

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

—Will any of those fighting English Suffis go to the front?
—Those Belgians seem to have been right there with the bells on.
—Anyway we don't see that Germany's strong-hold has been weakened to any extent yet. LIMBURG is still holding its own.
—The supposedly patriotic and popular cry now throughout nearly all of Europe, sounds exactly like "Sock der Kaiser."
—If any more powers declare war on Germany we don't see where they are going to get in to take a wallop at the Kaiser.
—If JACK JOHNSON goes to war with the French army maybe, after all, we'll have to call Germany or Austria the white hope.
—The Clearfield Progress claims to be "good for your supper table," possibly because of the lightness of the diet it furnishes its readers.
—Among the horrors of war must hereafter be listed the fact that Senator OLIVER was marooned in Paris last week without a clean shirt.
—And the great Centre county Fair is only three weeks off. Cheer up, you snow shovel, you'll be busy enough before you know what you're about.
—This time next year Europe will probably be exhibiting its "famous battle-fields" in place of its hay-fever cures as attractions to the curiosity seekers of this country.
—President WILSON promptly offered the good offices of our government in an effort to bring about peace in Europe. But the warring countries evidently can't decide just what piece they want until the fight is over.
—The word "defensive" was taken out of the French army tactics eight years ago. They have been taught nothing but offensive movements since. It remains to be seen whether "to the rear, march" was also taken out.
—"Experience is a dear teacher but fools learn in no other school," is an accepted proverb and those who advocate heavy and expensive armaments as a remedy for war may learn something from current European events.
—If Mr. PALMER had only "bridled" his tongue when he "spurred" up his ambition to be Senator, the factional troubles that now impede his way might be neither so troublesome nor insurmountable as they appear to be.
—And now we have abundant reasons for believing that Mr. CARNEGIE'S continuation as a maker of armor plate, would have proven a much greater success than his later enterprise of manufacturing a universal peace sentiment seems to be meeting.
—Sit tight Uncle SAM! Don't let them, by any hook or crook, drag you into that European war. The Philippines might be a point at which they might try to involve you but sit tight and resolve that when this storm is over you will cut loose from the territorial expansion idea and live peaceably and happy in America.
—Anyway, we hope the wars are concluded before November. If they are not everybody will have forgotten that PALMER, MCCORMICK, PENROSE, BRUMBAUGH, PINCHOT and LEWIS are after something and want us to pay attention to the little fight they think they are engineering on this side of the water.
—While we have all been busy trying to find out the cause of the European war, Chairman MORRIS, in an interview with himself, has discovered that it is the work of Senator PENROSE, and that that fact is certain to insure his defeat in November. Verily the reasoning of some men on matters they think they understand is just as clear as mud.
—It is awful to think of prospering at the cost of poverty in other lands, but what is there to be done but take care of that profitable South American trade. The chance is here for the business that we have always wanted and never could get. We wouldn't be stealing it from any other nation. We would merely be picking it up because they are foolishly neglecting it in order to fight among themselves.
—What, with his strenuous experience with the New Jersey Legislature, then his campaign for President, his daily contest with Congress to push the tariff, currency and trust measures through, his trying position in the Mexican situation and now the grave duty of maintaining the neutrality of the United States and at the same time being considerate of the welfare of those of her citizens marooned abroad, greater strain to the nerves of our wonderful President, what more heart-breaking catastrophe could have come than the one that overtook him last Friday morning when Mrs. WILSON died. Such a life as he has led during the past three years would have broken many men. Let us hope that he has enough strength left to withstand this shock, so personal, so sad that words of comfort fail utterly of their purpose and only Him who hath shaped the destiny of our beloved President can bring the solace that will bear him up.

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Hope for Clearfield Democrats.

From reports given us by Centre county Democrats who have lately visited our neighboring county of Clearfield, the Democrats out there have every hope that it will be but a short time until that county can again be classed as one of the permanent Democratic counties of the State, and that the next election will show substantial majorities for the entire Democratic county ticket, as well as for both its district nominees,—Mr. TOBIAS, for Congress, and Mr. PATTERSON, for the State Senate.
This we know will be gratifying news to the Democrats of our own county, who have kept Centre in the Democratic column all these many years and still expect to keep it there, notwithstanding the effort of a few to divide its forces into factions that bosses may control its actions and ladle out the positions the party may have to distribute.
In the effort to get back to its former Democratic position Clearfield has started right, by ignoring factional feuds and repudiating those determined to incite and keep them up. When it came to electing a county chairman, a few weeks ago, finding that its former chairman, Mr. HAGGERTY, declined to again assume the duties of the position, its county committee, consisting of over ninety members, concluded that the best thing to do was to get rid of the factionalism that was dividing the party and by a vote of 90 to 6, selected Mr. FRED BETTS, a Democrat of the old school and a representative of the kind who need no handle to their Democracy to tell the kind it is, to that position, over the candidate of the few who tried to continue party division by continuing the distinction between a "re-organizer," as he calls himself, and another Democrat just as good and possibly better.
And the overwhelming vote cast to have but one kind of Democracy in Clearfield hereafter has so enthused and vitalized Democracy out there that new life seems to have taken hold of the party and new hopes given to the masses whose one object is to secure success for whatever principles or ticket the party may stand. It is this unity of purpose; this sitting down on the effort to keep alive factionalism, that has revived the hope of Clearfield Democrats to secure a victory for the party in November next.

And it might not be out of place, even in our own county, if some of its would-be leaders, who are now hoping to reap the fruits of Democratic success, would take a lesson from the action of our Democratic friends over the mountain.

Fooling the People a Lost Art.

The most absurd proposition which the war excitement and mid-summer madness have thus far developed is that the government at Washington invest a vast amount of money in waterway transportation facilities. Of course this idea originated in Philadelphia where the principle of paternalism in government has reached its most advanced point. The people there have so long enjoyed the unearned bounties and incidental graft of tariff taxation that they are almost ready to depend on the government to pin diapers upon their children. But this preposterous scheme is not likely to meet with popular favor outside of that community. It is a mental malady that is not infectious.

The paralysis of our merchant marine is not attributable to want of enterprise on the part of American investors or courage upon the part of American capital. It is ascribable entirely to a code of archaic maritime laws which the Republican party has maintained, in spite of protest, for half a century, in the hope that Congress would ultimately enact legislation providing for ship subsidies. Congress has not enacted such legislation for the reason that conscience and sanity have opposed with such force and determination that even the tariff pirates became afraid. The proposition in question was probably made in order to prevent the application of the real remedy.

It may be safely said that nearly one-half the capital now engaged in ocean commerce is owned by American citizens. But the ships are not sailed under the American flag because our maritime laws forbid American registry. The administration at Washington and the Democratic majority in Congress are now moving to remedy this great commercial evil and the Philadelphia tariff mongers propose government ownership of ships as an expedient to divert them from the purpose. After the stress which the European war has caused the matter might blow over, these protectionists imagine, and the government purchase of ships is a tub to the whale. But it won't work. You can't fool all the people all the time.

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Trouble With the Merchant Marine.

In an address delivered before a Philadelphia Business Men's association the other day, Senator PENROSE severely reprimanded the American people for indifference to the ignorance of marine conditions and interests. "For fifty years," he declared, "the American people have neglected or opposed every effort for government action to rehabilitate the American merchant marine service and restore the American flag to a position of prestige and profit among maritime nations. During more than a third of that time Senator PENROSE has occupied a seat in the Senate of the United States, under commission of the people of Pennsylvania to conserve the interests of the United States.

In 1858, according to Senator PENROSE, "American vessels carried seventy-three per cent of our foreign commerce and our flag was conspicuous and respected at every shipping port in the world." Two years later the Republican party came into control of the government and the policy of tariff graft was introduced. The exigencies and hazards of the Civil war drove the wooden ships in which the commerce was carried off the seas and when our merchants were ready to renew the business of international commerce, iron and steel ships had been introduced by all our commercial competitors. But the prohibitive tariff made it impossible for American builders to engage in building ships in competition with Europeans and American capital went abroad for investment.

Meantime our antiquated maritime laws, which forbid registry to American owned ships built abroad, were protected as a feature of the sacred tariff. The repeal of that absurd provision in the law would have almost immediately restored our flag to the hundreds of ships owned by American citizens. But Senator PENROSE and his party associates in Congress refused to adopt this obvious course because they hoped to ultimately force a ship subsidy by which other millions might be taken from the public treasury to fatten political favorites. PENROSE is accurate in his estimate of the evil of which he complains but the blame belongs to himself and his party and can't be shifted.

—It begins to look as if the Emperor of Germany has spent his life, not in preparing for war but in "lectioneerin' fer a lickin'."

War a Despoiler Rather Than an Advantage.

Mr. A. P. HEBURN, president of one of the biggest National banks in the country, and once Comptroller of the Currency, appears to be greatly delighted with the consequences of the European war, as he interprets the signs. A buzzard perched in a tree and watching the dying agonies of a wounded horse beneath, could hardly express greater satisfaction. "War will paralyze the industries of Europe," he declared in an interview the other day, "and it will force Europe to look to us for staple foodstuffs and other commodities of life." Mr. HEBURN is equally well pleased with the money end of it. He says "with financial returns with Europe cut off, it means that outflow of gold has ceased."

The extraordinary demand upon our food resources incident to such a tremendous disturbance in the industrial life of Europe will increase the cost of living both at home and abroad. But the advantages of this fact will go to the few speculators in foodstuffs rather than to the producers and the entire consuming public will be compelled to pay for the food they eat at the fancy prices fixed by the speculators in the exigencies of war. The checking of the flow of gold from the pockets of tourists to the shopkeepers and others in Europe will be an advantage of considerable importance but it will not begin to recompense for the loss on the other account.

As a matter of fact war is an evil from whatever viewpoint it is contemplated. General SHERMAN knew all about war and everybody knows what he said about it. The makers of arms and war implements will gain through it and most others will suffer. Army and naval officers like war because it gives them opportunities to advance if they escape death and warriors are always ready to seek reputation "even at the cannon's mouth." But the vast body of the people lose rather than gain from the operations of armies and navies. Happily this war can't last long for at an expense of fifty million dollars a day it costs too much to keep up long. All the combatants will be ready to quit before many months.

—The ultimatum is all right in its way but the sort kept in stock by the Kaiser has gone out of fashion or lost its potency.

The Question of the Platform.

The esteemed Allentown Democrat persists in its demand for "a convention of Democratic State, congressional and legislative candidates for the purpose of formulating a platform which shall express the true Democratic sentiment of Pennsylvania." It is not reconciled to the star-chamber fulminations of three men who met in Washington, though subsequently ratified by nine hand-picked servitors at Harrisburg. "If the State organization refuses to heed this demand," declares our esteemed contemporary, "then it must assume the responsibility for the disaster which will overtake the state ticket in November, and endanger many of the congressional and legislative candidates."

There is ample reason for the complaint of our Allentown contemporary against the action taken by the bosses in control of the State Democratic organization. It was an impudent usurpation of power by a few men who were influenced entirely by selfish ambitions. They overturned party traditions of more than a century and subverted political principles which had been cherished for generations by earnest and honest men. Therefore we cordially agree with our contemporary that "it is time for the misfits who are running the State machine to quit their nonsense." Such blunders are "worse than crimes," because they destroy sacred truths and defeat patriotic purposes.

But we can't see how such a convention as our contemporary proposes can remedy the evil. Candidates are not chosen to express principles or define policies. Each one may properly give his individual opinion upon any question and that is all Mr. PALMER and Mr. MCCORMICK had a right to do. Party platforms are the products of party parliaments and party candidates are not commissioned to perform such functions. The paper issued by the "three tailors of Tooley street," expressed the individual opinion of the three gentlemen who promulgated it and has no more binding effect upon the minds of Democrats of Pennsylvania than a proclamation of the German Kaiser would have on the parliament of France.

—The esteemed New York Sun concurs in our opinion that Congressmen who remain at their posts and perform their duties are the most efficient fence builders. Conditions have changed within a few years.

"Lest We Forget."

By careful scrutiny of the newspapers we are reminded that war is still in progress in Mexico. The events incident to this struggle are not recorded on the first pages, but somewhere between the first and last sheets of the favorite journal one may find that CARRANZA is doing business at the old stand, that VILLA is moving from some point toward the capital and that the constitutionalists are making progress in their strife for control. "CARRANZA'S forces take two capitals" was the headline on a page mostly given to advertisements, the other day, and in a dozen lines in the same column two scurrilous were dismissed with information that the constitutionalists were defeated in both.

But the war is on and CARRANZA, within one hundred miles of the Mexican capital, is mustering an army of 70,000 men to make the final demonstration. Generals OBRAGON, VILLA, GONZALES, GUTIERA, AGULLAR and ZAPATA are in the force but there are no dissensions to impair the chances of success in the event of resistance or to temper the joy if the surrender is made without a struggle. The long, tedious and at times brutal campaign is drawing to a close and the signs in the horizon indicate an enduring peace and a prosperous future. Mexico is rich beyond the dreams of avarice and we may now hope that her people may long enjoy the abundant fruits of peaceful industry.

Less than a year and a-half ago President WILSON inherited this vexed problem from his predecessor in office. It had perplexed President TAFT for several months but he was unable to solve it. The leaders of his party were unable to guide him in the right channels. But by the exercise of patience, forbearance and courage President WILSON has mastered it and the result is the greatest achievement in statesmanship of modern times. If the crowned heads of Europe had been gifted with the same measure of ability the most destructive war in history might have been averted. President WILSON'S success is as great an honor to his country as to himself.

—It may be only a coincidence but Senator BRISTOW, of Kansas, got official notice to get out just about the time that banker WARBURG, of New York, received his official invitation to come in.

Muensterberg's Defense of Germany.

From the Springfield Republican. Professor Muensterberg comes loyally to Germany's defense in the Boston Herald, but his case is weak. He puts the blame on Russia for mobilizing, but he admits that Austria has begun war to crush Serbia and even his loyalty cannot say that Emperor William's craving for peace went to the length of trying to have Austria avoid war by mediation. As for Belgium, his defense is that France was first to offend, but he offers no proof of this assertion; if it were true Germany would certainly have pardoned it in her reply to England. "Fair play" is his theme, and his complaint is that the world sides with Germany against Germany. But this is not true; if the world's sympathies are not with Germany, she would not be especially her rulers, are maintained to blame. He thinks that the feeling now shown proves that Germany could not have reduced armaments, because she could not have got justice in an international court. This hostility he ascribes to political jealousy (Russia), economic rivalry (England), revenge (France) and the aversion of a lower culture (America). But more potent than any of these things were fear of German aggrandizement in Europe, and a liking for "the square deal" in America. In this country there would be no more enthusiasm for Russian conquest than for German conquest; in either case it is absurd to ask for "fair play" when that means setting half of Europe to killing the other half; what is needed is a combination to squelch as quickly as possible such a scheme of conquest. Germany will not soon forget, he threatens, in victory or defeat, the flight of Italy "under the flimsiest subtleties." That shows the temper which Europe will have to crush and which is fast uniting Europe by a common fear.

A Different Case.

From the Johnstown Democrat. It seems that quite a number of Americans are marooned in various parts of Germany and cannot get out as long as their goings and comings will in any way interfere with the pending military operations of the Kaiser's government. How absurd. Let the Kaiser halt his war while Americans march to the railway stations and take the troop trains to the coast. It is a proper time to wax indignant. Only a few months ago thousands of Americans were tearing their hair and calling upon President Wilson to begin shooting just because a few Americans were marooned in various Mexican towns. It was true that Mexico was in a state of war, but it was our confident expectation that the various generals in that land would lay aside their plans of campaign and give our countrymen the right of way to the seacoast. And if hostilities were not suspended in order that Americans might pass between the lines our jingoes were for an immediate "on to Mexico" movement. But we are not sending ultimatums to the Kaiser. We know that war necessarily entails an overturning of the conditions that prevail during times of peace. We know that it is not at all likely that the movements of a million men will be halted in order that a few Americans may travel through Germany in comfort. But while we know this in the case of Germany our jingoes constantly demanded that Mexico so conduct its war that non-combatants would not be inconvenienced in any way.

A Great Opportunity.

From the Indianapolis News. Now that we have a chance, nay, are in duty bound to acquire a merchant marine, the coastwise monopolists come to the front with the demand that their interference be not interfered with. Congress seems ready greatly to relax the law that forbids an American registry to ships built abroad, and a syndicate has been formed to buy many of the big liners. It looks as though we were on the eve of a great development. Yet it is now insisted that these ships, American-owned and flying the American flag, shall not be allowed to engage in the coastwise trade. Under the present laws "only American ships can enter the coastwise trade." The words are those of H. H. Raymond, president of the American Steamship association. But what would the new ships be but American ships? If our people buy and sail them, if they carry the flag of the United States they will certainly be American. Yet Raymond says that "the legislative body of the nation must be careful in revising any marine legislation to see that no error occurs by which these foreign vessels are allowed in the coastwise trade." But they will not be "foreign vessels." They will be American vessels, and it is preposterous to say they shall not, as such, ply between American ports.

American Sentiment Toward Germany.

From the New York Tribune. There is no anti-German sentiment among the people of this country, as some distinguished German residents seem to think. We have too many German citizens, respect them too much, owe too much to their industry and loyalty, ever to have anything but the best feeling toward the German. It is against the German government and its policy that the present indignation is directed, against the Kaiser with his wild militarism that is now working havoc in all Europe and has brought Germany itself face to face with ruin. American public opinion holds the Kaiser's government responsible for destroying the peace of Europe and bringing distress upon the whole world. It was the Kaiser's government with its "year of sacrifice" that started the last orgy of preparation for war, whose after effects are being realized today. The Kaiser could have held back Austria-Hungary when Serbia humbled herself. The world looked to him to save it, but he did nothing.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The Cambria county court has granted the liquor dealers of Patton permission to keep their places of business open till midnight during the framen's big convention to be held there this month.
—A large buck was seen swimming the Susquehanna below Montoursville, last Saturday, making three different landings before it finally decided to cross the railroad tracks and climb the Bald Eagle mountains.
—Among the deeds registered in Indiana county last week is one of the Penn Public Service company, transferring its property in the Third ward, Indiana, to the Sanitary Ice and Cold Storage company; consideration \$80,000.
—During a thunder storm lasting about half an hour, last Friday night, six houses were struck by lightning in Punxsutawney, and a barn, near Olivertown, with its contents, valued at \$5,000, was set on fire by lightning and totally destroyed.
—The first two hunters' licenses issued by the treasurer of Clinton county, for the year 1914, were secured by Mayor George Krutamer and wife, of Lock Haven. They are both expert shots and get their share of the game of the Susquehanna region.
—While on his way to Romania, near Meyersdale, to visit his parents, Theodore Jones, aged 22 years, was run down by a Salisbury-Meyersdale car and fatally hurt, dying next morning. He had stopped in Meyersdale, spending the evening with members of the Moose Lodge.
—The body of William Shroat, of Lock Haven, who was drowned at North Bend some months ago, was found Sunday afternoon about a mile and a half from Ant Fort, by a boy looking along the river for a stray cow. The body was badly decomposed, but the clothing made identification possible.
—Frederick W. Robbins, of Lebanon, has been elected superintendent of the schools of Williamsport, to serve the unexpired term of Charles Loe, recently elected principal of the Lock Haven school. His salary was fixed at \$2,900 per year, and the term expires the first Monday of May, 1918.
—The Wightman Glass company's plant, just completed at Punxsutawney, is said to be one of the most modern in the world and the machinery installed is of the latest design. The company will begin the manufacture of medicinal bottles on the date set for opening, September 1st. The plant will bring about seventy-five families and a number of single men to the city.
—Tire damage to the amount of \$300 was caused by tacks strewn on the road leading to Somerset, at Friedens, last Tuesday, when six automobiles carrying a party of Windber and Boswell business men, returning from a meeting in Somerset, ran over them. A number of Friedens boys were caught in the act of placing more tacks a short time later and were arrested.
—The saw mill of Howard Diehl, of Blue Knob, located near Pleasantville, Bedford county, caught fire about midnight Saturday night and was burned to the ground, entailing a loss of \$1,000, with no insurance. Mr. Diehl moved his mill to that location some time ago to saw a tract of timber for Walter & Walter, Claysburg lumber merchants, and had operated it on Saturday.
—William Snead, a young farmer from near Westover, Clearfield county, was instantly killed on the streets of Barnesboro, last Friday afternoon. His runaway team swerved into a ditch, throwing him head foremost upon a pile of building stone, breaking his neck and crushing his skull. Mr. Snead was 38 years of age, and had lived, practically, all his lifetime on the farm near Westover.
—Judge Ruppel, at Somerset, last Friday granted a temporary injunction restraining Amanda O'Connor, of Conemaugh township, from obstructing the view of the engineers in the employ of the Johnstown Water company, and interfering with the work of the company's employees with a club and a double-barreled shotgun. The court has fixed August 17th as the time for a hearing on the Water company's bill in equity.
—Aloysius Dwyer, alias William Daley, a private detective who has been serving time in the Mifflin county jail at Lewistown, for contempt of court in lieu of a fine of \$1,169.39, has appealed his case to the Superior court. The ten days permissible by the court having expired, the fine now becomes a jail sentence of ninety days and the court demands bail in the sum of \$1,500, in the event of the higher court ordering a new trial.
—The mandamus proceedings in the case of the Locomotive market men who were ordered off the city curb-stone market by Market Clerk Page, in Williamsport, a few days ago, and who were refused a license when they subsequently applied, will be called Monday, August 17. The men were charged with wholesaling on the curb, and their licenses were revoked, upon the authority of a city ordinance which is now to be tested.
—The focusing of sun rays through a skylight is said to have been the cause of the fire which damaged the building of the Lackawanna Coal & Coke company at Wehrum, to the amount of \$100,000 last Saturday night. The announcement is made that there will be but few men idle as a result of the fire, although the mines will be out of operation for a week or more. Practically all the men will be used in the construction of a temporary building to take the place of the destroyed washery and the bin building.
—Robert Gibboney, a hard-working miner who has resided near the old Baltic Mines, near Philipsburg, for a number of years, where he owns a small property, was summoned to England several weeks ago to receive his share of a legacy amounting to \$7,500 in cash and real estate valued at \$10,000. Mr. Gibboney has written his wife that he received \$2,500 in money and will get a third interest in the real estate, which will be sold soon and the money divided between the three heirs. Mr. Gibboney has a large family and as he is getting up in years, this small fortune should keep him comfortable the balance of his life.
—Rev. John C. Collins, who has charge of the services at the Newton Hamilton camp meeting, beginning August 18th, announces the following: Dr. E. H. Yocum, of Bellefonte, will preach on Sunday morning, August 16th, and Dr. T. S. Wilcox, of Mount Union, will preach in the evening. On Sunday morning, August 23rd, Rev. Thomas A. Elliott will preach. The Rev. W. A. Lephey, of Newton Hamilton, has charge of the children's services. During the week days the preaching and prayer services will be conducted by the ministers camping on the grounds. Rev. J. A. Hartman, of Sunbury; Rev. W. S. Wilson, of Altoona; Rev. Todd, of Mount Union, and Rev. J. C. Collins, of Newport. The Mount Union band will give concerts on Sunday afternoons.
—A jury in Denver, Col., last Saturday rendered a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree against Col. J. C. Bulger, a soldier of fortune and ex-army officer, who shot and killed Lloyd F. Nicodemus, formerly of Martinsburg, Blair county, in the Hotel Savoy, Denver, March 6 of this year. Bulger had trouble with a Wyoming man in the hotel and later entered the office, accusing Nicodemus, one of the managers of the hotel, of stirring up the trouble. Nicodemus tried to quiet the Colonel and finally induced him to leave the hotel, but he returned a short time later and without warning shot Nicodemus in the chest, the latter dying the next day. An effort was made at the trial to prove the Colonel insane, two alienists testifying that his mind was unbalanced, but a third said he was perfectly sane, the jury deciding he must pay the death penalty.