Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

CYRUS H. K. CURTIS, PRESIDENT
John C. Martin, Vice President and Treasurer; Charles A. Tyler, Secretary; Charles H. Ludington, Philip S. Collins, John B. Williams, John J. Spurgeon, George F. Goldsmith, David E. Smiley, Directors.

DAVID E. SMILEY.....Editor
JOHN C. MARTIN....General Business Manager

Published daily at PUBLIC LEDGER Building
Independence Square, Philadelphia

ATLANTIC CITY.....Press-Union Building
NEW YORK.....304 Madison Ave
DETROIT.....701 Ford Building
ST. LOUIS.....613 Globe-Democrat Building
CHICAGO.....1302 Tribune Building

NEWS BUREAUS

WASHINGTON BUREAU, N. E. Cor. Pennsylvania Ave. and 14th St.
NEW YORK BUREAU.....The Sun Building
LONDON BUREAU.....Trafalgar Building

SUBSCRIPTION TERMS

The EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER is served to subscribers in Philadelphia and surrounding towns at the rate of twelve (12) cents per week, payable to the carrier.

By mail to points outside of Philadelphia, in the United States, Canada, or Mexico, postage free, fifty (50) cents per month, Six ($6) dollars per year, payable in advance.

To all foreign countries one ($1) dollar a month.

NOTICE—Subscribers wishing address changed must give old as well as new address.

BELL, 3000 WALNUT KEYSTONE, MAIN 1000

Address all communications to Evening Public Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

Member of the Associated Press

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published therein.

All rights of republication of special dispatches herein are also reserved.

Philadelphia, Saturday, December 3, 1921

A COURT POOH BAH

IN EXPLAINING the salary roll and certain other matters connected with the administration of the Municipal Courts, Arthur H. R. Morrow, one of the clerks, fell back upon acts of the Legislature creating the courts, as the only sufficient justification.

The original act creating the courts fixed the appointment of the clerks exclusively in the Board of Judges. That act was amended, however, to give the presiding Judge supreme control. He is the Pooh Bah, the dictator, the autocrat of the courts. He hands out the patronage and fixes the salaries at his discretion, within the limits fixed by law.

It has never been doubted that the Legislature has authority to do this. The criticism has been directed at the way he has exercised that authority and at the concentration of power in the hands of one Judge to the exclusion of the others.

No amount of explanation can alter the fact that Judge Brown is responsible for what goes on in the courts. He cannot shift the blame to the City Council, for the body has thus far shown a disposition to do exactly as Judge Brown has asked. His withdrawal from the Council chamber yesterday afternoon when Councilman Develin started to ask him questions, and his refusal to be interrogated, will be interpreted differently by different persons. But it will not strengthen the confidence of the people in the way the court is managed.

THE KLAN COLLAPSES

THE preposterous Ku Klux Klan is cracked as badly as the House of Usher, and promises to disintegrate as rapidly as that more poetic edifice.

Goblins are generally expected to get a fellow if he doesn't watch out. Not even imperial wizardry is proof against them, especially when they are armed with such irrefutable proofs of boilerplated stupidity as those recently presented.

Thousands of guileless Klansmen were unquestionably "goulied" for a time by the rigmarole of the organization. The scare-paper publicity to which the Klan was subjected revealed its apotheosis of imposture, promoters as a kind of cheap commercialists trading on mistaken prejudices for purposes of their own financial aggrandizement.

Specific charges were made against Wizard Simmons, Grand Kleagle Stone, Treasurer—Edward Young Clarke and Elizabeth Tyler, grand chief of the women's department.

The ingenuous goblins were at first surprised, then amazed, then sentimental, then somewhat sorrowfully indignant and finally mad clear through.

Colonel Simmons resigned as the Klan treasurer. He didn't and so did most of the Grand Goblins, including F. W. Atkins, of Philadelphia—have delivered themselves from the grotesque structure of grand goblinry grown and pernicious nonsense.

Virtually the entire Philadelphia membership of three thousand has quit. Eighteen thousand have withdrawn in Chicago. The Klan was rot, and it is rotting fast.

The collapse has certainly been a rapid and effective fashion, from within. There can be no color of martyrdom about it at all.

Occasionally and perhaps for the sake of justifying the proverb, there are exceptions to the truth most prized. In this instance it seems to have lighted a train of explosives calculated to have little of a fantastic nature, men of malign mischief, and incidentally bits of wreckage.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

THE injection of national prejudices into the domain of intellectual cooperation is ironic commentary on the times. Fortunately, a defiance of national egotism and bigotry of this sort has been growing rapidly of late, and is now formally expressed in the action of the Oxford International Assembly.

This organization of students, it will be recalled, recommended the reinstatement of Germany in its enrollments. Australian delegates opposed the proposal. America seconded it, for, as Britain and France voted favorably.

The assent of the latter nations is particularly suspicious now, while some student allegations of Gallic prejudices are abroad. It is noteworthy also that the admission of Russian scholars, a proposition referred to the next session of the Assembly, was suggested by Poland.

How can this be? Are not Paris and Warsaw the hotbeds of prejudiced vociferousness?

Perhaps it would be just as well to submit that query to the professional editorial howlers, so ready with reflections upon the faults of less inspired mortals—set up in a notebook, learned and conned by rote.

THE QUEER CASE OF MORSE

THE somewhat frantic reports that the Government was planning to intercept the steamship Paris in order to bring Charles W. Morse, the shipping manipulator, back to this country have been repeated inoffensive by measures in conformity with international law.

The ever-spectacular promoter has consented to return voluntarily to America if he is wanted in connection with shipping contracts under investigation by the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia. If necessary, the process of extradition can be invoked under the provisions of an existing treaty with France.

Whatever Mr. Morse's intentions in coming under an assumed name may have been, it is clear that the Department of Justice is thoroughly aroused. It is working with the Shipping Board experts upon a case which, though vaguely described, seems to suggest a scandal of considerable magnitude and a singular character. The recent sentence in the Atlanta Federal prison of twelve years ago was based upon operations. The prisoner was convicted. His recovery on attaining freedom was marked and, indeed, sufficient for him to recoup his fortunes with a new war-born shipbuilding concern. Bankruptcy has succeeded his second period of ascendancy, and Morse asserts that his trip to Europe was a health quest.

Justice, however, is occasionally in need of medical treatment, which in this instance, it would seem, can be suitably applied in the United States.

CAN CONGRESS FREE ITSELF OF HICK STATESMANSHIP?

It Must Do So at the Regular Session Beginning Monday or Else Face Chastisement by the Voters

UNLESS there is an exhibition of greater wisdom in the regular session of Congress, which opens on Monday, than there was in the special session, the Republican majority is likely to be reduced considerably at the next election.

But this is not the big reason why Congress should make a serious effort to pass intelligently framed constructive legislation.

The success of the Republican or the Democratic Party means nothing of itself. The parties do not exist as an end. They are useful only as instruments.

This has been said ever since parties came into existence, but it will have to be repeated so long as members of Congress devote more thought to the effect of their acts on their political fortunes than to the effect upon the country at large of what Congress does.

It is for a share of this misapprehension in politics that the distinguishing method of the special session was the passage of hick legislation.

Neither the Emergency Tariff Law nor the Revenue Law can be defended by any stretch of the imagination. These measures were passed because Congress was afraid of the high wrath that would be aroused by ignorant protests.

Senator Penrose said the other day that the tariff legislation would be agreed to so long as the voters did not understand the principles of taxation, and he insisted that they should be educated to a better understanding.

But Senator Penrose voted with the hick majority for the hick bills.

Why did not the Senator try to lead by educating the voters which the bills were under consideration? He knew they were foolish and imperfect. But after a perfunctory protest he went along with the majority.

Neither the permanent Tariff Law nor the Permanent Revenue Law will be enacted during the special session of Congress if the leaders in Washington refuse to lead. Democrats and Republicans who point out the flagrant and pernicious hick provisions in proposed legislation, and who go down if need be fighting for a better law, will be rewarded by the approval of the people.

Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress are now faced with a choice between two courses. They can continue to follow the hick majority, and go down to defeat, or they can lead the majority back to the path of sanity and safety.

It is a matter of conscience, of patriotism, of statesmanship. It is a matter of political life and death. The voters want to be led. They want to be convinced that their representatives in Congress are capable of leadership. They want to be convinced that their representatives are not hick politicians who are afraid of the ignorant prejudices of their constituents.

Senator Penrose said the other day that the tariff legislation would be agreed to so long as the voters did not understand the principles of taxation, and he insisted that they should be educated to a better understanding.

But Senator Penrose voted with the hick majority for the hick bills.

Why did not the Senator try to lead by educating the voters which the bills were under consideration? He knew they were foolish and imperfect. But after a perfunctory protest he went along with the majority.

Neither the permanent Tariff Law nor the Permanent Revenue Law will be enacted during the special session of Congress if the leaders in Washington refuse to lead. Democrats and Republicans who point out the flagrant and pernicious hick provisions in proposed legislation, and who go down if need be fighting for a better law, will be rewarded by the approval of the people.

Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress are now faced with a choice between two courses. They can continue to follow the hick majority, and go down to defeat, or they can lead the majority back to the path of sanity and safety.

It is a matter of conscience, of patriotism, of statesmanship. It is a matter of political life and death. The voters want to be led. They want to be convinced that their representatives in Congress are capable of leadership. They want to be convinced that their representatives are not hick politicians who are afraid of the ignorant prejudices of their constituents.

NAVAL AGREEMENT IN SIGHT

IT MAY be premature to say that the Washington conference has reached a definite agreement on the main of naval ratios suggested by Secretary Hughes. But the simple fact is that the conference actually has reached a crisis. Only a Washington conference could do that.

The Kato-Balfour-Hughes correspondence has been given so unlimited publicity that it is now a matter of common knowledge. Advocates of the battleship in Britain and Japan have made no secret of their chagrin and resentment at the proposed legislation, and to go down and come flying if need be rather than fall in line with their wishes seems to have stirred considerable pride here.

[illegible]

[illegible] Japan is [illegible] Far Eastern affairs. The intensity of its nationalism is not shown by the presence of minded element at the palace. How [illegible] of opinion [illegible] Japan has been a people's [illegible]

Now [illegible] to expose [illegible] the preparation for commercial Japanese [illegible]. A naval accord [illegible] Washington [illegible] Pacific.

[illegible] Pacific conference [illegible] Pacific [illegible] Washington Conference.

[illegible] Pacific [illegible] Washington [illegible] Pacific [illegible] Washington [illegible] Pacific [illegible] Washington [