THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Turkeys and Gasoline

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Your editorial regarding turkey prices is very good, and if you will look back for the reason of the advance in price, you will probably find that the poor farmer didn't get any of the advance charge, on account of small supply.

However, I am wondering why some newspaper does not indulge in some questionings and other pertinent remarks in regard to the price of gasoline. The big oil companies cheerfully put this up one or two cents a week whenever they feel like it. Ten or twelve years ago it sold at eight cents, and now it is twenty-eight cents, several hundred per cent raise, and there is no allegation at any time that the companies were in hard luck or needed the raise. They paid hundreds of millions of dollars in big dividends, besides many hundreds of millions of dollars in and on stock dividends, and I have never seen any question raised in any newspaper regarding their moral or legal right to do this.

Gasoline has become one of the actual necessities of life. There is no grocer or retail merchant of any sort not using it in his delivery to his customers. Why can't a big influential paper like yours ask them about the alibi which you suggest in the turkey business?

A few years ago a small dealer downtown was fined heavily for charging one or two cents advance on turkeys at Thanksgiving time, and the Government officials made a big advertisement of the way they were helping the poor people, and probably the man who was fined never made $1000 a year profit in his life. If he had made several hundred millions, like the oil companies do, would he have been molested?

Is there not an illegal appurtenance in the fact that all of the companies raise their price of gasoline and oil at virtually the same time? It is very easy to suggest a private agreement from this circumstance. This is merely a suggestion for your consideration. E. S. H.

Philadelphia, November 23, 1921.

Age and Registering

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Referring to the past laments about the "good citizen" vote being absent at the recent election, I believe that there is one cause which the politicians seem to overlook, trivial as it may appear to some, and that is the public announcement of the voter's age.

Notwithstanding the merit of counter-argument on the subject, the fact remains that as persons attain years they also acquire a reluctance to reveal their age, especially when asked to state same in the presence of neighbors. That bantering comment has been made on ages, in registering, has been generally accepted as a fact, and that one's age, given as official data, has even been published in the daily papers when some noteworthy person had registered.

My suggestion as a remedy, and an inducement to win this reluctant vote, is to require a statement of age, privately given, and concealed from the follower's eyes, when first registered in a voting division, and at all future registrations the fact that you have previously voted or were registered in that division should be sufficient. This to apply to men and women. Age is an asset, and if an expression is detrimental to one's welfare, then such expression should not be required. VOTER.

Germantown, November 28, 1921.

Sesqui-Centennial

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—As the nations of the earth by 1926 will begin to learn the art of war no more, and the spirit of the Disarmament Conference will be fully worked out by that time, and as the Bible indicates that Christ's millennial kingdom will be established on the earth in that year, and the blessings begin to flow to all mankind, liberating them from the bondages of sin, evil and oppression, I respectfully submit as an appropriate name for the Sesqui-Centennial celebration to be held in Philadelphia that of "World Jubilee Exposition" or "Earth's Great Jubilee Exposition." W. H. GOVETT.

Ardmore, Pa., November 19, 1921.

Other names suggested for the fair are:

Gene Tunnhue—Democracy's Industrial Peace Celebration.
George Raeck—The Liberty Bell Fair.
C. J. Rothman—Peace on Earth and Good Will Fair.
Miss Lucy E. Brown—The Jubilee of the Stars and Stripes.
William Bell Wright—The Great United States Exposition, Open to the World—Philadelphia, 1926.
A. P. Kaiser—World's Happy Land Fair.
Mrs. A. J. Dorsem—The World's Industrial Peace Fair.

W. H. GOVETT.

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.

Various Suggestions to Help the Unemployed

The Station "Despair"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How many passengers in Philadelphia have just passed the station "Despair" because there was no conductor to call out the previous stop, and give a hand to alight, for the passengers are too weak themselves to get off, from lack of nourishment through unemployment. It has been a long ride for most of them, and they have grown weary of the trip. Take Mr. Allin. He has almost felt that there was no hope that he would finally reach his destination. He has traveled, hungry and cold, from station to station, looking for Hope, where he would alight and where he had pictured bright things for the future. Every time he was sure that Hope was the next station he was disappointed in hearing the conductor call out Failure, Turned Away, Hopelessness, Discouragement and Desperation.

The passengers he met by the way were many and they looked thrifty. Among those with whom he held conversation were Mr. Manufacturer, Mr. Milliner, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Profiteer. He received some words of encouragement, but mostly a glance of compassion as they would turn away in their easy chairs annoyed by Hopeful's effort to find some encouragement that would lead him to Employment. Finally he passed this point, which he found was no stop to leave off passengers, but to take on a number for his destination, Despair, none of them holding return tickets.

I wonder how many of your readers who are thrifty and traveling every day to the stations of Encouragement, Bigprofits, Happiness, Contentment and Comfort, and alight with smiling faces to greet them, ever stop in their journey to even give a passing thought to Hopeful, who is rushing to the station Despair? They could have him alight at any one of the intervening stops if they would but make the effort. Mr. Anxious doesn't take the trouble to see if he can't lend a hand to Mr. Hopeful; Mr. Manufacturer is still too busy counting his war profits to stop and think long enough that Mr. Hopeful was one of the many traveling to Depair who are responsible that he has a handsome home at Cynwyd, and Mr. Contentment is too fond of the luxuries that wealth brings to give a rap about the troubles of Mr. Unemployed.

It is this total indifference and unconcern on the part of those who dole out employment that is filling the day coaches to Despair full to capacity. It is a deplorable condition when a men become so selfish through their own prosperity that they are unwilling to make even a feeble effort to help their less fortunate brother. Passengers to Despair let me say to you, don't alight from the train, but keep on to the station Encouragement. It may be a long and tedious journey, but the station is always reached before the end of the route, so if you can run across Mr. Borrastemer be sure to chum in with him, for he will surely stick with you until you arrive at the station, and see you off with a cheery smile to Betterdays.

JOHN T. CRAMER.

Philadelphia, November 26, 1921.

Legislate Against Married Women

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Would it not be possible, since the married women insist on holding onto the jobs that they secured during the war, to pass an ordinance in this city that all married women must give up their jobs, where they have husbands to support them, and that no married women shall hereafter be allowed to accept employment?

Where a husband is working, his wife, and especially where they have no children, is able to work at a very nominal salary because she is not dependent upon her earnings to support her family. She merely uses these earnings to supply luxuries in the way of dress for herself, to purchase luxuries for the home, or to secure money to be used for special pleasures that her husband's salary will not give her the privilege of enjoying.

By her working she is keeping some ex-service man out of a job or some poor man with a family from securing the necessaries of life. If every married woman working, who is not compelled to work, were forced to relinquish her job, and it was turned over to an ex-service man out of work, this would at once solve the problem of unemployment at least as far as the ex-service man is concerned.

HENRY T. WEISS.

Philadelphia, November 26, 1921.

Opportunity to Ex-Service Men

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—We have signally honored the "unknown soldier," now it is our turn to do all we can for the living soldier of the World War, who needs our assistance to get properly back into civil life. These men are rapidly taking their places back in the colorless scheme of our great American populace, and with the armistice now three years old they are almost losing their identity in the great mass of the ordinary, plain citizens.

We are proud that our "boys" who served in the war can come home to us, change their uniforms for the garb of civil life and turn anew to the work that always remains to be done—the tasks of every day. Now that these citizen soldiers are back among their friends their war service becomes but a memory and they are again on a level with their fellows. But are they on a level? Not as long as we don't see the living soldier accorded his just and honored place among the living, for we took him out of the place and forced him into the army.

I take it that no ex-service man wants more than actually belongs to him by right of his service. I do not believe he asks charity or unfair advantage, but only the opportunity to begin where he left off before the war to make his way. Yet in the matter of things there are some advantages that the public can put in the way of the veteran soldier. If it is a bonus, or benefits under the war-risk insurance, it should be promptly paid. There have been instances where bonus money has been received only after long controversy. There should be nothing that anywhere nearly approximates the miserly provision of $4, $6 and $8 a month which was accorded very tardily to soldiers of the Civil War and their widows. In a word, whatever financial assistance is to be given to a war veteran it should be given promptly. Then the war veteran should be given an equal chance with others in every industrial situation. He will not ask more than an even chance with the rest, but if his experience and his training entitle him to an advantage he should have it. In special cases, and there will doubtless be many of them, certain advantages should be purposely placed in his way so that the ex-service man may be certain of the means of livelihood.

And perhaps most of all let us give our veterans of the war of 1917-18 the same respect we give to a veteran of former struggles. Let us remember that where we take the hand of a World War veteran we are shaking hands with a man who has been under fire for us and faced death as truly as the heroes of Gettysburg and other battles that we used to think were the greatest the world had ever seen. W. I. R.

Philadelphia, November 25, 1921.

Plays, Not Public, to Blame

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Since the beginning of the current theatrical season the theatres have emitted a continuous complaint against the people for their failure to attend the theatre to the extent that they have in other seasons. I am a great lover of the drama and constantly attend plays. I have been this year no less than any other, although I feel that the number of bad plays which have been produced would have justified any one in staying at home. It is because of them that I think it is unfair of the managers to blame the public.

From theatrical friends I learn that many producers have made up their minds that this is a poor season and are consequently inclined to hold up the productions of new things until a later period. I think this is a great pity, for I am certain that there is no disinclination on the part of the public not to go to the theatre if they are offered plays of quality which have real entertainment value. S. G. T.

Philadelphia, November 28, 1921.

Questions Answered

Over Twenty-one

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How many persons are there in the United States more than twenty-one years of age? J. D. L.

Philadelphia, November 22, 1921.

There are 60,886,520 persons in the United States more than twenty-one years of age. Of these, 31,403,370 are men and 29,483,150 are women. The total number of citizens twenty-one years of age and over is 54,421,832, this number being made up of 27,561,880 men and 26,759,952 women and comprising all native persons and all naturalized foreign-born persons.

The Forestry Service

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I will appreciate it very much if you will tell me what is the duty of a forest ranger, and how do I enter that service? G. H. L.

Philadelphia, November 1, 1921.

The forest ranger is a soldier of peace. He patrols and protects the Nation's forest reserves. The United States Forestry Service is divided into six districts, with offices at Denver, Col.; Ogden, Utah; Missoula, Mont.; Albuquerque, N. M.; San Francisco, Calif., and Portland, Ore. The work at a district headquarters is distributed among four departments—operation, grazing, silviculture and products, each equipped with men of special training for the work of their office.

The office of operation has supervision over the production of national forests, the building of roads, trails and other improvements, and for the organization of the forestry service. It also is charged with the supervision of all business relating to the special use of national forest resources.

The office of silviculture has supervision of the free use and sale of timber and has charge of forest planting. The office of grazing supervises grazing business, except for the actual fixing of all allowances, periods and rates. The office of products conducts, both independently and in co-operation with private owners, studies leading to a more profitable use of the timber. For further information address the Forester, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.

About O. Henry

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Can you give a few facts about O. Henry? What is his first name—I mean his real name? When did he die? S. C. V.

Philadelphia, November 26, 1921.

William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry, was born in Greensboro, N. C., in 1867, and was educated in private schools in Texas. He began his literary work with the Houston Post. He became editor and publisher of the Iconoclast, later the Rolling Stone, in Austin. On the failure of this enterprise he went to New York and engaged in literary work, contributing largely to newspapers and magazines. His stories, which have obtained wide circulation, show first-hand acquaintance and sympathy with the life of the poor in New York, combined with a lively humor. Slang forms a large element in many of them. Among his published works are "Cabbages and Kings," "Four Million," "Trimmed Lamp," "Voice of the City" and "Roads of Destiny." He died June 5, 1910.

Directions by Watch

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How is it possible to tell directions by a watch? H. S. D.

Philadelphia, November 23, 1921.

Let your watch lie flat in your hand, with the hour hand pointing to the sun. The point on the circle half way between the hour hand and 12 will be directly south in the northern hemisphere and directly north in the southern hemisphere.

"S. T. D." The abbreviation of "Sacrae Theologiae Doctor is Doctor of Sacred Theology.

"C. E. B." wants to know what old philosopher lived thirty years upon cheese alone. Can a reader answer?

"S. L. F."—We do not publish the names of business firms in the People's Forum.

"W. L. B."—There are 1,890,245 miles of single telegraph lines in the United States and 1432 miles of ocean cable.

"C. C. D."—The story you refer to is that General Santa Ana "left his wooden leg as a trophy to the victors" at the Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836.

Poems and Songs Desired

To Secure Old Song

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In looking over the People's Forum in the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER I saw that H. W. Anders wanted the words of a song entitled "The Old Musician and His Harp." The words are by William Pitts. I think if the inquirer would try at any of the large music stores he would find they had it in stock or could secure a copy. If Mr. Anders cannot find it, I have the words and music of it and would be willing to copy it if he will let me know through the People's Forum. E. D.

Philadelphia, November 24, 1921.

Wants Poem on Keats

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Many years ago I read a poem on Keats, the first stanza only of which I can recall. It was as follows:

"Full late in life I found thee, glorious Keats,
Some chance-blown verse had visited my ear
And careless eye, once in some sliding year,
Like some fair-plumed bird one rarely meets."

Can you give the name of the author and the poem in full? D. L. G.

Philadelphia, November 28, 1921.

"Deep In the Silent Waters"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am inclosing the poem asked for by "S. L. E." August 18, 1921, with the exception of four lines of the second stanza. This poem was written of a ship that sailed from England in the thirties of the last century and was never heard from again. The Rev. Alfred Cookman, an eminent clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was one of her passengers.

He was the grandfather of the clergyman of the same name who died some years ago. Perhaps some one can furnish the missing lines.

I am very desirous of obtaining a song the title of which is "Oh, Mother Dear." The first lines are as follows:

"There was a place in childhood
That I remember well.
And there a voice whose sweetest tones
Bright fairy tales did tell.
And gentle words and fond embrace
Were given with joy to me
When I was in that happy place
Upon my mother's knee.

CHORUS

"Oh, mother dear, oh, mother dear,
My gentle, gentle mother."

I would appreciate it very much if you would print it. MRS. E. D. HAND.

Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, October 18, 1921.

DEEP IN THE SILENT WATERS

Deep in the silent waters,
A thousand fathoms low,
A gallant ship lies perishing;
She foundered long ago.
There are pale sea flowers wreathing
Around her portholes now,
And shining spar and coral
Encrust her gallant prow.

We know not——"

The rest of this line and the next three I cannot recall, but the rest are as follows:

"We only know from England
She sailed far o'er the main;
We only know to England
She never came again."

Fred Anderson—We cannot tell you where you can get "The Kid's Last Fight." We cannot print it on account of its length.

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.

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You will enjoy every minute of this detour. Fred Harvey meals all the way.
Write, phone or call and let me help plan your trip. Ask for "Grand Canyon Outings" and "California Picture Book."
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AN ANNOUNCEMENT
The Marlborough-Blenheim,
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
begs to announce that during the months of November to January inclusive it has established on the American Plan (including meals) the following Weekly
WINTER RATES
DOUBLE ROOM AND BATH, TWO PEOPLE, $85, $95 and $112 according to location, and a
SINGLE ROOM AND BATH, ONE PERSON .... $60 and $70
A small number of particularly choice locations are at higher rates.
During these months the climate of Atlantic City is the most delightful of the whole year.
Both houses will remain open instead of one of them closing as heretofore. Exquisite music a feature. Obstacle Golf on front lawn. Horseback Riding, Golf (2 Championship Courses), Rolling Chairs, Piers, Theatres, Movies, and countless other amusements.
OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT
JOSIAH WHITE & SONS COMPANY

HOTEL STRAND ATLANTIC CITY
On the Beach Front
PRE WAR RATES
American Plan Entirely. Always Open
Single { Running Water - - $36 per week
Room { Private Bath - $42 to $48 " "
Double { Running Water - - $66 " "
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Double Room, Private Bath Ocean corner, $96 per week
Ownership Management Phone 1455

Hotel Dennis
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
Directly on the Ocean Front
An American Plan Hotel of Distinction
CAPACITY 600 GARAGE
Walter J. Buzby

RALEIGH
ST. CHARLES PLACE & BEACH
Always Open Capacity 500
Newly renovated and refurnished. Every appoint in cuisine and service. Greatly reduced rates now in effect. Descrint. booklet.
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Newly built and newly furnished. All outside rooms. Private baths. Hot and cold running water and telephones in all rooms. Hungarian cuisine. Music. Dancing. Grill and billiard rooms. Booklet. Telephone Lakewood 331. New York Office, Schuyler 5228.

WINKLER'S Formerly Britain Lodge, LAKEWOOD, N. J.
Capacity 100. Rooms en suite with private baths and running water. Dietary laws strictly observed. Telephone, Lakewood 320.
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"A Good Place to Board"
LA VASSAR HOUSE, LAKEWOOD, N. J.
Select Clientele; Moderate Rates.

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Virginia Ave., second house from Boardwalk and Steel Pier. Every appointment. Highest standard in cuisine and service. Booklet. $4 Daily. Special weekly. J. Bothwell, Prop.

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