

INK SLINGS.

—It is a long way from Oyster Bay to Gen. Wood's new headquarters. —In seventeen days the trout fishermen will be whipping the streams. —Indications point to the abandonment of the death penalty for murderers in Pennsylvania. —If the back yard garden comes into vogue again we can look for a revival of back-fence gossip. —March has given us several beautiful days, but as a whole the month has been one of very rough weather. —Let us resolve now not to wait until the first of next September before solving next winter's heat problem in Bellefonte. —The state high-way from Bellefonte to Pleasant Gap can scarcely be classed as a thing of pride or a joy for even ten feet. —Most people are worrying more about early deliveries on automobiles than they are about the danger of having to go to war. —There are sixteen billions of dollars in the banks of this country; more wealth than that of all other leading nations of the world combined. —Sunday will be April 1st and the suggestion, found in another column of this issue, that the slackers fool their ministers by being in church is a good one. —The best shot in our navy has been dismissed from the service because he was drunk. Maybe it was the fact that he took occasional "eye openers" that made him the best shot. —Does anybody ever hear anybody talking politics any more? Verily, one would think that Centre county had never known days when politics was the principle theme at all hours and on all occasions. —Local option has again failed to pass the Pennsylvania Legislature. In the vote on Tuesday it has been defeated more decisively than it has been on any of the previous tests made during the past eight years. Clearly the legislative expression on local option is growing to be more of how the people vote than of how they pray. —Congress will reconvene next Monday and assurance has been given by the Independent members of that body that they will join with the Democrats in organizing. This is gratifying because it obviates the danger of a prolonged fight over the organization when the time will be needed for consideration of war measures. —Secretary Daniels has dismissed "the best marksman" in the navy because he got drunk. It would seem that the Secretary is carrying his "dry" obsession to extremes, but then we must remember that there is just a possibility that the "best shot in the navy" might be drunk when the guns of his turret would be the deciding ones in some important naval engagement. —Reports have it that Nick Romanoff enjoys shoveling snow as the best feature of the recreation he is permitted to have while held a prisoner of the new Russian government. It is only because he once was a Czar that he now really enjoys shoveling snow. Had he been a plain resident of Bellefonte during the past winter he would have had all of that form of recreation he wanted. —It is not likely to turn out that way, but the only way we can safely look at the eventuality of war with Germany is this: If Germany wins from the Allies her fleet, twice as powerful as ours, will be released to come over here and bombard our sea coast towns. That is the greatest danger that looms up for the future and to meet it every preparation possible should be made. —What a foolish notion is that of Senator Sprout to have the Legislature recess instead of adjourning sine die. He thinks that in such a crisis as the country finds itself in the Assembly ought to be in position to get together and act promptly. Of course it ought, but would it? Has the record of this session, now nearly three months old, for achievement been such as to warrant the thought that it could do anything speedily, no matter how great the emergency. —Some of our northern journals are much disturbed because of the great influx of colored labor from the south. They see disaster for the south in the movement northward of the labor that it needs and should strive to keep for its own development. We question whether these writers are altogether altruistic in their expressions. We really believe that they look upon the new comers as undesirable and are only disguising their desire to have the immigration stopped by suggesting the thought that the South needs them and should make their lot sufficiently attractive to hold them there.

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Work of the New Congress.

The assembling of the Sixty-fifth Congress in extraordinary session on Monday will mark an epoch in the affairs, not only of this country, but of the whole world. Its only important purpose is to put the country on a war footing but that involves not only the enlistment of the army and navy to the war standard but the mobilization of all the resources of the country. Setting squadrons in the field is not the only, or even the most important feature of preparation for war. Russia could have mustered an army at the beginning of the present war which would have overwhelmed Germany. But her army was without arms and ammunition and cut a sorry figure as compared with the forces of the German Empire.

There is uncertainty as to the organization of the new Congress but the political affiliation of the officers of the House is of little consequence. Each of the dominant parties has 124 members and upon party lines closely drawn neither can organize the body. But the indications are that Champ Clark will be re-elected Speaker, not because he is a Democrat, but for the reason that he is the most fit and capable man in the body to discharge the duties of the office. The five or six members who are classed as independents are more than likely to adopt this view of their public obligations. The exigencies of the situation require perfect accord between the President and the Speaker.

Presumably a declaration of war with Germany will be among the first actions of the new Congress and that accomplished the raising and equipping of an adequate army and navy must follow expeditiously. In fact the preliminary steps have already been taken and it may safely be said that the status of the country in that respect at present is better than ever before. Our manufacturing industries are in a high state of development and in everything except providing food we are substantially ready for orders to fire. Of course there will be no lack of energy and intelligence in the promotion of this essential feature of preparedness. There are thousands of acres of land if we have men to cultivate it and that problem should receive prompt attention.

Roosevelt and the War.

The transfer of General Leonard Wood from New York to New Orleans is commendable for the reason, if there were no other, that it will restrain the sinister influence and diminish the power for mischief of Theodore Roosevelt. Wood owes his present high rank in the army to his servility to Roosevelt. At the beginning of the Spanish war he was a surgeon in the army with the rank of captain, assigned to service at the White House. Through the partiality of President McKinley he was permitted to organize the Rough Rider force of which he was commissioned Colonel with Roosevelt as his lieutenant. He permitted Roosevelt to run the machine according to his fancy and rapid advancement was his reward.

The friendship between Roosevelt and Wood has continued ever since and Roosevelt's antipathy to President Wilson has had Wood's sympathy if not active support. During all the time that he has been in command of the Eastern Military district and stationed at New York, he has taken every opportunity to criticize the military organization of the government. At the organization of the Plattsburg training camp Roosevelt, present upon Wood's invitation, made a vicious attack upon the policies of the administration. For this indecent incident the then Secretary of War, Lindley M. Garrison, publicly rebuked General Wood. If he had court martialled him the punishment would have fitted the crime.

With General Wood in command in New York Roosevelt expected to boss the army movements in the event of war with Germany. He was already arranging for a force of free-booters to operate in Belgium or at some other point in Central Europe and make the government of the United States responsible for his work. But the transfer of General Wood to the command of a newly created Southern Military district will nip that ambitious scheme in the bud. If Roosevelt goes to the war he will have to enter the army as other able-bodied citizens may do and be subject to precisely the same discipline. If he should break in under any other conditions it would be a great calamity.

Kaiser William's Keen Humor.

Even the direst adversity fails to repress the Kaiser's sense of humor. At the outset of the war, his army racing with the irresistible force of a tidal wave through Belgium and France, his imperial majesty facetiously declared that he would eat his next Christmas dinner in Paris. Under the elation of victory such persiflage might have been pardonable, though coarse. But he only reached the exuberance of cheerful rillery when he found his army heading, not toward Paris but away from that city, with the enemy in hot pursuit. The late Mark Tapley was something of an optimist and radiated cheerfulness under the most distressing conditions. But he had nothing on the Kaiser at that.

After several days of continued reverses and repeated defeats on the French and Belgium fronts the Kaiser's attention was probably called to the rather discouraging plight of his western army. But did he despair? "Not on your tin-type." On the contrary he "took his pen in hand" and wrote to Field Marshal Hindenburg a congratulatory epistle upon his masterful manoeuvres that must have set the entire French army in a roar. He also addressed a similar epistle to the King of Bavaria, whose son, Crown Prince Rupprecht, had something to do with the operation, telling the old man what a bright boy he has and how proud he ought to be of his successor if there is a successor to the King of Bavaria.

Of course nobody can blame the Kaiser for encouraging his helpless subjects to hope for victory. It makes them more willing to stand up and be shot in order that an absurd, debilitated and diseased pretender may continue to claim ownership of their souls and bodies. His proposition, through a Swiss newspaper, to make peace if France will pay an indemnity of fifteen billion francs, if Belgium would agree to maintain no army in the future and Germany be permitted to garrison Namur, Leige and Antwerp perpetually. It is a rare type of humor beyond question but in this country men who indulge such dreams are usually sent to insane asylums for safe keeping during their natural lives.

Perfidy of Germany Rebuked.

Secretary of State Lansing in declining to renew or extend a couple of century old treaties with Prussia, frankly expressed his opinion of the authorities of that country, the other day. He said it is not worth while to make treaties with people who fail to keep their pledges and as Germany had frequently violated the principles of honor in this respect, he would not consent to enter into any agreement upon that or any other subject. A nation, like an individual, is bound by certain conventions and when it fails to fulfill its obligations so expressed it becomes an outlaw.

Germany was under written pledge not only to violate the neutrality of Belgium but to protect that weak State from violation by any other power. But when the violation of the pledge promised advantage to Germany the treaty was declared "a scrap of paper." More than a year ago, or soon after the sinking of the Lusitania, Germany gave a solemn pledge to discontinue that barbarous method of warfare but the moment resumption of it promised advantage the pledge was forgotten and the barbarisms were renewed with increased violence. President Wilson had declared that unless the outrage was stopped diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany would be severed.

As long back as history records events the perfidy of England has been a popular tradition. "Perfidious Albion" has been a term of reproach "so long that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." But Albion never was so careless of honor, so indifferent to obligations as Germany has been in recent years. It would hardly be just to blame the German people for this wretched state of affairs. As a people they have always been honest and honorable. But of late years a moral deterioration has been working havoc. Probably it is something in the blood of the Kaiser but whatever it is it should be eliminated at once.

A few more days of such weather as we have had the past week and the farmers will be plowing the soil for their spring crops.

Democratic Recreants in Harrisburg.

There are thirty-seven Democratic members of the House of Representatives in Harrisburg. Last week the House had under consideration a bill to forbid firemen and policemen of Philadelphia from pernicious participation in politics. It declared that canvassing precincts, using the office to influence political movements or the political action of any other officer, member or employee or in any way or manner interfering with the conduct of any election, except in the exercise of his right to vote, a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment and the forfeiture of office. It was literally an attempt to rescue the city from the dominance of bosses who compel firemen and policemen to do dirty work.

One would think that every Democrat on the floor of the chamber would be anxious to support such a measure of legislation. The corruption of politics in Philadelphia through the medium of police interference in the interest of fraud has been notorious for years. One of the members of the dominant South Philadelphia family openly boasted that the fraudulent vote cast for John K. Tener in the wards under control of his machine exceeded Mr. Tener's plurality. In other words if the policemen and firemen had been kept out of politics as the bill in question contemplated, Tener would not have been elected Governor in 1910 and there would be a Democratic Governor in commission at this time.

As a matter of fact, however, seventeen of the thirty-four members of the House of Representatives voted against the bill and helped to defeat it. So far as we have been able to discover none of these recreants has offered an excuse for his action. Possibly they were influenced by an impression that Penrose favored the measure and some men are so obsessed with hatred of Penrose that they will sacrifice themselves to disappoint him. But they are not in the House of Representatives to express their own blind prejudices and in this case they sacrificed the Democratic party instead of themselves. The measure may pass yet but for the good it will do we owe no thanks to the recreants.

It behooves every person who can to make every inch of ground at his command yield something. If actual war with Germany comes prices will be very much higher than they are now and every penny that a garden can be made to save you in the purchase of food stuffs will be a penny that will help you pay for the advanced cost of your clothing, shoes, and other necessities, that you cannot make or raise.

No doubt the retreating German soldiers enjoyed the work of devastating the towns they left and passed through on their retreat from the French front. But those of them who survive the war may regret the vandalism for every dollar's worth destroyed will be put in the indemnity bill.

Washington news which finds its way to Berlin these days is quite different from the code information sent by Ambassador Bernstorff a few months ago. The people are not as strong for Germany as the Kaiser was led to believe.

Congressman Mann offers to withdraw from the Speakership contest in exchange for some of the official spoils. But Speaker Clark is not conducting a political trading post.

The interned German sailors were reluctant to leave Philadelphia. But they didn't behave well enough while in the city of Brotherly Love to be entitled to stay there.

The training of the National Guard on the Texas border cost something but it will be worth the price if we have war with Germany.

The prompt and hearty response to the President's call for troops reveals the spirit of the people of this country.

Possibly most things are fair in war but the weather is trying hard to establish an alibi.

The impending war will cost a lot of money but we "have millions for defence."

If things don't take a turn pretty soon the Kaiser is likely to get in Dutch.

Washington in Holiday Mood.

Washington Cor. New York Evening Post. Is America really going to war? Everything in the way of military and naval preparation would point that way, but here is so little of jingoism, such an absence of entente enthusiasm or emotional demonstration as to belie the prediction. Something Charles J. Vopicka, American minister to Rumania, just home from the Balkans, said to a friend today gives accurately the perspective of the detached observer.

"I have just left a land of tears," he said, "where everybody is engaged in the serious business of war. It dazes me to find things so different here—people dancing, cafes bubbling with gaiety, everybody seemingly unconscious of what war really means." Mr. Vopicka was making no argument for or against war. He was merely commenting on the difference between peaceful America and war-torn Europe.

The point is: Will the United States soon alter its peaceful moods and ways, will it become a "land of tears"? Truly, if war is coming, it is so slowly and gradually as to bring a terrific shock of reality when first casualties on the ocean or elsewhere are reported. The executive branch of the United States government has made up its mind to go to war. Its reasoning is that war already exists by the act of Germany. America's part must be defence. There is as yet no determination to assume the offensive.

Members of Congress already here say there will be no opposition to such recommendations as President Wilson may make in his forthcoming message. When Congress assembles, however, debate is certain to raise as to the extent of America's part in the war. Measures of naval preparedness will be authorized to the fullest extent. As for sending an army to Europe, that undoubtedly will bring the first difference of opinion of a serious character.

President Wilson has told no one what he thinks the part of the United States should be. He hasn't even said that he will ask for a resolution to recognize the existence of a state of war. No one doubts that he will do this, but in the interval through which we are now passing the possibility of a revolution in Germany, a withdrawal even of submarines, a strike, and other happenings that may alter the whole aspect of events, could conceivably produce a change in the administration's policy. Nothing short of a complete abandonment of the submarine decree of February 1, however, will be acceptable; but Germany has yielded before, and, while it is a precedent that did not live long, there is still a hope in Washington that, faced by America's determination to place all her resources at the disposal of the entente allies, the imperial government will turn about once more.

Voice of China; Hand of Japan.

From the Johnstown Democrat. The action of China in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany is perhaps less a compliment to the United States than a confession of the paramountcy of Japan in the affairs of a prospective republic. The Chinese government apparently has yielded to the subtle pressure from Tokyo and in effect has become an ally of the allies. It cannot be overlooked, of course, that Japan is one of the entente belligerents and has a very vital interest in promoting any movement likely in the least to add to the disadvantages of the enemy.

Much rejoicing is likely to find expression in this country over the step taken by the Chinese. It will be loudly heralded as a tribute to our leadership in this momentous international business. Yet it is seriously to be doubted whether China would have been readier than Latin America has been to break with Germany but for the overmastering influence of the Mikado's government.

As a matter of fact, nothing has more clearly revealed Japanese influence in China than this episode. The voice is the voice of China, but the hand is the hand of Japan. It cannot be reasonably doubted that Tokyo has encouraged, if indeed it has not actually forced, the step which Peking has taken. Manifestly the latter would have acted long ago had she felt there was proper ground for action. Her delay in breaking with Germany is a reasonable indication that she acts only under pressure which perhaps has been steadily brought to bear ever since Japan entered war as an ally of the entente powers.

It remains to be seen what effect this move will have on the future of the oriental republic, regarding whose welfare the people of this country have been so solicitous. As a result of it there is occasion for fearing that Japan may tighten her hold on Chinese affairs and at length warp them wholly to her own ends. And of course Japan has no stomach for a free democratic government in such close proximity to her own shores. The Chinese republic cannot be other than a standing menace to the empire of the Mikado. And it should surprise no one were the final outcome of China's break with Germany to be the utter overthrow of popular government in the orient.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mrs. Amos Proust, of Muncy, made a gruesome discovery at four o'clock Sunday afternoon, when she returned to her home to find the body of her husband dangling from a rafter in the cellar. Proust was 55 years of age.

—The Hoffman Brothers, of Lawrence, are prospecting for coal in the Eggleton fields, near Easton, Pa. A large diamond drill is being used and it is reported the prospectors are meeting with much encouragement.

—The question of a bond issue for a disposal plant for Lewisburg will be submitted to the electors at the coming fall election. In the meantime the permit will be extended by Dr. Dixon for the discharge of sewage into the Susquehanna river.

—About 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon a wind storm passed north of Williamsport doing considerable damage. The Oak Grove school house, in old Lyscoming township, collapsed, burying teacher and pupils, about twenty of whom were badly but not seriously injured.

—The working time of the Pennsylvania railroad shophouse at Altoona, and locomotive repairs in Altoona, will be cut from 65 to 55 hours a week on April 2. The company has caught up with this work, which was materially increased by the severe winter and the demand for cars.

—An order which affects a number from this section who are employed in the munitions plant at Milton, has been posted in the factory. It states that on March 31 the plant will close down. Those out of town are notified to leave their names and addresses at the office and in case a large order for shells which the company is after is secured from the United States government, they will be sent for.

—The Susquehanna Silk Mills company last Wednesday took over the real estate in Huntingdon for their mill there, making the accession of the industry an assured fact. Charles G. Brown, Esq., was paid \$5000 for his and George W. Fisher \$9000 for their respective shares in the property transferred. It is reported the silk mill company will begin construction work as soon as the weather permits, which will be some time next month.

—When Clarence E. Smith enlisted last June in Company B, Eighth Pennsylvania regiment of Huntingdon and went to the Mexican border for service, he left a fine job with the Standard Steel company, a subsidiary of the Baldwin Locomotive company at Burnham. Upon returning to work he found that the company had deposited to his credit in a bank more than \$600, his wages which he would have received if he had stayed at work.

—The organization of the State Good Roads association was perfected at Harrisburg on Monday by representatives of over half of the counties of the State. R. L. Muncy, of Washington, being elected president; W. H. H. Davis, Chester; J. E. Loveland, Lackawanna, and I. J. Dreesse, Centre, vice presidents, and William Field Shay, Northumberland, treasurer. The association favored a \$12,000,000 appropriation for the state highway department's work and a one mill tax on all real, personal and corporate property for road purposes.

—School districts cannot have less than the legal term of actual teaching this year without jeopardizing their state appropriations. The State Department of Public Instruction is so informing all inquirers. Many districts show a disposition to count the time lost last fall when the infantile paralysis quarantine kept the schools closed, as actually a part of the term. State officials say this cannot be done. The school code specifies twenty days of actual teaching as a month; first and second class districts must have at least nine months; third class eight, and fourth class seven months.

—Just as Game Protector John J. Stauber, of Lewisburg, was about to begin preliminary operations toward the erection of a stockade as a means for recapturing the big elk that during the winter has been holding forth on the Isle of Que in the Susquehanna river near Snyder pastures, the animal decided to seek new pastures. The elk swam a branch of the river to the mainland upon the Snyder county side of the stream and, according to the latest reports, is now located in the wooded region about Port Trevorton. This is the big elk that wandered away from the Centre county game preserve below Coburn.

—Mr. John Langdon, the widely known coal operator of Huntingdon, with offices at Hopewell, on last Monday afternoon bought out all the stock and holdings of the Chevington & Bunn Coal company, involving the ownership of nearly 1,000 acres of coal land under which are millions of tons of coal. This tract of land is the old Harriet Lane holding, owned at one time by Harriet Lane, niece of President James Buchanan, and at first land of the land when she was the occupant of the White House. She was also a relative of the Lanes of this place. The tract is located in Broad Top township, Bedford county, and has been mined under lease by Langdon for years past.

—The annual warning of the approach of the spring forest fire season was issued Wednesday by Commissioner of Forestry Robert S. Conklin. Reports from the northern counties state that little snow remains in the woods except on the north sides of the hills, and in the southern part of the State the dead leaves are practically bare. Two weeks more of dry weather will usher in the series of conflagrations which disgrace Pennsylvania every year. No fire warden system or method of protection can reform the born fool who forgets his fire, says the commissioner. His change of heart must come from within. Pure carelessness caused the burning of 150,000 acres of forest last year in Pennsylvania, and of over 300,000 acres in 1915.

—One of the largest sales of an operating mine in Jefferson county will be consummated today. The Stewart Coal company has made an agreement of sale of its Timblin mine for the sum of \$125,000 cash, the purchaser being the New York World, of New York City. The mine will continue in operation, the coal to be shipped to the plants that manufacture news print paper for the World. That newspaper has two pulp mills, one located in the Adirondacks and the other in Canada. The Timblin mine is one of the best equipped in this part of the State. The mine employs about 125 men, the daily capacity being 600 tons. The equipment consists of a tippie, 215 mine cars, electrical machines, motors, boilers, generators and other accessories.