

The curse of Meroz is no longer on the President. Teddy has hauled it down and attached himself and his sons in its place.

No one in the United States today wants war, but no one in the United States will fail to bear his or her share of the burden of it should Germany force us into it.

Why should the Allies hail our severance of Diplomatic relations with Germany on the theory that we are to become their ally. We are the ally of the neutrals, not of the Allies.

The last of the American soldiers have marched back into the States from Mexico. Carranza and Villa will have the show all by themselves while we get ready to entertain the Kaiser, should he demand it.

Germany and America have been friends since the days of Frederick the Great. The breaking of a friendship that has been continued throughout the entire existence of our government is not a trifling matter for Germany or for ourselves.

Count Von Bernstorff and his suite, together with all German consuls now in this country will sail from New York on February 13th. They have been granted "safe conduct" by the Allies, but they picked an unlucky day on which to start their voyage.

The people of Bellefonte who are operating their own steam plants are just beginning to find out that the old Bellefonte Steam Heating Co. has been more or less of a philanthropist for five years or more, even though it didn't give us more than half as much heat as we wanted.

Even the ground hog started in a ruthless and entirely unnecessary campaign on February 2nd. He didn't sow mines or scatter submarines over the seas but he froze up the land in such a way as to send the shivers up and down our back-bones. Come to think of it the ground hog legend is of German extraction.

The United States Senate has passed the new immigration bill over the veto of President Wilson. Presidents Cleveland and Taft both vetoed similar bills during their administration and we believe that our Executives were right in their exercise of the veto. While the bill will probably exclude very few would-be citizens of this country it is wrong in principle.

Representative Phillips, of Clearfield county, introduced a resolution in the House at Harrisburg, Monday night, calling upon Senator Penrose to remain in Washington during the "great emergency." The Hon. Mr. Phillips lacks a fine sense of discrimination. Senator Penrose recognizes the "great emergency" but from his view point it is centered in Harrisburg, not Washington.

The Germans are tickled sick with what the American envoys did for them in the Ally countries. The Allies are talking of raising monuments to make the memory of our diplomatic representatives imperishable because they did so much for them in German territory. That's the kind of people we are, but they've dragged us into the muck now and Uncle Sam's big helping hand regretfully closes into a clenched fist.

Remember that every German citizen of the United States is presumed to be just as loyal to the stars and stripes as a native born. Don't by suspicion, innuendo or jest question that loyalty. If it is not really there it will be found out soon enough and treated as it deserves. We as Americans are today setting an example for the world and we should constantly have in mind a high sense of dignity and a poise that holds us well above any action that we might later be ashamed to own.

Take this tip from us. If there is any clothing that you really will need within a year buy it now. If war should come our government will require nearly the entire output of all American woolen mills for uniforms. The government must be served first. This will send the prices of woolen goods to the sky. War may not come. We hope it won't, but if it doesn't prices will not be any lower than they are now for a year or more, at least. This is not an advertisement. It is a bit of good advice to you.

Diplomatic relations with Germany were broken at 2 o'clock on Saturday. Exactly one hour later the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. had a guard on its bridge above the station in this place, and we presume, on every other bridge on its lines. That's preparedness. That's action such as will show to the world that while we have never thought it necessary to burden ourselves with great armies and navies when the emergency comes we have the organization and equipment at our command that can turn out defenses like magic.

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War With Germany Imminent.

The action of the President on Saturday may not lead to war with Germany but it means that the government of the United States is willing to go to war in defense of honor. On the 8th of April last the President notified the government of the German empire that "unless the Imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether." The Imperial government promised to abandon the methods complained of and kept the promise until last week.

On January 31st the government of the United States was officially notified that the promise was withdrawn and that beginning on the first day of February the inhuman and murderous methods of warfare complained of before would be resumed. That left the government of the United States no alternative other than that adopted by the President. However other nations may disregard obligations to the government of the United States they are sacred and the declaration of April 8th became a pledge to act in view of the proclamation of the Imperial government on January 31. A trimmer might have justified delay until an overt act had been committed, but that would have been dodging an obligation.

It is up to Germany now. It is said that in the history of governments no such incident has failed to produce war. Germany has recently developed an indifference to the obligations of honor and dismissed solemn treaty obligations as "scraps of paper," while sidestepping other obligations of equal importance. She may withdraw her declaration of January 31 and renew her promise of April last, thus averting war with the United States. But if she fails to do so war is inevitable and the Kaiser and his advisers will discover that the estimate of our preparedness made by Theodore Roosevelt and Gussie Gardner are as misleading as they are mischievous.

False Alarm Concerning Foreigners.

Some statistically inclined alarmist in Harrisburg published in one of the Philadelphia papers on Sunday a statement to the effect that "Pennsylvania, the heart of the nation's industries and least defended of the important States on the Atlantic seaboard is facing the national crisis and a possibility of war with a foreign born population of 1,390,564." The obvious purpose of these figures is to create the impression that in the event of war with Germany this considerable army of foreigners would take up arms against the government of the United States. Nothing could be more absurd. Less than a third of these foreign born residents of the State come from the central belligerents.

There are, according to this statistician, "more than 400,000 persons in the State over twenty-one years of age who are unable to speak English." Of these 68,288 live in Philadelphia and 38,047 in Pittsburgh. The third class cities contain 25,000 residents who cannot speak our language so that "the woods must be full of them," for a good deal more than half the total live outside of the cities. However that is less important than the fact that more than half of them come from countries affiliated with the entente allies and the French, Italian and Greeks, if they participated in the war at all would, in all probability, enlist on the side and for the defence of their adopted country.

As a matter of fact the German-American press is a unit in advising citizens of this country of German birth to loyally support the government of the United States in the event that the present critical condition develops into war and the leading German-American citizens have given the same wholesome and sensible advice. There is no reason, therefore, for the alarm which this writer has raised in relation to the foreign born residents of Pennsylvania. They are not going to "get in Dutch" on account of their fealty to the German Emperor for most of them came to this country to escape the tyrannies of his government and incidentally to promote their own prosperity.

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Juggling the Legislature.

The proposition to keep the present Legislature in session until the expiration of Governor Brumbaugh's term of office is too absurd to be considered seriously. Yet it has been proposed seriously and discussed gravely by Senator Penrose, who is a lawyer, and others. The plan, as outlined by those concerned, is to take frequent and long recesses to kill time but not adjourn finally until January 1919 at which time the gubernatorial term expires. Unfortunately for the planners of this political enterprise the terms of half the Senators and all the Representatives in the Legislature expire exactly a month before that date. On the 1st of December, 1918, the legislative term ends.

Presumably the purpose of this rather complicated scheme is to defeat some purpose or confuse some political plans of the Governor. As a matter of fact it would have the contrary effect. The appointments made by the Governor during the recess among which are Insurance Commissioner O'Neal, Highway Commissioner Black and others will hold until the expiration of the present session of the Legislature unless voted upon and rejected by the Senate. The Governor is not obliged to send the names of his appointees to the Senate until the session is drawing to a close so that his officers will have the right to serve until the expiration of their terms without the advice and consent of the Senate.

To placate public indignation at this misuse of the machinery of government Senator Penrose has announced that hereafter, during the recesses, the three or four hundred officials of the Legislature will not be paid. Heretofore the pay of this army of lame ducks or political pensioners have been paid from the beginning of the session to the final adjournment and the chances are that under the law they will have a valid claim against the State which an obliging future Legislature will recognize, and they will be paid in full. But whether they are paid or not this juggling with the Legislature to serve the selfish purposes of a party boss is intolerable and ought to be condemned.

Investigating the Governor.

On Tuesday evening the Senate passed the joint resolution to investigate the Governor by a vote of twenty-nine ayes to nineteen nays. Last week, as stated in our last issue, it was postponed, presumably to give those concerned time and opportunity to compromise their differences. During the interval overtures were made by the friends of the administration to compromise but public sentiment had asserted itself so strong that Penrose was afraid. In the circumstances there was nothing to do but pass the resolution. But it doesn't guarantee an investigation. Less than two-thirds of the Senators voted in the affirmative and in the event of a veto, practically certain, two-thirds are necessary.

The debate leading up to the vote on Tuesday afternoon was a spectacle. Ed. Vane in a South Philadelphia dialect scarcely understood by his colleagues tried to convert it into a farce, or as he put it into a "three-ringed circus." He was followed by Senator and Auditor General-elect Snyder, who seemed to be indulging the same aspiration. That gentleman rambled aimlessly over centuries of time to confess the iniquities of his party leaders in behalf of himself and others. Senator Leiby, of Cumberland county, injected some dignity into the performance by protesting against the manifest unfairness of the measure and declaring that he voted for it reluctantly because there was no hope of better.

It is said that the Governor has been, during the month since the resolution was introduced, trading promises of office and other spoils of administration for votes against the resolution and he may succeed better in the House than he did in the Senate. On the caucus vote for Speaker the Penrose faction mustered less than a majority of the entire membership and there is a possibility that the measure may be defeated in that chamber. It is said that there are citizens willing to pay the expenses of the inquiry, in which event a two-third vote would be required and the investigation might be ordered.

If you find it in the "Watchman" it's true.

Killing of Destructive Deer Justified.

The decision of Judge Gillan, of Franklin county, justifying the killing of a deer by a farmer whose crops it was damaging will have an important bearing upon the question of game propagation and preservation in the future. Complaints have come from every section of the State in which deer exist that they damage crops to a great extent but the protective legislation was so strong that few farmers have had the nerve to kill them. Recently similar complaints have come from the sections in which imported elk were released three years ago. The law provides for the killing of rabbits that destroy fruits and vegetables, but it leaves no loophole for the escape of a farmer who kills a deer or elk.

The Caledonia game preserve in Franklin county has made the farmers of that section special sufferers from the four-footed vandals and some time ago one of them, under severe provocation, killed a doe while at the work of destruction. This was a double offense against the provisions of the game law for it was in the closed season and a female. The State Game Commission with characteristic zeal prosecuted him and obtained from the Justice of the Peace officiating a verdict for the full fine and costs. In most cases that would have closed the incident. But this Franklin county farmer, Benjamin F. Carbaugh, appealed the case and procured a reversal and restitution of fine and costs.

Hon. W. Rush Gillan is one of the most capable and conscientious judges in Pennsylvania and though his decision works an important amendment of the statute, it is likely to be accepted by the Supreme court as well as the other courts of record. It will have the effect of abating a grave evil from which the farmers of this and adjacent counties have suffered with such patience as they were able to summon, for many years. Of course it will be taken advantage of by pot hunters to kill game if the farmers are not alert to prevent it. But the average farmer is a genuine sport and together they may be depended upon to take care that deer are not wantonly killed.

If the German Emperor had paid less attention to Theodore Roosevelt and Gussie Gardner and more to actual conditions in the United States, there would have been no occasion to sever diplomatic relations. Those traitors made him believe that we are too weak to resist outrage, however flagrant it might be.

If the force which General Pershing has brought back from the punitive expedition in Mexico is called upon to encounter an enemy it will prove that the expedition was worth what it cost even though its purpose was not fulfilled.

The law providing for a non-partisan ballot to elect judges didn't provide a non-partisan bench. It simply made it easier for the dominant party machine to select its own favorites and if it is repealed nobody will grieve much.

Possibly \$25,000.00 a year isn't too much salary for a Governor though mighty good Governors have been glad to serve for less. But if the salary is fixed at that figure the contingent fund ought to be cut out.

Wonder if there will be enough Swiss people to look after the interests of the various belligerents at the various points where they are now incapable of looking after their own.

It is always pleasant to read the words of William H. Taft in an emergency. He invariably proves that it isn't absolutely necessary for an ex-President to be a jackass.

Now that the Philadelphia "Ledger" has given unqualified approval to the Federal Reserve bank law we can see no reason, present or future, for sadness.

It is encouraging to learn that Republican leaders in the Legislature are developing some respect for the constitution. It is also more or less surprising.

Colonel Roosevelt again offers to enlist as a Major General and if commissions for that rank are to be given to crazy men we don't know a fitter one.

For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.

Roosevelt's Hope.

From the Mallet and Planer. I hate to be a kicker For it does not stand for peace But the wheel that does the squeaking Is the one that gets the grease.

The Break With Germany.

The inevitable outcome of Germany's recent declaration to violate her pledge given the United States in the conduct of the former's submarine warfare could have no other result than the breaking off of diplomatic relations between the two countries, as was done Saturday morning by the Washington authorities taking the initiative in giving Ambassador Von Bernstorff his passports and recalling Ambassador Gerard from Germany. It had been hoped that such a cause, though it had been perilously near several times in our previous relations with Germany during the European war, would not be resorted to, but the Kaiser's declaration to continue a ruthless U-boat campaign against neutral merchant shipping made the step imperative and the United States could no longer preserve her dignity by doing otherwise than severing friendly intercourse with the Imperial Government.

What will result from the diplomatic break with Germany is conjectural. The severance of relations between the two countries is not necessarily a declaration of war, but today's action has precipitated a crisis so grave that its meaning is portentous. It is reasonably sure that any overt act on the part of Germany that will abridge American rights is bound to result in war being declared on the Imperial Government. This step, however much it may be deplored by a great majority of the citizens of the United States, is as sure to come as night will follow day. It can only be averted by Emperor William conducting the war against the Entente Powers in such manner as not to infringe upon the rights of America or American citizens. Whether he can and will do this is problematical.

Now that the critical moment has arrived, there is nothing for the great body of American people to do but stand by President Wilson in a crisis where it is necessary that all citizens of this country should be a unit regardless of religion, politics or nationality. We never cease to deplore the choice of a man who will be backed by that unanimity of spirit so characteristic of all true Americans when the honor of this nation is assailed and the Flag of the country attacked.

Give Mexico A Threshing.

From the Johnstown Democrat. "Give Mexico a threshing," said Senator W. J. Stone the other day. Eventually, of course, we could give Mexico a threshing because we are big enough (and Mexico would say ugly enough) to do it. But what would be happening to us while we were giving Mexico that threshing? What happens to the man who goes into a home where the husband is beating his wife?

Here's what would happen:

It would be necessary to send all our regular army, all our national guardsmen and a hundred thousand more soldiers across the border. It would be necessary to spend a few hundred million dollars, necessitating more taxes to pay. It would be necessary to put the families of half a million soldiers in suspense. It would be necessary to wage a war of extermination on the Mexicans—even more thorough than was begun at Vera Cruz. It would be necessary to put many thousands of wives and mothers and sisters and daughters of America soldiers in mourning. It would be necessary to buy tombstones and cemetery lots; and ask the undertaker please to hold off on his bill just as long as he could. It would be necessary to find ways to feed and rear the children of men shot in battle with the Mexicans we were threshing. And all for what?

Merely to give Mexico that threshing. Merely to put Mexico on her knees, so that avaricious Americans with valuable concessions in the republic might farm their concessions without trouble.

In other words, Senator Stone would have us hang crepe on the United States so that our concession men might swell their bank balances. He'd have us go in debt for coffins and shrouds, to pay freight for men whose soul object is to milk Mexico. The Senator would crush the roses from the cheeks of mothers and daughters and sisters so that American concessions in Mexico might be worked to the limit. He'd make Mexico an abattoir and the United States a butcher and international yeggman. He'd thrash Mexico—just like that!

A Party Without Leaders.

From the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader. The Republican party in the nation is painfully shy of leaders. Washington shows the best example of this lack. There the representatives of a great party are floundering around not knowing what to do and filling in time by merely nagging and resisting. Not an issue, not a plan, oppose President Wilson in all he does, just party opposition, no reasons for their action. It's a humiliating spectacle at Washington and doubly so at Harrisburg, where the time is spent in washing the dirty Republican linen. Is the Grand Old Party on the rocks? Today it is surely a decadent party.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

As the result of a fight near Lockport, Indiana county, the other night, two men were killed and two badly hurt. All were foreigners.

Judge Bell at Clearfield on Friday heard arguments on the motion for a new trial for M. W. Denny, convicted of the murder of John Rowles. The Judge will make his decision later.

The Standard-Quehoning Coal Co., which has large operations in the vicinity of Boswell, has closed a deal for 1,300 acres of land at Thomas Mills. The land was owned by Herman Thomas.

Announcement was issued at the Mt. Union plant of the Aetna Explosives company that it will shortly start work on a \$3,000,000 contract for smokeless powder for the United States government.

Representative Ananias David Miller, of Mt. Pleasant, Jefferson county, put up a decided remonstrance when his name appeared in the Legislative Directory as A. David Miller. He isn't ashamed of the "Ananias."

The powder house and warehouse of the Maderia Hill Coal Mining Co., in Barnesboro, were destroyed by fire Friday night at 7:30 o'clock. There was very little powder in the building at the time. No one was injured.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Miss Gertrude Lindahl, the Olanta girl charged with killing her week-old babe at the Clearfield hospital on the morning of February 1st. While the girl denies her guilt, the evidence against her is very strong.

Small-pox discovered among Negroes, brought to Johnstown to work in industrial plants has resulted in two being placed in the Municipal hospital, fourteen under quarantine in the heart of the city and 100 others under quarantine on the outskirts of Johnstown.

Apprehension exists concerning the possibilities involved in the big ice jam in the Susquehanna at McElhattan and beyond Glen Union. Some folks are fearful a jam will cause a back water flood, while others are apprehensive of possible damage by the ice jam once it gets in motion.

As Dominick Mani stood shaking hands with Fred Pelti, of West Berwick, on Sunday, the latter pulled his gun from his pocket with his left hand and fired three times at Pelti. Two of the bullets went through the rim of Pelti's hat and the other through the side of his head. Mani escaped. Pelti may live.

The libel suit of Thomas D. Stiles against John F. Short, of the Clearfield Republican, scheduled to have come up in the Clearfield court this week has been continued until the May term on account of Hon. Chas. H. Rowland, one of Short's chief witnesses, being detained at Washington by his congressional duties.

John Welty, of Rockton, Clearfield county, had his right hand cut off while feeding a corn husker, Wednesday afternoon, January 31, about 5 o'clock. His hand caught in the feeder and was so badly mangled that amputation was necessary. He was taken to the DuBois hospital and the amputation performed. Although Mr. Welty is 72 years of age, his condition is reported as being as well as can be expected.

The Standard Steel Works company, Burnham, has purchased the Yeagertown asphaltic shale, consisting of twelve acres of meadow land lying between the Kishacoquillas creek and the mountain, at the western section of their present scrap yards. The tract will be utilized for the present in extension of their scrap yards and for the storage of several thousand tons of coal, and later for an extension of the big plant.

A prosecution brought by S. M. Bookman, proprietor of the Fortage hotel, Dun-cansville, for the theft of a three-cent beer mug from his bar, was dismissed by the magistrate and the costs, amounting to \$10.41, were placed upon Blair county. When the cost bill was presented at the court house a few days ago, County Controller T. W. Tobias refused payment, declaring it was the most trivial prosecution ever brought in that county.

Steve Wargo, a Slavishman, employed as a mine by the Corona Coal Co., and who lived in a small shanty near the mines, owned by the company about two miles distant from Madera, committed suicide about 7:15 Monday morning by throwing himself in front of the P. R. E. passenger train as it was approaching the Madera station on its first trip from Osceola. No reason can be assigned for committing the rash act other than that his shanty, with most of its contents, had burned about 1 o'clock in the morning.

Rev. James E. Dunning, pastor of the Louthier Memorial Methodist church in Johnstown, formerly of the Sandy Ridge charge, was presented with a pastor's individual communion set, consisting of a small tray and six gold-rimmed glasses, by the members of his Bible class, on Wednesday evening, January 31, the occasion of his birthday. Mrs. Dunning served a birthday dinner in his honor at the parsonage which was a pleasant affair. Prior to entering the ministry Rev. Dunning was a teacher in the Bellefonte High school.

After several months of comparative inactivity, the gang of robbers that has stolen thousands of dollars' worth of gold and platinum from the dental offices in DuBois, Clearfield, Indiana, Ridgway and Punxsutawney this winter, made another successful haul at Punxsutawney some time Saturday night. The offices of three local dentists were visited and a total of \$150 worth of metal was procured, the haul being the smallest they have made yet and was due to the fact that the dentists had most of their precious metal in their safes for over Sunday. The losers were Dr. G. W. Newcome, Dr. G. E. Bell and Dr. J. J. Hughes. The robberies were discovered Sunday morning when the dentists visited their offices, and found that the doors into their workshops had been forced.

Bristol, Bucks county, now has a "Town Manager." He was appointed and started work on February 1, under a 3-year contract. Although he will draw a salary of \$2,000 per year, his job will be no sinecure, for he will be expected to conduct the affairs of Bristol under a purely business administration and to get the highest point of efficiency and satisfaction from the money invested in the municipality. The appointee is John Roberts, Ia inaugurating the new system, Bristol is the first town in a large eastern area to put practically all the really important departments of borough government under the supervision and direction of one man, and the new movement will be closely watched by all other municipalities in the eastern part of the State.