

INK SLINGS.

Next week the Granger's picnic. Let there be no let-up. Are you still doing your bit? The frost came pretty near getting on the pumpkin on Tuesday morning. Plenty of \$2 wheat can be bought but we have yet to hear of coal having been bought for \$2. The first year of the war is to cost us eleven billion dollars. That's going some, but Uncle Sam always was a good spender. Remember that there are only one hundred and seven days until Christmas. Look after the shopping for that occasion early. Anyway if the Germans do conquer Russia they will be kept so busy keeping it conquered that the victory will avail them nothing. \$2.20 per bushel has been fixed as the price for the 1917 wheat crop. At this rate it will not be long until the farmers will be using Pierce-Arrows instead of Fords. What Germany couldn't do for the United States she has done for the Argentine. A sure sign that she realizes that she has taken on all the trouble she cares to have. Potatoes are selling at ninety cents the bushel in parts of Centre county and they will be lower. How easy it is to reduce the high cost of living when everybody turns in and helps a bit. Denny O'Neil, the new State Highway Commissioner, has long been making a noise in politics like a man who could do something if the chance were given him. Now he has the chance and it's up to him. Our Allies made light of President Wilson's notes a year or so ago. Now they have concluded that they will let the last one he has written to Pope Benedict be their reply to His Holiness because they admit their inability to improve upon it. Seventy thousand church bells have already been smelted into munitions of war in Prussia. So far as the appeal they carry to a lot of people is concerned there are seven bells in Bellefonte that might as well be melted and run into bronze bushings for automobiles. This week the other papers of Centre county will tell you who the first six men who were called for our quota to the new national army are. The "Watchman" told you who they were last week. It is always about seven days ahead when it comes to real news announcements. One American soldier in the French foreign legion has, single-handed, captured thirty Germans. Why at that rate Uncle Sam could send his new national army over there equipped with nothing more than salt shakers and they'll catch everything in Germany old enough to carry a gun. The capture of the Gulf of Riga by the Germans will afford them another naval base in the Baltic. It may prove of little advantage to the captors, however, because it will soon be closed by ice and before it is open again the Germans will probably be so nearly licked that they will have no use for it. Up to this moment we have neglected calling attention to the fact that "Priscilla," the "Watchman's" pet petess, is again feeling the tickle of the muse. We are hoping that she will get down to business again and supply us with a regular contribution of the same charming verse that made her so interesting a year or more ago. There was an increase of forty per cent in the number of cigarettes smoked in this country last year. There were ninety cigars per capita and twenty-six millions more gallons of distilled spirits disposed of than the year previous. The States that have gone dry have evidently been driving the wet States to drink all the harder. Both W. Harrison Walker and Edmund Blanchard seem to be as serious in their desires to be the next burgess of Bellefonte as if there were a salary of \$10,000.00, "with pickings" attached to the office. It's queer that neither one of them realizes that especially now "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." We are all getting so foreign in our alliances and our ideas that we might force the next burgess to abdicate, just to show that the Russians and the Greeks have nothing on Bellefonte. And Harrison and Ned would both get cold feet in Siberia. An automobile law that fines a man for drawing another vehicle behind his licensed automobile, when he does not pull "trailers" in a regular commercial business, is all wrong. And right here is a matter that the Hon. Harry Scott might do well to have corrected by the next Legislature. Companies and individuals who operate machines with "trailers" probably should be required to secure a license for the "trailer" but to require a farmer to have a license tag on his hay wagon before he can draw it over a public road with an automobile, should necessitate a rise, is ridiculous and the law contemplated any such requirement, even though it is so construed by officers of the state constabulary.

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Pope Benedict Will Try Again.

There are rumors current that Pope Benedict has in mind another appeal for peace. The reply of President Wilson to his last note on the subject, according to gossip, encourages him to hope that expressed in a different form, his proposal might be favorably considered by the belligerent enemies of Germany. It is not easy to see how he has arrived at that conclusion. The President made it particularly plain that no proposition involving casus belli ante will be acceptable to the government or people of the United States. The allies of this government have certainly given no reason to imagine that they will be of a different mind. They have not spoken officially but unofficially have endorsed the President's position most cordially. Neither the people nor the government of the United States are in the war for reprisals or conquest. We believe that the government of Great Britain is equally free from selfish or vindictive purposes. France may have in mind to claim a restoration of territory taken from her by Germany after the war of 1870. Italy may demand the restoration of Trieste and Greece is likely to insist on the return of territory seized by Bulgaria after the Balkan war. But the government of the United States has nothing to do with such questions. It has to do, however, with the maintenance of democracy wherever it has been established and the restoration of conditions as they existed before the present war begun would defeat that result because it would ultimately establish autocracy. The purposes of Pope Benedict are admirable and amiable. He wants to stop the waste of life and treasure, which is repugnant to his christian spirit and inclination. For this he is to be commended in the most generous way. But it is a waste of his valuable time and mental energy to propose terms of peace unless he is commissioned by the German people to speak for them under circumstances which will guarantee fidelity to any obligations assumed. The German autocracy is irresponsible, insincere and untrustworthy. A treaty with it would be a scrap of paper made absolutely valueless because it would be tainted, and no candid people can afford to deal with it. Therefore the benevolent head of the Catholic church may as well abandon his idea of another note.

If von Hindenburg will put his ear to the ground he may get a new idea or two as the troop trains travel from point to point in this land of liberty and abundance. Popular enthusiasm makes a loud noise. Suspicions Greatly Strengthened. The appointment of J. Denny O'Neil to the office of Highway Commissioner strengthens, if it does not actually confirm, the suspicion that W. E. Magee is to be the Brumbaugh-Vare candidate for Governor next year. The vacancy in the office was created by the enforced resignation of Commissioner Black who refused to play politics. Mr. O'Neil will not disappoint the expectations of his masters in that respect. He plays politics consistently with everything and at all times. No man in the service of the department will be permitted to escape the partisan tasks which will be imposed upon him. It will always be a case of "bring home the bacon or get out."

Mr. O'Neil will probably be a fairly efficient Highway Commissioner. But he will make all interests subservient to those of the party machine of which he is now an important part. He knows nothing about road construction, has had no experience in the managing of such enterprises. But he is a past master in political intrigue and manipulation and every mile of road constructed under his administration will be made to produce its quota of votes for the Brumbaugh-Vare party machine. The road beds may be wretched, the materials used in construction faulty and the expense high. But the Brumbaugh-Vare faction will increase in strength throughout the State in the precise ratio of miles of road repaired or built. Of Mr. O'Neil's successor in the office of Insurance Commissioner little can be said because little is known. He has been a favored contractor in and near Philadelphia for some years and was defeated for the nomination for Auditor General mainly for the reason that many voters declared and believed that he would use the office to promote his personal interests as a contractor in State work. Of course he can't do much in that direction in the office of Insurance Commissioner but may be depended upon to do the best he can. As a late distinguished Statesman said on another occasion, "he will be no dead-head in the enterprise." He will take care of himself.

The slackers are not the worst people in the world, though bad enough. There are also traitors.

Cheating the Kaiser.

The German Kaiser ought to soon see that Senator LaFollette and those German sympathizers who are associated with him in the work of delaying essential war legislation can do him little, if any, good, and that whatever money he is paying them is wasted. The highest vote he could summon to his perfidious purpose yesterday was twenty. His first scheme was to fix the excess profit tax at seventy per cent, and he was defeated. Then he dropped down to sixty-five, with the same result. But he delayed the passage of the measure some. By working his scheme vigorously he may consume a week or two in this way while Germany is gaining on the Russian front and recapturing on the western line of battle.

We all agree that excess profits obtained through the war ought to pay a big share of the expenses of the war. But delay in passing necessary war legislation is adding to the cost of the war more than the excess profits amount to. Therefore the wise policy would be to pass the pending legislation promptly to prove unanimity of sentiment, and later, next year for example, enact new legislation to increase the tax on excess profits. There will be plenty of time to tackle the profit proposition before the war ends. If necessary the profits can be absorbed and the plants taken. The present and pressing duty, however, is to provide funds, needed immediately, to pay expenses.

The sooner the preparations for engaging actively in the war by the United States are completed, the sooner the war will be over. By a party of reasoning the longer this work is delayed the higher the cost of the war. This year it is estimated \$11,000,000,000 will be our share of the expense. Next year it will cost us vastly more. The duty is, therefore, to stop it as soon as possible and the way to stop it is to show the world that the American people are in it cordially and as a unit. This country will finish the fight and win the victory and there is no use in delaying the process. Mr. LaFollette and his fellow conspirators are cheating the Kaiser.

The price of coal to consumers has not been reduced since the recent survey and order for decrease at the mines. But dealers who are maintaining high prices will be brought to terms before long.

Error of a Southern Judge.

That Southern Federal judge who declared the Congressional Child Labor law unconstitutional because it infringes on the right of States to regulate police powers, drew too fine a line. If the law had declared that no boy or girl under fifteen years of age shall be employed, or that no person of that age shall work more than eight hours a day, there would have been cause of complaint upon the ground stated in the judge's opinion. But the law simply declares in substance that no goods made in an establishment in which persons under a stipulated age are employed shall be carried under the regulations of interstate commerce and such legislation is clearly within the right of Congress. Half a century ago, probably, Congress would not have thought of cutting so closely to the line which divides interstate from intrastate commerce. But since the creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission one advance after another has been made until now by legislation and judicial declaration almost anything in the way of regulation is under sanction, if the commerce is from one State to another. Under the legislation in question a producer who sells only in the community in which his factory or mill is located, may make his own working conditions, in the absence of State or local legislation. But if he violates the act of Congress forbidding the employment of operatives under a defined age, he is excluded from interstate commerce or penalized.

Some Southern judges like some Southern Congressmen are behind the living in the atmosphere of the period before the Civil war, but their opinions will not check the march of progress or the advance of civilization. Kerensky will either be a martyr to patriotism or a saviour of his country and at this distance and from this angle it is hard to determine which role he is destined to act.

Incentive to Democratic Voters.

The meager registration in cities of the third class on the two first days indicate an unusual apathy on the part of voters in that class of communities. According to the best information attainable less than fifty per cent. of voters registered during the first two registration days in those cities. Usually nearly that proportion register on the first day and more than half the remainder attend to the duty on the second day, leaving only a small ratio to be taken care of on the last day, which this year will be on the 16th of this month, a week from tomorrow. The failure to register means a small vote in the cities in which the Republican majorities are great.

Possibly interest in the war movements accounts for this indifference to qualifying on the part of the voters. Many of the voters are in the instruction camps, others have enlisted and fathers and brothers of soldiers are giving attention to matters concerning the welfare of their soldier friends. But whatever the cause the fact that a light vote is promised at the coming election in the cities is revealed and there are poor prospects of changing the conditions. There are no State officers to elect, which might have some influence on the situation, but judicial and local contests will be effected by the light vote and personal interest in such contests might have increased the registration.

"It's an ill wind that blows good for nobody," and in the meager registration in the cities there is a chance for the rural voters to exercise a greater influence in the selection of officers. The Democrats in the rural districts should be especially encouraged by the prospects of a small city vote. The Republican majorities are mainly in the cities. Take away the majority of that party in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and the State would be close if not actually Democratic. Take away the Republican majorities in the lesser cities and several counties now Republican would give Democratic majorities. This should afford an incentive to Democratic voters and we hope for corresponding results.

The Pennsylvania State College will open for the 1917-18 school year on Wednesday of next week, and the college authorities state that up to the present time a Freshman class of six hundred has been enrolled. This number about equals the Freshman class of the past two years and the only falling off there may be in the attendance at college will be those members of last year's Junior, Sophomore and Freshman classes who may have enlisted for service in some branch of the army or gone to work in some of the industrial plants turning out material for the government, and what percentage of the usual total attendance this will amount to cannot be told until the final registration day.

The hunting season opened on Saturday, September first, but the kind of game that came in season is not likely to cause any big rush for hunters' licenses in Centre county. The season opened for raccoon, blackbirds, rail and reed birds, and while 'coons are quite plentiful in some portions of the county the season is yet too warm to either hunt them or eat them. The season for squirrel, quail, pheasant and woodcock will not open until October 20th this year, but it will be lawful to kill bear on and after October 15th.

Labor day in Bellefonte was a very quiet affair but it evidently proved too much for most of the Bellefonte councilmen, as only two of them reported for the regular meeting on Monday evening, and as two members do not constitute a quorum, no meeting was held. Of course, there was no pressing business on the slate and as the secretary has authority to pay all labor bills and salaries it did not inconvenience anybody.

Mr. Gerard says that the Germans have hated Americans intensely ever since the beginning of the war. It is a safe bet that since the Kaiser read the President's reply to the Pope the hatred has not diminished in one household.

The Socialist conference at Stockholm has been called off. Those concerned in the movement couldn't find enough crazy men with money to pay expenses in the whole world to make a conference.

Probably the defective cart-ridges were the result of an unavoidable accident but some accidents are worse than crimes and the cause of this one ought to be uncovered.

Of course Bethman-Hollweg denies everything asserted by Gerard but Teutonic reputation for veracity doesn't stand high anywhere.

We are getting onto the German idea. They yield a point in order to get a chance to try to get it back.

Our Country is Doing Things.

When we entered the war, it was pretty generally observed that our weight would tell first and decisively in the shape of products and manufactures; not only food and war material but railroad equipment and ships. There is daily evidence that the industrial forces of this country are making tremendous progress towards the winning of this war. For example, there is an announcement today that the Baldwin Locomotive Works that they are now employing, in their various departments, twenty-five thousand men and last week made a record of nine big locomotives a day. Only a couple of years ago, this greatest of locomotive building concerns pointed with pride to a new record of thirty locomotives in one month. The Baldwin company has been working under strong government pressure to complete an order for 764 locomotives for use abroad—presumably in France. Other plants are being pushed with equal vigor and it may be assumed that many of the engines are destined for Russia, which has been begging for locomotives.

Similar conditions and achievements might be reported from a great many big manufacturing plants, but all of this production must wait upon the solution of the ocean transport problem—the building of ships and their safeguarding from submarine attack.

That problem also is being worked out with furious energy but due consideration. There are many things being done that need not be talked about, for with a little patience they will talk for themselves. This is not the time for boasting, but for doing; yet it is well to cheer ourselves with well grounded assurances that the things that are being done will soon begin to tell. And let it be noted that labor and big business, working together with vigor and patriotism, are doing things. That the industrial slackers of all types are few and are justly held contemptible. This is a supreme effort of a great industrial democracy, educated, alert and aggressive.

Wastes in Food.

If the wastes charged up to faults in shipping methods and temporary faults in transportation increase in ratio to the additional weight thrown upon the railroads by the extraordinary drafts official alertness may find in them a profitable field for watchful recovery of values. In the absence of comprehensive statements covering more than local marketing and consumption areas it is impossible to even estimate with accuracy what the tonnage of waste in farm products amounts to in the national aggregate, but basing any guess upon known figures for a given locality the total is certain to be enormous.

Instances are not rare of trainloads or of a number of cars of a train loaded with farm products arriving in such an unsatisfactory condition that commission merchants refuse to receive them or have defective portions sorted out and removed because of the expense. The railroads likewise refuse to make a sorting because the marketable remainder might not be sufficient to meet freight bills to which would be added the expense of sorting. In such cases, in some large cities, the matter then is automatically presented to the health department if one exists, and cases have been reported in which 70 per cent. of rejected shipments were found perfectly good and were distributed among the very poor. In these cases the farmers get nothing for their time, labor and seed, and the railroads get nothing for the hauling, which complicates the question of waste. It is possible that if all the waste and loss between producer and shipping terminals could be eliminated the difference in market prices to consumers would be appreciable. Perhaps if this single item of waste were removed the lesser instances in individual kitchens would have a far less serious aspect even in a time like the present.

Modern Magic in Money Making.

A gentleman in Chicago testified recently that he had made something like \$10,000,000 this year in dealing in wheat. He admitted that he had not owned a bushel of wheat; that he had never so much as seen a bushel of the grain, and he had neither asked for the delivery of a bushel nor had delivered a bushel. Yet he "bought" millions of bushels and "sold" the same amount. He had performed no useful function; he had not assisted in growing a crop nor distributing it. Yet he had made \$10,000,000 and had the money. Somebody paid the money—somebody had to produce it through labor or service. It came out of somebody's pocket and it did not go into the pockets of those who had grown the wheat or assisted in distributing it. It is one of the marvels of civilization that such things are possible; that we have done so many wonderful things in working out reforms and making living conditions better, but have not adjusted our affairs so that such practices have been rendered impossible. It does not answer anything to state that almost any man would have come exactly what the Chicago man did if he had believed he could make \$10,000,000. It does not refute the statement that we are still working along the very crudest lines when we tolerate such practices.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Two hundred thousand dollars, the largest sum of money ever distributed in wages for a two-week period by any concern in the history of DuBois, was paid to the men employed by the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh railroad on Saturday.

The Monongahela railroad has awarded a contract to the Roberts & Schaefer company of Chicago, for the construction of a combined 500-ton concrete, three-track coaling plant, electric cinder handling plant, and a "Rand S" gravity and sand plant, all of concrete, to be erected immediately at Brownsville, Pa.

Two men were burned to death near Williamsport on Monday when lightning ignited a barn in which they sought shelter from a thunder storm. They were Edward Poust, 35 years old, and George Eichenlaub, 40 years of age, both living near Hughesville. Eichenlaub's wife was badly burned in an attempt to rescue her husband.

The State Highway Department has laid over for study the bills received for fourteen road contracts. On eight contracts there was but one bidder each and on the work in East Bethlehem township, Washington county, there were no bids. There were six bidders for work in Lackawanna county, three for McKean, two for Dauphin, Lehigh, Butler and Cambria county work.

Harry Richardson, a West Bradford, Delaware county, farmer shot his best calf a few days ago in mistake for a groundhog. The calf was really a handsome weighing 700 pounds, but it was still following its mother at the time. Richardson was hunting for groundhogs when he noted the nose of what he supposed was that of a woodchuck protruding from a thicket and he shot with his rifle. The calf was hit and fatally wounded.

Ludwig Novadosky, a foreigner residing near Ramey, was taken to the Clearfield county home on Wednesday, August 29th, in a demented condition, preparatory to being sent to the Warren asylum. Early the next morning, in the temporary absence of the nurse, Novadosky committed suicide by fastening his belt around his neck and hanging himself to a nail in the wall. He was aged 45 years and leaves a wife and four children.

Two men were drowned in their bunks aboard a dredge which sunk at the Philadelphia navy yard on Monday. Forty-eight other workmen, employed by A. H. Taylor, a New York contractor, escaped a similar fate when they were awakened by the rush of water and swam ashore. The dredge was used in the construction of a new drydock. A member of the contracting firm said the dredge was in good condition the night previous.

Acute shortage in the labor market at Sunbury is being met in an unusual way in the building of the new \$50,000 St. John's Methodist church, Rev. John H. Daugherty, pastor. Across the street from the thumberland county prison, with fifty idle convicts. By arrangement with Warden Barr the more trusted ones are allowed to work on the job, eating and sleeping at the jail, and in this manner the work can be pushed. The men are allowed \$2.50 a day, the same as is paid to other workmen, and they have done satisfactory work, according to the boss.

Lightning caused probably \$900 worth of damages at the First Presbyterian church in Milton on Sunday afternoon. Twenty holes were knocked in the slate roof, some of them a foot in diameter, while in the steeple heavy wooden posts or uprights were torn off, as clean as though they had been broken with an axe. Some of the weather boarding was also torn off. According to Pastor Brinkema not a sign of any fire was to be found. Persons standing on porches in the vicinity declare the crash was terrific and that it sounded like two trains coming together. The damage will be repaired at once.

A week ago last Sunday Nant-y-Glo baseball players before a friendly justice paid a \$2 fine for playing ball on the Sabbath. Anti-Sunday baseball crusaders, not satisfied took the case to Squire Waters, of Ebensburg, who held the players for court. Friday the Rev. H. M. Davies, of Nant-y-Glo, hurrying by automobile to the county seat to see that Squire Waters did his full duty, was nabbed by Burgess Kneeb, of Ebensburg, for speeding. The minister was fined \$10 and costs. The baseball case will be fought in court, the players insisting that blue law advocates went half a mile from their homes to have their Sabbath peace and quiet.

Beginning Tuesday, September 11th, and continuing until Thursday, September 13th, the State Council of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, will meet in Clearfield. Several hundred delegates from all over Pennsylvania will be in attendance. A large number of the members of Good Will Council expect to attend the sessions on Wednesday, September 12th. On Thursday evening, September 13th, the State officers and many of the Juniors from different parts of the State will be entertained by the local Council. Friday evening, September 14th, the Altoona Council will entertain and initiate a class of candidates, many of the Tyrone team helping with the military work.

Effective September 1st, all closed packages containing apples grown in the State must show in plain letters and figures the name and address of the person by whose authority the apples were packed, true name of the variety and the minimum size, and numerical count of the fruit in the package. The conditions are imposed by the Pennsylvania Packing law which was passed by the last Legislature and are aimed to secure a uniformity in packing and prevent deception. The face or exposed side of the boxes shall represent the average character of fruit contained and any person violating the act in any particular is liable to a fine of fifty dollars for first offense and one hundred for all subsequent offenses.

Eighteen persons were arrested after lightning had killed two people participating in a party at Ellsworth, Lancaster county, on Labor day. The merry-makers were playing games when the lightning flashed from a clear sky, and killed John Smith, of Bentleyville, and Michael Simon, of Maryanna, and slightly shocked the other eighteen occupants of the house. With two dead men in their midst a number of foreigners picked up the bodies, carried them to the rear of the yard and then called upon the other persons to aid in digging a grave, which was quickly done, and the bodies interred. The party games were then resumed. Mentioning a nearby resident, seeing the imprudent burial, summoned Dr. A. E. Kanner, and he, with Constable James Gilmore, went to the scene and arrested all the occupants of the house.