

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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Published daily at Public Ledger Building

Independence Square, Philadelphia

NEW YORK OFFICE: 204 Madison Ave.

CHICAGO OFFICE: 412 Ohio Street

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1202 Tribune Building

Subscription Terms

The Evening Public Ledger is served to subscribers in Philadelphia and surrounding towns

at the rate of twelve cents per week, in advance

By mail to points outside of Philadelphia in the United States, Canada and Mexico, postage paid

in Philadelphia, Pa. Postage paid at New York, N. Y., and at other mailing offices

Must give full name and address

Member of the Associated Press

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is a corporation organized under the laws of the United States

with its principal office in New York City

Philadelphia, Thursday, December 21, 1922

WHAT IS A PARK FOR?

FAIRMOUNT PARK is a place of recreation for the people. Its uses have been clearly defined since the beginning.

No part of Fairmount should be taken over for automobile camp sites. Tourists who travel by motorcar have at their disposal a swift and easy means of locomotion.

Automobile touring is a growing fashion. And even though sections of Fairmount were set aside and designated as automobile camps, they would not be used as such.

WHILE STATESMEN TALK

OLD school Republicans are cited in the folklore of these times with cruel and unbecoming wisdom, sometimes exhibit an infantile faith in their stability and usefulness of their long-remembered system.

Wherever they appear, the Fascists are almost, but not quite, unopposed. They stand invariably for conservatism and traditional nationalism and in opposition to liberal or progressive political thought.

The Fascist movement is a matter of thought, and it is the only one that in all countries is a movement of the mind.

A BATTLE OF THE PACIFIC

IT is unnecessary to describe the splendor of the state of California which Los Angeles and San Francisco are conducting in their efforts to secure commercial supremacy on the Pacific coast.

Easterners are particularly fond of it if they view the case from the point of view of the metropolitan of California.

This multitude of sources are provided San Francisco to demand recognition of every harbor on their great bay as a contributor to their maritime prestige.

Modesty on the Pacific slope is manifestly unappreciated. With this in mind, it may be inquired why any limits to grandeur are imposed.

A WIZARD BREAKS LOOSE

THE vicious and ignorant attack directed at Governor Allen, of Kansas, by Dr. W. H. Evans, of Texas, successor to Wizard Simmons and now the most popular man in the Ku Klux Klan, will try the patience of sane thoughtful Americans to the breaking point.

Governor Allen, in his interview with Evans, said flatly that he would drive the Klux out of Kansas and that he was opposed to its methods and its system of organizing bigotry.

insulted in a public statement issued in the name of the Klux.

In the same statement Evans said that he was not in Washington to seek out any official of the Government, but that he would find time to talk to any Government official who asked for the privilege!

Snake-Doctor Medicine Denounced in Congress

The Proposition to Tax State and Municipal Bonds Held Up by the Sound-Thinking Opposition

A VOTE on the proposed constitutional amendment empowering Congress to tax the bonds of States and their subdivisions, which was to have been taken in the House of Representatives yesterday, has been postponed until after the holidays.

This probably means that it will be postponed indefinitely, as the necessary two-thirds majority in favor of the proposition cannot be secured.

There are two strong arguments against it. The first one is that it disregards the rights of the States. The United States is a federation of sovereign Commonwealths.

No power outside of Pennsylvania should have any control over the borrowing power of the Commonwealth. If Congress should be permitted to tax Pennsylvania bonds the rate of interest on those bonds would have to be adjusted to the Federal tax.

Ever since the foundation of the Government the States have had the right to make their own terms with the lenders when they wished to borrow, and the States have allowed the cities to decide for themselves whether local bonds should be subjected to local taxation.

The second argument is that a tax on a public security defeats itself. The revenue raised by the tax has to be met by another tax to meet the increased rate of interest that must be paid on a taxed security.

For years no one but the demagogues engaged in seeking votes by denouncing "the Money Trust" demanded this sort of a tax.

The bloated bondholders, as these demagogues called the holders of public securities, must be compelled to discharge in the interest of the down-trodden poor.

But, curiously enough, Secretary Mellon has fallen for this sort of snake-doctor medicine and has persuaded the President to prescribe it because, to escape the condign surtaxes, men of wealth have been buying the new issues of untaxed State and municipal securities.

The Secretary does not know the temper of the men who began urging the quick remedy long before he entered public life. The temper of mind which leads politicians to demand that State and municipal bonds be taxed also leads the same politicians to demand that the heaviest possible taxes be levied on every man who has managed to accumulate a little more wealth than his neighbors.

The Democrats in the House of Representatives have aligned themselves in opposition to the measure and are denouncing it as an invasion of the rights of the States, just as Governor Ritchie, of Maryland, condemned the Volstead act at the conference of Governors with the President on Monday as a usurpation of the powers of the States.

Representatives Graham and Buchanan, although stalwart Republicans, joined with the Democrats in condemning the proposed amendment both on theoretical and practical grounds.

These thoughtful Americans who have opposed the measure are looking down on the Federal system through invasion of the rights of the States by the central Government will be gratified to note that voices are being raised in protest.

THE PARADOX HARVEST

THE collector of paradox has an easy time nowadays. In the naval field the available haul is particularly rich.

A little thing like the Washington Treaty providing the machinery of arbitration for crises in the East and a new basis of accord among the Pacific powers is ignored. Perhaps, in his present mood, Admiral Sims would prefer the repudiation of that pact by France and Italy.

Its failure, of course, would sharpen the point of his observations.

Add to the American scene looking-glass politics as it is practiced in France. "The French Navy is dying," declares the Minister of Marine, M. Rabier, who complains that, while his Government has built not a single capital ship since 1914, Great Britain has constructed nineteen and the United States twenty-five.

Yet France is recognized as the nation least resigned to the limitations of the five-power naval treaty, still pending in Paris, and is clamoring for permission to override some of its limitations. Naval reform is opposed in the country which is financially incapable of executing a dreadnought program and has launched only one destroyer and one submarine since the opening of the World War.

America, which is solvent and Britain, financially the soundest nation in Europe, have greatly increased their navies, yet stand for the limitation principle. Sims scoffs at it all, in theory and practice. The House calls for much more drastic naval cuts than those provided for in the Washington treaties.

If the paradox hunter is not satisfied with this assortment of gems he is unworthy of his avocation.

ARE WE LAWLESS?

THE appearance here of Sir Basil Thomson, one of the most noted sleuths of the old Scotland Yard organization, and his polite intimation that we in the United States are still disposed to be a bit too nonchalant in the administration of criminal laws, is another reminder of our youth as a nation.

Youth is optimistic. It can afford to err. No one need differ with Sir Basil. No one could fairly do so, for his is the wisdom of maturity. He speaks with admirable restraint. He shares none of the delusions of the trotting Britishers who occasionally arrive on tours of America loaded down with tents, firearms and portable baths.

Sir Basil doubtless has been reading the news from Herrin and New Brunswick, Louisiana and Philadelphia and Los Angeles. He may have been looking into the coal question and he may have had occasion to ask a heliograph about the possibility of a today, as travelers often do. In view of all this, his gentle restraint of speech is more than admirable. It is charming. Think of the things he might have said if he had the rasping tongue of Mr. Kipling or Mr. Shaw.

We are a lawless people—in small ways. A wizard of psychology might be able to tell us why we harbor without obvious discomfort the conflicting impulses that lead to acts of tolerance quite as sensational as the acts of violence that cause foreigners to gape and gasp. Certainly after listening to the Kluxers and reading the "crime news" of one day or contemplating the more conspicuous facts of the coal famine a veteran of Scotland Yard might feel that he was moving in a world of un disciplined and rather bad-tempered children. And yet it is worth remembering that in the larger fields of human thought and effort we have always been stubbornly on the side not only of law, but of justice, which is even more important.

We began the talk of world peace. It was the Government of the United States which caused a sensation in foreign chancelleries by insisting that China was entitled to exact justice at the hands of the Great Powers. Had the Congo atrocities been perpetrated by American privateers instead of by the representatives of Belgian royalty there would have been an uproar of resentment from one coast to the other.

The Government of the United States as well as the people looks with frank disgust at the organized violence of contemporary European diplomacy in the Near East and elsewhere. As a people we are lawless. And so aren't.

A GOOD TURN BY BELGIUM

BELGIUM, which has dispensed with a navy since its capture as a modern kingdom, was the less a party to the Washington Conference of a year ago because of extensive commercial interests in the Far East. With Portugal and the Netherlands, and the signatories of the armistice on treaties, the Brussels Government participated in the framing of the two agreements according to genuine national dignity by China and designed to establish the open door and equality of opportunity in that vast country.

While it was not doubted that Belgian approval of the two pacts in which she was concerned would be eventually forthcoming, the cause of international fair play is served by ratification of the accords by the Chamber of Deputies. Action upon the treaties is an encouraging sign. It is to be hoped that the upper chamber will not long delay in giving its assent.

The smaller nations that were represented at Washington met materially advance international equity by disposing of their share of the unfinished business of the memorable meeting. What Belgium has done emphasizes the isolation of France and Italy, where ratification of all the treaties lags.

Nations which clamor for American participation in world affairs cannot consistently afford to appear in the unlovely roles of slinking outsiders.

Waiting Wilkes-Barre man, served with a summons for parking his car longer than the law allowed, said that he would be the first to pay a fine for parking his car longer than the law allowed.

My next-door neighbor, John H. Walters, that long, thin, lanky fellow, who has been in the habit of parking his car longer than the law allowed, said that he would be the first to pay a fine for parking his car longer than the law allowed.

STRANGE STORY OF POE

Major Murdock Uncovers a New Romance of the Poe—Weird Wanderings of the Manuscript of "Murders in the Rue Morgue"

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

MAJOR W. G. MURDOCK makes a new and unusual contribution to the life story of Edgar Allan Poe.

Major Murdock is a member of the Northumberland bar and an indefatigable deliver into the early history of Central Pennsylvania.

His ancestors are numbered among the oldest families of the great valley of the Susquehanna.

The Poe incident is a hitherto unpublished fragment, though the major tells me it is an old story among the hills of Central Pennsylvania.

"At the end of Paddy's Mountain, in Union County, is a small stream called Poe Run, named after an uncle of Edgar Allan Poe, who had settled in that neighborhood.

There is also a mountain called Big Poe Mountain in the vicinity.

Edgar Allan Poe when a young man made his home for a time with his uncle and fell in love with a young lady named Walters, who lived near.

"This look is in possession of her descendants today.

"Young Poe's attentions were not favorably received, and he left his uncle's and never returned.

PROF. JAMES A. HARRISON, of the University of Virginia, is author of perhaps the latest, most comprehensive and painstaking biography of Edgar Allan Poe.

Elsewhere in his remarkably extensive work on Edgar Allan Poe, Prof. Harrison says:

"In the life of nearly every literary man who occupied a conspicuous position in the world's eye there is a dark period—a period of eclipse, obscurity and frustration—during which he mysteriously disappears.

"The literary historian in the careers of Keats and Shelley, of Hugo and Heine, and Gerard de Nerval, to mention only a few modern instances—and wonders what these men of genius were doing in the eclipse period.

"The period 1827-1833 embraces more than a lifetime of shadow, only a part of which has been skillfully illuminated by Prof. Woodberry's investigations.

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"WHO CAN WORK OR WORRY WITH YOU AROUND?"



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF On Civic Drama in Education for Democracy

THE use of the moving picture, not only the commercial use, but the private use, may with proper development be made one of the greatest factors in interesting the American people in higher civic ideals, and they can be utilized to develop a sound civic pride in worth-while movements.

Health Films Interesting "Louis W. Sturgis, of the Community Motion Picture Bureau, is authority for the assertion that the number of health films is constantly increasing. Where and how to use motion pictures for this purpose are questions which each community must answer for itself in accordance with local conditions.

Power of the Movies "The influence of the moving picture cannot be well overestimated. Will H. Hays is authority for the statement that about 15,000,000 persons go to the movies in the United States every twenty-four hours, and that each of these persons spends an average of 20 cents on the ticket.

What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. What is the only city which has been designated as the 'City of the Future'?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. General Charles Meade (1779-1862) was the only general to be killed in action during the American Civil War.

Civic Dramatists Needed "Our problem is to get the message of the possibilities of our modern democracy home to the people. One of the greatest limitations to this is the lack of civic education.

From 1861 to 1863 I was in the army. The Poe manuscript in the old music book which I had left off.

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SHORT CUTS

A European crisis is usually short-lived, but it invariably leaves a large family.

As Representative Keller sings it: 'A little impish in the orchard grew—Listen to my tale of woe.'

Recent Washington conference demonstrated that while Governors may regulate they have nothing to do with setting up steam.

Every man who carries his own packages helps Santa Claus. P. S.—He must carry no package provided by Johns Bayberry.

The Irish Parliament has made its first law. If it burns wisdom from the hands of its predecessors it will make as few laws as possible.

After mature deliberation we arrive at the conclusion that William Brookhart's words of blame failed to set the Senate on fire.

The fact that the slayer of President Narutowicz had long been insane proves Poland's tragedy is not a political one save in its effects.

Parrot in Jefferson street house gave alarm of fire and the house was saved. "An insurance job, I see," remarked the Conscienceless One.

We have read the football schedules for next season, and consequently rejoice to know that the cause of education is safe for another year.

Department of Labor reports that the cost of food went up 2 per cent in November. This, however, was not why we celebrated Thanksgiving.

General Federation of Women's Club urges national study for children in the schools. They should at last learn how many beans make five.

Sir Thomas Lipton is a good sport. He is soon to issue a new campaign, though he must realize that it has now lost much of its advertising value.

Washington correspondents engaged in putting two and two together have not so far, curiously enough, connected the return of Colonel Harvey with the appearance of three comets in the heavens.

A Westport, Conn., constable says he saw an ostrich on the bench there digging claws and devouring for children their shells on the rocks. We believe the store implicitly, but think the officer is mistaken in saying the bird was an ostrich. The clam-digger was probably a hooh bird.

The Maharajah of Cooh Behar The Maharajah of Cooh Behar is dead in London; and near and far. At a newspaper desk some dry old pill Achieves his nearest approach to a thrill As memories come, all hot, all hot, Of the case of the famed Akhond of Swat.

Who is the Maharajah? Who Can tell all the things that his death may do?

Where in the heavens is found the star That tell the location of Cooh Behar? Merely an asterisk, footnote small, Stuck in a corner of old Bengal.

Here is a chance for some bright old-timer To dig up his patented easy rhyme. To turn the pun spigot on Cooh Behar And note its resemblance to Hooh Thaw.

For a Maharajah well attuned Is as good for a lay as a mere Akhond.

Where is the bard who'll immortalize The Maharajah so worthy wise? Will be the lamp who, as like as not, Will beat the yam of the Akhond of Swat?

Who is the poet, the lucky one?—We don't know, but—but it isn't us!

G. A.