

## THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

## Letters to the Editor

## The "Man of the Hour"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
Sir—When a fire started in a New York subway a few days ago a panic occurred some seventy-five feet below the surface of the ground. Hundreds of passengers were simultaneously seized with the fear that they would be unable to make their way to safety, and the clouds of smoke and gas they were compelled to breathe overcame many of them, adding to the confusion and hazard. It is easy to picture the horror of the situation; nothing is more dismaying than the consciousness of being far underground with the means of escape hindered.

Fortunately, the electric operating current was shut off within a few minutes of the original trouble; otherwise some of the men and women groping their way along the roadbed might have been killed by contact with the third rail.

"A man who kept his head when others lost theirs," one quoted account of the incident says, "was the outstanding hero. He was a policeman Fredrick C. Smith, of the Oak street station, who took charge of the train which it halted."

But did not a serious accident happen without disclosing the presence of some person who, by virtue of his natural qualities, assumes direction of the protective and rescue work that must be set on foot. Danger and the need of straight thinking are akin to wise leadership in the unexpected crisis in which other men fall short.

MICHAEL MORRIS,  
Philadelphia, July 8, 1922.

## Walking a Healthful Exercise

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
Sir—The newspapers a few days ago printed an account of the arrival of a man at Los Angeles, Calif., who had walked all the way from Illinois. He weighed 305 pounds when he started on his hike and reached his destination weighing only 224. This is a pretty good feat at that, but the reduction of the pedestrian's avoropups furnishes a hint to others who are worried and annoyed over excess weight. It may be necessary to walk the Mohave Desert, as the Illinois man did, though that might prove particularly effective. There are pleasure walks nearer home and a regular schedule of a few miles a day offers entertainment as well as a steadily improving state of bodily health.

Walking is an unexcelled exercise. It keeps every muscle into play. It is devoid of the strenuous and sometimes dangerous quality of other outdoor pastimes and has the further advantage of taking one far afield and offering him an infinite variety of interesting sights. In city or country there is enough to feast the eye if one knows where and how to look for it.

J. V. L.  
Philadelphia, July 7, 1922.

## Can Only Be Cured From Roots

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
Sir—How useless the beating about the bush on the vital questions of prohibition and morals. The situation at the present time is one of such serious proportions that a glaring trail of moral destruction seems to be sweeping heedless numbers of the younger generation into a condition of such utter and willful lawlessness, assuming at least the appearance of a national menace, striking dismay in the hearts of law-abiding Americans, true believers and faithful upholders of law and justice. The fundamental condition deteriorates to a degree.

In the humble opinion of the writer the whole of the blame should be placed where it belongs, which is rightly on the shoulders of the men and women scattered everywhere whose concern is extremely questionable concerning their interest in the upholding of law and justice of their country. Some have strayed and are continuing to stray the seed of defiance in their own disregard of obedience to legalized authority, who have and still are bolstering up and perpetuating in their mode of thinking and living a contempt which was second nature to them even before prohibition became a reality. It is the spirit of our National Constitution. Any who so behave are traitors to the faith our forefathers zealously instituted, which is the very foundation upon which the American nation rests and must ever rest.

Obedience to and for duly authorized laws must be insisted upon and upheld in all cases, for the sake of the public welfare, if we wish as a people to be worthy of being considered civilized, let alone refined and capable of intelligent comprehension of what national duty means. For just so sure as there is a moral leakage of dignified responsibility in the thoughts and outward expression of even a small minority of the older generation, so surely will they ever look for their guidance and inspiration, let alone a deliberate flouting of our duly constituted laws, so there is bound to be with such an example a continued seeping of the moral staining between the roots and fraying the fibers of the body, to hold together the noble abiding forces which alone have strength to keep and protect us; the American people, in motion composed of unified freedom-loving, self-respecting individuals.

Why then and to what end are we confronted daily by appalling revelations in the daily newspapers and current news of youthful desperados and hoodlums, when we know and must admit that the public welfare and safety of our country depend on the energy and reflex of acquired habits from their elders? An example copied from men and women who are permitting conditions to exist which prove a veritable hot-bed of destruction to the untried, restlessness of inexperienced youth.

We have men in our midst today, public officials, who, with their open satisfaction at conditions as they exist, men who are accounted American citizens, yet have no more respect or regard for the weighty responsibility they have been entrusted with than the most meekly afflicted reprobate who, at best, does not seek to pass as one having authority. The ranks of these officials, law-breakers, themselves to place the blame on the weaker and less responsible shoulders of the youthful bolder and pleasure-seeking flappers.

Women we have, too, failing their trust as protectors of the minds and bodies of the young. Would it not seem until then the other people who have the authority and obligation to control conditions and enforce obedience to the law, wake up to their responsibility and seek to faithfully discharge their public and private duties, and all go on being distressed by the deplorable knowledge of tree-line banditry, committed by forces extravagance in lux styles of dress?

E. J. RULE,  
Philadelphia, July 10, 1922.

## The Irrational Chicken

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
Sir—Let me, if you please, call attention to the chicken—the feathered variety, I mean.

A poultryman not far from the entrance of this good city of Philadelphia has posted along the road which leads

past his farm signs reading as follows: "Chickens ahead. Drive slowly."

The reason for the signs is apparent. The poultryman has had so many of his chickens killed by motorists that he has adopted this method of warning the hope of reducing the casualty list and saving the racing profits. It is original, to say the least. But what avails is his originality where such absolutely irrational birds as those belonging to the family Gallus domesticus are concerned?

Does this poultry raiser drive an automobile? Even if he does not, he should be aware that often, no matter how great care is exercised, when one is at a standstill, the bird can almost invariably come off second best. A driver may prove to be as fine a strategist as Marshal Foch and yet fail dismally to maneuver his machine as to avoid contact with his cackling adversary and proceed without bloodshed or, if fate is merciful, leaving behind a few feathers.

The man has not been born who can tell with certainty which way a chicken from the front of his car will turn or what it will do after it seems to have scurried out of harm's path.

From this distance, the poultryman appears to be placing the motorists the blame for his protest on his property. Presumably, well-protected drivers will respect his warning. But is his course fair? To most of us, who know that the ways of hens and chickens on the open highway are past figuring out, it would seem fairer to confine the chickens in runs from which they cannot fly or walk out whenever the desire to go roaming seizes them.

RUSTICUS,  
Philadelphia, July 8, 1922.

Saw Bellied Buzzard

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:  
Sir—While reading in Sunday's Public Ledger about the "bellied buzzard" I could not help but recall that about eight years ago I saw a "bellied buzzard." Very close to me to while I was hunting rabbits in the hills of western Pennsylvania. The chances are that I saw the bird that has been seen in West Virginia on several occasions.

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