

INK SLINGS.

—Will Edison prove the wizard who will combat the U-boat?
—The recent rains have brought a much needed rest to the amateur back-yard farmers.
—A lot of farmers sold wheat at \$3 a bushel this week who never got such a price before.
—Will the high price of shoes bring back the army of barefoot boys we used to see on our streets?
—Instead of making Memorial day a national play day let us make it a real Memorial day this year.
—Gen. Joffre will be forced to conclude that the effervescent French haven't much on the effervescence of Americans.
—Some men are surprised at how much they can actually get done in a day when the conditions are not propitious for fishing.
—Our sympathy goes out to the citizen's heat committee which was looking for a warm enough April and May to save a little in coal bills.
—Talk about playing the stock market. That Centre county farmer who held tight to his 1600 bushel wheat crop until he got \$3.00 the bushel for it on Tuesday was sure no piker.
—There is a bill before the Legislature to increase the salaries of our lawmakers to \$2500 a session. It strikes us as being a good thing, for then there may be a possibility of getting \$2500 men into the Assembly.
—Marshal Joffre is having the time of his life. His western trip was a continuous ovation and in the east he is being lionized and burdened with compliments at every point. Even licking the Germans could hardly afford him more pleasure.
—Rhode Island doesn't have to teach Pennsylvania how to make corn bread palatable. The wives and mothers of the Keystone State have long known how to get the best out of a sack of corn meal and even the Virginia corn pone has nothing on Pennsylvania corn bread.
—We are waiting for our resourceful and always ultra Basket Shop to put a potato basket on the market. A dainty potato basket dangling on the arm of milady will mark her as among the elite more certainly this summer than any other of the productions the Shop has ever put out.
—If you haven't been able to get all the seed potatoes you want plant some field in beans. A peck will plant an acre and a fair crop will yield forty bushels. Beans are now eighteen cents a pound and going higher. They have great food value and ought to form part of your crop.
—The new war tax revenue bill soaks it onto old King Alcohol, but it hits ginger ale and raspberry vinegar equally as hard. Uncle Sam fired the best shot in his navy for getting drunk, but he doesn't stand for class legislation when it comes down to taxing beverages for war purposes.
—Don't send our soldiers to France until they are fully equipped and trained for the fight. The world will expect more from the men fighting under Uncle Sam's banner than it has any right to expect and if through inadequate equipment and training they should fail to come up to the almost impossible achievements that will be expected of them the morale of all of the allied forces will be affected.
—The report of the proceedings of the Bellefonte council, which appear in another column of this issue, gives rise to the suspicion that there is dereliction on the part of the police of the town. Mr. Flack, who is chairman of the Fire and Police committee, informed council that he had spoken to the policemen about the repeated violations of the automobile traffic ordinance and had been told by one of the officers that they are working under the instructions of the Burgess. If this meant anything it meant that the Burgess had told them to wink at the infractions of the law. Now the "Watchman" doesn't believe the Burgess stands for any such thing and it thinks it high time for him to clear himself of this implied connivance with the police to make impotent an ordinance of council. We can't understand why a traffic semaphor on the Diamond is going to help much when careless drivers are shooting along other thoroughfares, with cut-outs wide open, at a forty mile clip, very often. It is even said that one of the officers rode up High street some time ago in a machine with the cut-out open and said nothing about it. To our mind, council had better have the ordinance taken off the statutes than tolerate its contempt and if it wants it enforced it can do so, because council, not the Burgess employs the policemen and it can employ policemen who will at least demand respect for the ordinances it passes.

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Present Duty of Congress.

There is entirely too much talk in Congress. Legislation essential to meet conditions almost certain to arise in the immediate future, which ought to have been completed last week, is still the subject of senseless discussion in one branch or the other. "Nero fiddled while Rome burned," and these toy statesmen are wasting time in a sillier fashion while the country is menaced with disaster. A state of war has been declared and it is the duty of Congress to provide means for any emergency. But the Senators and Representatives, apparently entranced by the music of their own throats, are talking tiresomely about trifles while the enemy is preparing to strike.
The time for talk has passed and the time to act is here. It is necessary to mobilize the industrial forces of the country as well as to organize the military arm and these results cannot be achieved by discussion on the floor of Congress. Nobody wants to harm the country. No public official is striving to acquire authority for sinister or selfish purposes. Therefore the authority necessary to mobilize the industries and organize the military should be bestowed upon the President freely and promptly. Those who are retarding this result are consciously or unconsciously "giving aid and comfort to the enemy," and in time of war that is treason punishable by death.
The people of the United States are practically a unit in support of the President in his onerous endeavors to meet the conditions confronting the country. They are giving freely of their means and are ready to offer up that greater tribute of loyalty by barring their breasts to the bullets of the enemy. But Congress interferes with their sublime purposes by dilly-dallying and declaiming individual prejudices and sometimes absurd opinions upon questions that have neither significance nor importance. This foolishness should be stopped at once. Enact the necessary legislation to put the country in shape for a prolonged and bloody war and that accomplished, adjourn.

—The Governor failed to issue a proclamation the other day and the Harrisburg Fire department sounded a general alarm.
We Are "Doing Our Best."
The response of the people of the United States to the call for subscriptions to the "Liberty Loan," is a greater help to the British and French troops in Flanders than a division of troops could possibly afford. Since the offer of the loan subscriptions have been received at the rate of twenty millions of dollars an hour. At this rate the entire sum will soon be subscribed and as much more as may be needed is certain to follow. Moreover it guarantees full meals and ample equipment to the troops in the trenches and that is the best moral support that can be given to an army. With a full stomach and plenty of ammunition and arms a force is doubly supplied.
The fight in Europe has become our fight and we are under moral obligations to bear a fair share of the burdens. Money is the sinew of war but it is not the principal burden and in the course of time it will be our duty to send troops to the firing line. But the time for this will not arrive until our newly enlisted force is sufficiently trained to take care of itself in battle and in camp. In the Spanish war diseases that might have been avoided took more lives than bullets and it would be a crime to repeat that experience now. We must make the men efficient before we ask them to face the hazard of the trenches, the firing line or the camp.
But financing a war is an important part of the work and the prompt response to the call for money indicates a perfect willingness to meet the obligation. The first call is for two billions and that amount will be subscribed twice over within a fortnight if the present rate of subscription is kept up. Other calls will follow in succession until the full sum of seven billions, authorized by Congress, has been taken. Meantime preparations to participate in the operations on the firing line will be finished and the Stars and Stripes will appear side by side with the Union Jack of England and the Tricolor of France. But we are "doing our bit" in the sensible way.

Mistake of Chairman Saunders.

There was little wisdom and absolutely no advantage in publishing the statement the other day, attributed to W. L. Saunders, chairman of the Naval Consulting Board, to the effect that an instrument had been invented which would stop the operations of the U-boats of Germany. The invention of such an instrument would bring the war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion. There is no possible hope of the success of the German campaign except in the undersea craft. That is an actual menace against the civilization of the world. It expresses a reversion to the methods of barbarism. As we stated last week it indicated the mastery of the seas by piratical agencies.
If Mr. Edison has discovered some process by which these murderous monsters may be eliminated from their activities, it will be a consummation upon which the whole world may rejoice, because we assume that the world still aims toward a higher civilization rather than in the direction of barbarism. But in that event the fact should have been held in concealment until the proof had been presented. Mr. Edison realized this fact for he promptly announced that no such scientific triumph had been achieved, though admitting that he is striving for such a glorious result. After the battle has been won it may be proper to boast. But while the result is in doubt it is better to remain silent.
Mr. Saunders meant well no doubt. The reports of the destruction of commerce by U-boats were spreading dismay in the public mind. He desired to allay the popular apprehension which was assuming dangerous form. But he adopted the wrong method of achieving his purpose. If he had taken the President or Mr. Edison into his confidence, they would have advised against his expedient. The average American citizen is intelligent. He isn't fooled by temporary misfortunes or appalled by fleeting adversities. The U-boats have been inflicting damage to an extent that is to be regretted, but they are not even menacing the food supply of Europe and are not likely to inflict irreparable harm.

Provisions of the New Fish Code.
Every true disciple of Isaac Walton in Pennsylvania will cordially endorse the provision in the fish code now pending in the General Assembly, which forbids the use of "nets, spears or gigs in the inland waters of the State excepting in the Susquehanna below McCall's Ferry dam." In this provision is shown the fine sporting spirit of our capable and conscientious Commissioner of Fisheries, Mr. Nathan R. Buller, why there should be any exception is left to conjecture but the depth of the river probably accounts for it. Giggling would be barren sport in twenty feet of water and the use of nets below McCall's Ferry is for shad fishermen.
The provision putting the opening of the bass season back to July first, however, will not meet with such popular favor. A few years ago the bass season opened on Decoration day and we have never heard a real substantial reason for changing it to June 15th. It was alleged that the spawning season was not over at that time but that claim has never been proved and the suspicion that the purpose was to prevent the holiday fishing indulged in by vast numbers of wage earners who can afford the time to fish only on holidays has never been shaken. The tendency is to make hunting and fishing sports for men of leisure and wealth and shortening of the season makes for that result.
No thoughtful man believes that the present scarcity of fish in the inland waters of Pennsylvania is ascribable to the taking of fish with a hook and line. The fecundity of fish is an ample answer to that claim. Fishing with nets and gigs is objectionable on that account for it enables a few fish pirates to take fish by the thousands during a night, and giggers and seiners who go for fish that are not game never discriminate when they draw their nets or cast their spears. The pending legislation should be amended therefore to set the opening of the bass season on June 15th, as at present. It is short enough at that and no good is achieved by the proposed change.
—Wheat has been selling in Bellefonte this week for \$3.00 a bushel, and corn at a dollar seventy cents.

Roosevelt's Magnificent Army.

In defiance of the President, the Congress and the Army Staff "Coinel" Roosevelt is proceeding with the organization of his army for service in Flanders. And what an army it is! It will be a "force de luxe." Of the 180,000 already enrolled most of them are millionaires and none of them is now working for less than \$2,500 a year while the majority leave jobs worth from \$30,000 to \$50,000 annually. There are comparatively few cow boys and positively no rough-necks in the bunch. They will probably "dress for dinner" ever evening and have music and dancing in the mess tents. No army in the history of the world has been as magnificent as this contingent organized by Roosevelt.
We are gravely assured that the families of these millionaire soldiers will not be subjects of charity in the event of the death or disabling of the volunteers. That is gratifying information to tax dodgers though we have never heard complaint of the burden of maintaining soldiers' families after death or disability among citizens of the Republic that are worth while. We pay pensions freely and the mites necessary for the maintenance of our heroic dead are cheerfully given. But the Roosevelt press agent imagines that an assurance that his army will require no contributions is an overwhelming reason why the authorities should surrender to King Theodore the command of our armies.
All in all the literature of this Roosevelt army propaganda sounds very preposterous to a reasoning mind. It suggests the conversion of the world war into comedy. It reads like the "paper" of a Wild West show posted on the barns and fences of a credulous community. Former Senators in Congress, former Ambassadors to foreign courts and former members of Presidential cabinets may be willing to accept the hazard of battle in defense of the sacred principles of our government, as they ought, but they will hardly enlist as privates in order to make a holiday in France for Roosevelt and restore him to the arena of politics from which he has been expelled because of perfidy.

—We have experienced some very peculiar weather this spring but that of this week has certainly been a record-breaker. Following the cold and wet weather of last week it began to rain again on Sunday night and has rained more or less all week. Wednesday morning it grew so dark that it was necessary for automobilists to use lights when running on the streets, and the various trains came in with the headlights burning. Notwithstanding the dreariness of the weather and the depressing effects thereof on the spirits of everybody, the rain was badly needed. In some parts of Centre county where farmers depend entirely on cistern water, their supply was so low that they were hauling water for their stock. But the rain we have had the past week replenished cisterns with a good supply and the ground is now so thoroughly soaked that the grain and grass should be helped amazingly.
—Harmon M. Kephart succeeded Robert K. Young as State Treasurer on Monday and thus Penrose planted another pin marking his progress in the work of eliminating Brumbaugh from the public life of Pennsylvania.
—Balfour has nothing to complain of concerning his welcome to this country. It has been alike cordial and sincere and it expressed in perfect form the relations between his country and ours.
—An esteemed contemporary wants us to "eat less and do more." As to doing more we have little to say but the question of eating less is not likely to be optional in the future unless prices decline.
—The Legislature promises to adjourn about the middle of June but as a matter of fact the operations of the Legislature are of little interest and the date of its adjournment of less consequence.
—The acreage sown to corn, oats and potatoes thus far this season in the United States breaks all previous records. This does not include backyard and farm lot planting.
—Whatever may be said of the future of Germany it is certain that the Hohenzollern dynasty is fighting for its life and with a very slim chance of winning.

Questions Asked of Those Coming Under the Conscription Age.

Agents of the federal government have issued a supply of cards to be used for the registration of those eligible for service in the army under the provisions of the conscription law which will be passed very shortly by Congress.
Congress has not yet agreed upon the age limit of those who will be liable for the service, but the measure will likely be passed within a few days and the registration will begin very shortly thereafter.
There are two cards, one of which contains a dozen questions which the eligible must answer and which he must verify by his signature, while the other contains three questions to be answered and signed by the registrar. A registration certificate is given to each person registering showing that the holder has submitted himself to registration and has been duly registered.
The list of questions to be answered are as follows:
Name in full and age?
Home address, including street number?
Date of birth?
Are you a natural born citizen, a naturalized citizen, an alien or have you declared your intention?
Where were you born?
If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?
What is your present trade, occupation or office?
By whom employed?
Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support, specify which?
What is your race?
Military service you have had, rank, branch, years, nation or State?
Do you claim exemption from draft, specify grounds?
On one corner of the card there is printed these words: "If person is of African descent, tear off this corner."
The questions to be answered by the registrars are as follows:
Tall, medium or short; slender, medium or stout?
Color of eyes, color of hair, bald?
Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot or both, eyes or is he otherwise disabled?
The registrar must certify that the person registered has read his own answers and that he has signed the signature and that all of his answers of which the registrar has knowledge are true, a blank space being provided for any exceptions.
The registration certificate which is filled out by the registrar and is turned over to the person registered is a green card, signed by the registrar and which bears the insignia of the United States. It is to be kept by the person registering and sets forth that the holder has complied with the proclamation of the President of the United States by submitting himself to registration and that he has been duly registered on the date specified.
The holder of the card is supposed to carry it with him so that, in case he might be questioned by any one in authority in regards to his compliance with the President's proclamation, he can show it. Should any male coming under the conscription age to be fixed by Congress not be able to produce the registration certificate or card, he is liable to arrest by the United States authorities for not complying with the proclamation of the President.

War Tax Legislation to Raise Sinews of War is Before House.
Washington, D. C., May 9.—War tax legislation was to be introduced in the House today. Through it the nation expects to raise \$1,500,000,000 for war expenses during the ensuing year. Meantime the Senate Finance committee proposes a brief period of hearings with a report soon after the House acts.
Tariff duties, income and inheritance taxes, increased postage and increased taxes on many commodities will be the means whereby the sinews are raised. A 10 per cent. raise is tacked on all tariffs; the normal income tax is doubled, while the surtaxes are raised and the exemptions lowered.
For single persons, the income tax starts at \$1,000; for married persons \$2,000. The surtax is graduated, running up to 33 per cent. on incomes above \$500,000.
The normal income tax will be 4 per cent. on individual and 6 per cent. on corporations.
Postage stamps will cost 3 cents and postcards 2, while magazines and newspapers will pay heavier rates.
The bill would lay a 16 per cent. on excess profits; and a tax up to 15 per cent. on inheritance.
New taxes include levies on insurance policies, telephones, electric power, oil and pipe lines.
An amusement tax of 1 cent per each 10 cents or fraction of 10—ticket cost is imposed, thus hitting all movie shows and theatres.
Liquor, tobacco and soft drinks will bear a far heavier burden than at present.
—The May term of court will begin next Monday a week and unless a number of violators of the law go into court in the meantime and plead guilty it promises to be rather a busy week, as some interesting cases are down on the docket for trial.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The mining plant and equipment of the Suppes Coal company, of Johnstown, has been sold to W. H. Hall, of New York city, representing Johnstown capitalists, the consideration, being in the neighborhood of \$150,000.
—John Manlove, of Lilly, gets credit for killing perhaps the largest catamount in Clinton county for a period of at least five years. The cat was dispatched Friday of last week and put up a desperate struggle. Manlove and a cousin, Robert Manley, were scouting in the region of Oak Ridge, when they came upon the cat.
—The fifteen hundred striking employees of the American Car and Foundry company voted virtually unanimously Sunday night to accept the company's offer of a ten per cent. increase in wages and all returned to work on Monday. The men had demanded a twenty per cent. advance. Only the freight car department was affected by the strike.
—Levi Smith, aged about 65, a wealthy Pennsylvania oil operator, dropped dead of apoplexy on a New York Central train as it was pulling into Elkhart, Ind., on Monday. Smith was en route from San Francisco to his home in Warren, Pa. Papers in his possession indicated that he was prominent in Mystic Shrine and Knight Templar circles.
—Half a dozen robberies have occurred in the Juniata valley during the past few days and it is the opinion of the authorities that a well organized band of yeggs recruited from the big cities are abroad. The work of safe blowing and forcible entry are said to bear the earmarks of the professional and merchants, postmasters and others upon whom they prey have taken every precaution to protect their valuables against them.
—The West Branch Knitting company, of Milton, has been given a contract by the United States government to furnish 250,000 cotton undershirts for the men of the United States navy, delivery to be made within six months. Edward Hoch, of Lock Haven, is president and principal owner of the plant. The factory will add enough employees to its present force to get the clothing in Uncle Sam's hands within the stipulated time.
—At seven o'clock last Wednesday evening a lever was pulled at the Pemberton operation of the American Lime & Stone company which set off thirteen holes, six inches in diameter and 165 feet deep, charged with high power dynamite and let loose from the solid mountain side over 150,000 tons of material, which will last the large corps of laborers there for from nine to twelve months. This was the largest blast for some years.
—Conductor William H. Collier, aged 50, of Altoona, was killed and brakeman William J. Waite, aged 35, of Tyrone, miraculously escaped death on Monday when their train, which was parted to examine the coupling knucker of two cars in the Pennsylvania yards at Altoona came together without warning, due to a misunderstanding of signs. Collier was caught between the drawbeams and squeezed to death. Waite was pushed aside when his conductor was caught.
—A forest fire in Cresson township that threatened the state tuberculosis sanatorium grounds and burned over a small area in that preserve was reported Saturday by district forester, W. D. Ludwig, of Johnstown. Fire warden Con Y. Fretthoff, of Summit, assisted by 14 patients at the sanatorium, succeeded in extinguishing the blaze after it had burned over about three acres. The fire is thought to have started from a burning brush pile and an investigation is being made that likely will result in arrests.
—Nineteen minutes of deliberation sufficed the jury in the case of Ellis D. Frieger, accused of murder in the first degree in the killing of Edward Boland on the Neill drive, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, on the night of August 22, to free the prisoner in the court of Oyer and Terminer, that city, on Thursday night. The verdict of acquittal established a record for speed in capital cases for recent years in that county, and the oldest court attorney could not remember when an issue was determined in a shorter period.
—An order for twenty-five F-25 cars of the all-steel, 200,000 pounds capacity type, especially adapted for guntruck service and moving armor plate, was placed Saturday morning at the Altoona local offices of the Pennsylvania. Work on the new equipment is to be rushed as fast as possible that the cars may be put in service within a month or two. The material to be ordered at once from the steel mills and it is expected the Altoona car shop forces will be able to complete and deliver the cars within a month from the date the work is started.
—Ray Stiner, 14 years old, and Cora Stiner, aged 6, were burned to death when fire early Thursday morning destroyed the home of John Stiner, a Center township, Columbia county, farmer. The father, one other son and four daughters escaped by jumping out of a second-story window. Stiner was badly burned in his heroic efforts to rescue his children and inhaled some of the flames. He is in the Berwick hospital, in a serious condition. Mrs. Stiner, at the time of the fire, was with her mother, at a nearby farm, stricken with paralysis. She collapsed and was also removed to the Berwick hospital.
—Monday holds the record for haltrcuts in Greensburg. It is estimated that on that day 3000 men underwent the shearing, notwithstanding the extremely cool weather for this time of year, in order to take advantage of the old twenty-five cent rate. Tuesday, May 1st, a new rate went into effect, and hereafter haltrcuts will be thirty-five cents. Thirty barbers operated on the men of that community for approximately fifteen hours Monday. The net proceeds at the old rate were \$750. A total of \$300 was saved by the ultimate consumer, so to speak, for had he waited until Tuesday, the barbers would have collected \$1050 for the same work.
—Arthur Barber, aged 38 years, a young farmer living near Glen Campbell, accidentally killed himself early Tuesday morning, May 1st. There had been a dog annoying the family Monday night and Tuesday morning. Mr. Barber wanted to go out early in the evening to kill the animal, but his wife got him to remain inside. About 4 o'clock Tuesday morning Mr. Barber arose and taking a gun, went out into the yard. He was in his bare feet and while walking, slipped in the soft clay. In falling, the gun was discharged, the full load of one barrel entering the man's head, blowing off practically all of his head. Barber's wife heard the shot and after waiting a short time went out to look for her husband. She found his dead body instead of a dead dog.