# 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.

### Condition for Canceling Debt

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—There is being said a great deal these days about plans and suggestions of cancellation of the Allies' debts to America at the forthcoming disarmament conference, to begin on Armistice Day in Washington. The idea of cancellation of such a huge debt is preposterous. If granted under ordinary circumstances, it would be stupid. It would mean to take our people's money and waste it without moral right or conscience.

And yet the cancellation could be made the greatest gift of the noblest Nation in the neediest hour for the loftiest purpose in the service of humanity for generations to come if it were made conditionally to the laying down of arms of every debtor nation, signed by them as a guarantee of future peace and good will not to raise arms.

No nation could offer a gift to humanity, even though it hurts, that would equal it for the benefit of a suffering world if the above purpose were fulfilled.

BENNO KIRSCHBAUM.

Oak Lane, October 14, 1921.

### Small Wage of Railroad Men

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—Not long ago I read an editorial in your paper telling how a girl could just barely manage to get along on $16.50 per week, so thought I would write to you in the hope you would print in your paper how the railroad expects a family to get along on just a few dollars more.

My husband has worked for the railroad twenty years. We have been married thirteen years, and have three children, making five in family to provide for. Previous to July 1, 1921, he was earning a salary of $5.16 per day. July 1 his wages were cut ten cents an hour, or eighty cents a day, bringing it down to $4.36 per day, or $26.16 a week, if I am allowed the week's wage, but we get paid every a month. In a thirty-one-day month he works twenty-nine days, making $126.64. In a thirty-day month he works twenty-eight days, making $116.48.

The following is my expense account per month:

| | |
|---|---|
| Building and loan | $12.50 |
| Water rent and taxes | 11.00 |
| Insurance | 5.00 |
| Lodges, relief and union | 8.00 |
| Milk | 8.00 |
| Church | 2.00 |
| Gas | 3.00 |
| Laundry | 3.00 |
| Music lessons, four lessons at 75c | 3.00 |
| Ice (during the summer) 25c a week | 2.00 |
| | $93.50 |

This leaves a balance of $35.00 a thirty-one-day month and $31.50 in a thirty-day month.

Now, out of this balance I must feed the table for a month, pay for gas at $13.20 a ton, house bills and clothes, also repairs to house. In my budget you may think the insurance and lodges run to excess, but each one is insured for just enough to have them buried, with the exception of my husband, whose insurance would amount to about $2000—not too much when you have three small children to raise. If he were sick, I would get $22 per week.

In regard to the laundry, I am able to do it all on account of my health failing to not having proper care when my children were born. From the 1st of the month until the 1st of October we bought eight pairs of slippers for the children. Since the 1st of October I have bought three pairs of shoes for same. Now, we are a small family compared to some who are getting the same wages.

We know it is not the thing to have more than two children and more, but it is done just the same. Now this work to cut the men's wages six cents, and the public is in sympathy with them.

When the men were given their increase a couple of years ago, freight and passenger rates were increased accordingly, but when the cut came for the men the freight and passenger rates were not reduced, and they claim the men must be cut more so they can reduce freight rates.

A railroad strike is a dreadful thing to think of, and I hope and pray it will not come to that, but can you see the poor blame man for wanting a decent living wage so they can give their families a decent home and their children a fair education and a chance to make something of themselves? A RAILROAD MAN'S WIFE.

Philadelphia, October 18, 1921.

### Enforce Prohibition to the Limit

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—The Prohibition law, since it has become a part of our Constitution, should be enforced to the limit. The new Administration has been doing wonders in the short time since they have been in charge but they should get to the root of the whole thing—the fountain head from which the liquor flows into the saloons and finally reaches the public.

The police force is in a high degree responsible for the condition, and for the same reason that they are responsible for the non-enforcement of the law in many respects. They are bribed to keep mum, information they have to themselves either through fear, or the providing of booze to them.

One good day's work would be for orders to be given to put the fear of God into the city cops that they will be held responsible for the enforcement of the law in their districts, and if any saloons, distilleries or bootlegging is found in their districts the heads of the station will be immediately deposed and sent back to patrolling the central beat of most populous of the different sections, one after the other, and discharged if the law is not properly carried out.

As a private citizen I know dozens of places where a violation of Prohibition is being conducted and I do not go in search of such information but one can't so flagrantly violated that the information comes to me without looking. The law is exceptionally acute in this neighborhood, the neighbors are families with the usual distinct. If we are going to be a law-abiding citizen and be compelled to live in such ordinances, we should be given some way, otherwise our Constitution is to be scoffed at. It is the duty of every private citizen who has any authentic information as to where an illicit traffic is being carried on to report it to the authorities. The Federal Building is under orders that they are after the saloons and being notified of the present abuse. [illegible]

Philadelphia, October 17, 1921.

### The Coming World's Fair

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—Will you not allow your readers to give full vent as to what are the best things that can be done by the citizens and the officials to make the coming Sesquicentennial the most successful world's fair that has ever been held. Philadelphia never does things by half when they get started. They are a little slow sometimes in getting started, but they are usually there at the beginning and at the finish.

While this fair is still the years off, it is not too early to begin now, so that when the time comes to open the fair everything will be in readiness instead of as has been the case with past fairs held in this country, some months are allowed to elapse before there is a complete exhibition.

The location for this fair is the first thing that should be considered in order that it will be held in a place that is convenient for everybody. There should be a decision at once at least as to the number of main buildings that are to be erected and the general plan of the grounds should be made and the location of the buildings be placed. It is not too early to invite other nations to begin their preparations for exhibits.

The fair should be conducted on a wide plane, and with as little of the side-show about it as possible, but instead be a dignified exhibition of what this Nation has brought about in the 150 years of its existence. Every citizen of Philadelphia should feel a personal interest in the matter, and this can best be brought about through the newspapers printing all the news of what is occurring, and giving the people a chance to express their views through the letter columns of the papers. I am sure, if you will print them, many of your readers will offer suggestions, some at least of which will be very valuable. G. W. KNIGHT.

Philadelphia, October 14, 1921.

### Coming of "Man of Destiny"

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—We are about to entertain Italy's "Man of Destiny," General Armando Diaz. Out of respect to the Italian colony we should all assist in making this visit a red-letter day to show our appreciation for the Italian Nation who did so much in winning the war for the past general loan did to bring about the "peace" and mainly because Philadelphia owes much to the Italian citizens. My forefathers coming in our shores are more deserving of our respect and gratitude.

The Italians of this city have accomplished wonderful things. They have among our best citizens. They are a peace and law-abiding people. They most prefer living in a great extent in a section by themselves because the majority when they come here have no money to stock English stores, considering their condition, they make the city very little trouble, but on the other hand are a great source of benefit and pleasure to us.

The Italians are great lovers of art and music and some of us feel that much of the happiness would be taken out of our lives. They provide most of our music for us and it is to them we turn if we want to know something about art. In architecture they have designed some of our best public buildings and monuments have been of great value to our nation. But it is not for the beauty that the Italians who have come here have to be so alone that the people accorded should respond.

The great majority of them are poor, but the taxes they issue people a debt of gratitude when they can pay if only in a small way. In doing honor to General Diaz when he comes here by giving him a royal welcome we would be with the great majority of the other nation to show our appreciation of his honor.

Rome and some other cities in Italy are now undergoing a period of great hardship, and we should show our appreciation for his warmth of the heart and our respect to the great land of Italians who have helped us to become great. [illegible]

Philadelphia, October 19, 1921.

### The Railroad Strike Parley

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—The railroad men's increased wages is being taken in hand early, and in the proper way, and in a manner which could not fail to be satisfactory, every one should have a good part and do all their share in bring about a satisfactory settlement and avoid such one of the biggest fiasco that ever threatened the welfare of our country.

I am almost inconceivable that a railroad man would determine to walk out in order to help others, trying to impose upon and injure the public, and yet such a thing happened in the early months of 1920, and perhaps can happen again, and if it happens then the recent great World War, it might become dangerous to our existence as a Nation. It would divide our people in such a way as they have not divided before our recent War, or put us in the hold from that pushed the recent War to such a glorious conclusion.

While a million railroad men might be a big thing, it would be to be a very small part of the army that would be affected in causing their families and friends, or relatives of more millions, to suffer. But if a million railroad men are right and both parties are wrong, and the public suffers as a result, the public will be in a position to say to both parties, "Gentlemen, we have suffered enough from your quarrel and we will now take a hand and see that it does not continue." Let the public be the judge, and let it be a court of fairness. [illegible]

Philadelphia, October 17, 1921.

### The Temple Theatre Fire

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—When did the Temple Theatre fire occur and when was the Central Theatre first? G. W. LANDIS.

Philadelphia, October 14, 1921.

The Temple Theatre and Egyptian Museum were burned to the ground on December 27, 1886. The theatre was located on Chestnut street between Seventh and Eighth. Willard Spencer's "Little Tycoon" was being presented.

The Central Theatre, which occupied the present site of the Casino, was burned on the night of April 27, 1896. Six performers of the "Lincoln's Auction" company were buried alive in the falling walls, and several of the audience were fatally injured. Before the occupation of the Central Theatre this had been the site of Fox's Varieties, which was burned in June, 1867.

### Membership of Legion

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—Can you tell me the membership of the American Legion? In those another is [illegible] J. W. L.

Philadelphia, October 14, 1921.

The headquarters of the American Legion, at Indianapolis, publish membership is about 1,000,000 and that about the same number of men are entitled to be but not paid up. Many of them are expected to pay up by the time of the Legion convention which will be held in Kansas City, October 31 and November 1. There is a local Legion made up of Civil War officers and their descendants.

### To Husband and Wife

*To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:*

Sir—I remember reading some time ago a very interesting article in the form of advice to husband and wife. In it somehow that you can locate and point it out to the People's Forum? [illegible]

Philadelphia, October 18, 1921.

[illegible] I do not think that you have the Dolores [illegible] Because [illegible] the [illegible] of your [illegible] Lincoln [illegible] Lincoln's [illegible] Rome and some [illegible] or [illegible] Rome [illegible] Rome [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]