

INK SLINGS.

—Surely this is growing weather. —Part of Russia has fallen off the water wagon and is again being enslaved by vodka.

—Have you bought a Liberty Bond yet? The safest investment you can make is in government bonds.

—Those Russian miners who demand \$175 a month for work don't seem to know the difference between compensation and confiscation.

—The poet Shelley was an immortal and he died at the age of thirty, but the anvil chorus wasn't sung in Shelley's time and knockers were unheard of.

—Fifteen carloads of potatoes found rotting on a siding outside of Chicago looks like someone preferred to see them going to waste rather than sell them to the needy at a fair price.

—John Barrett, who knows Central and South America better than any other living man predicts that within a year all of the Republics south of us will be united in the war against Germany.

—The American commission, with Elihu Root at its head, has safely landed in Russia. Next of importance will be the landing of a stable government in that distracted country. The American commission should go a long way toward accomplishing that end.

—On Monday a young man tried out the fishing from the Water street sidewalk prohibition. He spent the rest of the day in the lockup. Officer Dukeman was on the job and nabbed him so promptly that he and a lot of others will have more respect for the borough ordinances in the future.

—Tuesday was the anniversary of the terrible "black frost" of 1859, when all wheat, corn and vegetables in this country were frozen black. The only thing that could be done to meet the extremity was to sow buckwheat in the grain fields and it served as a substitute for wheat and corn during the following winter.

—Five thousand young men of conscription age paraded in Scranton on Sunday and as they marched they sang:

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching!

Cheer up, comrades, we will come. We will go and get a gun And we'll make the Kaiser run And there won't be any Kaiser anymore.

—Twenty dollars a bushel tax on all grain used in distilled liquors is one of the new proposals. This would be equivalent to an extra tax of from five to nine dollars per gallon. My, wouldn't this have struck consternation in the camp of the Pooh-Poos, back of the old ice house, had it been proposed when it was such a bacchanalian rendezvous some years ago.

—The "Watchman's" list of eligibles to enrollment, published last week, proved a great help to the registrars in nearly every precinct in the county. While it was not strictly authentic yet it formed a very good basis upon which many of them worked, who have since expressed their gratitude to the "Watchman" for its great contribution to the work that was so creditably completed on Tuesday.

—If the draft that will follow Tuesday's registration is made on the basis of population Centre county will have to supply about 200 men for the first army of 500,000. If it is made on the basis of the number of men eligible to conscription we will have to supply about 150. If the plan to credit each county with the men already enlisted in the Federal service is acted upon then Centre has already supplied more than her quota.

—It is certain that many unpleasant situations will be met with before the war is over. Our personal liberties may be considerably curtailed, our physical comforts interfered with and otherwise we may have to suffer much all of which will be so new to most of us as to cause us to chafe under the restraints that the exigencies of war have made necessary. Now is the time to begin the cultivation of a frame of mind that will accept whatever comes without grumbling. The die is cast and there can be no backward step until the purposes for which we have invoked war have been accomplished. It will be only exhausting the individual nervous force to worry about this, that or the other thing and 'twill be far better to accept everything as it comes, believing that it is for our ultimate good.

—Troop L needs one hundred and three sweaters. The ladies will knit them if the yarn to cost \$1.50 each is provided. The young men of our community will be called upon to make the kind of sacrifices that we who are too old can never render the equivalent of. It is up to us more than to any other class of men to respond to this call for sweaters. Are there ninety-eight who read this paragraph, who are forty-five years of age or over, who will send their checks to the "Watchman" at once to provide the yarn for these sweaters? The "Watchman" will start the list by providing for five of them. Everybody has many calls of this character and everybody can expect many more and at that we will be giving so little as compared with the younger men who are called to give their lives for the great cause for which we are fighting. Won't you be one of the ninety-eight?

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Good Tidings in the Future.

The safe arrival of the Root mission in Russia inspires hope for the restoration of order and the establishment of sane government in that country. The personnel of the commission guarantees the wisest action. Besides Mr. Root the party consists of John R. Mott, Cyrus H. McCormick, Samuel R. Bertron, James Duncan, Charles Edward Russell, General Hugh L. Scott, Chief-of-Staff of the army and Rear Admiral James H. Glennon of the navy. The announcement of the landing neglects to state at what port or point entry to Russia was effected. But it is said that within a week the commission will be in Petrograd ready for whatever work is found to do.

There is much work to be done and it must be done quickly. Ever since the revolution German conspirators have been busy planting the seeds of discontent among the peasantry and striving in every conceivable way to embarrass the provisional government. That they made a vast amount of trouble is not surprising for there was little effort made to counteract their efforts. But the strong men who had assumed control of the empire performed wonders in holding up as well as they did in the circumstances. Now that they will have the moral and material support of the government of the United States through the medium of the Root commission the chances are for a victory for the right.

The trouble in Russia has been a vast advantage to the German operations in France and Belgium. It practically removed the Russian contingent from the firing line and released the troops which had been held there by Germany for service on the other front. If it had not occurred the chances are that the English and French drives against the Hindenburg lines in France would have been completely successful and the theatre of war changed before the summer is over from French to German soil. If Root and his associates are able to resuscitate the Russian spirit and revive Russian patriotism, as there are reasons to hope they may, the near future will be full of good tidings.

This is no time to strike. The railroads and industrial plants must be kept in operation to supply the government with materials to prosecute the war. But neither is it a time to abrogate legislation for the benefit of labor.

Steel or Wooden Ships.

It is to be hoped that the differences between Chairman Denman, of the Federal Shipping Board, and General Goethals, who has been selected by the President to superintend the construction of ships will be adjusted amicably. Mr. Denman, it appears, favors the construction of wooden ships, for the reason, probably, that less time is required on the unit. General Goethals, on the other hand, favors steel ships for the reason that the materials for the number of ships needed, if wood, are not available. The country has sublime faith in the patriotism and efficiency of both gentlemen. A sane and safe compromise would be to build both types as rapidly as possible.

It was unfortunate that General Goethals expressed his opinion on the subject at a dinner given by the president of the Steel trust. The Steel trust wants the government to build steel ships because that would create an abnormal demand for structural steel. The lumber magnates, and they compose a hungry horde, prefer wooden ships because it would cause a vastly inflated demand for timber. Prices of both materials are high now but under the stress of increased consumption would go much higher. The situation, therefore, resolves itself into a competition between the steel and the lumber producers. It would be a great pity to jeopardize the interests of the country because of such a quarrel.

But publicly exploiting opinions and ostentatiously airing personal grievances will inevitably work that result. In Mr. Denman's fling at General Goethals there are volumes of comfort for the enemy. It implies a question of the integrity of the great canal builder that should not have been uttered and the publication of such implications is most regrettable. Let us hope it will go no further. Big men do not quarrel about trifles and those in this controversy are giants in intellect. Meantime press forward the building of ships, steel and wood. The men in the trenches must be fed and unless ships are provided to send them food stuffs they will go hungry before long.

The Liberty Bond seems to be reestablishing in the popular mind the thought that "a National debt is a National blessing." Anyway nothing has gone so far toward arousing enthusiasm as the Liberty Bond.

German Confidence Misplaced.

The Germans openly boast that they have no fear of the effect of the entrance of the United States into the war for the reason that the conquest of England, France and Italy will be achieved. Like the expectation that the Kaiser would eat his Christmas dinner in 1915, in Paris, this is a mental delusion. United States torpedo boat destroyers are already operating within the zone of U-boat activities and the destructiveness of those instruments of barbarism has been materially lessened because of it. Within a few weeks at most General Pershing with a considerable force will be on the firing line and we assure the Kaiser they will be effective.

It is more than likely, moreover, that within a few months the entire National Guard of the country will be on European soil. These have had the immeasurable benefit of several months' training on the Mexican border and are equal in every respect to the highest trained soldiers of Germany with the advantage that they are fresh, zealous and intelligent soldiers, which cannot be said of the rank and file of the German army. Then, before the snow flies in the fall, it may be expected that the half million men obtained through the selective conscription now in progress will be available to reinforce their comrades who have preceded them to the trenches.

But the impudent boast of the German officers is to some extent justified. We have been moving "at a snail's pace" in one or two directions and the slur upon our tardiness should stimulate celerity. Congress has been wasting time on every measure that has come before it and bills which ought to have been passed, signed and in operation weeks ago are still under discussion. From this out, however, there will be little to complain of. Not only men but munitions, materials and instruments of war will be sent forward with enhanced rapidity. Our navy, the pride of the world, will be on the job and undersea and overhead ships be so plentiful as to change German confidence into consternation.

A great many things have gone wrong in Russia since the revolution but all things considered there is hope for the future of that unhappy country. It was there autocracy had reached its worst form and illiteracy had its widest field. But there are capable and patriotic men in Russia and they may be able to find a way to national salvation.

Abhorrent Title but Necessary.

There is a good deal of hazard in vesting in any individual the authority of a "food dictator." In ordinary times the thought of it would be intolerable. But these are not ordinary times and there is for the present infinitely more danger in food speculation than in any other menace in view. A food dictator might impair the purpose of a few conscienceless operators to rob. But food speculation will deprive millions of the necessities of life and starve countless women and children. Obviously, therefore, a food dictator is the lesser of two evils and the sooner the necessary legislation creating such a functionary is enacted the better for the public.

Of course the tenure of a food dictator will terminate with the necessity which brought him into office. If the war ends in six months the authority will automatically cease. There have been food speculators in times of peace and the moment the food dictator abdicates they will resume business at the old stand. But less drastic remedies than dictatorship can be invoked against them. It is an abhorrent title and the American people want as little of it as possible. They want mighty food speculators either and when the food dictator abdicates the food speculator will be taken hold of by the people, who will then have the leisure to look after him, and be dealt with becomingly.

At this time, however, a food dictator is the only instrument competent to properly handle the food speculator and happily we have a man at the head of the government, and he has at his command a man, who may be depended upon to exercise but not abuse the authority which he will have. Woodrow Wilson has no selfish purposes to subvert and Herbert Hoover has no sinister interests to promote and both may, therefore, be relied upon to use the vast authority bestowed upon them for the benefit of the people. The armies must be fed and the non-combatants prevented from starvation and those results can be guaranteed only by the creation of the office of food dictator.

In some of the towns in this State there are persons mean enough to steal from the war garden plots being cultivated by women and children. Nothing of that kind is likely to happen in Bellefonte.

End of the War Distant.

When the world war began, in August, 1914, few persons believed it would last more than six months. Sir Herbert Kitchener estimated that it might continue three years and was laughed at as a hopeless pessimist. Now, thirty-three months later no student of military science will venture a prediction as to the end. There are optimists who hope that within a year the last battle will be fought and a lasting, if not a perpetual peace established. But those with better opportunities to know are less hopeful and on both sides of the sea arrangements for mustering men and providing munitions three years hence are being made. Much depends upon the kind of peace that is to be obtained.

With the forces of the Central powers receding, slowly but surely, both on the French and Austrian fronts, a temporary peace might be secured within a few months. The moment it dawns upon the mind of the Kaiser that a victory against autocracy is inevitable, he will be willing and anxious to stop the fight on terms that will guarantee him, even temporarily, his autocratic power. But he will not relinquish his power until his last available resources are exhausted and that means a considerable time in the future. The United States is in the fight for the purpose of completely eliminating autocracy from the governing agencies of the world, which, on the other hand, means a long struggle.

The most hopeful sign in recent events is the steady progress of the Italians on the Austrian front. The apparent determination of the provisional government of Russia to stand firmly to its obligations to her allies and press forward in its fight against Germany is encouraging, of course. But the immediate necessity of pitting the full strength of Austria against the advancing and increasing force of Italy will weaken the German line at every point and make ultimate victory certain. Within a few weeks an American contingent will be cooperating on the French front with characteristic energy and efficiency, but even under these auspicious conditions we may have years of battling yet.

Centre county's registration did not size up to the number it was rated at by war experts, 4,500, but that was because said experts did not know Centre county. When it is to be considered that the military enrollment for last year was less than 2,500 a gain of practically seven hundred or more than twenty-five per cent. over that figure is a very creditable showing. It not only speaks well for the solidarity of the young manhood of the county but demonstrates their patriotism as well. Not a single man so far as known made any effort to evade the registration. And a casual glance at the registration cards leads the writer to believe that not over ten per cent. of those registered gave reasons for exemption from conscription. Whatever may happen in the future, the time will come when citizens of the county will be able to point with pride to the part her brave sons took in the war for the democracy of the world.

The three day camp of five troops of the First Pennsylvania cavalry with the Boal gun troop, as guests of Capt. Theodore Davis Boal, will begin at his home at Boalsburg today and continue until Sunday. Just how many of Troop L will go up has not been given out, but it is pretty certain to have a good representation. It is very likely that many Bellefonters will motor to Boalsburg tomorrow and Sunday to see the soldier boys in camp and at drill.

While it hardly seems possible yet the annual commencement at The Pennsylvania State College will be held next week. While the graduating class this year is a large one so many of the young men have already left college to go into the United States service that the commencement exercises will not be as elaborate this year as formerly.

Will Bellefonte have a safe and sane Fourth of July, without the careless waste of explosives? While the question has not yet been agitated we feel certain that Bellefonte people will be a unit in conserving everything that will in any way aid in the successful prosecution of the war in which we have become embroiled.

Germany is said to be preparing some fresh surprises. Probably having found brutality a failure the Kaiser proposes to introduce some decent methods.

Old Jupiter Pluvius has been working overtime this week and the rainfall has been above normal. But it is making all kinds of crops grow as if by magic.

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

ENTIRE GUARD TO GO.

No Intention to Split Pennsylvania Division for Service in France. May Drop Some Officers.

Washington, D. C., June 6.—When the Pennsylvania National Guard is sent to the battlefields of France it will go as a division. There is no intention upon the part of the War Department to send the First, Third, Thirteenth and Eighteenth Infantry ahead of the rest of the division, as has been reported. Unqualified denial of the report, which came from Philadelphia, was made by Brig. Gen. William A. Mann, Chief of the Division of Militia Affairs, and Frig. Gen. H. P. McCain, Adjutant General of the Army.

"We intend to adhere to our plan not to break up divisions," said General Mann. "That means that all the Pennsylvania troops will go together. The entire country has been divided into divisions and our plans have been worked out along that line. If we should take individual regiments from the divisions all our plans would be shifted."

General Mann said that for two weeks after the Pennsylvania guardsmen are mustered into the Federal service on July 15th they will be quartered in their armories and not sent to the State mobilization camps as originally intended. The reason for keeping them in their armories is that it will facilitate recruiting the companies to full war strength, because the troops can parade in the cities and towns and do active recruiting work. Furthermore, the commitments will not be ready to receive them, and there will be many routine matters to dispose of before training in the field begins.

MAY DROP SOME OFFICERS.

It is altogether probable that a number of men now holding commissions in the Pennsylvania National Guard will not be given corresponding ranks in the Federal service. General Mann said that the Adjutant General of each State has been requested to supply a list of the officers he considers inefficient. The report General Stewart submits will be checked up with the records of the officers. As all officers down to second lieutenant will be recommissioned by the President when they enter the Federal service, it will be easy to drop any officer who is not qualified. All officers above the rank of colonel must be confirmed by the Senate.

In denying the report that individual militia regiments are to be selected for early service abroad, General Mann said that if there are any changes in the plans for handling a division at a time they will be made after the troops reach France if Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing concludes that his troops can be handled to better advantage there by changing the plan.

General Mann denied that there had even been a suggestion sent from the War Department that certain regiments might be chosen to go ahead of the others from the Pennsylvania Guard. He said that when the guardsmen now engaged in guarding bridges are called into the Federal service this work will be handed over to the home guard composed of men too old for field military service.

American Flotilla Protects Commerce.

The British Port Base of the American Flotilla, Via London, June 6.—The American destroyers have completed their first month of active service in the great war. They have been favored with excellent weather, which is a big factor in anti-submarine warfare. Most of the time they have had sunny skies and smooth seas, with just enough squall and storm to put their seamanship to test. The favorable weather conditions made their task of learning the technique of anti-submarine warfare much simpler and easier. The American boats are assigned to work hand in hand with the British squadrons being virtually assimilated into the British naval machinery here. A destroyer is usually out for port for two or three days while coaling and loading supplies.

Thus every American sailor gets at least half a day shore leave practically every week.

The Americans take their turn with the British boats in all routine work of patrol and convoy. The work, although largely routine, is interesting and the Americans have never yet found time hanging heavy on their hands. The lookout must be constant and eyes must be trained to an unbelievable degree of keenness. The young Americans take zealously to the business of finding the periscope signal of submarine haystacks, and daily reports of sightings sighted, of observations made, of wireless and signal warnings sent broadcast show that the American boats are already making an average of results almost as satisfactory as the long experienced British boats with which they are operating.

There has been no actual battle as yet between an American destroyer and the enemy, although several reports show that U boats have been sighted and have been compelled to beat a hasty retreat to the depths of the sea.

Oyster Bay is a fairly good sized town but there is no recruiting station there to oblige men anxious to enlist.

They are all good enough, but the "Watchman" is always the best.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Chasing chickens out of his cornfield proved too much exertion for L. P. Montgomery, aged 59 years, of Rayne township, Indiana county, on Sunday, and he dropped dead from heart failure at his home near Washington church.

—Governor Brumbaugh has signed the bill recently passed by the Legislature which imposes a fine of \$500 on a year's imprisonment, or both, on any automobileist who runs over and injures a person and who does not stop his car and render assistance to the injured person.

—A meeting of the directors of the Newton Hamilton Camp Association was held at Tyrone on Friday night to complete arrangements for the coming camp meeting and Bible institute which begins July 26th, and lasts until August 7th. John D. Gill, of Philipsburg, one of the directors, attended the meeting and says the program will be completed very shortly.

—A new electric locomotive has been completed by the Pennsylvania Railroad company and will be placed in service, hauling heavy trains around the Horse-shoe Curve as soon as the main line between Conemaugh and Altoona is electrified. The new machine is provided with four motors and will develop 4,800 horse power. The locomotive was constructed in the Altoona shops of the P. R. R.

—Four head of cattle, a horse, a colt and several pigs were burned to death Sunday night when fire caused by lightning destroyed a barn on the Charles Reimard farm near Bloomsburg. Ten tons of baled hay, 500 bushels of oats, 600 bushels of corn and all the farming implements were also destroyed. Owing to injuries, the tenant, Roy Werkheimer, was unable to fight the fire and help came too late.

—The machines have arrived for the West Branch knitting mill branch factory, in Williamsport, and will be installed in the Getz building, Church and Corning streets. It is expected to have the plant in operation within the next two weeks. Another United States government contract of good size has just been received and the new plant will begin operations with orders sufficient to keep it going at full capacity.

—When the hunters' licenses start in the fall the men who wish to search for the wild cottontails and other game will find a new proviso tacked on the hunting law, according to the commissioners' office. That is, that the applicant must show his tax receipt for the last year. If a woman, of course, no tax receipt will be needed, as well as in the case of a minor. This will serve to reduce the number of hunters' licenses, but will also aid in keeping the taxes paid up.

—Falling a distance of about 35 feet through a skylight, 11-year-old Mabel Gocher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gocher, of Johnstown, is not only still alive, but will recover. No bones were broken, although the little girl was badly cut by jagged glass in the skylight and severely bruised by the fall. The child was endeavoring to gain admission to the home of a playmate in the Phoenix apartments on Franklin street by climbing through a window. She stepped on the skylight, which gave way beneath her weight.

—The State Forestry commission has ordered surveys and examinations of 40,000 acres of land in Clearfield, Elk, Cameron and adjoining counties, which have been offered for sale to the State for extension of its forest reserves. These properties were offered last week at the meeting of the Board and form the largest amount presented for consideration at one meeting. Most of the State's purchases for reserves and its taking over of properties under the auxiliary act are being carried out with an idea of protecting war supplies.

—Congressman Charles W. Rowland, of Philipsburg, recently had completed a new \$150,000 theatre which is the last word in architectural beauty and Manager A. J. Fleckenstein has selected the Johnstown Moose production "The Man Who Owns Broadway" for the formal opening attraction on Monday of next week, June 11th. The comedy, under direction of George C. Pound, when produced in Johnstown made a hit, and Philipsburg people are looking forward to a treat and the Moose members of the cast and their friends are earnestly rehearsing that the audience may not be disappointed.

—The plant of the Indiana Bent Rug Ladder company, at Indiana, Pa., is busy working on "war" orders and to fill the rush orders the local concern is compelled to work three nights each week for the army have been received and shipments are being made each week to the training camps established in different parts of the country. With requisitions for the various products of the plant in addition to this standing order for coats for the army the company is assured of one of the busiest seasons in its history and in all probability it will be necessary to work extra time continuously for months to come to insure prompt shipments.

A syndicate composed of Howard T. Janney, James B. Graham and Murray C. Leinbach, of Williamsport; James H. Allport, of Barnesboro, and J. M. McKinley, of Curwensville, has just purchased and taken over the George S. Good Fire Brick company operating at Lumber City. The consideration paid was something over \$300,000. The new officers of the company are: Howard T. Janney, president; James H. Allport, vice president; James B. Graham, secretary and treasurer; J. M. McKinley, general manager, and Murray C. Leinbach, general sales manager. The plant of the company is to be greatly improved and the output considerably increased. The refractories interests, headed by Mr. Janney, now control the output of some fifty millions of standard nine-inch or standard nine-inch equivalent fire brick yearly.

—Thomas F. Garrett, son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Garrett, of Windber, who was burned to death at the Edgar Thompson steel plant, Braddock, Thursday morning, lost his life in making an effort to develop his body in order that he might meet the physical requirements of the recruiting officers for the U. S. army. The young man was graduated last year from the University of Pennsylvania. He had been rejected by the recruiting officers at Pittsburgh about two months ago. Notwithstanding this disappointment, he determined to realize his desire and went to work in the mills to build himself up to meet the requirements. In his letters home to his father the young man stated in the hardening of his muscles and stated that he expected to leave the mills within a few days to enlist. The remains were taken to Windber for burial.