

Tuesday was surely one beautiful fall day.

Mexico evidently having decided to be good Uncle Sam is about to lend her some of his gold.

Clean out the rats about your premises. One nest of them will destroy as much as would keep two soldiers in France.

Again let us remind you that Christmas is drawing near. Only sixty-six days intervene before the great festival will be celebrated.

Buying a Liberty Bond isn't giving anything to the government. It is merely lending money at four per cent. to the safest borrower in the world.

Centre county has sent more than three hundred men to the colors. And Centre county must lend Uncle Sam enough money to properly equip and provide for them.

The "Watchman" is itself again. Thanks to the rehabilitation of a machine that miserably failed last week and threatened to put an edition beyond the range of possibility.

Really the "Watchman" had no idea that there are so many "poor people" in this community until it arranged to sell potatoes to some of them at seventy-five cents a bushel.

Of course Bellefonte ought to be in the limelight. It was bugler Crissman, of Troop L, who was selected to sound the call "to the standard" at the great flag raising ceremony at Augusta, Ga.

Philadelphia hotels had a "beefless day" on Tuesday but it took twenty-six different varieties of food and fish to coat the conservation pill that was administered to the guests of the hostesses.

If we get licked there won't be any government to tell us that we must pay \$2 a bushel for wheat. The Kaiser will tell us that we must give him and his famishing hordes all of the wheat they want for nothing and if there should be any left, maybe he'll take that too.

Better lend Uncle Sam enough money to equip him to lick the Kaiser, because if the Kaiser licks Uncle Sam you'll have to pay him just what he demands and it will be no small sum and it won't be a loan bearing four per cent. interest. It will be tribute that you will never get back.

It must have been a Hun. Nobody else would have been mean or sacrilegious enough to profane the Methodist church in Bellefonte as was done Tuesday night when class leader Charley Shuey's brand new Sunday hat was stolen while the good brethren and sisters were devoutly worshipping under his leadership.

Everything has gone up in price but the "Watchman," and it gets better every week without adding a cent to its cost to you. Won't you help us through the struggle by sending in a year's subscription price NOW and suggesting to your neighbor, if he is not a subscriber, that he is missing a lot by not taking "the best country paper published."

What if one of our boys who are to go "over there" comes back home and asks you what you did to back him up while he was fighting for you. Are you going to have to hang your head and slink away because you'll be ashamed to tell him that you wouldn't lend the government even the price of a Liberty Bond with which to buy a gun, or shells, or shoes or food for him.

This isn't the time to be asking questions as to why we are in the war or whether we ought to be in it or not. We are in it and the cheapest way out is to back up the government in its every move. By the way, what are you doing to help along? If you haven't sent a son have you loaned the government any money to help support the boy some one else has sent to fight for your liberty?

Get the fact through your head that all your land, all your cattle, all your other goods and chattels represent the government of the United States. When it offers a bond for sale that bond is a mortgage on everything you have, as well as on everything every other citizen has. It is the first of first mortgages, therefore what better investment could you make than by buying a Liberty Bond.

Our County Commissioners, our town council and all persons in control of public business should seriously weigh the urgency of contemplated public improvements. At this time when men, money and material are so essential to the successful conclusion of the war public improvements that are not absolutely urgent should be postponed until such time as there is not such a demand for men, money and materials in more essential undertakings.

Good old Dr. Dixon is alarmed about the high heels on women's shoes. He declares that they are walking on their toes and physically injuring themselves. While we agree with the learned head of our State Department of Health we are haunted with the idea that this habit of the women in being "up on their toes" all the time may have something to do with their remarkable success in asserting their rights and establishing their claim to equal opportunity with big flat-heeled, broad-soled man.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Mr. Bryan Defends LaFollette.

Mr. Bryan is neither frank nor fair in censuring citizens in private life for criticizing the policies of the President as expressed in pending legislation and justifying Senators in Congress in opposing such legislation. In an article in his newspaper, The Commoner, Mr. Bryan takes that anomalous position. "With the citizens," he writes, "the question of duty is sometimes more important than the question of rights. The vital question is not what he can do but what he ought to do. The Legislature must discuss questions before Congress—this is necessary to intelligent action by Congress, but this necessity does not confront the citizen in private life."

Obviously this fine distinction without a difference is drawn to justify Senator LaFollette. Mr. Bryan says that "Senators and Representatives in Congress are part of the government; they exercise authority conferred upon them by the constitution. They are as much a part of the government as the President himself; and the oath which they take is as sacred and binding as the one administered to him. A Senator or Representative has as much right to express himself on matters properly coming before Congress as the President has to express himself upon subjects with which he has authority to deal. They not only have the right to express themselves, but they should do so when such expression becomes necessary to the discharge of their official duties."

Mr. Bryan misinterprets the relative value of the offices in question. All the Senators and Representatives compose one of the three co-ordinate branches of the government and the President another. Each has its functions clearly defined. Congress, not one Senator or five, has the right to declare for war or against war, and while that question is pending each Senator and Representative is entitled to an opinion and has the right to express it on the floor of the chamber of which he is a member. But when a majority of both branches declares for war the individual members have no right to impede the cause for which war has been declared by factious opposition to legislation essential to the successful prosecution of the war.

Moreover, after war is declared the equality of the respective co-ordinate branches of the government with respect to the war, ends. Under the constitution the President is commander-in-chief of the army and navy and in that capacity is invested with the authority to determine the disposition of both forces. Incidentally with this authority he has the power to disburse the funds to defray the expenses of the movements of the army and navy and to provide food, clothing and equipment. The Senate and House of Representatives must appropriate the money and the obligation to do so is imperative unless there is an intention to betray the country and sacrifice the cause. Senator LaFollette has been resisting this plain obligation to the full measure of his power.

When the country is involved in a war declared according to the constitution, Senators and Representatives in Congress are as firmly bound by the duty to support the government as the private citizen. A Senator may imagine that he has inalienable right to chatter perennially and air his opinions constantly. But in doing this if he impairs the interests of the country, puts the lives of soldiers and sailors in jeopardy or in any way gives aid or comfort to the enemy, he is guilty of treason and no sophistry will conceal his crime. Probably it isn't worth while to mind what LaFollette says or does but when Mr. Bryan defends him it is different.

The base ball championship has been settled for a year but Chicago mustn't get too cocky over the victory of the White Sox. Next year some bush league players who don't make as many errors as the New York giants may get into the scrimmage.

The Philadelphia reformers who expect the Union League to declare for decent government are likely to be disappointed. The Philadelphia Union League wants government with tariff graft in it or no government at all.

The Prohibitionists never knew how to accomplish their professed purpose. The liquor sellers have achieved more in that direction in one week by raising prices than the others did in a hundred years.

Fuel Controller Garfield probably means well but he is confusing. He has the coal dealers in such a frame of mind that they can hardly tell "how much the traffic will bear."

Meantime the question of who forged Governor Brumbaugh's name to the telegram sent to General Clement supercedes the mystery as to who struck Billy Patterson.

Liberty Loan Bonds Dragging.

The new Liberty Loan is not meeting with the success that was expected. Some time has elapsed since the opening of the sale and only a small proportion of the total has been taken. The banks and big corporations have done fairly well but the general public has not responded with the enthusiasm hoped for. It is true that the first issue of the bonds dragged along until near the end of the time limit and then was greatly oversubscribed. Probably the same thing will happen this time. The President has fixed a rally day and other stimulating agencies have been set in motion. But the result up until the present moment is not satisfactory and there is no use disguising the fact.

There ought to be no disappointment in the sales of these bonds. The annual income of the United States is estimated at forty billion dollars a year. The government is asking the appropriation of less than one-fifth of this amount to protect the life of the government and guarantee its income. It is also asking for the tender of the lives of millions of men, and getting prompt response. Is money more precious than human life? Do we put a higher value on dollars than we do on men? That is not the American habit. It is not in accord with the traditions of this great country. Then why should there be disappointment in the subscriptions to the Liberty Loan while the response to the call for men is prompt, enthusiastic and generous.

There is another and more serious angle from which to view this question. An esteemed contemporary has said that "it costs money to win a war but it costs a darn sight more to lose it." Subscriptions to the Liberty Loan are contributions to the safety of the government. If we don't provide the government with funds to make the war successful now we will have to subscribe vastly greater sums to recompense the enemy for licking us. Now contributions are practically optional. Then they will be forced and by the most cruel processes. It is for the public to choose between these expedients. No man is expected to give all he has. But every man is expected to give what he can.

If Senator LaFollette is sincere in his statement that he "would do anything to help his country," he has an easy problem to solve. He might try keeping his mouth shut.

Bernstorff a Murderer.

The record of perfidy and duplicity which is being revealed by the State Department at Washington against Count Von Bernstorff, recently Ambassador of the German empire, is without parallel in the history of modern civilization. Pretending friendship and professing to be a man of honor Von Bernstorff was engaged for months in conspiracies to murder innocent and unsuspecting people and destroy property wherever he imagined the perpetration of such crimes would work to the advantage of his own country. If these infamous crimes had been of his own motion they would have stamped him as a monstrous beast. But according to the evidence they were suggested or acquiesced in by the German Kaiser.

What can be said of a people who will perpetrate such crimes for any purpose? And the entire German people stand not only indicted but convicted of them. From the Kaiser through the Chancellor, the Foreign Minister, the Ambassador, to the brutal assassins who executed the crimes the word passed without protest. It will be said, of course, that these emissaries of evil were acting in the name of patriotism. It will be claimed that devotion to country influenced the criminals to their dastardly work. How clearly this proves that "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel," as declared by Dr. Johnson long ago and he must have had the German type in mind when he wrote.

When the war is ended there should be reparation for these crimes against humanity. Von Bernstorff, von Papen, Boy-Ed and the rest of the homicidal horde should be apprehended and punished as other murderers are punished, for these brutal crimes. This country is offering the lives of thousands of her best men and tendering billions of treasure to make the world a fitter place in which to live. No indemnity or reparation will be asked for the sacrifices made. But the brutal murderers who conspired to kill and destroy in the cowardly way adopted by Von Bernstorff should be hunted down and punished. There can be no safety in a world in which such beasts live.

And troops are being shipped to France in great numbers notwithstanding Roosevelt's statement that nothing is being done toward prosecuting the war.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Philadelphia Reformers Moving.

The better element of the Republican party of Philadelphia is preparing for a fusion with the Democrats and other reputable citizens to oppose the election of the 50-50 ticket set up by the contractors and put an end to "government by murder" in that city. A ticket of highly respectable citizens has been named and the machinery for an active campaign has been set in motion. But an inauspicious incident was encountered at the outset. The candidate named for District Attorney has declined to accept for the reason that he is under obligation to the contractors which he is in honor bound to discharge. Naturally such a situation is embarrassing to the better element.

Meantime the Vares and Mayor Smith are going on with their canvass to elect the 50-50 ticket and Senator McNichol who opposed them so vigorously in the Fifth ward primary has assured them of his fidelity to their combination. Senator Penrose has not revealed himself yet on the subject but the chances are that he will stick to the machine. The professional politicians have their personal differences and some times great bitterness developed. But they are spooksmen first and last and in emergencies drift together in the common purpose to loot. In the final alignment the Vares and Penrose and Mayor Smith and McNichol will be moving forward together keeping step to "hail, hail, the gang's all here."

Of course there are enough reputable citizens in Philadelphia to overcome the machine and elect the ticket named by the Town Meeting committee if they could be induced to submerge partisan prejudices and consult public interests. Philadelphia is a big town and enjoys a fine reputation for business enterprise and integrity. But the men who have earned that reputation for the city either do not vote at all or are so careless in the exercise of the franchise that they serve the machine rather than the public. Once or twice they have registered an opposite purpose but so rarely that it becomes an exception to prove the rule and gives little hope for the future.

Are German Spies Operating?

That German incendiaries are operating throughout the country scarcely admits of doubt. Within a fortnight a flouring mill was burned at Steelton and 400,000 bushels of wheat consumed. Another was destroyed by fire in Brooklyn and more than a million and a half bushels of wheat were burned. Two garages have been burned at Harrisburg with a total of nearly one hundred automobiles reduced to ashes and scrap iron. In Kansas City, on Tuesday, 80,000 head of cattle were burned in a fire. Powder magazines and munition storehouses have been burned in various sections of the country. It cannot be possible that all these fires have been the results of accident. Each one of these destroyed contained war materials for wheat and automobiles are quite as much war materials as powder and bullets. Accidental fires are less discriminating in their operations. They are likely to select a barn or dwelling house occasionally or strike a general store or ordinary warehouse at times. But these fires invariably discriminate in favor of war material storehouses or factories and every such fire is a contribution to the campaign of the German army. It takes bread out of the mouths of allied soldiers.

We know that the Germans are capable of any atrocity. We know that with the sanction of the Kaiser the Ambassador of that empire in this country conspired with other murderers to destroy life and property even while professing friendship. Knowing these things it is not hard to imagine that the recent fires, involving as they have, war materials have been caused by incendiaries in the interest of Germany. At least the subject ought to be looked into with care and a repetition of the conflagrations prevented if possible. Flour, cattle and automobiles are too valuable to be let burn.

The bear season opened on Monday but so far no bear carcasses have been on exhibition in Bellefonte. The season for pheasant, woodcock and squirrel will open tomorrow (Saturday) and a general invasion of the woodlands of Centre county is likely to occur. Up to three o'clock yesterday afternoon just 1783 hunters' licenses had been issued, which is not nearly as many as last year at this time.

At the annual convention in Pittsburgh last week Ives L. Harvey, of Bellefonte, was chosen one of the vice presidents of the State Sabbath School association. The association chose Johnstown as the place of meeting next year.

Speaking of Christmas a Liberty Bond would be a lovely gift.

Liberty Loan Meetings for Centre County.

On Wednesday evening, October 24th, the day set aside by our President as Liberty Loan Day, mass meetings will be held in the following towns in Centre county:

- Boalsburg, Centre Hall, Millheim, Spring Mills, Rebersburg, Pine Grove Mills, PortMatilda, Penna Furnace, Stormstown, Gatesburg, Lemont, Fillmore.

These meetings are to be arranged by the publicity committee recently organized at State College to co-operate with the executive committee of Centre county. The members include David F. Kapp, chairman; Ray D. Gilliland, secretary; Dean R. S. Sackett, Dr. Wm. Frear, Dr. Geo. F. Zook, John T. McCormick, John L. Holmes and a number of auxiliary members.

In each instance the speakers will be men of prominence and ability.

The quota assigned to Centre county (excluding Philipsburg) is \$600,000, and the Federal Reserve bank of Philadelphia (on behalf of the Treasury Department) is co-operating with the county organizations and the bankers to see that the nation's needs are filled.

It is the duty of every loyal Centre citizen as an American citizen to attend the meeting in the centre nearest to his home. He owes this duty to his country, his county, his town and his home. He and his family should attend the meeting, learn the noble plans of our government, learn his own task and then—subscribe to his fullest ability.

New Postage Rates.

The new rate of postage which will apply after November 2nd, 1917, will effect letters, postal cards and all matter sealed against inspection, or in other words, matter of the first-class only. The rate will be three cents an ounce or fraction thereof and must have one full rate of postage paid at the office of mailing. This will affect letters, postal cards and all sealed matter that is to be delivered through another office only. All first-class matter for delivery through the local office which includes rural routes emanating from this office as well as boxes and general delivery will still be mailable at the old rate of 2 cents an ounce. The meaning of the word "drop letter" as it applies to the Bellefonte office is one that is intended for local delivery only, and it may be dropped in any street letter box as well as at the postoffice. A supply of three cent stamps is on hand at the Bellefonte office and envelopes with three cent stamps and postal cards with two cent stamps printed thereon will be furnished as soon as a supply can be secured from the Department. All patrons wishing to order envelopes in quantities with return card and bearing three cent stamps thereon should place their order early. In this connection postmaster Gherrity calls the attention of the public to the importance of mailing Christmas packages intended for soldiers and sailors of the American forces abroad at as early date as possible and to wrap and pack them securely and address them plainly, not forgetting to put your return address on the upper right hand corner of the address side of the package. These instructions apply to Christmas packages mailed for delivery in this country as well, and may have written or printed on the words, "do not open 'till Christmas."

The Colonel Must be Drawing on His Stock of Good Stories.

As most of you know Col. J. L. Spangler, our own Jack, is now touring the west as a member of President Wilson's special commission that has in hand the difficult work of trying to bring about a more peaceful situation in the turbulent labor districts of the Coast.

The personnel of the Commission we announced several weeks ago. While all of the gentlemen are eminent and specialists in their lines, it is not improbable that Col. Spangler is the best mixer in the party and the one who will contribute most toward smoothing over the rough places when they undertake to soothe the apparently savage I. W. W.'s who are making the most of the labor troubles in the west.

Of course the Colonel would recognize the futility of attempting to capture and tame them with a salt shaker and has evidently fallen back on his ability as a raconteur. The following from the Arizona Republican, published at Phoenix, Arizona, would at least give ground for our suspicion.

"Colonel J. L. Spangler is a Pennsylvania coal operator, conducting a large business and for many years has acted as the representative of the Pennsylvania coal operators in adjusting labor difficulties. A man accustomed to large things, tolerant and with the saving grace of humor."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

When the employees of the Pennsylvania Glass Sand company at Mapleton were told that they would get an increase in wages the merchants of Huntingdon advanced their prices. Butter jumped from 40 to 45 cents a pound and other articles underwent proportionate boosts.

Although his back was broken five years ago, George Whipkey, a farmer of Laurelville, Westmoreland county, has been accepted for service in the national army. Whipkey has only a lump now where the vertebrae was dislocated, and he says he is strong enough to make it warm for the Germans.

As the result of a chestnut fracas last Sunday with a Salem farmer, Charles Warner and Philip Bernet, of Berwick, have paid \$100 and the costs to settle the case. The men were hunting chestnuts on the Seybert farm and Seybert asked them to go to the mountain for chestnuts, as he wanted the chestnuts on his land for himself. Enraged, they severely beat Seybert and he had them arrested. They were released after paying Seybert damages and costs.

While drilling for gas with which to operate mine machinery, employees of the Rine Run Coal company, near Bethlehem, Jefferson county, struck a new oil well. The flow is at the rate of from 80 to 100 barrels a day. Immediately following the discovery of oil, many speculators visited the section endeavoring to negotiate leases for land in the vicinity. The new well is located in Clarion county, but is several miles from the recognized Clarion county oil fields.

Miss Ruth Kint, aged 25 years, of Watsonstown, was instantly killed when an automobile in which she was riding turned completely over, landing again on its wheels. Miss Kint was riding with Clyde Wenrich and was on her way to Lock Haven. When approaching Jersey Shore, going 25 miles an hour, Wenrich tried to turn out for another car and got too close to the edge of the bank. A quick turn to get out of danger tore a wheel and the car rolled completely over.

Theatres, churches and all other public gathering places have been closed in Liverport, Pa., by health authorities and a State-wide warning sent out to any persons who attended the funeral of James H. Stalley, on October 3rd. Susan Strawser, thirty-four, who attended that funeral, has smallpox. Authorities say she must have had it then. Persons at the funeral included men and women from Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Milton, Altoona and probably other points. Miss Strawser's case is of a mild, but well defined type.

After reporting a loss of nearly \$2,000 in operating their municipal light plant in 1916, with a greater loss in prospect for 1917, the Catawissa borough council has decided to sell the plant to the Columbia and Montour Electric company, which is associated with the Northumberland County Gas & Electric company, pending approval by the Public Safety Service Commission, and the latter will furnish electricity for the town in the future. The light plant only ran eight hours a day. The receipts for 1916 were \$4,426.97, and the expenditures \$6,284.21.

Because William Albright, of Morgan Run, Clearfield county, had to support a family of twenty children, he stopped the editor of his favorite county paper and told him that he would have to curtail expenses somewhere on account of the high cost of living and that the paper should be stopped. Chief of Police Bowman, of Hollidaysburg, who happened to see what the editor and overheard the statement, after satisfying himself that Albright's family numbered twenty children, said: "No, such a sized family could not get along without a county paper. I'll pay for it. For any paper to lose twenty readers at a clip is too much for any country editor to stand."

The largest verdict ever rendered in the Northumberland county court on a negligence charge was returned at Sunbury when the jury which heard the evidence in the case of Joseph Ford vs. the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron company, returned a verdict of \$81,686 in favor of Ford. According to the testimony in the case, which was tried by Judge Fred B. Moser, Ford was employed as a driver in the Alaska colliery, near Mt. Carmel, on April 8th, 1913, and while he was busy coupling coal cars another draft of cars bumped into the ones on which he was working, and his left leg was caught in the wreckage and so badly crushed that it had to be amputated.

The Central Pennsylvania Lumber company, of Williamsport, is completing a government contract for thirty portable saw mills to be sent to France. Ten of these mills have been completed and the tests which followed were successful. The company is building these mills at its several plants. The timber is being sawed at one place, assembled at another, and then knocked down and shipped to an Atlantic port, from where it is sent to France. These portable saw mills are to be set up at one place, assembled at another, and it is probable that the company may send men across the Atlantic to assist in erecting and to operate them. Large quantities of timber, hewn from the forests of Lycoming county, have been shipped to cantonments.

The woman track walker, forced to the front by the exigencies of war and the resultant shortage of male labor, has made her debut in the Pennsylvania yards at Sunbury and Northumberland. Nine representatives of the "gentler sex" demonstrated beyond an inkling of doubt that they are equal to almost any emergency, when they took up their work as signal keepers and track walkers. All were employed in the "MW" department at Sunbury and in the Northumberland yards. Some of the women are classed as track-walkers, covering a certain area of track each day, and reporting all unusual conditions that may be discovered.

One of the most interesting real estate deals in years has been consummated at Indiana, Pa., when, with a cash transfer of upwards of \$150,000, the stockholders of the Clymer Brick and Fire Clay company, of Clymer, relinquished their holdings to Hiram Swank's Sons, Inc., of Johnstown. The entire block of stock was taken over by the corporate interests, the transfer netting the stockholders 100 per cent. on their original investment. Hiram Swank's Sons, Inc., is regarded as one of the most successful and enterprising corporations in the United States, and with the acquisition of the Clymer concern, they broaden their scope of activity and plan vast extensions which will ultimately place Indiana county further upwards on the list of progressive communities.