

INK SLINGS.

—Yesterday was an ideal fall day, —Centre county evidently has one slacker to round up. —Centre county gave her first quota of conscripts a real send off on Tuesday night. —Wouldn't it be fine if all of Centre county's 116 conscripts could be kept together in one company of the new national army.

—The primaries are over and the fight is on. Go to it, candidates. The office rarely seeks the man. If it did there would be no such fable as the early bird and the worm.

—Letters from our gallant troopers now in camp in the Southland indicate that the lunch boxes with which the women fortified them before they left were about the best ever.

—Now that the primaries are over let us get the potatoes raised, the corn cut and husked and get ready for the deer hunting camp before we get so excited over the local elections that we forget all about the really worth while things.

—The days of miracles can scarcely be said to be over when the Democratic aspirant for Burgess nearly crowds his way onto the Republican ticket in Bellefonte and the Republican aspirant returns the compliment by almost running away with the Democratic nomination.

—We fancy that what seemed destined to be a milk and water campaign for local offices in Bellefonte in November took an entirely different character as a result of Wednesday's primary. In the language of the poet the point has been reached where friendship ceases.

—One farmer in the vicinity of Bellefonte reports a yield of over three hundred bushels of potatoes from about an acre of ground. While this is very unusual it is indicative of a prolific crop in Centre county which none of us should forget on the twenty-ninth day of next November.

—In the eyes of the Clearfield people who were present the only "fly in the ointment" at the rather pretentious formal opening of Congressman Rowland's new theatre in Philipsburg, on Wednesday night, was the announcement to the world, in the souvenir program, that Philipsburg "is in reality the metropolis of the Clearfield region."

—As a result of a libel suit tried before him while sitting specially in Cambria county last week, Judge Quigley handed down an opinion of far-reaching importance to newspapers. His interpretation of law is quite at variance with opinions already handed down and we trust it will stand for it is certainly predicated on sound, common sense.

—Since Lord Northcliff, the great dynamic force in English statesmanship, has publicly confessed that he is bewildered by the rapidity with which America brings to completion the most stupendous undertakings, it is a pity that we can't get the Kaiser over here to have a look. If he could see some of the things that have astounded Britains special Commissioner surely he would change his mind as to what Uncle Sam may be expected to do.

—It was with a sense of personal satisfaction that the writer observed that the very member of the state constabulary who hauled him before a justice a week or more ago for operating a Ford from which a license tag was missing without his knowledge, was the only one of the three officers on duty while the parade was forming for the demonstration in honor of Centre county's conscripts, who failed to salute as Our Girls band finished the last bar of the national anthem. We naturally expected that an officer who splits hairs in the interpretation of his duty when on the road would come across in real form when on parade.

—If Governor Brumbaugh is looking for a man whose military record is worth while, who is a natural born commander, who has the physique and temperament to make a great Adjutant General for Pennsylvania let him take Col. Hugh S. Taylor, of Bellefonte, into consideration. Here is a man accustomed to command men who loves his country so much that he has given three of his sons to it and has been trying to fight his own way into the army ever since the first call for volunteers advanced him from private to a colonel in the National Guard why should not that, plus equipment in every other essential, advance him from colonel to Adjutant General?

—Did you notice the Red Cross division in the parade Tuesday night. Right in that company of pure white was the real spirit that will make our country win the world war for Democracy. There were mothers who have given sons, sisters who have given brothers and girls who have given lovers and all of them have given of their time and energies so unstintingly in every field of work that is open to them that we men would bow our heads in shame were a comparative view of our efforts to be flashed on a screen in front of us. As the "Watchman" has often declared, nothing really good could exist were it not for woman and how fortunate it is for our country that God made those who must suffer the most poignant sorrows from war so courageous, so willing, so good.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Russia is a Republic.

In proclaiming a republican form of government for Russia Premier Kerensky has taken an advance step, the wisdom of which is left to conjecture. The socialist element of the population is radical as well as irresponsible, and is likely to yield reluctantly to the restraints that are essential to the success of democracy. Possibly this danger is more imaginary than real and confronted by the obligations of patriotism the conflicting elements may be brought into some sort of harmony. But usually in such circumstances the iron fist is the only instrument that is effective and such weapons are unavailable in a Republican form of government.

The government which has obtained in Russia since the dethronement of Czar Nicholas was much like democracy though there has been in reserve but obvious sufficient autocracy to invoke drastic action when necessary. Happily Kerensky has employed this reserve power with moderation and only under the spur of necessity. If his ambition had been greater than his patriotism a different result might have ensued. In a democracy no such expedients will be possible. The spirit of democracy, in the absence of experience, will resent even the appearance of usurpation and the exercise of force might provoke revolt. At best it is a dangerous situation.

All that is left is for us to hope for the best. There are many very able and patriotic men in Russia and the saving grace of conservatism may serve the purpose of maintaining order and exercising authority until the new government has been completely established. In that event a republican government though created by the mandate of an individual may endure and the act of Kerensky be made the beginning of the end of autocracy throughout the whole world. If Russia withstands the turbulence of a beginning and establishes a stable democracy German autocracy will soon disappear. Russia has entered upon an experiment but one that was worth while.

—The results of the primary elections throughout the State may not be known definitely for a day or two but it can be safely said that Pittsburgh made a record in electoral corruption on Wednesday.

Submarine Scare a Hoax.

The report of the operations of a German submarine one hundred miles or so off our Atlantic coast may be dismissed as a false alarm. Last Sunday's papers told this story in more or less perfunctory periods and threw a scare into every community on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. An S O S call indicating shell fire from one of these murdering monsters was heard by two ships, the report declared, and confirmed by a shore wireless station but neither of them was able to fix the point of the operation nearer than "about sixty miles east of Nantucket" and the time "about eight o'clock Saturday morning." The identity of the victim is left in equal obscurity.

A day later, in less conspicuous form, the result of an investigation instituted by the Navy Department at Washington, was published. The Department is satisfied, so the story goes, "that the message which was supposed to have reported the submarine's presence was actually sent to a naval shore station by a patrol boat practicing north of Nantucket." Such a message, according to experts, "could easily be confused with the alleged distress radio which the merchantman picked up from the air." The only comment permissible in the circumstances is that radio operatives should be more careful. Some of us are more or less subject to heart disease and shocks are damaging to the nerves.

As a matter of fact there is little, if any, danger of hostile submarine operations on the American side of the ocean so long as the coasts are clear of supply stations. It has been proved that it is possible to cross the sea in a submarine from the Deutschland made two trips as a merchantman. But it has not been demonstrated that an undersea craft may cross the ocean, carry about for a time and get back without a period of rest and an opportunity to renew its supplies. It has been suspected that there were U-boat stations in South America but the suspicions were not confirmed and until they are we shall decline to go into conniption fits on rumors of such dangers.

—A German general has offered a reward for the first American soldier brought to him dead or alive. He is likely to offer twice as much to keep American soldiers out of range of him before a year.

—Austria is wabbling in its walk as the Emperor of that unfortunate country was wabbling when the war began and unless something is done in the near future to avert it, the empire will follow him to its grave.

Shunk Brown Becomes Sarcastic.

Attorney General Shunk Brown revealed a vast reservoir of sarcasm, to the Dauphin county court the other day, when he said that the action of the State Senate in refusing to confirm the nominations of certain officials "was conceived in sin and crime." We are compelled to "own the soft impeachment." There are a good many officials on the Hill infinitely less deserving of public confidence than those thus discriminated against. He was equally accurate when he declared that "the court ought to know the atmosphere surrounding conditions at the Capitol." Both judges addressed having served in the Legislature and one of them having tried the Capitol grafters, they probably knew something of it.

The rejected officials were not appointed because of fitness for the service and they were not rejected on account of unfitness. They were appointed as a reward for supporting Governor Brumbaugh's preposterous ambition to become the Republican candidate for President last year and rejected for precisely the same reason. The questions of ability, integrity or adaptability for the service were never considered in the matter. If they had been devils Brumbaugh would have appointed them and if they had been angels the Senate would have rejected them. The atmosphere of the Hill is simply the atmosphere of a pirate rendezvous. In the case in point it was plainly a question of "dog eat dog."

But neither the sarcasm of the Attorney General nor his statement of fact that the plan to reject the men "was conceived in hate and sin as to one and in crime as to the others," is pertinent to the issue. The fact is that the organic law of the State requires "the advice and consent of the Senate" to an appointment and this essential endorsement was not given. For that reason the subsequent appointment, made for the obvious purpose of evading the constitutional inhibition, is invalid and the officials claiming under such a commission are intruders and usurpers. Shunk Brown didn't deny this because he couldn't and his failure to do so made his sarcasm flat and unprofitable.

—The editors of the German language newspapers in Philadelphia, who have been indicted for treason may get off with a sentence less than death but the punishment will be severe enough to make them careful in the future.

Plucking Poor Old Pennsylvania.

Auditor General Snyder is now giving the people of Chester county, a sample of those of other counties, a profitable of the machine system of extracting money from their pockets in order to pay unearned bounties to party favorites. During the last session of the Legislature a law was passed requiring Registers of Wills to collect direct inheritance taxes for the use of the State. The Register of Wills of Chester county, in preparation to fulfill this obligation, arranged his office force so as to make the collection with as small expense to the State as possible. But the Auditor General has appointed two new clerks, "practical men," suggested by Senator Eyre at a salary of \$2500 each annually.

This direct inheritance tax is a war measure and was expected to produce revenues to the amount of \$11,000,000, "for necessary war expenditures." The scheme of Auditor General Snyder and Senator Eyre to bill the two political "lame ducks" upon the Register of Wills of Chester county, will diminish the returns for that county by \$6000 annually and presumably in the same ratio in every other county. It may safely be estimated, therefore, that a couple of hundred thousand dollars intended for war expenditures will be used as a political graft fund and be placed in the hands of "practical men" chosen by the local party managers in the several counties, without reason and frequently under protest.

It would be hard to imagine a more flagrant robbery of the public treasury or a more despicable perversion of a sacred fund intended for patriotic purposes. But it is the Republican machine method and whether one faction or the other of that band of pirates is in control the result is the same. Brumbaugh or Penrose, Vare or Eyre, Shunk Brown or Auditor General Snyder look alike from the angle of honest government. They are after the stuff and political principles have no place in fixing their party alignment. Poor old Pennsylvania is their helpless victim to pluck as long as the voters of the State will permit them to exercise their burglary inclinations. How long this will be depends.

—Speaking of nerve what can be said of Governor Brumbaugh censuring the draft officials for neglecting their duty.

—In Philadelphia it is a government of the Contractors, for the Contractors and by the Contractors.

Kaiser William is Understood.

In his book entitled "My Four Years in Germany," Mr. James W. Gerard, lately Ambassador at the court of Berlin, refers significantly to the visit in this country, some ten years ago, of Prince Henry, of Prussia, brother of the German Kaiser. He states, substantially, that instead of that visit being an expression of good will of Germany toward the United States, its real purpose was to incite the German-Americans of this country against the government of the United States and to enlist their fidelity to the Fatherland. With that sinister purpose in mind he attended all the meetings of German societies and urged the affiliation of Germans of this country in organizations pledged to Germany.

This statement may easily be believed for it is well remembered that though Prince Henry was lionized by our so-called Captains of Industry his attentions were mainly directed toward the German-Americans. Previous to his visit here there had been few societies so dedicated in this country but immediately following his visit organizations were created in all the leading centres of population. These societies professed loyalty to this country and their leaders gave lip service in lauding the opportunities they enjoyed here. But their main purpose was to keep fresh affection for the Fatherland and preserve the traditions as well as the language of Germany. Prince Henry was creating a propaganda to that end.

What better proof could be given of the purpose of the Kaiser, even at that time, to create a world war and ultimately bring the people of the United States under subjection to his autocratic authority? He had little to fear from the countries in Europe who might feel inclined to resist his ambitious plans and the sending of his brother to mislead the German-Americans of this country under the false pretense of a fraternal visit was the most dastardly perfidy. It must be admitted, moreover, that his enterprise in this respect, was only partially successful. He fooled a good many people and with the help of emissaries kept them fooled a good while. But they are no longer fooled.

—"The Family Balanced Ration," on page 2, column 4, of this issue is published in various magazines and newspapers by request of the United States Department of Agriculture. The different classes of foods, with illustrations under each, are stated so simply that it is easily possible for anyone to learn them. This should be done so that each one for himself may be able to combine food in a well-balanced ration. To further aid in the selection of foods, there is also given a list of bulletins to be secured, free, upon postal card request to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. An excellent and helpful circular, No. 65, "Food Requirements and the Menu" has just been issued by the Department of Agricultural Extension, Penna. State College and may be had by request to M. S. McDowell, Director.

—A reunion of the Mattern family was held at the old homestead at Franklinville, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houck and family, on Tuesday last week. Those present included Dr. Harvey Patterson, of the Maryland agricultural college; Mrs. Calvin Patterson and Mrs. A. L. Hiller, of Bloomsburg; Prof. and Mrs. Irving L. Foster, of State College; John Mattern and Jacob Mattern and wife, of Warriorsmark; Hayes Mattern and family and Frank Mattern and family, of Tyrone. It is needless to say that everybody present had a royal, good time.

—"The Watchman" last week unintentionally underestimated the crowd at the Granger's picnic on Thursday, which, it is claimed, was one of the biggest ever seen at Grange park. And the very fact that up to 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon two thousand five hundred automobiles had been parked on the grounds that day would seem to indicate a crowd that would run into five figures.

—The farmers are now hard at work in their cornfields, either topping or cutting the corn. The hard frost of last week froze the corn before it was all matured and the result is there will be a lot of soft corn this year, but the crop is such a large one that most every farmer in Centre county will have a big yield of good corn.

—With wheat at \$2.20 a bushel there ought to be a foot-hold on the farm for war profit taxes. There is certainly a difference between that price and the quotations before the war began.

—Our soldier boys are doing fine in Camp Hancock and they will soon be doing the Kaiser "up brown" in France.

—The diplomacy of Switzerland appears to be as full of holes as the cheese.

Somebody Must Pay.

From the Johnstown Democrat. After all, somebody must pay the war bills. They must be paid out of savings—out of surplus. They cannot be deducted from the reserve necessary to carry on the business of the country or to sustain the population. The immediate wants of society must be satisfied before war debts can be paid. There is no escaping the fact that in the end the war debt falls upon savings—upon surplus. What should be the basis of the war tax? Should all of one man's surplus be taken, while another gives only a tenth or even a hundredth?

It must be remembered that we are as a nation given to indirect taxation. The man who just breaks even on a year, whose income barely meets his living expenses, may have been brought into that situation because the government imposed a burden of indirect taxes. He has no surplus, because the government added its tax to the natural cost of a commodity. All consumption taxes are a drive at the poor man's account. A commodity tax may take more from one taxpayer, in proportion to his ability to pay, than a 50 per cent. income tax would take from some other man.

As remarked, somebody must pay the war debt. The question is one of apportioning it, remembering, always that the net result of paying it is to reduce the surplus of those who pay.

By the People's Will.

From the New York American. The democratization of a country can only be achieved by the will of the people of that country, and this applies, of course, to Germany. Now it is plainly evident that the people of Germany have determined upon democratic institutions and have begun to establish them firmly. The vicious system of plural voting has been abolished and in fact, if not nominally, the Chancellor has become responsible to the Reichstag. The mere fact that the head of the German nation is styled Kaiser instead of President is a small matter in itself. Democracy can exist under a titular King or Emperor, just as a practical autocracy can exist under a titular President. England is not by any means a democracy but it is a good deal more of a Democracy under a hereditary king than Mexico, for instance, is under a farcically elected President. We think that the democratization of the German Empire is an assured event, and it is probable that the event will occur by peaceable parliamentary changes in the old order. We hope to see the undoubted virility, courage, tenacity, efficiency and genius of the peoples of Middle Europe freed from the incubus of caste and aristocratic privilege and domination. We hope to see genuine democracy established, not only in Middle Europe, but in all Europe.

The Italian Effort.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. We think we are "going some" in our march toward the war front when we look forward to placing a million men on the fighting lines in France by next spring, with a half million more in reserve, but Italy, little Italy, with a population of only thirty-six millions, has four and a half million men under arms and more than half of them on the Isonzo front pushing a tremendous offensive against Austria. There is a good deal to be expected from that offensive—particularly as Austro-Hungary is understood to be in desperate internal plight; a large part of the country looking forward to the winter with misgivings of starvation.

The objective of that Italian offensive is now said to be not Trieste, but Salzburg. Napoleon marched that way to conquest, having observed that "Germany can only be reached through Austria from Italy." Many things have changed since Napoleon's day, and that looks like a long reach, when the prevailing methods of entrenched warfare are considered. But it may still be true that Germany can be reached through Austria from Italy. The word "only" may be cut out by sea power and air power. Meanwhile, good luck to the Italians.

A Comparison in Occupied Territories.

From the London Times. The Berlin Tageblatt calculates that while, on August 1, 347 square miles of German soil were occupied by the French, and 9,845 square miles of Austrian soil by the Russians, the extent of Allied territory occupied by the Central Powers was 221,867 square miles. The picture would be more complete if there were some reference to the 826,976 square miles of German colonies occupied by the Allies.

Ground for Hope.

From the Kansas City Star. Ex-Czar Nicholas will miss the imperial ballot while he is in Siberia, but there are said to be movie shows everywhere in Russia. So maybe by the time he comes back he'll be a regular Democrat, and wouldn't give more than a dime to see the ballet again anyway.

It's the Same Here.

From the Springfield Union. Uncle Sam reports a shortage of small bills, but Uncle Sam has nothing on us. We can report a shortage not only of the small bills, but of the large ones, too.

—Put your ad. in the "Watchman."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—David Hale, seventy years old, was almost stung to death one day last week by bees on his farm seven miles from Warren. Physicians removed eighteen stingers from his right cheek and seven from one ear. Hale's head dress fell off while he was collecting honey and the bees attacked him.

—A swarm of bees attacked an automobile party near Hanover a few days ago and before the machine could be stopped the bees caused the driver to lose control of it. The top and windshield of the car were demolished, the occupants thrown out and all of them were badly stung by the bees.

—W. S. Bishop, a night watchman for the Pennsylvania Lightstown Narrows, found a large opossum in the telephone box on Sunday morning when he went to ring in for the night. He believes some of his friends put the little animal there, knowing his fondness for the meat garnished with sweet potatoes.

—James Ryan, night watchman in the service of the Pennsylvania hospital with a bullet in his leg as the result of an accident. Ryan was changing clothes when his revolver dropped from the pocket to the floor and discharged, the bullet entering his leg above the ankle and taking an upward course.

—Three automobile bandits broke into the postoffice at Kinsman, west of Sharon, early on Tuesday, blew up the safe and escaped with \$200 worth of stamps and a small amount of money. A posse of townspeople, awakened by the explosion, was hastily organized, and after forcing the robbers to abandon their automobile they recovered some of the stamps.

—Contractors C. H. and P. S. Cassidy have completed the work of razing the old Mountain House at Cresson, which has been in progress during the past year. Following the work of razing the building, all the excavations were filled, the lumber, metal and stone removed and the grounds graded. An enormous amount of valuable building material was secured in removing the buildings and great quantities of metals were taken out and sold.

—Rembrandt Peale, a well known Pennsylvania coal operator, on Friday was appointed a representative of the coal operators under the Gerfield coal administration. The list of advisors is now complete. A well known mining engineer of the anthracite district may be added later. John P. White, representing the coal miners on the board led Friday for Indianapolis to launch a campaign for increased production of coal among the miners, and to arrange for a wage increase conference with operators in the central district.

—Ralph Bray, the first Oil City man to be injured on European battle fronts, reached his home in that place last week. Mr. Bray, who was a member of the Ninety-ninth Battalion, Canadian Overseas Force, was shot in the arm during the battle of the Somme more than a year ago. Since that time he has been confined in various hospitals of Europe and Canada. Speaking of German cruelty, he tells the story of a wounded German who shot a Canadian soldier who had brought him a drink of water during the battle of Somme.

—John M. Groff, attorney for Arthur A. Baltz, of Lancaster county, has brought an unusual suit in court. It is against Dr. W. B. Tome, of Elizabethtown and is for \$10,000 damages. The plaintiff alleges that Dr. Tome was summoned to attend his child who was ill. The doctor failed in his examination of the child to discover that it was shot in the arm. Gangrene developed and the child lost an arm. The plaintiff claims these damages because of the neglect of the doctor to discover that the wounded arm and provide the proper remedy.

—A lad named Harvey Van Kemeeyer, aged twelve years, who was standing behind an automobile in Oseola, on Wednesday last week, was almost instantly killed when he darted out from behind the auto and immediately in front of Dr. Woodside's passing car which struck him fairly and knocking him down over him crushing his breast. He only lived a few minutes. The accident was entirely unavoidable and greatly regretted by Dr. Woodside who quickly did all he could for the unfortunate boy. Dr. Pullen, the county coroner has taken proper steps for a thorough investigation of the sad affair.

—One of the biggest deals in oil property in McKean county, that has been recorded for some time was consummated this week when Earl C. Emery completed the purchase from F. J. Freeland and Neal Brothers of a large lease at Rittersville on which are now located 68 producing wells. It is understood Mr. Emery will begin drilling operations at once with a view to developing the property to its fullest capacity. The property is well known among local producers and is considered one of the best in that section. The terms of the sale are that the amount involved is known to run into six good sized figures.

—Steel helmets for the American soldiers in France are being manufactured at the Berwick plant of the American Car and Foundry company. The order is one of the many interesting items of government work that the plant is turning out daily. The helmets are tested by placing the steel hat on a dummy head. Standing ten feet distant with a regulation forty-five calibre repeating revolver, the same kind as used in modern warfare, the helmet is fired upon. If the bullet pierces the steel, the helmets are rejected. A Philadelphia young man, engaged as an ambulance driver in France describes the use of the helmet in perhaps the best manner. "No less than fourteen times my helmet saved my life," he said and the helmet after a trip near the firing lines resembled the bottom of a dish pan that had been riddled with bullets.

—Smoke Run, Clearfield county, was the scene of a distressing fatality on Thursday evening, September 13th, when two young men were crushed to death in the new slope being put in by E. J. Goodyear. The accident occurred at nine o'clock, when a concrete mixer, standing near the mouth of the shaft fell. Seven men were at work at the time in the bottom of the shaft, at a depth of ninety feet. The falling piece of machinery struck Russel Riebert, aged 20 years, of East Liberty, and Thomas Tate, aged 26 years, of No. 22 mine, near Smoke Run, killing them both instantly. Four other men were working at a point sufficiently distant to escape injury and probably death. Tate was only recently granted exemption on account of being the only support of his widowed mother. The bodies were badly mangled, and were given in charge of Undertaker Sweetney, of Houtzdale, and carefully prepared for burial.