

INK SLINGS.

Arbutus is in bud. War is not a laughing matter. Patriotism isn't so much a matter of words as of deeds. Senator Lodge really struck the first blow in our war against Germany. Easter is the only day in the year that the rabbit is supposed to lay eggs. Rarely have we experienced a more beautiful April 1st than was Sunday. Being a pacifist seems to mean turning the other cheek to the "patriotic pilgrim." It would be fine to make the rehabilitation of Belgium America's objective in the war. Plans are working out to have our navy join that of the allies, for a grand submarine chase. If Bellefonte streets are too narrow for hitching posts, says the "Nut," make them wider. We'll raise an army for Uncle Sam. We'll raise a navy, as well. We'll raise the food for every man. For the Kaiser, we'll raise h— Get ready for it. There can be no telling when the call might come. This is true both as to the war and eternity. What we need now are plenty of McElhattans. It was Bill, you know, who surrounded the whole rebel army away back in the sixties. The high cost of your living next year will depend largely on your own efforts now. If you have any vacant land whatever make it produce something. Mr. Bryan's idea probably is to sit tight and when the Germans come over here to get them all soured on grape juice then put them in the calaboose. Taft and Roosevelt have both congratulated the President on his message to Congress. Taft's is sincere. Roosevelt's is only a play to the grandstand. The Germans have sunk an American armed ship. Having done it in the darkness of the night they must have had better eyesight than the gunners on the Aztec. Berlin reports that Germany is taking no steps to war on the United States, nor does she contemplate any. We will keep our eyes on the Germans who are flocking to Mexico just the same. War it is. May God grant the prayers that are constantly being voiced to the end that some honorable way may yet be pointed out to save us from the horrors in which most of the old world is engulfed. There is a popular inclination to bring Roosevelt, "Hungry Hi" Johnson and other demagogues into prominence under the cloak of patriotism. There is a sinister purpose in this attempt and it should be discouraged. In many parts of Centre county the grain looks so bad that scarcely half a crop appears prospective. The low spots where the ice covered it most of the winter are as brown as a nut and the investigation of several farmers reveals that the roots of the grain are dead so that there is slight chance of it picking up. If you want to help keep the cost of the war down do something to keep the cost of food stuffs down. Grow everything you can grow, for if prices of commodities double or treble in price because of short crops you will have to pay your share of the increase, because you are a taxpayer and the expenses of government are borne ultimately by the taxpayers. Congressman Bleakley, who flew to Washington in an aeroplane, has confessed to having spent more money to secure his election than the law allows. He has not tried to take his seat in the new Congress and is probably devoting all of his time to figuring out how he will be able to fly the coop in the event that a federal judge sentences him to prison for his crime. We are at war with a great and powerful nation. War always deprives a country of producers and where producers are scarce products are scarce. When products are scarce prices are high. If we get into the fight right you need not be surprised to find potatoes and onions four or five dollars a bushel by next fall. If you expect to eat any of them it is up to you to grow your own or pay the price that war's exigencies demand. Go to work now. Cultivate every square foot of ground you can secure. We Americans have always boasted that we "can lick our weight in wild-cats" but we can't do it, on empty stomachs. Our army and navy may have all the arms and ammunition that money can buy but what use will they be without food supplies?

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President Wilson's Great Message.

In his address to Congress on Monday evening President Wilson revealed the great capacity for public affairs which has characterized his public life from the beginning. It was serious, very serious business that brought him before the Congress and he presented in language so lucid and forceful the facts to be considered that nothing was left to conjecture. After reciting the atrocities that have been perpetrated by German agencies under the direction of the Imperial government of Germany the President declared that he "is not thinking of the loss of property involved, immense and serious as that is, but only of the wanton and wholesale destruction of lives of non-combatants, men, women and children, engaged in pursuits which have always, even in the darkest periods of modern history, been deemed innocent and legitimate."

To this condition of affairs the President invoked the judgment of Congress. Upon that body devolves the duty of determining what action shall be taken by the government of the United States. Germany has been waging "a warfare against mankind," a war against all nations. But it is to the outrages against America that he calls attention. "The challenge is to all mankind," he says, "each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it." For the American Republic he clearly points the way, but counsels "moderation and temperance befitting our character and our motives." We will approach the duty without revenge, without expectation of gain or desire for conquest. Our only purpose, if the ideas of the President prevail, will be the vindication of human right "of which we are only a single champion."

In view of these salient facts the President asks Congress to act. He asks it to organize and mobilize all the material resources of the country. This involves the full equipment of the navy and a vast increase in the army. These things will require large expenditures of money which must be provided either by taxation or bond issue and the President recommends taxation. And finally he recommends "counsel and action" with the governments now at war with Germany. That implies, of course, the obligation to furnish money and materials to keep their armies supplied and co-operation with their activities in the field. All in all it was a great message to Congress and the country and has already produced unity of thought in the minds of the people of all sections of the country. It marks the beginning of the end of the great war.

The Department of Public Instruction on Saturday announced the dates for teachers' institutes throughout the State and that for Centre county has been fixed for the week of November 12th, to be held in Bellefonte.

Speaking of preparedness the currency legislation enacted before the war clouds appeared in Europe has guaranteed the country alike against panic and famine and that is real preparedness.

When the Kaiser finds out how formidable the army and navy of the United States are it will be a sad day for the fellow who fooled him into the belief that we have neither army nor navy.

Some persons in Germany want to call the Kaiser "The Faithful." That shows that Germany has a perverted idea of fidelity. "The Perfidious" would be a fitter name.

Hindenburg, may have put something up his sleeve but the indications are that it dropped out while he was busy looking after that "masterful retreat."

It takes a long time to find some men out but there is a tolerably accurate understanding of William Jennings Bryan in this country today.

Some wise guy suggests that a corps of chiropractors should be organized to look after the feet of the soldiers. He probably has an axe to grind.

And in the end it may appear that Carranza has been "cherishing up wrath against the day of wrath." It sometimes happens that way.

You can make up your mind now that we are not going to catch those Germans with salt shakers.

Mexico a Menace of the Future.

While it is not probable that troops will be sent from this country to the seat of war in Europe it is more than likely that a considerable force will be needed to hold Mexico out of war. The signs indicate rather plainly that the conspiracy of Dr. Zimmerman has made an impression on the official mind of our southern neighbor. Carranza is as devoid of honor as he is destitute of conscience and the offer of unlimited funds to wage war against the United States might appeal to the weak mind of the Mexican President. It is not likely that he would be enticed by the hope of capturing any part of our territory as Dr. Zimmerman suggested. But there is allurement in the promise of money.

In the event of war with Germany Mexico could easily be used as a supply station as well as a path of entry of German force supplemented by such an army as Carranza might be able to organize if he had plenty of money to operate with. Of course there is abundant reason to doubt the ability of Germany to supply the immense amount of money that would be necessary to such an enterprise. The war has already cost Germany a vast sum and the expenses of her present military operations are hundreds of millions a day. But thus far the government has experienced little difficulty in providing the necessary funds. The people have given up freely and apparently the credit of the government is unimpaired.

But even the menace of a Mexican invasion need not give the people of this country much concern. Recruiting operations have been rather slow thus far but not because of any lack of patriotism. The manhood of the United States has an aversion to police duty and so long as troops are to be used as patrolmen at bridges and munition plants the recruiting will lag. When the call comes for actual soldiers, however, things will be different. When enlistment means actual war service there will be a rush to the colors and it may safely be predicted that as many men as are needed will answer the appeal. Present estimates fix the number at a million but if necessity arises ten times that number will respond.

Fighting for the Fund.

Even the defence of the State is retarded by the wretched factional fights of the Republican machine. The resolution to appropriate funds to meet any military exigency that may arise is held up in the Senate committee because the friends of Senator Penrose are not willing to trust Governor Brumbaugh with the disbursement. There are reasons, of course, for distrusting the Governor in financial operations. His alleged misappropriation of funds contributed to his campaign expenses casts a shadow of doubt over his reputation for personal integrity and his reckless use of the contingent fund in discharging personal obligations indicates moral delinquency. But he is insistent.

On the other hand the friends of the Governor insist that he be invested with authority to disburse the proposed fund, because under the constitution he is Commander-in-Chief of the military force of the State. It is a constitutional prerogative, they say, but there is no provision in the constitution making it so. The practice of Congress has been in favor of their claim. That is to say at the beginning of the Spanish war President McKinley was made the disbursing agent of the defence fund and the expressed purpose of the present Congress is to confer the same power on President Wilson. But that fact can hardly be claimed as a precedent. The circumstances are vastly different.

The significance of this quarrel, however, lies in the fact that whenever or wherever there is a large sum of money to disburse the hungry factions of the Republican machine lust for control. The possibility of graft appeals to them and like wolves they pounce upon any fund that may be used through favoritism, or for profit, and quarrel like dogs striving for a bone. The moral effect of the appropriation is already lost because of this spirit. If the appropriation had been made spontaneously good results would have been achieved even though not a penny had been spent. But in this fight for control of the disbursement every impulse of patriotism that was intended has been submerged.

Sidney Brooks and His Opinions.

Mr. Sidney Brooks a subject of King George of England and a citizen of no place, is greatly incensed because General Wood has been transferred from command of the Military Department of the East to that of the South. He makes his complaint in the Philadelphia Ledger, a too willing vehicle for vituperation of the President, and eulogizes Wood in most fulsome terms. "Here," he declares, "is by all odds the greatest soldier-administrator that America has produced since the Civil war." "Here," he continues, "is the one man in the American army with a European reputation. In England we have long reckoned General Wood among the half-dozen foremost men to be found on either side of the Atlantic."

Mr. Sidney Brooks may be, as our esteemed Philadelphia contemporary designates him, "a British publicist and newspaper correspondent," but he has written himself down as a conspicuous and colossal ass. In the first place in the face of recent events the opinion of Englishmen upon the merits of military magnates is of little consequence. For nearly three years German generals have been making monkeys of British "carpet knights" and the only real military leader in the British empire, General Kitchener, has been disposed of in a manner so mysterious as to suggest anything that might be imagined. Even "publicists" developed in such an environment may be gravely mistaken in their estimates of men.

But if Mr. Sidney Brooks will "lend us his ear" and give his undivided attention to the subject for a few minutes we may be able to hand him a tip which, though it may fail to solve the problem in his mind will be useful in the future. For example "as an Englishman" it's none of his business how the government of the United States disposes of its Major Generals with respect to posts of service, and as a decent Englishman he might better employ his time serving in the trenches than criticising those who are striving to save his country from destruction. Being "an Englishman," however, he doesn't realize how contemptible it is to betray hospitality in that way. It is a national trait, probably.

Senator La Follette's Futile Folly.

The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial government of Germany and the United States has been held up for a brief period by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin. It will not be delayed long however, for the rules of the Senate have been changed so as to prevent deliberate filibustering. But the delay probably afforded the Kaiser and his cabinet a moment of genuine pleasure. It indicated some dissent from the President's declarations with respect to the causes which have forced the government of the United States to take the step that means war. It enables the Kaiser to continue his deception of the people of Germany a trifle longer.

There was no occasion and there is no justification for Senator La Follette's action. The cruel wrongs of nearly three long drawn out years cry out for redress and the people of this great country are practically a unit in support of the President. Possibly ten in a million of the thinking people of the United States believe as he does and there may be pacifists here and there who think means other than the cruelties of war might have adjusted the differences between the Kaiser and the people of this country. But there was no sense in delaying action for so brief a period as it is within the power of La Follette to accomplish that result.

The die was cast and the conclusion is just. As the President has so eloquently stated we ask no indemnity and seek no conquest in this enterprise of war. We shall fight, however, "for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for Democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government," and having entered the arena of war we shall fight, as we always have fought, with a courage, intelligence and determination that will guarantee speedy and complete triumph of the righteous cause we have espoused. Senator La Follette represents nothing that is American in his feeble and futile attempt at delay.

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

Judge Quigley Granted Three More Licenses.

Almost at the eleventh hour Judge Quigley disposed of the last of the hold-over license applications about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon by granting the application of Maynard Meeker, for the Old Fort hotel and the wholesale applications of George E. Lamb, at Phillipsburg, and Michael Porado, at Cassanovia. At the same time it was announced that the application on file for a wholesale license by James Black, of Phillipsburg, was of necessity refused because of that gentleman's death some weeks ago, and that the license for the hotel at Rebersburg would not be lifted owing to the death of landlord Clarence E. Long several weeks ago.

Summing up the final results show just one less in number of licensed places in Centre county this year that there was last year, only distributed a little differently. Over on the South side Millheim has a license while Rebersburg, Spring Mills and Potters Mills will be dry. The hotel at Milesburg again has a license while there is one less licensed hotel in Phillipsburg and one less wholesale place. This week Judge Quigley handed down the following rules for the guidance of landlords in Centre county:

In the opinion of the Court the laws on the statute books cover the regulation and sale of liquors, and those to whom franchises have been granted will be held strictly accountable for open or willful violations.

As intimated heretofore, any person who does not cheerfully and willingly obey not only the letter but the spirit of the laws will not be permitted to continue in the business.

Generally speaking, so-called rules are in the nature of additional legislation, and, as we view it, courts are not formed for the purpose of legislating, but to execute the laws.

We suggest that the bars and all drinking places be closed at 10 o'clock p. m., and on Good Friday, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. In some sections it seems to us that men of known intemperate habits have little or no trouble to secure what they want, in an indirect way. Licensees are cautioned to use utmost care along this line because no violation is more repugnant than this, and the Court will make an honest effort to break up the pernicious habit of furnishing this class by holding the one so furnishing to strict accountability. In this direction we desire to protect adjoining counties and it is ordered that all licensees shall absolutely refuse sales to all persons non-resident of Centre county where such sales may be forbidden by any District Attorney, Sheriff, Burgess, Constable or Police Officer having jurisdiction over the district in which said person resides.

By the Court, HENRY C. QUIGLEY, P. J.

Sentence Suspended on Irvin Robinson.

Irvin Robinson, the Mt. Eagle man who figured in the Henry Confer case almost two years ago and who was arrested last week on the charge of assault, and aggravated assault and battery for choking his daughter, plead guilty before Judge Quigley on Saturday afternoon. After hearing a statement of the case from district attorney James C. Furst, and a plea for leniency on behalf of Mr. Robinson by his attorney Judge Quigley suspended sentence on condition that Robinson would sign a pledge not to touch a drop of intoxicating liquor for a period of five years; cautioning him, however, that if he broke the pledge and was brought before him again he would give him the limit allowed by law.

When prothonotary D. R. Foreman drew up the pledge for Mr. Robinson to sign he incorporated into it the fact that he must not abuse his wife and family and is to treat them as a wife and family should be treated. Robinson at first balked on signing the pledge on the grounds that the court had said nothing about not abusing his family but Prothonotary Foreman told him that that was what he meant, and Robinson finally put his name to the document.

Badly Injured While Pulling Stumps.

Cyrus M. Johnston, of Ferguson township, is in the Bellefonte hospital with a crushed skull and minus his left eye as the result of an accident while engaged in pulling stumps on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Johnston, who is forty-nine years old, was using one of the old fashioned chain and lever pullers and under heavy pressure a bolt flew out and struck him on the forehead over the left eye, crushing in the skull. He was brought to the Bellefonte hospital where it was found that in addition to having his skull crushed his left eye was also crushed so badly that it had to be removed. His condition is considered quite serious.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Philadelphia and Reading railroad has placed orders for 2,000 all-steel freight cars.

Sneak thieves are troubling the farmers of certain sections of Somerset county, stealing chickens, hams, apples and other articles.

Samuel H. Lay, a prominent citizen of Lock Haven, died at his home last Monday morning, aged 73 years. He is survived by his wife and four children.

A Johnstown man who had crooked his elbow too often for his own good was found severely wedged in an ash can on the public street and sound asleep. The mayor allowed him to go next morning.

Mrs. Josephine Vantonio, aged 18 years, but the mother of a babe aged 13 months, shot herself in the cellar of the home of her parents, at Johnstown, dying soon after. No reason for the rash act is given.

Leaning back too far in a rocking chair, Friday evening, Miss Martha Hess tipped over against a cupboard, striking her head. When she attempted to talk it was found her vocal organs had been paralyzed and she was unable to utter a sound.

The other night a bare-foot boy entered the lobby of the DuBois postoffice and succeeded in opening several boxes from which letters were taken. He opened them and threw them in the waste basket. Evidently on the search for money, he ran when discovered and managed to escape.

An insane man named Carberry, who was being taken to Brookville, created some sensation the other night by jumping through the car window while his escort was getting him a drink of water. The train was stopped but not a trace of the lunatic could be found except his coat.

Daniel J. Clark, aged 75, who is said to have loaned John D. Rockefeller \$30 when the two men were oil prospectors in Oil City in 1866, died in Williamsburg, Pa., on Monday. Clark's \$30, it is said, was the nucleus from which Rockefeller's immense fortune grew. Clark died in poverty.

The loading department of the Jeansville iron works, at Hazleton, busy making war munitions, was gutted by fire last Friday morning at one o'clock, causing a loss of \$75,000 and the death of one man. The blaze is thought to have been started by a piece of resin falling on a hot plate and igniting.

The Binder Coal company has just closed a deal for the purchase of the mineral rights, south of Carrolltown, each about 200 acres in extent, and will open operations there soon under the name of the New Green Coal company. James Green will be the president of the corporation which is to be formed.

Several weeks ago while Dr. B. E. Leopold, of Clearfield, was cranking his automobile the machine "kicked" and the crank struck him a powerful blow on the breast and neck. The muscles and nerves of the throat were paralyzed by the blow and he is now unable to swallow. He has been taken to Philadelphia for treatment.

Frank Papke, aged 26 years, a miner residing near Hermintie, Westmoreland county, was shot and killed early last Sunday morning presumably by one George Barnes. Papke was a German and Barnes an Englishman and the tragedy is believed to have been the result of a quarrel over the war. The murdered man leaves a wife and five children.

Mrs. George Moore, of Castanea, Clinton county, and her daughter, Mrs. John Rea, of DuBois, are in the Lock Haven hospital suffering from burns received at the home of the former, when Mrs. Moore's clothing caught fire, as she was attempting to remove a pan of ashes from a heating stove. The elder lady was severely burned and may not recover.

Rembrandt Peale has just closed a deal with Mrs. Annie Mitchell, of Clearfield, for the coal under 340 acres of land in Lawrence township, near Glen Richey. For two-thirds interest in the coal under one tract of 160 acres the consideration was \$8,397. The coal under the 180 acres comprising the Robert Mitchell homestead was sold for \$13,476. The coal adjoins the present operations of Mr. Peale at Glen Richey.

During the first year of operation of the state workmen's compensation for accidents involving loss of 283 eyes and 269 arms, legs and hands of employees in Pennsylvania industries, according to a summary of reports issued by John Price Jackson, State Commissioner of Labor and Industry. This sum does not include the cost of medical and surgical attention. During 1916, the same year \$4,224,875.43 was paid out in compensation payments.

Sixty trained fire fighters were engaged Sunday night fighting what is declared to be the most serious forest fire in the history of Fayette county. Between 600 and 700 acres of land were burned over and the flames seriously menaced the towns of Cool Springs and Jumboville. The two-story club house of the Fayette County Motorcycle club was destroyed. The path of the fire was three miles long and half a mile wide and the damage is estimated at \$50,000.

Samuel Higley, of Smoke Run, while working at the McMurray farm, near that place, met instant death in a strange manner. He was hauling sheaves to the feeder of a threshing machine, and losing his balance, fell from the platform on which he was standing, striking his head on an iron wheel attached to the machine, cutting open his head and causing almost instant death. He was aged about 56 years, and leaves a wife and two sons, together with his aged mother, one sister and two brothers.

Roy Harer, a farmer, residing near Salladburg, was in Jersey Shore on Saturday making inquiries as to what could be done to stop the elk from destroying crops on his farm. Mr. Harer said nearly every day two cow elk visit his wheat field and trample and eat off the wheat. He has chased them away many times but they return. They are very tame and he is able to walk to within a few feet of them before they take fright. The matter is being taken up with the State Game Commission at Harrisburg.

Charles W. Sones, State Senator, on Saturday sold to the Central Pennsylvania Lumber company his entire lumber and allied interests in Lycoming and Sullivan counties for a consideration said to be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000. The purchase includes the town of Masten, Lycoming county, built by Sones, who has one of the largest independent lumber operators in the State. At Masten is a large saw mill and clothespin factory, a temperance hotel, stores and numerous dwellings. He will retire from the lumber business and devote his time to farming.