EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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Published daily at Public Ledger Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

ATLANTIC CITY.....Press-Union Building
NEW YORK.....4 Madison Ave.
DETROIT.....701 Ford Building
ST. LOUIS.....813 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, Mexico and Japan, 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.

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Philadelphia, Friday, December 15, 1922

WHERE IT HURTS MOST

WHATEVER may be said of the coal shortage and whatever apologies or explanations may be presented in impassing statistics will not obscure the fact that multitudes of the poorer people in this part of the country will have to pay with a very dreary and unhappy Christmas for excesses chargeable against the unions and mine operators who were involved in the coal strike.

A casual survey in this city and Camden reveals innumerable small homes that are without fuel and without hope of obtaining much in the near future. Pneumonia may be a Christmas visitor in many of these houses.

Some of the up-and-at-'em Mayors in the West have been attempting to educate motor maniacs by leading them on cours of hospitals where injured or dying children lie as victims of speeders. Sane logic and law have been alike inadequate to convince those fundamentally in control of the coal supply of their social responsibilities, the principle applied to tame wild drivers in Detroit and elsewhere might properly be extended to them. Operators and union leaders responsible for strikes and shutdowns might be marched around for a look at the patient children who stand in line at corner shops to buy coal by the bucket when they can get it and for a glance into small houses where other children shiver because even pennies aren't available for a few pounds of fuel of any sort.

It is only because coal is extremely scarce that the poor have to buy it by the bucket and pay, in the end, at the rate of nearly $30 a ton. Thus the high cost of coal weighs most heavily upon the people who are least able to bear it. With them the fuel shortage cuts two ways.

LAMBERTON BARS SPATS

SHERIFF LAMBERTON has put his foot down hard on that proposition of State Senator-elect Vare that a lot of local officeholders buy spats and some other articles of wearing apparel and parade in Harrisburg in honor of the new Governor on inauguration day. He says that he will discharge any attache of his office who absents himself on that occasion.

The Sheriff's ostensible reasons are commendable, but are they his real reasons? Perhaps he has read the essay on the red hat by the late Charles Dudley Warner. A quiet, retiring woman succumbed to the charm of a red hat in a milliner's window and bought it. As it did not match her usual costume, she had to get a new gown. She looked in the mirror and was so pleased with herself that she decided she must go out to let the world see how charming a woman could be. In the course of time she was changed into one of the gayest butterflies in town, all on account of the red hat.

Spats, introduced into the Sheriff's office, would be demoralizing to the force. They would inevitably be followed by white edgings on the vests, by flowers in the buttonhole and by other frivolities. The deputies would then attempt to live up or down to their new costume, and the husky men would become candles incapable of functioning as proper and dignified officers of the law.

If Mr. Vare will give serious thought to this question of spats he will be likely to abandon his proposed parade and allow the little officeholders to keep for Christmas the money that it would cost to uniform them for a politician's holiday.

INCOME-TAX SENSE

THE last installment of income-tax payments for 1921 is due today. The first payment of the tax on incomes of the current year will not be due until March 15. There is no escaping the heavy surtaxes of the present law on last year's incomes.

Secretary Mellon has recommended a radical reduction of these surtaxes, in the interest of national prosperity. There is time for Congress to act before the tax on this year's incomes must be paid.

It ought to act, for the surtaxes are indefensible on any sound economic theory. They were levied, in the first place, in order to mulct the rich for the benefit of the poor, but they have been handed on to the people of lesser means by the men with large incomes. The effect of the law has been to make the men with big incomes tax collectors for the Government.

But it has had another effect also, for it has forced capital to seek investment in tax-exempt securities of the States and their subdivisions where under an equitable system it would have sought investment in private industry.

The Secretary of the Treasury thinks this evil could be cured if Congress were empowered to tax the bonds of the States and municipalities. But the simplest way to cure it is to reduce the Federal taxes to a reasonable figure. Then the capitalists who object to paying to the Government from 25 to 75 per cent of their incomes would invest their surplus in the securities of private corporations and pay the reasonable tax. The corporations would be able to expand and the resultant increase in business would yield taxes that would more than offset the losses resulting from the abolition of the confiscatory surtaxes.

NEW DISARMAMENT PLANS ARE PREMATURE NOW

In Its Commendable Zeal for Further Naval Reforms the House Overlooks Some Delicate and Pressing Problems

THE request, included in the Naval Appropriation Bill, that President Harding should institute an international program to limit the tonnage of smaller types of war vessels and of aircraft and submarines revives interest in the most delicate question before the Washington Conference of a generation. Fears that the sessions might be wrecked on the issue, to the consideration of which France was particularly opposed, led to its shelving. The Washington compacts, as are most international agreements, were products of compromise. Delicate machinery for preserving peace and restricting naval competition was created.

Considering that neither France nor Italy has ratified the treaties, the present moment can hardly be called propitious for supplementing them.

The vast majority of Americans would unquestionably have rejoiced if the scope of the Washington Conference had been extended. But matters of fact and prejudices, which often amount to the same thing, had to be considered.

Such conditions were plainly recognized by Mr. Hughes throughout the whole of the sessions. It was manifestly his purpose to effect attainable reforms that could be accounted valid and durable rather than to propose goals, though, however laudable, seemed unlikely to be attained.

For this reason the original American plan, whose main features were adhered to with a fidelity rare in international conclaves, did not embrace proposals for the abolition of navies.

Attention was focused upon the production of bad effects for capital ships and for the blanketing of the spur of competition in naval expenditures. A period of co-operation as a welcome substitute for rivalry, Great Britain and Japan were palpably pleased to accept the opportunity for relief.

Aristide Briand, who was possibly better aware of the insecurity of his hold upon the premiership than were most Americans at that time, accepted the pick-me-up of his Cabinet and sought to convey the impression that France was yielding a great deal by agreeing to restrictions upon dreadnaughts construction.

As a matter of fact, it was well known that his Government could not afford to embark upon a costly battleship program. Somewhat similar circumstances prevailed in the case of Italy. Signor Mussolini [illegible] that [illegible] and [illegible] for full participation in [illegible] under the Washington treaty. As a matter of fact, it was intimated that the United States Senate was not wholly averse to the retention of submarines for defensive purposes, the British proposal to ban them altogether proved a stumbling block which came perilously close to disrupting the conference. The chief recalcitrant was, of course, France, in refusing to accept the offer.

The Limitation-of-Naval-Armament Conference is impressive with promissory notes of which have not yet been fulfilled. The [illegible] laid down are admirable, but it will take time to make them prevail. Secretary Hughes at Washington [illegible] within a recollection [illegible] armed craft were [illegible] unofficial, rather than [illegible] post facto the [illegible] The [illegible] able and [illegible] though [illegible] subject of naval armament.

There [illegible] the State Department [illegible] to report to the President [illegible] Congress [illegible] Washington [illegible] report [illegible] the Washington [illegible] or will [illegible] was American [illegible] to what was done in Paris in 1919.

But the [illegible] of another phase of the disarmament [illegible] program devised at Washington [illegible] of [illegible] full [illegible] Powers [illegible] nations [illegible] Senator [illegible] of Michigan, are properly [illegible] form of a "request" to Mr. Hughes. Final decision for or against the reopening of a vexed subject at a peculiarly critical time, during which patience may prove a virtue, rests with him.

KINDLING

IN SOUTH AMERICA [illegible] things well—better in fact, than similar things are done in the United States or Europe. The chief of police in Rio de Janeiro, for example, in a report just issued "to the public and the public powers" declares that bands of conspirators and propagandists are now at work in various Latin-American countries to arouse fear, hatred and a desire for war on a belief in its necessity in the minds of various peoples, and that these groups are in the pay of foreign munition makers.

German gun-makers spent fortunes in France for the support of French newspapers, which were directed with a view to inciting the French people against Germany. Quotations from these "violently anti-German" newspapers were reprinted throughout Germany to prove to Germans that they should arm and "prepare" and goose-step if they didn't want to be overwhelmed. When all the truth is known it may be proved that the German war-makers weren't alone in this practice.

What the outside world will want to hear now is the names of the people who have been trying to apply to Latin America the fire that left a large part of European civilization in ashes.

THE RIGHT STRATEGY

THE Ku Klux Klan will prosper under the attacks of the interests and influences which it is organized to combat. Those influences and interests will be wise if they keep silent.

The proper kind of attack upon the Klan comes from the groups for whose protection it professes to be organized. It is up to the representative men in these groups to point out that the purposes and the methods of the Klan are un-American and subversive of the principles at the foundation of American institutions.

Therefore, when representative clergymen of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist and Protestant Episcopal Churches denounce the Klan, as they did in this newspaper yesterday afternoon, a campaign of enlightenment has been started which must ultimately succeed.

The Federal Constitution provides for the greatest liberty of religious opinion. That liberty must be preserved if we are to escape an era of religious intolerance.

The right of a man of foreign birth to become an American citizen is also protected under our laws. This right must be protected, for the development of the country depended on the recruiting of the population already here from the surplus populations of the European countries. We have forced most of the European countries to recognize the naturalization of their former citizens. Now it is illogical and unintelligent for the descendants of foreigners, as we all are, to attempt to prescribe men who happen to be in the same condition that our ancestors were when they first came here.

Many of the members of the races offensive to the Klan are better Americans than the best Klansmen. The Klansmen are not Americans at all, save by the accident of birth, for they have forgotten that for which America is distinguished among the nations of the world.

A RESURRECTION

FOR a ghost, a shade, a wraith, a [illegible], the League of Nations is displaying astounding recuperative powers. It [illegible] at Lausanne to settle the vexed and tragic question of racial minorities in the Turkish dominions.

[illegible] Pasha's attempted bullying, which only two days ago threatened to [illegible] the conference, has been successfully overcome by arrangement to the effect that the League plans for safeguarding racial and religious minorities will be accepted by the Angora Government and that Turkey will join the Geneva partnership shortly after the sessions are concluded.

In this victory for civilization, Richard Washburn Child—curiously enough the envoy of a nation which has rejected the League—appears to have played no inconsiderable part. Mr. Child's appeal for alien peoples in Turkey unquestionably strengthened the position of the Western Powers on this subject. The policy of burial [illegible] externally advocated by the Ottoman delegate obviously ran counter to the general sentiment of civilization.

Mr. Child, of course, said nothing about the League. Nevertheless its protective machinery, as outlined in the covenant and applied in some degree operative in nations saved from the old Hapsburg empire, is in evidence. Ismet has recognized the fact, has evidently thought better of his unpredictable truculence and now knocks at the doors of Geneva as a suppliant.

This [illegible] of fair-mindedness and impartiality in the League can [illegible] have seven [illegible] offices. A little [illegible] and [illegible] will grow and wax strong.

SOUNDS LIKE A—

We hold [illegible] of [illegible] Shakespeare [illegible] of the house. We [illegible] what the lady [illegible] [illegible] would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]