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THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Child Labor and Illiteracy

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—It is interesting to read the reasons advanced by the Supreme Court of the United States for declaring unconstitutional the law taxing the products of child labor, the opinion of the court stating that the law interfered with States' rights. The law was passed in the interest of the education of the children of the whole United States, and as education of the child is the foundation upon which good citizenship is built, it would seem to the ordinary layman that it is a matter concerning the welfare of all the people of the United States, and does not intefere with any State's rights. When such decisions are handed down by the highest court in the land, it is about time that the people demanded that the Judges of the Supreme Court should be elected by the people direct. If this is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, they should have a say as to who shall represent them in the three branches of the Government.

In the President's Cabinet there is no officer having direct charge over the education of the people. There are departments for the affairs of State, Interior, Commerce, etc., but the most important feature in the development of the country is left in the hands of a small bureau in the Department of the Interior. The amount of illiteracy among the enlisted men in the army during the last war was shown to be 25 per cent, or about 1,000,000 out of the 4,000,000 were illiterate. Quite an item for a people that are to make the world safe for democracy. The census of 1920 showed that about the same percentage of all the people of the United States were illiterate. Is this a matter of interest only within the several States or does it not affect the life of the country as a whole? Anything that so vitally concerns the whole people should be a matter of government supervision and not a matter for the States to control.

We have all kinds of organizations and societies interesting themselves in legislation regulating the habits, faith and morals of the people, but I have yet to hear of an organization that is uplifting the standard of education, and bringing our system of education up to date in all respects. In order to accomplish this we must abolish child labor in this country.

JAMES A. REAMY.
Philadelphia, May 23, 1922.

"Moderate Drinking" an Evil

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger

Sir—I feel like saying something that won't come within bounds of the English language. I have no use for a "temperate man." Either get drunk in the ditch once a week regular or be a total abstainer. Go to the dogs alone instead of dragging scores behind you. Get on one side of the fence or the other. Be a man, a mouse or a long-tail rat. To drink one drink a day the week through is drinking first as much as the fellow who takes seven on Saturday and his influence a thousand times worse. To commit any sin or crime moderately makes the thing no less. No great stunt anyway to be temperate, either for a wise man or a fool. It makes me tired.

I have worked my head off twenty-two years cleaning, sweeping, digging, preaching, lecturing, howling, pounding, hoping some day to get cleaned up, but as fast as I could ply the broom somebody would be shoveling dirt under my nose by the carload instead of helping to clean out the old filth and rubbish of 300 years' accumulation. What has been accomplished since the year 1919 is nothing more or less than a miracle and still the dirt flies.

J. H. C. says he never drank himself, but he seems to want others to drink it. Some people seem possessed with the devil to want to back up crime by law, which means to break God's laws. His laws are not to license crime in any form.

It makes very little difference to thinking people, but there are so few comparatively who do their own thinking, we regret the influence. If people would only distinguish between purity and rottenness there might be hopes.

ELLEN E.
Philadelphia, May 23, 1922.

Sees Hardship in Daylight Saving

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—The advocates of daylight saving say that it benefits everybody. I would like to say I am one that it hurts: I have been reduced $15 a week with prospects of being out of work altogether. Now, I am a working man and a taxpayer. I protest against this law that makes a tax every summer of $300 on me and thousands of others. Ninety out of a hundred people you meet are against it. Why force it on us? The following solution will solve the daylight foolishness and not work any hardship on any one.

President Harding has solved the daylight-saving problem. His solution is a "novel one." The clocks are not turned forward, yet an hour is gained in the afternoon. The President simply suggests that everybody get up an hour earlier, go to work an hour earlier and quit work an hour earlier. How simple, yet how remarkable for the President to conceive such an easy solution to so complex a question.

President Harding is a newspaper man who happened to become President. Evidently there are some newspapermen in Philadelphia who will never be President, because they could not think of such a novel way of saving daylight; couldn't think of anything but moving the hands of the clocks ahead.

So in Washington the Government departments, the banks and stores will open at 8 o'clock instead of 9, and close an hour earlier than formerly, while here in Philadelphia the newspapers will still be congratulating themselves that they succeeded in putting over a monkeying with the clock scheme, even if it does mix things up.

J. G. P.
Philadelphia, May 23, 1922.

Business in 'Good Old Colony Times'

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—The following may be of interest to your readers in connection with the present reception being given to the firms more than a century old by the Chamber of Commerce:

In 1637 the first party of Swedes under Captain Minuet arrived and settled in Pennsylvania. Among them was Claus Jansen (Johnson), who brought over with him a still, as was usual in those days. He took up a piece of land extending from Percusing Creek to the Neshaminy Creek, and at the lower falls near Flushing built himself a cabin which he called a hotel and set up the still. Being the lowest possible passage of the creek, it soon was quite a stopping place for all people going north of that creek. That log cabin was standing to the recollection of the writer, who is one of the descendants of the above Claus Jansen, and was occupied until torn down for additions to later addition to the building by Charles Daniels, and afterward by his son-in-law, who is still a resident of Bristol.

Later, when whisky became taxable, it was moved away back in the woods above Neshaminy Falls, and was used even as late as the time of my mother.

It was finally dismantled by the late Francis Tomlinson, who was a good Quaker, and owned the property to within the time of the present generation, thus clearly establishing the fact that the above neighborhood, as well as Bucks County, had the first business operation in Pennsylvania.

C. JESS YOUNG.
Philadelphia, May 22, 1922.

A Pessimistic View

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Why can't the people put a man in office, say a Governor or President or Congressman, who will not let the money class rule him. As we know, every man that is elected to office is put there by the laboring man's vote, but still the money shall rule him. There is no use of voting if the man we put in cannot be on one side as well as the other. Might as well get a man out of the asylum and set him in the chair and let money tell him what to do. We would be just as well off.

E. HUITT.
Pottstown, Pa., May 20, 1922.

Questions Answered

The Nation's Sweet Tooth

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—What is the per capita consumption of sugar by Americans. A friend asserts that it is much larger than it once was.

AGNES.
Philadelphia, May 20, 1922.

The per capita consumption of sugar annually in the United States years before the Civil War was about twenty-five pounds. At the time of the Civil War the amount had risen to sixty pounds, and at present the annual consumption is nearly 100 pounds.

Those Octillions

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In your answer in the People's Forum to the question of "Interested Reader" from Shenandoah, you advise him that 180,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 is read by adding 1000 to each preceding denomination to get billions, trillions, etc. Surely the above number can now be easily read! It should be read 180 octillion.

The order of the denominations up to 33 zeros follows: Million, billion, trillion, quadrillion, quintillion, sextillion, septilion, octillion, nonillion, decillion.

ARTHUR T. CLAYTON.
Camden, N. J., May 23, 1922.

If our correspondent will re-read the Forum's answer, he will see that it gave the reading of 198 octillions (not 180, as he erroneously quoted). Also the method of reading numerals of formidable denominations was accurately explained, as was the order of denominations up to and including "decillions."

Farm Wages Then and Now

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will you please tell me how the farm wages of 1875 and 1920 compare?

SUBURBANITE.
Lansdowne, Pa., May 22, 1922.

In 1875 farm wages, with board, averaged $12.72 per month without board $19.67, as compared to $46.89 with and $64.95 without board in 1920.

Poems and Songs Desired

"The New Bonnet"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am inclosing the words of the verses asked for by Mrs. J. N. Kirk.

MRS. M. E. MAULL.
Philadelphia, May 21, 1922.

THE NEW BONNET

A foolish little maiden bought a foolish little bonnet,
With a ribbon and a feather and a bit of lace upon it;
And that the other maidens of the little town might know it,
She thought she'd go to meeting the next Sunday just to show it.

But though the little bonnet was scarce larger than a dime,
The getting of it settled proved to be a work of time;
So when 'twas fairly tied all the bells had stopped their ringing,
And when she came to meeting, sure enough, the folks were singing.

So this foolish little maid stood and waited at the door,
And she shook her ruffles out behind and smoothed them down before.
"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" sang the choir above her head,
"Hardly knew you! Hardly knew you!" were the words she thought they said.

This made the little maiden feel so very, very cross
That she gave her little mouth a twist, her little head a toss,
For she thought the very hymn they sang was all about her bonnet.
With the ribbon and the feather and the bit of lace upon it.

And she would not wait to listen to the sermon or the prayer,
But pattered down the silent street and hurried up the stair.
Till she reached her little bureau and in a bandbox on it
Had hidden safe from critic's eye her foolish little bonnet.

Which proves, my little maidens, that each of you will find
In every Sabbath service but an echo of your mind;
And that little head that's filled with silly little airs
Will never get a blessing from sermons or from prayers.

Wants Name of Poem's Author

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—On Monday there appeared in the Forum a poem entitled "Home" sent in by "Adrift."

This poem appealed to me so much I have pasted it in my scrap book and would like to ask "Adrift" if he wrote it or if not, could he or some of the readers tell me the author's name.

Thanking "Adrift" for the poem, J. W.
Atlantic City, N. J., May 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 requested poems, and questions of general interest will be answered.

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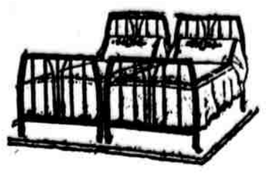
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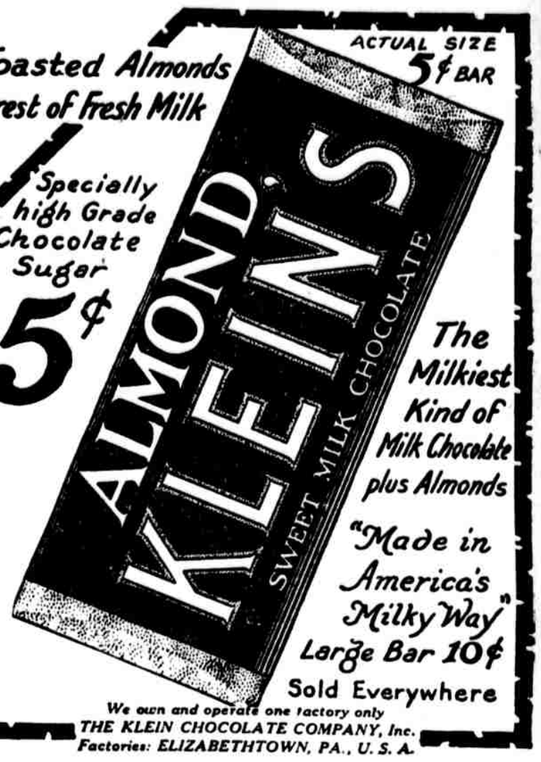

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The condition of labor terrorism and thuggery from which Chicago is trying to fight free? Do you know labor's side of it?
The latest tricks of the bootlegger?
Why Pinchot defeated the powerful Republican organization in Penna.?
Why Chief Justice Taft knocked out the Child Labor Law?
About the Baker oil field "with as bloody a past as is possest by any spot on earth"?
What the next move will be now that Genoa has failed to save Europe?
What the press of Ireland is saying about the Irish wrangles?
What Australia thinks about American boosters?
Japan's latest complaint about California?
The new automatic system to apply the brakes when the engineer forgets?
The Government's plan to kill pests with war-gas?
About the scale of odors to produce symphonies of perfume?
The facts that jar previous ideas about Mars?
About the fuel to drive air-planes at half the present cost?
About the "oiled milk" now being sold that ruins the health of the babies?
The organization that offers to help radio novices?
How to make a portable radio set?
How best to solder radio connections?
About New York's proposed $20,000,000 music temple?
What American college professors think is wrong with H. G. Wells's History?
That the average church member pays the preacher 9 cents a week for the riches of salvation?
Of the large and successful work to heal the lepers?
How Canada is helping its home builders?
Why the poets wish Conan Doyle would leave the future world unknown?
How to run an automobile on "moonshine" distilled by the heat of the engine?
About the organized effort now on to flood America with European immigrants?
How to tour England in a canoe?
The star records of American Indians in football and baseball?
About Rookie Robertson's no-hit, no-run pitching feat?
About the boy who has broken all swimming records?
What happens when a man is hypnotized by golf?
Why an aviation officer who doesn't fly is called a "ki-wi"?
If it is correct to say "handkerchieves"?

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