

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

What the Figures Tell
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Statistics from the report of the New York Police Department, made public a few days ago, show that more arrests were made for drunkenness during 1921 than in either of the two preceding years. If the figures for Philadelphia have been published they have escaped my notice. In New York, however, the figures for the three years were as follows: 1921, 8169; 1920, 7894; 1919, 7028.

Drunkenness in the police force itself was also greater, thirty-one members having been tried for that offense during the year, while only twenty-four were tried in 1920 and fifteen in 1919. Arrests for all crimes totaled 272,751 last year as against 260,749 in 1920 and 220,140 in 1919.

No sane person opposed to prohibition would, of course, rejoice at this. It would be diabolical to be glad at increase in any, even the last harmful, wrongdoings. But in view of the promises of prohibitionists that prohibition would do away with drunkenness and crime, the showing demands explanation from them.

It will not occur to any of the things with which they have met similar statistics. They promised without qualifications. The promises are proved false by the figures.

Really, the only good thus far accomplished by prohibition upon which one can put the finger is the abolition of the saloon, a deed not done in 1919. It was brought about without complete prohibition.

And so far from ending the drink habit among the perverse multitude who refuse to see the light, the only visible effect of the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act has been the elevation of the price of booze and the deterioration of its quality.

THE QUIET OBSERVER.
 Philadelphia, April 26, 1922.

"Impropaganda"
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Several months ago a Boston witness, appearing before the House Immigration Committee, testified, in effect, that seventeen Armenian women and children, debarked from admission to the United States under the emergency immigration law, had been "foully murdered" on their return to Turkey. The crime took place last September, it was asserted, on the docks of Constantinople.

The Secretary of Labor, taking cognizance of this charge, requested the State Department to investigate. In a letter made public last week Secretary of State Hughes reports that a searching inquiry conducted by the American High Commissioner at Constantinople ascertained the present whereabouts of the alleged victims; that all are living, and that none had heard of any hardships suffered by members of the party on arrival at Constantinople.

The Bostonian who repeated the harrowing tale to the House committee based it, investigation developed, upon a letter alleged to have been received from Constantinople by a student at Boston University. The State Department disposes of the matter with the statement that its investigators, "after hearing to the avenue of useful investigation unexplored," were unable "to find the slightest evidence to substantiate the rumor."

A reasonable conclusion from this official inquiry and its result is that the Boston witness was imposed upon by an artistic bit of propaganda manufactured for the purpose of discrediting and bringing about repeal of the emergency immigration law. It failed of its purpose, but doubtless harrowed the tender hearts of many credulous individuals. Its categorical denial by the State Department not only should comfort these sympathetic souls, but ought to place all Americans upon notice that propagandist yarns and reports, however interesting, touching, artistic and ingenious, are not to be swallowed whole. The propaganda industry is working at capacity both at home and abroad. It is not a violent straining of the situation, revealed by this latest finding of our State Department, to reach the opinion that about nine-tenths of its output is properly to be classified as "impropaganda."

Science and Religion
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—I fully appreciate all the wonderful things that have been done for the world materially, but I cannot see where we have profited spiritually by the teachings of modern investigators. Does it make us better men and women to believe that God did not create the earth, that we are descended from the anthropoid ape, or that there is no God at all? Would the world be a better place to live in if we, each and every one, believed in and practiced the doctrines and teachings of the Bible? Take that away, and what can we hope for hereafter?

Will modern thought alleviate the struggle and sufferings of humanity? Will modern thought give us the courage and patience we need to bear our burdens; to be honest with ourselves and our neighbor? And if we have no Supreme Being in whom to place our faith, how shall we have faith in humanity?

The world is restless, weary of the self-inflicted burdens, and fearing its God has failed it, has promptly set about to deny the existence of its God. Science has made progress, and now that it has progressed so far, would go farther in trying to understand that which is not given to man to understand, and because it cannot see and understand God, would utterly disprove Him.

It is simply a case of man in his godliness refusing to accept that which he cannot understand. Science will form many theories, but I venture to say it will never penetrate God's mysteries, and in the effort to do more harm than good.

T. N. T.
 Harrisburg, April 22, 1922.

Challenges Vore's Statement
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 The People's Forum will appear daily in the Evening Public Ledger. Letters discussing timely topics will be printed, as well as requested poems, and questions of general interest will be answered.

Sir—I take exception to Mr. Vore's statement that Mr. Finckel sought the nomination at the hands of the Republican voters of Pennsylvania. They sought him and have every reason to be proud of him and his record.

CHESTER BADER.
 Chester, Pa., April 24, 1922.

Beer and Wine Propaganda
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Petitions widely distributed throughout the country and which "wets" in Philadelphia and other parts of Pennsylvania are industriously circulating, are trying modification of the Eighteenth Amendment to the extent that beer and light wines can be manufactured and sold under the control of the Government. The persons interested in this propaganda take pains to say they do not want the saloon.

"Now, I am a voter and will pledge myself to support that amendment, or whatever term may be applied to the proposed change if any one or all of those agitators will show to me without contradiction this one point: What do the people of the United States want with beer and wine if they do not approve of the saloon?"

There might be a little mite of sense in the thing if men desired to make a business of dealing in it for profit. But why fight with beer and wine if they repeat the question, "What do we want with beer and wine?"

MARTIN L. FOSTER.
 Philadelphia, April 24, 1922.

Questions Answered
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Will you kindly print in the People's Forum of the Evening Public Ledger a sketch of the writer Charles Rann Kennedy? I shall appreciate it very much.

M. K. C.
 Northumberland, Pa., April 23, 1922.

Charles Rann Kennedy, dramatist, was born at Derby, England, February 14, 1871. He is a son of Edmund Hall and Annie Lane (Pawcett) Kennedy, and is largely self-educated. Married Edith Wynne Matkinson, of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England, July 19, 1898. He was an office boy and clerk from the age of thirteen to sixteen, and a lecturer and writer up to the age of twenty-six; actor, press agent, writer of short stories, articles and poems and a theatrical manager up to 1905. Since that time he has been engaged mainly in dramatic writing. He is the author of "The Servant in the House," "The Winterfest," "The Terrible Meek," "The Necessary Evil," "The Idol Breaker," "The Rib of the Man" and "The Army with Banners." He is a member of the Society of American Dramatists and Composers, Society of Authors, England, and a Scottish Rite Mason. Thirty-second degree. His home is in New York, where he is a member of the Players' Club.

The "Flapper"
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Can you explain the origin of the word "Flapper"; how long it has been in use, and what is the exact meaning of the word?

CURIOUS.
 Philadelphia, April 22, 1922.

The flapper is generally pictured as the modern young girl who affects short skirts and bobbed hair, and who uses a good deal of rouge and powder. The word itself is an English one, and has been used for a long time in that country. Its origin is uncertain, and due to a circumstance or cir-

Do Not Heed Her Warning
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Please print in the People's Forum the following sequel to "The Gipsy's Warning."
 MRS. G. I. E.
 Chester, Pa., April 24, 1922.

Blackwood's Magazine
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Can you please tell me who were the publishers of Blackwood, an English magazine and when and where it was published?

Philadelphia, April 21, 1922.

Probably you mean "Blackwood's Magazine," founded by William Blackwood, an Edinburgh publisher, in 1817, subsequently conducted by his son, John Blackwood, and still one of the important British periodicals. It is published in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Poems and Songs Desired
 Wants Source of Byronic Lines
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Can you please tell me what poem by Lord Byron contains the following lines: "But why should I for others grieve, When some will sigh for me?" Bulwer-Lytton quotes them in "Pelham," but fails to give the exact source.

Philadelphia, April 25, 1922.

A. B. MAGILL.
 We fail to find the Byronic lines quoted. Perhaps a reader can do so.

"Light"
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Will you kindly print the following little poem by Maria Elisabeth Stockert in the Forum, and oblige.

Philadelphia, April 25, 1922.

A PRAYER FOR "LIGHT"
 As I wandered o'er the pebbled beach,
 Where inward came the howling tide,
 Whose silvery waves within my reach
 Danced merrily by my side;
 The pale moon burst from an azure sky,
 And around me shone a ray so bright,
 It drew from my heart a hopeful sigh,
 A prayer of a soul that longed for the "Light."

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Discovery of Glass-Making
 To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:
 Sir—Has it ever been stated when the manufacture of glass was first successfully accomplished? I have claimed it was well known in the earliest era of human knowledge. A friend holds it dates back only to the time of Greek civilization.

What are the constituents of glass?
 P. P. V.
 Germantown, April 22, 1922.

It is not known when the possibility of making glass was discovered. Some historians attribute the discovery to the ancient Phoenicians many hundreds of years before Christ. It is said that a cargo of natron which was being conveyed by Phoenician sailors from Egypt to Syria, was wrecked on a sandy beach near Mount Carmel, and a fire being laid, the elements were fused. It is known that the Egyptians possessed the art of glass-making 4000 years B. C. Glass is made from a fusion of silica and alkali.

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 Aren't they lovely?
 "Yes, Mother bought them for me today and all the girls at school were jealous."
 "Why don't you get your Mother to buy you a silk pair, Alice; they're only \$1.45!"
 "We got the nicest and prettiest stockings at—"

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 Aren't they lovely?
 "Yes, Mother bought them for me today and all the girls at school were jealous."
 "Why don't you get your Mother to buy you a silk pair, Alice; they're only \$1.45!"
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The practice of collecting all bottles, regardless of ownership, led to terrific abuse and became burdensome by expense of sorting and handling. Therefore, we are only asking for the return of our own bottles, marked with a big "S"

Your co-operation is solicited to reduce this loss.

Should our driver fail to collect the bottles, will you please 'phone our Office (Poplar 3500) and we will send for them and cheerfully pay the cost of call.

The Bottle Back to Place of Purchase, Please

Thanking you for your courtesy, we have the honor to be,
 Most respectfully yours,

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