

INK SLINGS.

—Wednesday's rain was to mother earth what a good drink of water is to a thirsty man.

—Old Home Week is just one week nearer than it was this time last week. Are your preparations for it advanced seven days?

—There is such a thing as a country being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right." —President WILSON in his Philadelphia address on Monday.

—According to the United States government crop estimate Pennsylvania produced four million more bushels of wheat in 1914 than she will in 1915. It is also interesting to note that while this State received an average of \$1.46 for its 1914 wheat crop the general average in the United States was only \$1.40.

—Unfortunately, Germany can't bring herself to see that American producers are quite as willing to sell commodities to her as they are to sell them to her enemies. Germany can buy all the food she wants in this country, but she is not in position to take it f. o. b. an American port and our shippers are not foolish enough to sell it any other way.

—It takes the hour of supreme trial to reveal what is really in a man. How many of those who have thought of ALFRED GWYNNE VANDERBILT only as the pampered son of plutocracy, would have taken the life belt and safety of the British government was trying to smuggle war materials under the shelter of the skirts of women and children. It is admitted, moreover, that the German embassy at Washington had notified the public, through advertisements in leading newspapers, that the ship would be torpedoed. In the first place it ought to be impossible to carry ammunition or high explosives in a ship carrying thousands of passengers. In the second place the warning ought to have received greater attention.

—There are only five United States Senators who drink to excess, according to Senator KERN, of Indiana. But the statement leaves the important question of what constitutes excess in doubt. Judge KOCH, of Pottsville, once asked an expert witness how many beers a man might drink in a day without being considered a drunkard. "Well chudge, it depends," was the reply. "Do you mean klases or kelks."

—If England has the greatest navy in the world, she has the biggest bill of exchange for something that seems to be of very little value. The further this war goes on the more convinced the WATCHMAN becomes that it's constant opposition to "the larger navy" program for our own country has been founded on wisdom. What's the use of a twelve million dollar super dreadnaught that really dreads a fifty thousand dollar submarine?

—Dr. WILHELMINE KEY has just concluded an exhaustive investigation of the prevalence of feeble mindedness in Pennsylvania. The report to the State Board of Charities is, say the least, alarming. While Dr. KEY hints at many conditions that might contribute to this unfortunate state of affairs no reference is made to the possibility that hanging onto the protective tariff delusion, as Pennsylvania has done, has been a contributory cause.

—The rains of the past fortnight have improved the appearance of the grain fields of Centre county fully fifty per cent., and the grass fields give promise of a bountiful hay crop. Garden truck is growing splendidly, fruit trees are in bloom and all nature is in the spring of life. Verily the man or woman who cannot view nature at this time with an optimistic eye does not deserve an equal share of the bounteous harvest that should come with autumn days.

—If there is one thing more than another in the WATCHMAN these days that has real class it is the correspondence from Rebersburg. County correspondence is not expected to be of much interest to readers unfamiliar with the neighborhood covered, but with our Rebersburg budget its different. There's so much of sprightliness mixed up with the local gossip as to make its reading by entire strangers quite entertaining and the daring young writer even has the temerity to take a fling at "Priscilla," the WATCHMAN's pet jangler just now, and calls ADAM a "big boob." If he isn't the man who put con into newspaper contributions we have another guess coming.

—Don't be hasty in making up your judgment about what your country should do as a result of the Lusitania horror. As an affront to our government the sinking of the Gulf-light was probably a more serious offense than the attack upon the Lusitania, for the former was an American boat carrying the stars and stripes, while the latter was an English vessel. As a crime against civilization, of course, the latter was the greater. Even if we were inclined to undertake such a serious venture it is doubtful whether we could punish Germany by force. In fact we are of the opinion that it would be utterly impossible. Not because of any weakness on our part, but merely because of the insuperable obstacles that lie in the way of getting at her, should those who believe that war can be justified have their way. It is well to remember that the German people are not responsible for this terrible crime. It is the work of a militarist that has no soul and knows no God and which will ultimately be crushed under the heels of the German people, themselves.

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Sinking of the Lusitania.

The destruction of the Lusitania, off the Irish coast, a week ago, by a torpedo fired from a German submarine, was an act of piracy unparalleled in atrocity. By it the lives of hundreds of men, women and children were sacrificed to the lust for blood. It was a crime against civilization, an outrage upon humanity. But horrible as it was the people of the United States should not "lose their heads" over it. The nation should not be plunged into a bloody and costly war in resentment of an event which may better be treated in another way. In other words the crime is too great, the outrage too overwhelming to consider in the heat of passion.

Morally there can be no excuse for such savagery but war is outside of morals and there may be some explanation or palliative. According to authentic accounts part of the cargo was contraband. It is alleged that thousands of pounds of ammunition were stored in the hold of the vessel and it has been intimated that the British government was trying to smuggle war materials under the shelter of the skirts of women and children. It is admitted, moreover, that the German embassy at Washington had notified the public, through advertisements in leading newspapers, that the ship would be torpedoed. In the first place it ought to be impossible to carry ammunition or high explosives in a ship carrying thousands of passengers. In the second place the warning ought to have received greater attention.

Besides, the British government is not free from censure in the circumstances. The ship ought to have been protected in its approach to the coast by British warships. It is a British boast that England is master of the sea. That false pretense is largely responsible for the disaster because in the absence of it the German warning would have been heeded. The incident shows, however, that the boast is a bluff. The British navy is not able to protect the British coast for since the beginning of the war English cities within range of the heavy guns have been shelled whenever the German admiral felt inclined to divert themselves in that way. For these reasons there should be no haste in passing upon the question of responsibility or reprisals. All facts should be ascertained before action is taken.

—It might go hard with the people, of course, but it is nevertheless possible that the State of Pennsylvania might worry along for a time without a State flower.

President Wilson's Address to New Citizens.

Always admirable on the rostrum President WILSON excelled himself in his address to the newly naturalized citizens in Philadelphia on Monday evening. In that he was simply superb. He welcomed them to citizenship because they had revealed a spirit worthy of citizenship and for the reason that conferring citizenship upon them is mutually and equally advantageous to them and the country. He didn't address them as inferiors or preach to them a censorious sermon upon their obligations. He simply told them that they had been admitted upon equal terms with the rest of us into a corporation created and maintained for the good of the people of the United States and common humanity.

Probably the dominant note of the President's address was the wholesome admonition against racial prejudice which is too common at all times among adopted citizens and especially mischievous at this time. "A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular national group in America," he declared, "has not yet become an American." Clearly he had in mind those hyphenated individuals who persist in thus expressing love for the father or mother land. But the President did not deprecate the spirit of affection to the birth place. On the contrary he commended it as an indication of a wholesome individuality. He most emphatically condemned, however, "the man who goes among you to trade upon your nationality."

The address was magnificent and the occasion unique. So far as we recall no similar meeting has ever been held in this country and no such inspiration to good citizenship has ever before been given to the newly made citizens to hope for and bring about the best for themselves and the country. The President refrained from comment upon recent disturbing incidents because his purpose was to soothe rather than to embitter the minds of those he addressed and the enthusiasm with which he was received and applauded by native as well as adopted citizens in his vast audience proved the ripeness of his judgment and the wisdom of his course. As usual he spoke well and promoted good.

Our Weekly Summary of Legislative Activities.

Feeling that the people of Centre county have a personal interest in what is being done by the Legislators at Harrisburg and that laws that may affect the future of every individual more directly than ever before are under consideration now and may be written into the statutes of the Commonwealth, the WATCHMAN has arranged to publish a weekly summary of what has been done at Harrisburg. It is not the purpose to go into detail of the various Acts proposed and furnish you with a burdensome account of them. Merely to set them, and whatever else is deemed of interest to the people of this community, before you in a general, unbiased statement that will keep you informed of the progress that is being made. The contributor to this Summary is one of the most capable and best informed of Harrisburg's newspaper men and the WATCHMAN has been very fortunate in enlisting his service for this work.—ED.

HARRISBURG, PA., May 12th, 1915.

The General Assembly will adjourn finally on May 20th and the business is now being rushed with that feverish energy that marks the "beginning of the end." Three sessions a day is the rule and argument is eliminated, reason excluded and deliberation shut out. Some of those concerned in pending legislation wanted another week and one or two pleaded for another day. But Senators CROW, MCNICHOE and VARE met the Governor last evening and settled the matter. What others think upon any subject is unimportant.

But before this matter was settled an iron-clad agreement was entered into that the Governor's compensation bills will be passed. The time upon which these measures become operative has been changed from January to July, 1916, but in other respects they meet the Governor's program to the dot. CROW yielded reluctantly but the enthusiasm of MCNICHOE and the serenity of VARE fixed the matter. The six months which will intervene between that date and the convening of the next session of the Legislature can be used in litigating the validity of the bills, and after that—"the deluge," for instance.

The CATLIN bill placing mine workers under the shelter of the workmen's compensation bill passed the House finally yesterday without an opposing vote. The coal operators fought this measure vigorously and had it in the Senatorial grave yard once. But it was resurrected and passed that body three weeks ago. It is now in the hands of the Governor and will be approved, of course. There is no reason to discriminate against coal miners other than the wealth and political activity and influence of the operators, corporate and individual.

Of course there is a lot of legislation which will fail because of lack of time but each branch is now giving preference to bills already passed by the other and the total of measures completed will be greatly increased during the week yet available. Those providing for new offices and increasing salaries appear to be preferred. Yesterday the Senate passed finally the House bill increasing the salaries of employees of the board of revision of taxes in Philadelphia and the Senate bill creating 21 assistant anthracite mine inspectors at salaries of \$2000 a year each. The constitutional amendment abolishing the poll tax was defeated in the House.

The Governor's revenue program has again been shattered, this time irreparably. On Monday evening the bill to increase the auto license tax was defeated by the surprising vote of 120 nays to 59 yeas and the bill to levy a stamp tax on stock transfers fell by a vote of 89 yeas to 73 nays, 104 yeas being necessary to pass it. The bill shifting the expenses of primary elections from the State to the several counties passed, the vote being 122 to 51. That will save the State about \$800,000, but will relieve the public of nothing. The failure of the other revenue raisers will compel a readjustment of the appropriation program.

As predicted last week the BALDWIN bill for the repeal of the Full Crew law of 1911 passed the Senate Monday evening, the vote being 33 yeas to 16 nays. During the brief debate on the question Senator BIDLEMAN read the letter written by the Governor during the campaign, to a citizen of Harrisburg, pledging himself to veto such a measure if passed by the Legislature. Notwithstanding that it is freely predicted that BRUMBAUGH will approve the bill. His fidelity to pledges, some politicians say, depends on circumstances and the Pennsylvania railroad wants this legislation badly. Uncertainty makes speculation interesting.

Of course the sinking of the Lusitania opened the floodgates of patriotism in the Legislature and on Monday evening a resolution was introduced in each chamber. The author of the first, and by far the most fervid, of these is Representative ADAMS who for some weeks kept a pet pig as his constant companion in and out of the chamber. It "condemns the action of the German nation as a dastardly deed worthy of none but a barbarous and uncivilized people" and demands that the President take "the most drastic action in securing from the German nation an apology for its barbarous conduct, reparation to the fullest degree for the destruction of American lives and property and an unconditional guarantee that its heinous conduct, manifested in this cowardly deed, will never again be permitted by it to occur."

The Senate resolution, introduced by Senator JENKINS of Philadelphia recites the various outrages perpetrated by "the Imperial German government," the sinking of the Frye, the drowning of LEON H. THRESHER, the wrecking of the tankship Gulflight, the dropping bombs on the Cushing and finally the sinking of the Lusitania and pledges the Legislature to support the President of the United States "to the utmost in any measures he may take to uphold our national honor, dignity and security." Why Senator VARE let this opportunity for unbecome slip has not been revealed. Both resolutions were referred to appropriate committees.

The General Appropriation bill was reported out late last week. It carries a tax burden of \$32,497,406.06 as against \$37,152,850.28, two years ago. But the apparent decrease of nearly four and three quarter millions is a delusion. Funds for the maintenance of the State Highway Department are not included in the bill whereas something like \$2,000,000 were appropriated to that use two years ago. This year that expense is taken care of in separate bill and a considerable part of the money for the maintenance of the Health Department is provided for in the same way. The item for the Health Department looked too large in a single bill and it was probably believed that splitting it up would fool the public. Taking these bills into consideration the totals are nearly alike.

Senator MCNICHOE's election bills have all been reported out; of the House committee except that prohibiting fusion and it is said that the Governor has arranged for the strangling of that measure. The others including that placing the Republican ticket in the first column on the ballot, are scheduled to pass. This measure marks MCNICHOE as "a welcher." In the original act covering this question it was provided that the party having the highest vote at the Presidential election should occupy the first place during the ensuing four years for the reason that the machine leaders were cock sure that the Republican candidate for President would always have the highest vote in Pennsylvania. But in 1912 that hope was disappointed and MCNICHOE pleads "the baby act." He proposes to change the law to give his party candidates the advantage. That makes him a poor sport.

On Thursday of last week the Governor turned his attention to the consideration of bills before him and he signed a lot of them, including that providing insurance policies taken out for or assigned to a wife, children or other relatives shall be exempt from claims of creditors; establishing regulations for insurance on the Lloyds plan; providing that an attorney shall have a lien for his compensation upon his client's cause of action, claim or counter-claim which shall attach to an award, verdict, or other form of judgment; amending the Superior act so that rank and seniority of judges shall be determined by continuous length of service; regulating the sale of chickory mixed with coffee; regulating method of practicing veterinary medicine; fixing the salaries of Associate Judges not

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The Sinking of the Lusitania.

From the New York World.

The circumstances and the consequences of the destruction of the Lusitania by a German submarine call for all the self-restraint and self-possession that the American people can command. Morally, the sinking of the Lusitania was no worse than the sinking of the Falaba. In each case a passenger ship carrying neutrals and this combatants was destroyed by a German submarine, and hundreds of helpless men, women, and children left to survive or drown, as luck decreed. The destruction of the Lusitania makes a more dramatic appeal to the human imagination than did the destruction of the Falaba, but both were crimes against civilization in equal degree.

The German authorities claim in extenuation that fair warning was given to the Americans by the German Embassy in Washington that the Lusitania was to be torpedoed. Murder does not become innocent and innocuous because the victim has been warned in advance that the blow would be struck if he persisted in the exercise of his lawful rights.

It may be said in respect to this warning that nobody believed the Germans would carry out their threat. People thought better of them than they thought of themselves. And why they should have carried out the threat, abetted by the complaisant indifference of the British Government, is still a mystery.

That military advantage was gained by such a procedure comparable to the moral revulsion against Germany that it is certain to produce? Wars are not won by drowning neutrals or non-combatants. We venture to say that no single act of this conflict has so outraged American opinion or so riddled German pride as this country's aid in the destruction of the Lusitania. The Germans have sunk the largest British ship in active mercantile service. They have destroyed a small quantity of munitions of war. They have evidently killed a large number of Americans and non-combatants. In the vast majority of people in Pennsylvania the military gains are trifling. The moral losses are incalculable.

Manufacturers in Politics.

From the Philadelphia Record.

For the sake of the manufacturing interests of Pennsylvania it is to be hoped there is no sound basis for the report that the mill owners and others who so vigorously fought the Child Labor law are planning to have their revenge by backing Senator Charles A. Snyder for Auditor General next year and seeking to secure the election of a Legislature pledged to the repeal of the new law. Needless to say, the Republican party is to be the medium of these rumored activities. So far as Senator Snyder is concerned, he probably averages up to the run of Auditor Generals, and has brains enough for the office.

The undoubted effect of his candidacy under the circumstances outlined would be the tendency betrayed to make class distinctions in our politics. Are the rights of manufacturers paramount to every other consideration in Pennsylvania, and are they to dictate candidates and weak vengeance upon those who go counter to their wishes? If such an issue should be raised it would mark a social change that would bode ill for the future. The vast majority of people in Pennsylvania are not manufacturers or the employees of manufacturers, and they would strongly resent any effort on the part of the employing class to dictate to them in political matters. It is largely because of the privileges granted to manufacturers that the vast industrial interests of Pennsylvania have been built up. It would seem wise for these gentlemen to remain content with matters as they are, and not push their authority too far in politics. Possibly the results might be disastrous.

The Little Things that Count.

From the Altoona Times.

Many think that opportunity must be something great and unusual and that it never comes near them; but the fact is that the stepping-stone for anyone to a higher place lies in doing better the very thing that he is doing.

The obstacles to our success usually are not big things, but little things—so little that we do not notice them, or, noting them, despise them.

The world contains so much failure and pessimism largely because so many of us dream all our days of doing far-off things, but neglect to do the little things that lie right close at hand.

Some day we are going to achieve some great success and become very rich, we think. But we neglect to cultivate the little habits of careful study, industry and frugality, and so remain inefficient and unsuccessful.

The richest men and the richest corporations are not above taking care of the pennies. The greatest scientists are not above study of the smallest insects and seemingly insignificant things.

The Panama canal was dug a shovelful at a time. Finally it is the greatest work of civil engineering in the world, but it has been accomplished only by a series of little things.

The greatest buildings are laid up a single stone at a time. It is of no avail to us that we dream of mighty structures, if we have not the patience and the humility to do so little a thing as the laying up of a single stone.

It is the little things that make up our lives.

Good While it Lasts, Anyway.

From the New York Evening Sun.

Mr. Taft says prosperity appears to be present, but it's artificial. Well, so is a good deal of the ice now used. Neither fact prevents our keeping cool.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The board of governors of the Clinton County club, a Lock Haven institution, have voted to amend the by-laws as to forbid the serving of intoxicating liquors at the club.

—The Clearfield county court has sentenced Mike Petromik, convicted of wife-beating, to the penitentiary for not more than one year and six months and not less than one year and one month.

—Miss Charlotte Temple, of Clearfield, while sitting on the porch of her home was struck by a set of bed-springs which fell over and hit her on the head. Since the accident she has been unable to speak.

—Mayor Cauffiel, of Johnstown, recently fined three of his councilmanic colleagues \$1 each on the charge of failing to attend a regular session. They left the room when the mayor refused to put a motion to adjourn.

—Julius Brown, colored, has instituted proceedings to recover damages in the sum of \$10.00 from W. A. Showalter, proprietor of the Showalter theatre, Latrobe, for refusing him a seat on the lower floor of the theatre.

—In accordance with an arrangement just entered into between the officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad company and the authorities of Jersey Shore, the old canal bed in that town is to be filled up, graded and beautified.

—While an Indiana county miner was emptying some cartilage from a keg into his mine cart there was an explosion, which wrecked his house, inflicted severe burns upon himself but did not do a particle of harm to his wife and children.

—About a year ago a cyclone destroyed the property of J. L. Biddle, of Ursina, Somerset county. Last Wednesday morning a fire consumed his big general store and his dwelling. His family had a narrow escape with their lives.

—The closing events for the graduating class of the Indiana State Normal school will begin on Sunday evening, June 20, the baccalaureate sermon will be preached on Sunday morning, June 27; the commencement exercises will be held June 30.

—Samuel Douglas, aged 87, the oldest attorney at the Indiana county bar, is dead at his home in the town of Indiana, where he lived more than eighty years. He was a veteran of the Civil War and was secretary and solicitor of the town council for thirty-six years.

—Thomas Rann, a former resident of Muncy, recently returned from the scaffold of his sorry residence and committed suicide by hanging himself to a tree a short distance from Muncy. He was about 50 years of age and in poor health. Ten or twelve years ago his wife died by hanging herself.

—The commissioners of Jefferson county are arranging to take twenty-nine residents of the mining town of Pardus to the county poor home. Work has been dwindling at Pardus, and these people must either starve or be provided for by the county. In that section they believe times are hard.

—Lycoming county's detective, Fred W. Teipel, captured Harvey Haley, a thief, and received his confession before the family of E. L. Slear, from whom he had taken jewelry and pawned it, knew of their loss. The fellow is also to be confronted by an aged woman who was assaulted and robbed some time ago.

—Miss Emma Vollman, a Lycoming county woman who kept house for her brother, a farmer, for nearly twelve years, has been awarded \$2,924 by a jury. Her duties included such things as milking cows, making butter, rearing chickens, attending market in Williamsport, loading hay and cutting potatoes for planting on the farm.

—On a charge of using the mails to blackmail the Rev. C. A. Huyette, of Highspire, William Zoll, aged 20, a resident of Pottstown, pleaded guilty in the United States court at Sunbury, and was sentenced to a year in the penitentiary. Mr. Huyette was until recently pastor of the Reformed congregations of Hollidaysburg and Williamsburg.

—The appointment of a receiver to wind up the company's affairs and make distribution of the assets among the creditors is sought through a bill in equity filed in the Federal court against the African Ostich Farm & Feather company, which maintained offices in Bloomsburg and farms at Paxtanz, near Harrisburg, and in Espey, Pa.

—The Paxton brick company, of Paxtonville, Snyder county, has landed one of the biggest brick orders ever placed in Central Pennsylvania. The city of Williamsport has ordered 180 car loads, aggregating 1,200,000 bricks. The borough of Lewistown ordered 500,000 bricks, and Huntingdon borough has contracted for about 300,000.

—Walter Beroth, aged 22 years, of Penn township, Dauphin county, Saturday afternoon was unitching a pair of mules from a wagon, when one of them kicked and knocked him down. Then the mules ran off and the wheels of the heavy wagon passed over him. He received a broken nose, a gash across the forehead and a hole in the back of the head.

—Thieves Saturday night entered the Peoples' meat market at Bedford and stole meat valued at \$125. It is believed the loot was hauled away in a wagon. Officers are conducting an investigation and they have secured clues that promise to result in arrests within the next few days. With meat selling at the present high prices it would not be hard for several men to get away with the above amount.

—Within a few weeks the Central Pennsylvania Lumber company will finish the lumbering in the tract between Galeton and Brookland, and will take out the narrow gauge road which was laid. Another big tract, owned by the Pennsylvania Lumber company, will soon be worked and logs be cut and peeled and hauled to Galeton for sawing. It is estimated that it will take two years to cut this, the last first growth tract of good timber in Potter county.

—A jury in the case of Harry C. Chamberlin, former cashier of the First National bank of Pottsville, who has been on trial for three days in the United States District Court at Pittsburgh, returned a verdict of not guilty on Monday. Chamberlin, who was defended by former United States District Attorney John H. Jordan, was alleged to have made false entries in the books of the bank and to have embezzled small amounts of money totaling \$140.

—Industrial conditions above Lewistown have taken on a brighter aspect within the past few days and men idle from their trades for two years have been called back to the Standard Steel works to resume work. Managers of other plants in the valley are optimistic in their views of the future and are engaged in preparations for an era of prosperity. The trade is chiefly iron and steel, the first to feel depression and the last to recover from its effects.

—To replace 60,000 old horse shoes in three years at the anvil is making the fire fly, but this is the record of Ammon Wilt, a well known blacksmith in Lock Haven. Mr. Wilt placed all the discarded horse shoes on a pile in his shop and this small mountain of steel has grown to a height of thirteen feet and is twenty-eight feet in circumference. It is estimated that there are from 28 to 30 tons in the pile or about 60,000 horse shoes in all. When market conditions improve in steel of this kind Mr. Wilt will dispose of the horse shoes. For one year Mr. Wilt and his assistant, Lloyd Swasey, kept a daily record of the number of horses that both shod and the total amount to 3,411 horses. The largest number in a single day was 40 horses.