THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Patriotism vs. Bonus

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am an ex-service man. I served seventeen months in the artillery during the World War, the greater part of the time in France. I encountered probably as many hardships as the average soldier, and yet I am proud of the part I took in this conflict, and am patriotic enough to go through it all again, without consideration of a bonus. I enlisted, and was not forced into the service, and had dependents that would have excluded me. A bonus—or, as some would like to have it called, "deferred compensation"—never entered my mind when I enlisted. But it did enter my mind that I wanted to help save my country, my home, so that my near and dear ones should continue to enjoy the liberties we gained when we fought the Revolutionary War.

Were the soldiers who fought in that conflict given deferred compensation? Did they expect to set their patriotism at a price? No, the honor that the war conferred upon them, of having helped to create a great nation, was sufficient of a bonus to them. The same is true of the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and all other wars but this one. Has America reared a generation of money-grabbers and not patriots? Love of country and service in her behalf are above price.

It would be humiliating to me to be handed a few paltry dollars for what I have gone through, and then have them pass me up with, "We paid him for his service, now we owe him nothing." I am willing to accept, for the ex-service man, any honors this great nation would wish to present them, to show its great appreciation, excepting money.

It was my war. I was fighting, not alone for my country, but for the preservation of my home, of my family, of all I hold dear to me. I am sorry that I cannot quote verbatim that patriot's remark during the Revolution: "I am not worth purchasing, but such as I am the King of England could not buy." That's my sentiment exactly. My services were small, but such as they were, they are held by me to be beyond price.

GEORGE E. MORRISON.
Philadelphia, February 9, 1922.

Why Ex-Soldiers Demand Bonus

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—We hear so much criticism today against giving the soldiers a bonus or deferred compensation or whatever they may call it, for the loss they sustained on account of the World War. I believe the American who went into the war is just as patriotic as those who fought in any of our nation's wars, but conditions in previous wars were so different. The powers who control our destiny try to cast reflection on the soldiers for demanding money in return for their services.

Why shouldn't they? Was the Government patriotic? No. Few of the rich men's sons went into the service—the Roosevelts were an exception—and if they did they were given safe berths abroad as well as at home. The rich men of the country were not patriotic when they tried to fleece the Government on all sides through army contracts and in other ways. Many thousands of rich men's sons were kept out of the service and were given preferred positions at home.

The Government saw fit to pay the soldiers a dollar a day, but gave those who stayed home work in the Government plants at that price per hour—and very much more in many instances. To add to this disparagement, the Government raised the prices on everything at home it controlled and did not stay the hand of the profiteer, who ground down the soldiers' families to the extent that they could hardly exist.

The service men are angry at the way they were treated, and I believe justly so, and therefore, like all other Americans, they want to get all out of it they can, and the small amount of bonus that is asked is only going to compensate, in a meager way, for the loss they have sustained. For this reason the men of the American Legion are fighting for equal rights, and they deserve and are going to win.

A WORLD WAR'S MAN.
Philadelphia, February 8, 1922.

As California Does It

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In the People's Forum of Saturday, January 28, under the caption of "Blue Sky Laws," a correspondent, A. F. Huebner, asks for information concerning the same. Your reply to his query is printed in the same edition. Permit me to add the following:

I resided in Riverside, Cal., for a number of years and they had in the State what they designated as State Corporation Department. An office was created, Commissioner of Corporations, and his duties were to thoroughly investigate all proposed new corporations, stock companies, etc., to see that they were true blue, as it were, and they could not go ahead issuing stock until he had put his stamp of approval on them.

Before this office was created, all kinds of wildcat, gold-brick schemes flourished in California to the detriment of good, legitimate ones. Often the Easterner was soon separated from his bank roll, to become victims of these unscrupulous mountebacks, so that since the establishment of this Commission of Corporations the sharpers have to look to other States. The only thing they have now is to sting an Eastern capitalist with a frozen orange or lemon grove, like this winter.

C. H. CRESSMAN.
Philadelphia, January 31, 1922.

The Vote on Prohibition

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have read Mr. John H. Mulligan's article on "Prohibition." He states that he has doubts that in due time enough States will come out against this outrage, sneaked through at Washington, while the brawn and sinew, the builders of this country, were abroad fighting for the life of this Nation.

I had three sons over there. They came back and told me they were over there to help the allies to whip Germany. More than two-thirds of the States voted for the amendment before our boys had uniforms on or were mustered in as soldiers. The people elected State legislators that voted for the Eighteenth Amendment, and if no more than two-thirds of the States had so voted, it would have been passed by Congress, but only about six States did not vote for it.

The soldiers had voted for these legislators before they went to Europe and I am quite sure more than half of them were for the Eighteenth Amendment. Yes, Mr. Mulligan, you are right when you say we are the most enlightened and liberal country and the God who rules means that it shall be an example for other nations to follow—and they soon will drive the demon strong drink out of their countries.

SAMUEL FRYER.
Mount Holly, N. J., Jan. 23, 1922.

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 original poems, and questions of general interest will be answered.

Who Is to Blame: Mistress or Maid?

Home and Factory Work Contrasted

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In a recent letter in your People's Forum a lawyer tried to point out a way for the solution of the servant girl problem. It is evident he never tried to run a home.

Does he know how many hours it takes to make, raise and bake bread? How many cooks want to begin in the middle of a meal to finish it and how many could do it to the satisfaction of the employer?

Would the said lawyer like to have a different typewriter or secretary to start and finish his work for him? Would a clerk take any pride in his work that he knew some one else would finish? Who shall we blame for poor work when so many "spoil the broth"?

Again, as it is now, the housekeeper is mulcted by employment bureaus under Government control. How would we fare under corporations' treatment.

I agree with him on one point—that most housewives neglect to correct or instruct their servants. It is not pleasant; most duties are not pleasant. We do not like to correct our own family, our clerks or teachers. We may be just in so doing, but we do not know what we may get in reply and none of us like "scenes," consequently many housekeepers hope some other housekeeper will train her servants for her and she would rather keep changing than teach or correct them.

A respectable girl does not have to stay in a disreputable home unless she prefers dollars to morals. All this talk about "whisky parties" may be true, but not among my friends, and I know many who have lovely homes that cannot find worthy maids.

It is true a housemaid's work is spread over longer hours than in factories, but in most factories girls work at piecework and drive full speed all day with all sorts of companions and rough men to insult and annoy them. I have had many maids who would finish their work and sit with folded hands, hours sometimes, until their regular duty called them.

ICH DIEN.
Philadelphia, February 6, 1922.

Discontent Among Domestic Help

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have read with interest most of the letters you have printed on the servant question, and I believe the real reason for so much discontentment is the present attitude of women on most subjects, not alone in the home but in public life. The present employes of labor in the kitchen no longer feel any responsibility in the home, through their desire to get into bigger things in the great world of politics, economics, professional life, etc.

The consequence of this is that they do not look upon the servant as a cook and cleaner, but as a maid of all work, and in this work they even include the taking care of the children, the part of a seamstress, and every sort of care that enters into the home life. The servant of today gets much more money than the servant of yesterday, but there is much greater demand upon her time.

The majority of servants work fifteen hours a day out of the twenty-four for the reason that the mistresses of today are not willing to turn their hand at anything. If a husband finds any fault with the conditions or neglects in the home, he is told that one servant cannot do it all—that much for the consideration on the part of the wife—but the husband knows full well the trouble, and that is that the wife takes no part in the duties of the home, which is her part of the contract when she takes the marriage vows. Things are going to grow worse as the women of the country enter more and more into the life on the outside of the home.

MARY T. McHENRY.
Philadelphia, February 8, 1922.

Questions Answered

"Our Brains Are Clocks"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am anxious to secure the remainder of the following:

"Our brains are seventy-year clocks. The Angel Life winds them up once for life, and gives the key into the hands of the Angel of the Resurrection. Tick-tock, tick-tock go the years of thought. Our wills cannot stop them—they cannot stop themselves," etc.

Can you or any of your readers tell me where it can be found?

MARY T. STOKES.
Philadelphia, February 5, 1922.

Must Income Tax Be Paid?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will you kindly answer me this question through your paper:

I am a single man and have earned about $1500 in 1921, but I have been supporting two brothers and two sisters, who are abroad, and are depending solely upon me. I have sent them over $700 since July, 1921. (Two are minors.) Will I have to pay income tax or not?

LOUIS CLEFF.
Atlantic City, N. J., February 6, 1922.

You will have to pay income tax on $500, excepting for sum supplied to dependent minors under eighteen years of age. The blank to be filed clearly specifies this fact.

Our Elevated

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Are any elevated railroads operated in Philadelphia and on what streets? What is the rail and boat fare to Jacksonville, Fla.?

L. J. B.
Allentown, Pa., January 28, 1922.

The only elevated now in operation is on Market street west of Thirty-second. The Frankford L is about completed, and cars on this line will shortly be operated. We cannot give railroad fares in this column. You can find the rate by inquiry at your railway station.

"T. T. H."—Chief Justice Taft is a Unitarian and Mrs. Taft is an Episcopalian.

C. W. Tower—You can secure the book, "Looking Backward," at any of the large book stores, or the book department in a department store. If they do not have a copy in stock they can get you one from the publishers.

David L. Forde, Jr.—The first copy of the PUBLIC LEDGER would certainly be of value to a person making a collection of old newspapers. We have bound files of both the PUBLIC LEDGER and the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER from the first issues on.

"Bill."—You have all the requirements to enter the United States Secret Service, and you will be able to find out if there is a vacancy by applying to the Civil Service Board, in the Postoffice Building, Ninth and Chestnut streets. They will give you a circular with full details, and tell you when the next examination occurs.

"M. A. F."—Write to the Pennsylvania State Police headquarters at Harrisburg, Pa., regarding a vacancy. It is not necessary to have served an enlistment in the United States Army, although army men who have seen service will be given preference.

Poems and Songs Desired

Wants "Money"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please print the song entitled "Money," in your People's Forum. It starts: "Once I had money; once upon a time," and the chorus starts:

"If I only had it now,
Just a little of it now,
How the boys would envy me," etc.

ISAAC H. SNAVELY.
Norristown, Pa., February 5, 1922.

Difficulties in English

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In answer to H. W. Benson's request for the poem, "Difficulties in English," I am sending this poem, hoping that it fulfills the request:

DIFFICULTIES IN ENGLISH

When the English tongue we speak,
Why does break not rhyme with freak?
Will you tell me why it's true,
We say sew, but likewise few?
And the maker of a verse
Cannot cap (rhyme) his horse with worse.
Beard sounds not the same as heard;
Cord is different from word;
Cow is cow, but low is low;
Shoe is never rhymed with foe.
Think of hose and dose and lose,
And of goose and yet of choose;
Think of comb and tomb and bomb,
Doll and roll, and home and some.
And since pay is rhymed with say,
Why not paid with said, I pray?
We have blood and food and good.
Mould is not pronounced like could.
Wherefore, done and gone and lone,
Is there any reason known?
Our sounds and letters surely disagree.

MAXWELL BLOCH.
Philadelphia, February 2, 1922.

"A. L. B." desires the poem called "Two Prisoners," which begins:

"Two prisoners were looking behind prison bars,
One saw the mud, the other saw the stars."

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

Judge Owl—Weatherman

By DADDY

(Jack and Janet ask Judge Owl, the Weatherman, to hurry spring along. The Robins and Blue Birds on the way North send a wireless to Judge Owl, asking if the weather is good. The Crows tell Judge Owl it is good.)

CHAPTER V

The False Message

JUDGE OWL was worried. The Robins and Blue Birds had asked him by bird wireless if the weather in the North was warm enough for them to come back. The Crows had said the weather was good, but Judge Owl didn't trust the Crows. He knew they were tricky.

As Judge Owl hesitated to send an answer to the Robins and Blue Birds, Blackie Crow grinned evilly at him.

"Caw! Caw! Have you lost your voice?" asked Blackie Crow. "Can't you send your message to the Robins and Blue Birds? My voice is sound. I will help you. And raising his voice in a loud caw, Blackie Crow sent a message flying toward the South.

"Caw! Caw! Send this word from Judge Owl to the Robins and Blue Birds. The weather in the North is good! The weather in the North is good!"

Judge Owl was vexed at the saucy way Blackie Crow had taken upon himself to send the message.

"Hoo! Hoo! That isn't what I intended to say at all," he hooted.

"Caw! Caw! Never mind. The message is gone," cawed Blackie Crow, his beady eyes glittering. And the message had gone, for Jack and Janet could hear it being passed along far in the distance by other Crows and by Owls. It was already well on the way to the Robins and the Blue Birds.

Judge Owl hissed and grumbled. He wanted to be sure about the weather, and sent out another cry:

"Who! Who! All you birds and animals, too!

How does the weather look to you?"

Back came the answer quickly from dozens of crows that were flocking into the thicket. "Caw! Caw! Good weather for Crows! Good weather for Crows!"

But from the North came the faint honking of a Wild Goose.

"Pass the word south! Old Man Winter is raging over the coming of Spring. He is turning back from the North to meet her with a blizzard!"

"Who! Who! What's that?" hooted Judge Owl in alarm. "Old Man Winter is coming with a blizzard!" Judge Owl glared through his glasses at the Crows. "You Crows from the North saw that blizzard coming. That is why you have hurried for shelter. Yet you said the weather was good!"

"Caw! Caw! Caw" laughed the Crows. "The weather is good—good for Crows."

Blackie Crow blinked his beady eyes. "Blizzard weather freezes Robins and Blue Birds. Then the Crows can feast. Good weather for Crows!"

"Who! Who! You rascals have tricked us. You know the Robins and Blue Birds, fresh from the warm Southland, will perish in the blizzard. I will warn them. Who! Who! Who!"

Judge Owl raised his voice in a mighty hoot, but as he hooted the crows cawed, and there were so many Crows that their caws drowned out Judge Owl's hoots. He could not send the wireless message of warning to the Robins and Blue Birds.

Jack and Janet were shocked at the evil trick of the Crows. What could be done to save the poor Robins and Blue Birds?

(Tomorrow will be told how the Crows are given a fright and how the Robins and Blue Birds are saved.)

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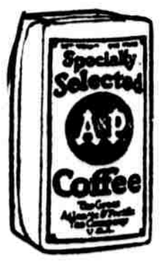

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