

INK SLINGS.

This is the last day of August. Peace rumors are more persistent. Tomorrow the oyster will be in the soup again. Anyway the Kaiser's opinion of the English army has had a good chance to change.

It looks like Germany's new Chancellor, Michaelis, is a very promising candidate for the hook.

Do you realize that everything you are buying has gone up in price except your family newspaper?

It is beginning to look as though there will be no brick highway between Bellefonte and Pleasant Gap this year.

Centre county's corn crop is going to be a bumper one, due to wonderfully favorable weather. The corn is made now.

Hogs are fully exemplifying their names. They want about all the money we've got before converting themselves into bacon and ham for our delectation.

It is suspected that the Vares are bawling Penrose but on the principle that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" the Senator pretends to be fooled.

Our Girls band of Milesburg will probably become a great musical organization if Cupid can be kept from flying between them and our Boys band of the same place.

N. B. Spangler Esq. has been appointed as the man who will carry the appeals for exemption for conscripted men from the local board to the district board. He will represent Provost Marshall General Crowder.

Anyway Viscount Ishii, Japan's special Ambassador to this country, might have been expected to make just such a flowery little speech as he made at Mt. Vernon on Sunday. He came from the Flowery Kingdom.

We have seen Fords shake themselves and go on after being knocked about by almost all other makes of cars but it remained for a cow to put William Grerer's "Lizzie" on the blink out along the Lewistown pike Wednesday evening.

"How old is Ann" was a much easier puzzle for any one to solve than the thin-seam bituminous coal operators have on hand in trying to put coal over their tipples at \$2.00 a ton without losing anywhere from twenty-five to fifty cents on each ton.

If the fable of the cow that jumped over the moon was to have been written in these times she would never have been wearing medals for having cleared a planet such a dinkey little distance from the earth. Beef rises too easily for a 238,000 mile jump to be a feat. A revised version should be: Hey diddle, diddle The cat and the fiddle The cow jumped over Uranus The little dog laughed To see the great sport And the dish has no meat, blame us!

During a recent visit to a number of the most fashionable of the Jersey coast resorts the writer was impressed with the craze for knitting that seemed to have seized most every woman. Old and young alike were knitting as if their lives depended upon it and he said in all truthfulness only one in the thousands we saw was knitting with yarn the color of which indicated that she might have been doing it for a soldier. Being just out of Bellefonte where so many fingers are nimbly expressing their admiration for the boys who are going to the front we couldn't understand why their sisters of the wandering places were all selfishly knitting for themselves.

Just when most people thought Bellefonte was going to go through a local election without even a simmer in the political pot she started boiling all of a sudden. Candidates galore have jumped in and we wouldn't like to venture a guess at what is going to happen. True to its long established precedent the "Watchman" will espouse the cause of no candidate at the primary and will likewise refrain from advocating the election of any of the men who shall be nominated unless it regards them as unfit for the offices they seek. At a local election, in a small community like ours it is presumed that the entire electorate knows quite enough of the individual candidates to require no newspaper assistance in forming their judgment as to which ones would make the best officials in the positions to be filled.

Dr. Samuel Hamill, of Philadelphia, a son of the late Dr. Robert Hamill whose memory is revered in Centre county because of his long and faithful ministry in the Presbyterian church at Lemont, was in town yesterday as advocate for the committee of Public Safety for Pennsylvania in its child welfare work. Dr. Hamill is preparing the way for the accumulation of statistics and the spreading of propaganda that will be of incalculable value to our country of the future. The "Watchman" is heartily in accord with the movement for if it bears any fruit at all it will mean a more rugged, a more perfect man and womanhood in coming generations. The American physique is deteriorating from causes wholly possible of correction and if we are to continue a great people in mind we must continue a great people in body.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 62. BELLEFONTE, PA., AUGUST 31, 1917. NO. 34.

Magee's Hazardous Enterprise.

The resignation of Public Service Commissioner W. A. Magee, of Pittsburgh, continues a subject of mental speculation among politicians. Ten thousand dollars a year is a handsome recompense for the labor which the job entails and Mr. Magee had some years of that fat picking before him. The office of Mayor of Pittsburgh carries a snug salary with it also but it doesn't last as long or afford half the independence and comfort. Of course there was a good and sufficient reason for the action and the problem is to run it down. It is not an easy task but there are plenty willing to give the time and energy to the solution and guessing is an entertaining exercise.

One theory, and it has plausibility to support it, is that Mr. Magee is simply putting himself in training to become the Brumbaugh faction candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor next year. The Vares have entered into a tentative agreement to support Senator W. C. Spraul, of Delaware county, for that nomination but it is generally believed that this was a temporary arrangement to bridge over the coming municipal election in Philadelphia and that when the polls close on the evening of November 6, next, it will be all off. If Penrose will agree to support Bill Vore for Mayor of Philadelphia at the next election for that office the agreement might be renewed. But it is hardly possible for Penrose to do that and the Brumbaugh faction must have a candidate.

No one who knows the man and understands the politics of Pennsylvania will question the availability of Mr. Magee for this emergency. He is simply capable, quite wealthy and not too conscientious. It doesn't require the highest standard of ability to fill the office of Governor and Magee certainly measures up to the level of the present incumbent. But to be the Republican candidate will require vast capacity for dodging and diving and the Pittsburgh Public Service Commissioner is both artful and illusive. He is taking a long chance in his present enterprise, however. If he loses either at the primary or the general election he will be a "dead duck" alike for next year and forever afterward.

The L. W. W. ruffians are not making as much noise as usual now but that fact should not check the pursuit and punishment of them. They are playing possum to distract public attention from their criminal purposes.

The pacifists are beginning to realize how the Tories of this country felt during the War of the Revolution. It is a sad feeling but an eminently fit reward for their mischievous work.

LaFollette's Real Object. Senator LaFollette is probably more anxious to embarrass the administration than he is to put tax burdens upon excess profits, and insisting upon so amending the war tax legislation is the most effective way he can think of to embarrass the administration. Naturally the Senators who draw inspiration from Roosevelt and those inculcated with the virus of Populism are supporting the Wisconsin demagogue in his campaign of embarrassment. But they will not be able to continue the fight much longer. It is expected that a vote on the measure will be taken early next week which will reveal the weakness of the opposition as well as the futility of its efforts.

Every sensible person will agree that the best method of levying tax is upon a basis that will be least burdensome. That is to say tax levies upon those abundantly able to pay cause the least distress. But a tax that is confiscatory, even upon wealth, is unwise for the reason that after the exhaustion of the subject the revenue from the levy would cease. Senator LaFollette's proposition is therefore hazardous. It might have the government without means to carry out enterprises undertaken or contemplated. The excess profits are proper subjects of taxation and they should be taxed heavily. But the levy ought not to be so burdensome as to wipe them out.

The truth is that a greater part of the war expenses ought to be left for posterity to pay. The war is for the safety of posterity and the future will present greater resources and more ability to pay. Since the War of the Rebellion this country has been comparatively free from war expenses. But since the close of that war the resources of the country have been multiplied by many fold. Sources of wealth not dreamed of then are abundant now and presumably the future will uncover other agencies equally potential. Pay as you go is a good motto but there is no necessity for crippling the commerce and industry of the present in order to relieve the future.

Labor is entitled to generous recompense during this period of high prices and big profits. But stopping industrial operations is a poor way to get even what working men are entitled to.

The German Crown Prince was eager for war and now the indications are that the war will deprive him of a crown.

Neither Discrimination Nor Censorship.

The Philadelphia Ledger complains that the government at Washington has been exercising a secret and discriminating censorship upon matter sent to it exclusively from London. The Ledger ought to be grateful that the government hasn't suppressed it altogether, or at least deprived it of the use of the mails. No paper, not even the German language papers, has tried as hard to defeat the purposes of the government. While the President and the State Department were striving to keep out of the war the Ledger was printing almost every day rubbish written by von Meyer, or Reuterdahl, or some other German sympathizer alleging the worthlessness of our navy and helplessness of the country.

If Germany had known the facts this country would not now be involved in the war. But through the misinformation conveyed by the Philadelphia Ledger and other traitorous publications in this country the German Kaiser and cabinet were persuaded that the United States could inflict no serious damage upon Germany even if they did declare war. This misunderstanding of the facts enticed Germany to provoke war and now the Ledger is afraid that the government is interfering with its opportunities to make money out of the war. As a matter of fact the authorities in Washington have not discriminated against the Ledger or any other newspaper. That they have exercised the right to censor is possible.

False reports of the weakness of our navy, the meagerness and poor equipment of our army and the absence of preparation for war generally speaking had more to do with getting us into the war than any other agency. The Kaiser was led to believe that it would be impossible to send a soldier or a ship to Europe inside of two years and the Ledger took a leading part in the perfidious work. We believe in the largest liberty and greatest freedom of the press but the press has no right to take advantage of this traditional policy of the government by making itself an instrument to serve the sinister purposes of the enemies of the country. But for such things there would be no need of censorship.

President Wilson makes clear in his masterful presentation of the case that we are not in war against the people of Germany. The people of Germany have had no voice in creating the war or in the manner of managing it. The people of Germany are not blood-thirsty beasts who desire ruthless murder and savage warfare. But the government of Germany has inaugurated such a system of massacre that the people of the United States cannot consent to an armistice until this cruel spirit of militarism is completely extirpated. This result will be achieved in due time and though at great expense in life and treasure it will be worth the price to humanity in the future.

In one month the heating problem will confront the people of Bellefonte as a stern reality and not the merely nominal question it has been during the hot summer months. Persons who claim to be in a position to know aver very positively that the steam heating plant will be put in operation and those who are still relying on it for heat are naturally anxious to see some preparations started looking toward such a solution of the question. Others, however, and there have been quite a number of them, are not so sanguine over the prospects of the town plant being operated and either have done so already or have arranged for the installation of heating plants of some kind in their own homes and places of business. Notwithstanding the fact that these individual plants have been installed the big majority of the owners would continue using the town steam if the plant is operated and plenty of heat given for an equitable payment, merely keeping their individual plant for use in case of emergency. In this connection, it might be stated, the Lutheran church congregation is planning the purchase of stoves for heating their church and Sunday school room.

A brief item in the "Watchman" last week told of Rev. James P. Hughes' knowledge of the altitude of Bellefonte. At the time the item was written the "Watchman" editor failed to recall the fact that in 1906 when a topographical survey was made of Centre county by the U. S. geological department and the State of Pennsylvania a copper disk was imbedded in the base stone of the south west corner of the court house on which the correct altitude of 809 feet is given. Any person can find it there any time they care to look for it.

The name of John J. Bower Esq., was unintentionally omitted from the list of candidates having filed nomination papers for tax collector published in the "Watchman" last week, and we willingly announce the fact this week. Mr. Bower's entrance into the contest makes just seven candidates after the job, and the job of selecting the right man is now up to the voters.

If the Democrats of Russia fail to establish a government it won't be Kerensky's fault. He has certainly done a grown man's share of the work.

We don't believe that Congressmen are practicing pistol firing in the basement of the capitol. Congressmen fire off nothing but their mouths.

Eight months of 1917 have passed away and we have entered upon the last month of summer.

President Wilson Answers the Pope.

Our allies in the great war for democracy against autocracy, wisely left to President Wilson the important service of replying to the Pope's peace proposition and the President has completely fulfilled the obligation. He reveals a high appreciation of the lofty purposes of his Holiness and the dignity and force in which his hopes for peace were expressed. But with equal force and no less eloquence he presents the futility of a peace predicated upon the status quo ante, which is what the Pope contemplated, for the reason that it would mean nothing more than a temporary armistice to be broken the moment the military spirit of Germany felt able to resume hostilities.

"The object of this war," President Wilson declares, "is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment, controlled by an irresponsible government, which, having secretly planned to dominate the world, proceeded to carry out the plan without regard either to the sacred obligations of treaty or the long established practices and long cherished principles of international action and honor." The restoration of the status quo ante, therefore, would simply mean another attempt in the same direction the moment that recuperation had been accomplished. The people of this country and those of other belligerent countries cannot agree to that.

President Wilson makes clear in his masterful presentation of the case that we are not in war against the people of Germany. The people of Germany have had no voice in creating the war or in the manner of managing it. The people of Germany are not blood-thirsty beasts who desire ruthless murder and savage warfare. But the government of Germany has inaugurated such a system of massacre that the people of the United States cannot consent to an armistice until this cruel spirit of militarism is completely extirpated. This result will be achieved in due time and though at great expense in life and treasure it will be worth the price to humanity in the future.

In one month the heating problem will confront the people of Bellefonte as a stern reality and not the merely nominal question it has been during the hot summer months. Persons who claim to be in a position to know aver very positively that the steam heating plant will be put in operation and those who are still relying on it for heat are naturally anxious to see some preparations started looking toward such a solution of the question. Others, however, and there have been quite a number of them, are not so sanguine over the prospects of the town plant being operated and either have done so already or have arranged for the installation of heating plants of some kind in their own homes and places of business. Notwithstanding the fact that these individual plants have been installed the big majority of the owners would continue using the town steam if the plant is operated and plenty of heat given for an equitable payment, merely keeping their individual plant for use in case of emergency. In this connection, it might be stated, the Lutheran church congregation is planning the purchase of stoves for heating their church and Sunday school room.

A brief item in the "Watchman" last week told of Rev. James P. Hughes' knowledge of the altitude of Bellefonte. At the time the item was written the "Watchman" editor failed to recall the fact that in 1906 when a topographical survey was made of Centre county by the U. S. geological department and the State of Pennsylvania a copper disk was imbedded in the base stone of the south west corner of the court house on which the correct altitude of 809 feet is given. Any person can find it there any time they care to look for it.

The name of John J. Bower Esq., was unintentionally omitted from the list of candidates having filed nomination papers for tax collector published in the "Watchman" last week, and we willingly announce the fact this week. Mr. Bower's entrance into the contest makes just seven candidates after the job, and the job of selecting the right man is now up to the voters.

If the Democrats of Russia fail to establish a government it won't be Kerensky's fault. He has certainly done a grown man's share of the work.

We don't believe that Congressmen are practicing pistol firing in the basement of the capitol. Congressmen fire off nothing but their mouths.

Eight months of 1917 have passed away and we have entered upon the last month of summer.

All's Well—in Spite of Russia.

The prevailing trend of the war news continues highly favorable despite the disappointing news from the Russian front.

There has never been much confidence among the well-informed in the firmness of that front; although there did seem ground for hope that it would be bolstered up sufficiently by the efforts of Kerensky to keep a great many German and Austrian divisions busy and to prevent any extensive further conquest of food-producing Russian territory by the hungry Central Powers. The collapse of the brief Russian counter-offensive in Galicia appears to have been complete, and the situation at Riga is most menacing, while there is reason to fear the early development of an Austro-Bulgarian offensive, under German leadership, from the Rumanian front towards Odessa, on the Black Sea.

But the Germans and Austrians are much too busy and anxious about their west fronts to deal any very powerful blow to so big a thing as Russia. It is 320 miles, as the crow flies, from Riga to Petrograd and lakes, swamps and big rivers lie between, so that the fall of Riga, although menacing to Petrograd would leave time and opportunity for Russian recovery. Meanwhile, however, the internal and political conditions in Russia are evidently so disturbed that there is danger, also, of civil war, so that it is fortunate indeed that the Central Powers are being kept so busy in the west.

That the war would have to be won in the west, and particularly in France, has long seemed evident and the slow progress of the Entente offensive has therefore been depressing in its suggestion of years of warfare and of incalculable sacrifice, and the thorough ruin of all the region where the Germans are being hammered back; but there are multiplying signs of the exhaustion of the enemy who is confronted and discouraged by accumulating evidence of the overwhelming power mustered against him by his own inhuman and defiant policy. The successive great offensives along the Aisne, at Lens, in Flanders and at Verdun may seem to win very little, but they are unquestionably winning.

Finally the failure of the German submarine warfare is now fully demonstrated persistently though it may be continued. We are sending vast quantities of supplies and war material and pushing tremendous plans of ship building so that the determining effect of our participation in the war is becoming self-evident even to the blindest of our foes.

Stirrings in Germany.

The reichstag resolution of last month for peace without annexation and indemnity was neither a solemn comedy nor a flash in the pan. The majority representatives of the German people have not been content with an academic assertion of principle only to sink back into the ancient habits of obedience. Wednesday's debater in the main committee show plainly that the peace resolution was the product of mature and courageous convictions. From the Centre and the Socialists came direct warnings to the stop-gap chancellor that the peace of reconciliation for which the reichstag has voted cannot be interpreted away to suit the plans of the government.

The wallings of the Pan-German press over the menace of the international trade, Socialism, Catholicism and Judaism, is direct confession that the peace stirrings in Germany have not been allayed by Michaelis' cryptic acceptance of the reichstag formula. It may very well be that the appointment of this obscure bureaucrat to a play for time on the part of the ruling powers; that the intention was to wait and see how far the reichstag would insist on the realization of its ideals. If so, the proof that the reichstag is in a serious mood is now at hand; and as a consequence Michaelis is shaky in his high place.

Foreign Secretary von Kuhlmann was right when he spoke of the currents of public opinion that waft across the trenches. Across the Hindenburg line there has drifted int. Germany the allied assertion that peace may be had by a German government truly responsible to popular sentiment.

Chinese as Trench Diggers.

Up to the present time there has been no serious endeavor to utilize Chinese labor in trench digging. And yet China could supply millions of laborers. A Chinaman may be a Chinaman, but a trench is a trench. It does not matter a great deal who builds one, but it matters a whole lot if there is no trench. For that reason it would be to the interest of the allies to have as much of the manual labor connected with the war—and modern war is three parts manual labor—done by Chinese. A coolie from China would make a hand in the trenches and would release one more fighting man for active service. Just why the allies have not availed themselves of China's teeming millions in meeting the labor situation is a question that puzzles a great many observers. There would undoubtedly be labor disturbances if any attempt were made to make the Chinese a part of the working force in any of the recognized home industries in France, Great Britain or the United States. But no such objection could be raised if they were utilized just back of the firing line.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Under a penalty of \$50, beginning September 1, Pennsylvania apples must be as good all through the barrel or other container as those packed on top.

Edward Hause, son of Harry Hause, of Milton, was instantly killed while at work in Labanon Wednesday, where he had been employed for the past seven weeks. He formerly resided at Milton, leaving there about six years ago to live in Danville.

John J. Langenfelder, of Roaring Spring, who has been arrested three times on the charge of operating an automobile while under the influence of liquor, can no longer drive an automobile legally, as he has had his license for the year annulled by the State Highway Department.

James A. Gleason Esq., filed a suit in the probatory office at Clearfield last Friday in which Luck Vetrore seeks to recover \$1,000 damages for injury to her property at Tyler by reason of the turning of a stream of water onto same by Camilla Pirraglia. The case will be tried at September court.

Ira Bayer, of Tyrone, a salesman for Munn & Blackburn, merchandise brokers in the Central Trust company building, Altoona, is confined to the Harrisburg hospital with his wrists slashed and a cut in his side, evidently inflicted with a knife, when he attempted to take his life in a capital city hotel.

The Cambria Freeman, sold some months ago to Albert McConnell, has been resold to Attorneys John H. McCann and Philip N. Shettig, of Ebensburg. Mr. McConnell, who has been conducting the paper, will shortly be called to a military training camp, having been selected in the recent draft. He claimed no exemption.

Ex-Judge John W. Bittiger, eighty-two years old, died at his home in York on Monday evening after a three week's sickness with chronic nephritis. He served on the York county bench twenty-one years, having first been appointed to the office in 1890 by Governor Beaver to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge John Gibson. He was elected twice to the office by the Democratic party.

John Dreese, of Kissimmee, a village west of Middleburg, Snyder county, was maimed for life in a fall of brick at the Paxtonville brick plant late Tuesday afternoon, when his right hand and arm were smashed almost to the elbow. Dreese, with a number of workmen, was removing brick from one of the large kilns, and was just in the act of picking up bricks when the slide occurred, catching his right hand.

Fire Marshal T. G. Ryan, of Danville, on Tuesday secured a confession from Thomas Carter, aged 12, that he had set fire to the wagon and hay sheds on the farm of E. B. Evans, near Thompsonston. The lad's 14 year old brother had confessed to burning the barn on this farm some time before, and Thomas used the match to get even with Evans for sending his brother to jail. The boy is held for juvenile court.

An epidemic of hog cholera has broken out in Northern Cambria county and farmers through that section have visions of the loss of hundreds of dollars. Hogs are selling on the markets at \$17 per hundred weight and in anticipation of the high price more were raised this summer than in previous years. The cholera is said to have killed many hogs already and is spreading rapidly despite the efforts of the farmers to check the disease.

With farm labor scarce, Benjamin Lohr, seventy-seven years old, of Pine township, Northumberland county, "did his bit" for the government last Thursday and lost his life as the result. The old man was in the barn loft throwing back sheaves of oats being unloaded from a wagon. He lost his balance, fell to the barn floor and fractured his shoulder blade, several of his ribs, and suffered internal injuries. He died within twenty-four hours.

Repairmen have been put at work at the Emporium gunnecott plant, which is the most encouraging sign since the plant went into the hands of receivers several months ago. It is said that only a part of the plant will be used and that pyroclon, instead of gunnecott, will be manufactured. This was made necessary on account of the fire at the Indiana plant. From fifty to one hundred men are to be employed, according to the word that has been passed around.

Henrich Grove, a German who had about completed a two years' term in the Huntingdon Reformatory for house breaking and theft, was taken in charge by officials and placed in the Huntingdon county jail several weeks ago, but made his escape last Friday night in the absence of the sheriff or any guard to look after the care of the jail. Grove was a young German of a fine educational make-up. The U. S. marshal with his deputies are now in search of the prisoner.

W. J. Webb, a salesman employed by a burial lot concern at Somerset, Pa., was on Tuesday held in \$2,000 bail for court by United States Commissioner Long, of Philadelphia, under the espionage act. Webb was arrested by postal inspectors as the result of complaints that he had sent through the mails to men selected in Philadelphia for the national army, circular matter urging them to purchase burial lots in the company's cemetery. Relatives of chosen registrants protested.

A few months ago, under sentence to be electrocuted for complicity in the murder of his father, Ernest Haines is today a free man. A jury in the re-trial of his case, after ninety hours of deliberation, reported a verdict of "not guilty" shortly before noon last Friday. The case went to the jury on Tuesday. Convicted in the first trial, Haines' case was appealed to the Governor and a campaign seeking the abolition of capital punishment in Pennsylvania resulted. Finally a new trial was secured. Ward Motter is now under sentence for the actual killing of the elder Haines, the date of his execution being set for September 10. He is endeavoring to secure a re-trial.

By a fall of rock in the Rich Hill mine, near Hastings, Cambria county, on Saturday, Howard Bradley was killed instantly and Michael Angelo and his brother, Joseph, were injured. Joseph Angelo is a patient in the Miner's hospital of Spangler, suffering from a fracture of the pelvis and is expected to recover. Michael Angelo is at his home in Hastings nursing several bruises about the body but no broken bones. The fall of rock broke Bradley's neck and he died before assistance could reach him. Joseph Angelo was not under the direct fall but rushed to the rescue of his fellow-workmen and received minor injuries. Other workmen completed the rescue of the three.