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.

Want No Secret Klans

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Your readers of all types and religions must be grateful to you for your exposure of the Ku Klux Klan. We want and we need no clans of any character in this land of the free. When the Government once got started it made short shrift of the Molly Maguires, and now that it has started after the midnight-marauding Ku Klux Klan there should be no let-up until the workings of this order are exposed. We want no Ku Klux Klan, no Mafia, no Mollies, nor anything of that sort, who cover their faces so that they cannot be identified.

There should be a law in this country against going about disguised just as severe as is the law against the citizen carrying concealed weapons. There have been reflections against all secret organizations—the Masons, because they will not let everybody who might want to do so to join their ranks; or the Knights of Columbus, made up entirely of Catholics, and similar organizations.

This is a very poor argument. Any order is justified in excluding a certain class from becoming members, because they are not in sympathy with the movement, but these organizations don't try to hinder or boycott or abuse and threaten those who not agree with them. There would be no limit to such an argument, for it would exclude the Christian Endeavor societies, the Holy Name, the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. M. H. A., all of which admit only to membership persons of their own religion or their own race.

The Ku Klux Klan must not be placed in this class, but instead they are of the Mafia, or the Molly Maguire or other murderous bodies. If not as criminal as the latter two named, they at least go around masked and swear their members to carry out certain of their projects, some of which are quite dangerous to the well-being of the country. GEORGE T. MYERS.

Philadelphia, October 14, 1921.

The Rum "Clean-up"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Why this late day rum "clean-up"? Why was the law not enforced at once—so that a number of our lawless people—mostly foreigners—were not given the opportunity to make a small fortune out of an illegitimate traffic? I have heard of a number of cases where foreigners, mostly Italians, have been getting rich in the southern section of the city making a concoction which was intoxicating and quite detrimental to the health, and yet the police knew of their breaking of the law, but made no effort to stop them, either because they were ordered not to do so for political reasons or because they were bribed to keep quiet.

Bootlegging has been going on in this city ever since we have had prohibition, and no effort of a serious nature was made to stop it until now. Why now? The biggest damage is done. Thousands of people have been carrying on the illicit business unmolested, and it has made criminals out of these men and made them feel that they were above the law because they did not feel its strong arm.

The crowd that have been routed out of the positions as chiefs have been supplanted by others. Why didn't those who were fired do their duty, and will the new crowd do it? is what we are asking ourselves. We may not be in favor of the law, but we, if we are good citizens of this country, should be in favor of our Constitution, to see that all its amendments are sacred, whether we believe they are justified or not.

Let Mr. Rufter and the men who are to help him get on the job as soon as possible, and if they don't do any better than their predecessors the whole business should be abandoned. Liquor has been flowing as freely the last year as it has in any of the years in the past, and the worst feature of the thing is that it was of a most harmful and dangerous character. Before prohibition quality entered into the subject. The firm brewing the best beer or making the best liquor got the business. Now there is such a desire to secure liquors of all characters that the users never question the quality or whether it is or is not a poisonous substance to be taken into their bodies. We want real prohibition or we want to get back to the saloon and gin mill. We want no half-way business, in which the liquor Ku Kluxers go about bootlegging, etc., with their identity hidden. G. W. L.

Philadelphia, October 15, 1921.

The Anxiety of Hold-ups

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Why should it not be a good thing to call a meeting at the City Hall of the men who are supposed to look after the public safety of the citizens and at the same time hold a meeting of the most prominent men in each ward and another one in each district of the city, all of them to get together to see what can be done to check the wave of crime that seems to be mounting higher and higher?

At each meeting an open forum should be established for suggestions as to how to combat this crime wave. By making a general appeal in this way you would find that all citizens, men as well as women, would be self-appointed vigilance committees and always be on the alert as to suspicious characters and suspicious circumstances.

Today the people depend entirely on the police, and there are too few of them to bring about an effective result. In many of the neighborhoods it is impossible at times to find a policeman, and many people could tell you that they had not seen one in their vicinity for months. In the old days, when the city was policed by citizens and not a paid body, people in each district took their turn to keep order and watch for thieves, and it looks as if we may have to return to this antiquated system because the police seem powerless, either through inefficiency or indifference.

It is a terrible condition for a man to stand in his store dreading the moment when these auto bandits will pay him a visit, yet he is expecting it. It is just as bad for those persons who have occasion to be out at night, or passing a lonely spot in daylight, to feel that every automobile they see or hear means that they are to be held up, or that every man who is close behind them or coming toward them is going to attack them and demand their money and valuables. Something should be done at once—not tomorrow or next week, but today—to relieve this existing anxiety. D. W. R.

Philadelphia, October 15, 1921.

Why Change the Name?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—What makes it desirable for us to change the name and take another instead of Sesqui-Centennial? That name expresses fully what the fair is to celebrate. We have had our III-Centennial and our Constitutional Centennial, and surely Sesqui-Centennial is not a harder name to remember, pronounce or for whatever the reason that it is thought the name is undesirable.

Most of the names that have been suggested for your paper are entirely too local in application, and although such names might be desired by Philadelphians out of pride, this is not going to be a Philadelphia fair alone, but one which is to be looked upon as world wide in its importance and its representation. I think foreign countries would respond more quickly if we were to call the fair the Sesqui-Centennial than they would if we were to call it by any of the other names suggested.

W. R. L.

Philadelphia, October 15, 1921.

The English of Car Conductors

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I think that the Rapid Transit Company makes a great mistake in selecting men as its conductors who are defective in pronunciation or enunciation or do not know the proper way the streets are named. This is called to my mind by an occurrence on the street cars yesterday. An elderly lady got on the car on South Fifty-second street, and she wanted to get to a certain number north and asked the conductor at which street she should alight.

He was not any too courteous to her, and he replied in a way that sounded "Hay yard avenue" or "Harvard avenue." The old lady asked him the second time and the third and a passenger saw her embarrassment and asked her the number, and he told her the conductor was trying to say Haverford avenue.

This is only one incident, but I have heard conductors call out the names of the streets in my neighborhood in such a way that only a person knowing them as well as I do would ever understand what the conductor was trying to say. I have noticed where the company employs men with hare-lips or tongue-tied, and it is not possible to understand them. H. W. L.

Philadelphia, October 15, 1921.

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.

"'Twas Ever Thus," Writer Says

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—It is to be observed that some of the World War veterans are still finding fault because less worthy men are given preference in jobs. Lest they think that they are being worse treated than has been the fate of other men who have served in wars, I will assure them 'twas ever thus.

Wars are the result of commercial rivalry, in the main. Commercial interests make money out of wars, and they are the only element in society that is therefore interested in bringing about armed conflicts, as no one else makes money out of the slaughter. The bigger the war the better for the commercialists. Men to them are mere things that enter the fray just like fodder, ammunition, corned beef and hobnailed shoes.

After the war is over they feel no responsibility and none is placed on them. So they contend they are under no obligation to the soldier who is supposed to have gone forth in the spirit of patriotism in defense of his flag and his country.

And really why should they, it being a purely commercial proposition? No, boys, you have been treated no worse than soldiers have always been everywhere. But if you are as good Americans as you were soldiers, you should know how to make your power legally felt. The American glutton is pretty deaf, but the millions of you together ought to be able to make him hear some rumblings. CIVIL WAR VET.

Philadelphia, October 5, 1921.

A Pleasant Winter Prophesied

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—With the present knowledge of meteorology, it is virtually impossible to foretell correctly climatic conditions and changes very far in advance of their occurrence. There are, however, certain known conditions of the sun, which is undoubtedly the most important factor in producing weather, and certain indications, as shown a few months in advance by the actions of plants and animals, which indicate to one who has made a careful study of these and other minor agencies what the coming seasons are most likely to bring to us in the way of weather.

Two years ago I advised the likelihood of an early and long winter, which we all remember, especially the severity of October, 1919, and April, 1920. A year ago I predicted an exceptionally mild and pleasant winter, especially for February, and was gratified that my mention of February was so completely verified.

The indications and conditions as I judge them for the coming winter are not extreme or radical, and it would be my judgment that we may expect rather an ordinary winter, but with an abundance of sunshine and some deficiency in precipitation in this locality.

Undoubtedly we shall have some severe cold weather, the thermometer likely going lower than it did through the winter of two years ago, but, on the whole, I expect a comparatively pleasant winter for the country in general. W. L. HANSON.

Philadelphia, October 10, 1921.

Questions Answered

The Precocious William Wotton

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—At what age was the precocious William Wotton graduated from Harvard University, Cambridge? H. T. B.

Philadelphia, October 10, 1921.

William Wotton, one of the most precocious of scholars, received his B. A. from Harvard at the age of thirteen. His father began to teach him Latin and Greek when he was four years old; Hebrew when he was five, and he entered Cambridge in his tenth year.

Camp Eustis, Va.

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Is Camp Eustis, Va., a permanent camp? For whom was it named? H. D. V.

Philadelphia, October 10, 1921.

Camp Eustis, Va., is a permanent coast artillery camp, which was established during the spring of 1918. It was named for Brigadier General Abram for Abraham—spelled both ways in war records) Eustis, who was an artillery officer who died in 1843.

Trademarking Farm Name

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Would it be possible for me to trademark the name of my farm? I sell from its products under the name and do not want anyone else to do so. J. W. W.

Philadelphia, October 10, 1921.

A trademark may be obtained for the name of a farm. If a farmer uses his farm name as a part of his selling operation in marketing his products, the trademark protects him in its use in interstate commerce.

Boy's Nationality

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will you please tell me through your column the following: My husband is a Canadian. My little boy was born in this country. Will he be recognized as an American citizen or a Canadian? J. W. L.

Philadelphia, October 4, 1921.

By the Constitution of the United States any person born within the States is a citizen, no matter what the nationality of his parents.

A Birthday Query

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will you kindly publish in your People's Forum the following: If a child is born at 12:40 daylight-saving time, September 7 is the child's birthday the sixth or the seventh of September? E. MILLER.

Philadelphia, October 3, 1921.

Daylight saving was the official time in Philadelphia when the child was born, consequently the child's birthday would be September 7.

William Penn's Age

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How old was William Penn when he came to America and settled Philadelphia? H. W. L.

Philadelphia, October 11, 1921.

William Penn was born in London on October 14, 1644. He was given his grant of land in America in payment of a debt owing to his father in March, 1681, and he sailed for his province in his ship Welcome on September 1, 1682, landing at New Castle, Del., on October 27.

"Mrs. E. E. L."—Covent Garden is a corrupt form of Convent Garden. It was originally the garden of the abbot of Westminster.

"C. C. T."—David Lloyd George, of England, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

"R. M. N."—There are sixty-eight cities in the United States having a population of more than 100,000.

"C. W. L."—The religion which has the most followers is Confucianism or Taoism, numbering 310,925,000 members.

"R. B. A."—Numerous dialects are spoken in the Philippines, and it is estimated that it would be necessary to print a message in thirteen different languages in order to make it intelligible to all the various language groups.

"C. R. L."—The phrase "There is, however, a limit at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue" is from Edmund Burke's "Observations on a Late Publication on the Present State of the Nation."

"C. R. T."—E. Phillips Oppenheim had his first short story published thirty-five years ago, when he was eighteen, and his first novel appeared when he was twenty.

Poems and Songs Desired

Wants "The Price"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I should like to obtain a copy of the poem written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox called "The Price." I can't seem to find it among the collection of her poems at our library. One extract of the poem is as follows: "I said I would have my fling and do as a young man may." E. D. C.

Philadelphia, October 11, 1921.

"In Heaven"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Can any one tell me where to find the poem which begins somewhat as follows:

"In heaven, they say, is undisturbed and perfect peace, and yet
Along our heartstrings even there a tremor of regret
Must sometimes wander into pain, if memory survives—
A grief that in this good, great world we lived no larger lives."

MARY T. ROBINSON.

Philadelphia, October 11, 1921.

An Omitted Stanza

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In your recent printing of a poem beginning "There was an old lady lived over the sea" the sixth stanza was omitted, as follows:

"She ordered the servants to bring home the tax,
Declaring her child should obey,
For, old as she was and almost woman grown,
She half whipped her life away."

H. L. GRAY.

Philadelphia, October 11, 1921.

Lines Asked For

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I believe that these are the lines that were recently requested by "C. T.":

PLAYS

By Walter Savage Landor

Alas! how soon the hours are over
Counted us out to play the lover!
And how much narrower is the stage
Allotted us to play the sage!
But when we play the fool how wide
The theatre expands! Besides,
How long the audience sits before us!
How many prompters, what a chorus!

E. L. G.

Philadelphia, October 11, 1921.

A Lowell Quotation

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—If Henry T. Long will secure James Russell Lowell's complete poems, he will find one entitled "Lines on Freedom," from which the quotation he gives in tonight's paper is taken:

"They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three."

THEODORE J. GREEN.

Delanco, N. J., October 11, 1921.

An Old English Poem

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Could any one supply the verses of the old English poem:

"Peter would go to the wedding, he would;
So he saddled his ass and his wife;
She might ride behind if she could,
For says Peter, says he, 'The woman she should
Follow not lead through life.'"

M. H. WOOD.

Wawa, Pa., October 11, 1921.

A Scotch Song

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I would appreciate it if you would print in your People's Forum the words of an old Scotch song entitled "The Star of Glengary." MARY T. MALONE.

Philadelphia, October 6, 1921.

THE STAR OF GLENGARY

The red moon is up o'er the moss-covered mountain,
The hour is at hand when I promised to rove,
With the turf-cutter's daughter, by Logan's bright water,
And tell her how truly her Donald can love.
I ken there's the miller, with plenty o' siller,
Would fain with a glance from her beautiful e'e—
She's my ain bonny Mary, the star of Glengary,
Keeps all her soft smiles and sweet kisses for me—
She's my ain bonny Mary, the star of Glengary,
Keeps all her soft smiles and sweet kisses for me.
'Tis long since we trod o'er the highlands together,
Two frolicsome hairns, gayly startling the deer,
When I called her my wee wife, my ain bonny wee wife,
And ne'er was sic joys as when Mary was there;
For she is a blossom I wear in my bosom,
A blossom I cherish and wear till I dee—
She's my ain bonny Mary, the star of Glengary;
She is health, she is wealth and a gude wife to me—
She's my ain bonny Mary, the star of Glengary;
She is health, she is wealth and a gude wife to me.

Garage Man Found Dead

Andrew Ritmer, forty years old, was found dead last night in a garage at Worrell street near Frankford avenue, where he was employed. The body was removed to the morgue.

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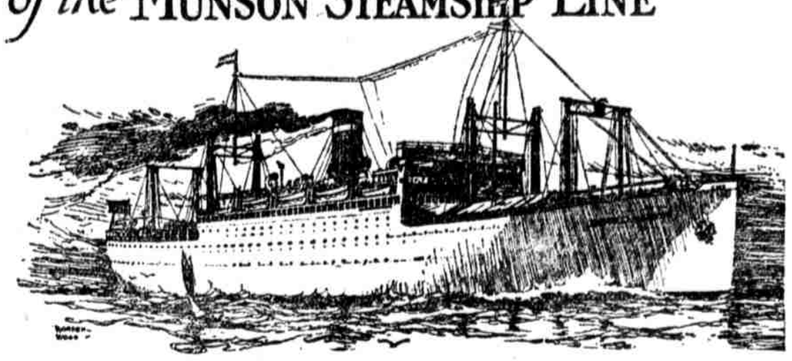

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