newspapers.

Scientists at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.,
have developed a coal-black chicken. Which
prompts one to quote the kid whose father
has just concluded a successful game of solit-
aire: "What are you going to do now,
pop?"

The latest bloc is composed of "Baby
Congressmen"—members young in service
who are out to down the ruling oligarchy
of the Senate. They wish to get into the
room till they ask for pap. Then the bloc
will pop off like a pup with the pip.

Hindenburg's demand that Germany
keep up her fighting spirit takes on the as-
pect of a hope capable of fulfillment when
taken in conjunction with the French
declaration that every German regiment al-
ways under the Versailles Treaty has three
hundred non-commissioned officers, two
hundred of them serving as privates.

Fans are said to have been fooled on
the day of the opening game by reports that
it was impossible to get into the Polo
Grounds, but the fact that there were 8000
empty seats at the opening game would seem
to show that it was the management that
was fooled. Also, the enthusiasts who
waited in line through a long, cold night.

Lord Northcliffe was indulging in no
idle dreams when he told Australians that if
they wished theirs to remain a white man's
country they would better get busy at once
and promote immigration. Occupation would
so obviously solve Japan's problem of over-
population that the solving of England's
problem of the same nature in the same
way seems the only possible course for them
to take.