

—Only seventeen days until Christmas.

—Congress is again in session. Pity poor President Wilson.

—It must be admitted that the Kaiser is a resourceful guy. When German seamen refused to man the submarine he put Turks on the job.

—\$5,446.18, with more districts to hear from, isn't so bad for Centre county, when she started out to raise \$3000.00 for the Y. M. C. A. war fund.

—President Wilson's message to Congress reveals the sublimity of America's motives in the war and proclaims him the Moses of the modern world.

—Col. House made a speech 225 words long at the inter-Ally conference in Paris on Monday. He was running true to form in his long established custom of conserving words.

—That Colyer doe that sported a horn was probably the deer that "wore the pants" in her particular household. She got shot for it too. Moral—There is great danger in doe's usurping buck's prerogatives.

—Brit Steele told us last Saturday that because the fish were lying in the bottom of the stream it was going to snow. It hasn't snowed yet and the fish are still at the bottom of the stream so the question naturally arises: What is Brit?

—Two hundred sweaters, two hundred scarfs and two hundred pairs of wristlets are only part of what the Red Cross women of Centre county have thus far done in their work of love for the soldiers and loyalty to their country. God bless them! Are you a Red Cross worker?

—Why shouldn't the soldier boys in the camps and the trenches have had turkey for their Thanksgiving dinners while we contented ourselves with chicken? They are fighting our fight and the sacrifices we ought to make at home can be nothing to what they are offering to make abroad.

—If you want your friend to know of all of the activities of our soldier boys at the front and all that the men and women at home are doing for them, send him the "Watchman" for a year as a Christmas gift. It is very inexpensive but wonderfully appreciated by its recipients.

—Few of the poorer people will find it much of a difficulty to observe two meatless days a week. They are now having that many and probably more. The more affluent are the ones to whom the appeal is directed. They are the people who should look upon the "two meatless days a week" as a test of democracy, a test of whether they are able to control their appetites in order that the nation may endure.

—A personal item that might have appeared in this issue of the "Watchman," if it hadn't been censored, was to the effect that Miss So and So passed through town Wednesday on the way to the butchering of her father. "Poor father!" It was lucky that we discovered the unfortunate phrasing in time else we might have had to insist that the horrible ceremony be carried out if for no other reason than to maintain the "Watchman's" reputation for getting things right.

—Time and again, this year, the "Watchman" has published special appeals to farmers to cover their farm buildings and crops with ample insurance. And this week we publish the account of another appalling fire loss in the county in which owner and tenant will suffer so seriously as to embarrass and handicap them for years. It seems so footless, this thing of preaching, week in and week out, to a public so deaf to suggestions that are made wholly for its own good. Mr. Alexander saved a few hundred dollars in insurance premiums and has lost thousands in the destruction of his stock, implements and grain.

—The Hon. George E. Alter, of Pittsburgh, is being spoken of as a possible Republican harmony nominee for Governor and because he thought that the "Watchman" was seeing things for Democracy that will never eventuate, when it mentioned the fact, several weeks ago, that our own distinguished townsman, Judge Quigley, was talked of as "a leader of the forlorn hope" we want to assure him that we have no idea of encouraging competition among gentlemen by forthwith putting him in the "forlorn hope" class. A personal acquaintanceship with both gentlemen, however, justifies us in adding that a greater calamity might befall the Commonwealth than the selection of either one of them as its Chief Magistrate.

—The New Year is approaching. The time is here to think about your home reading for 1918. We assume that you are going to continue reading the "Watchman" because we feel that you believe it to be the one really worth-while newspaper in the county. May we ask you to tell your neighbor, if perchance he is not a subscriber, just what you think of the "Watchman" as a reliable home newspaper; tell him how frequently it is a week ahead of all the others in spreading the news of important events in the county and how thoroughly it covers its field and what a clean, uplifting newspaper it is. Find a reader of the "Watchman," no matter where, and you will find one of the best informed persons in his or her community. There is a reason.

Democratic Watchman

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President Wilson's Message.

In his annual message to the War Congress, delivered before a joint session on Tuesday, President Wilson is as felicitous as ever and even more forceful than usual. The dominant idea expressed is that "our present and immediate task is to win the war and nothing shall turn us aside from it until it is accomplished."

The surprise in the President's address was the suggestion that a state of war with Austria-Hungary be declared at once while such action with respect to Turkey and Bulgaria is omitted. "Austria-Hungary are not free agents," he says. "Its government is 'not acting upon its own initiative or in response to the wishes and feelings of its own peoples.'"

In conclusion the President, in most incisive and eloquent phrases states our purposes in the war. "In the present session of Congress," he states, "our whole attention and every energy should be concentrated on the vigorous, rapid and successful prosecution of the great task of winning the war. We can do this with all the greater zeal and enthusiasm," he continues, "because we know and all the world knows, that we have been forced into to save the very institutions we live under from corruption and destruction."

—One trouble practically certain to be encountered by Germany is that it may be necessary to make a new separate peace with Russia about once a week. And making peace with an irresponsible foe is such a confusing and annoying operation.

Lord Lansdowne a Traitor.

The proposition of Lord Lansdowne, a conspicuous Tory statesman of England, that the allies make an immediate statement of their aims in the war and their terms of peace, is so manifestly in the interest of Germany, as to fix him in the class with LaFollette. Every intelligent man and woman in the world knows precisely the purposes of the government of the United States in the war and the peace terms which will be acceptable in this country.

In no country in which free thought and frank expression are encouraged can there be found absolute unity of purpose. Here and there will be found self-opinionated individuals who imagine that they know it all or that everything is wrong which has not been suggested by themselves. Lord Lansdowne appears to be in this class and his preposterous demand last week created more joy in Berlin and did more to hearten the Kaiser's troops in the field, than anything else that has happened within a fortnight.

As a matter of fact the present duty of those in authority in all the countries allied in the fight for democracy is to discover the means by which it may be most speedily brought to a successful conclusion. A successful conclusion of this war is a peace which will make it impossible for one or two or a dozen half-devised autocrats to start another war for financial profit, self-aggrandizement or territorial conquest and no blithering idiot has a right to put difficulties in the way of the achievement of that result.

—If any Austrian or Bulgarian imagines he is not at war with this country let him get in front of the guns held by Pershing's men.

Penrose Will Press the Fight.

Senator Penrose has at last come to understand that the Vares conspiracy is State wide instead of a local question. Ever since the contractor bosses acquired the ownership of a Governor they have been extending their lines and expanding their area of operations so as to compass control of the Republican party of the State.

Senator Penrose declares that he is unalterably opposed to this vicious enterprise and that he will exhaust all his personal and political influence to prevent the government of this State by street scavengers. He consulted with his friends, last week, and though his time will be taken largely by Congressional duties in the near future, he states emphatically that he will spend his week-ends at his Philadelphia office planning a campaign of extinction against the contractor bosses.

Of course this is due in great measure to the vigilance of the seamen in charge of the operation of transporting them. Always alert and entirely capable, they prevented the approach of the U-boats to within firing distance. But a good deal of the credit belongs to Secretary of War Baker and Secretary of the Navy Daniels, who directed the movements of the transports and managed the maneuvers from start to finish.

—Our esteemed contemporary the Brookville Republican, has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Willis Geist Newbold, for many years a Harrisburg correspondent and Press association at that news center, as its editor and manager.

Kaiser William's Wicked Folly.

Unless the signs are misleading war operations will be very active during this month and probably through next. Germany wants to accomplish as much as possible before the American troops get into action and the peridy of Russia will release a great many troops hitherto acting on the Russian front for use in France, Belgium and Italy.

For more than two years the German army has been sacrificed in France and Belgium without gaining a foot of territory or accomplishing anything that gave promise of ultimate victory. Men and equipment have been provided for these operations but such things cannot go on forever. All summer the slaughter has been kept up and while it may afford some satisfaction to know that the other side is losing men and spending vast sums of money, there is hardly enough of it to balance accounts. An end to it must come and the longer it is delayed the greater the evil.

Within a few months the American troops will be in the fighting and that moment conditions will change. Now peace might be obtained on terms that would preserve the autonomy of the German empire. Of course autocracy will be eliminated and the ownership of men abandoned. But the German people are capable of self-government and under a constitutional monarchy or parliamentary regime they may prosper and live happily.

—An esteemed contemporary asks why "Colonel Roosevelt doesn't like the way things are being managed at Washington?" Principally because Colonel Roosevelt isn't managing things there.

Great Reason for Thanksgiving.

General Seibert, with the American army in France, gave as one of his reasons for gratefulness on Thanksgiving day that none of the men who have gone "over there" to fight for democracy were killed or injured during the voyage. It is estimated that there are at least 250,000 in the American contingent in France and Germany has invoked all her resources to harm them.

The safety of our gallant soldiers is not the only reason for gratitude because none of them were injured or killed during the passage across the sea. The fact that it marks the impotency of the submarines in the face of a caution which should always attend the movement of troops is a great reason for thankfulness. When German savagery entered upon the work of ruthlessness it was feared that no ships could escape the vigilance of these monsters.

It is very necessary that all conscripted men, not already called for service, keep their local boards advised of any changes in their address. The law is particular about this point and conscripts who have changed their address without notifying the local board of such change will be denied the privilege of preferred classes of service when they are called.

Notice to Conscripts.

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—Bright and early yesterday morning there was a call on our office telephone and a charming female voice said: "We failed to get our 'Watchman' this morning." Of course we had to inform the young lady that she was just one day ahead of time, that the "Watchman" went out on Friday morning, but at that we consider the young lady's mistake a great compliment. There is always a feeling of supreme satisfaction in knowing that the "Watchman" is missed so much if by any chance it is not delivered promptly, but when subscribers are so anxious for it that they begin to call this office a day ahead of its issue it is good evidence that they appreciate it.

—A total eclipse of the moon will take place during the early morning hours of December 28th. The moon will enter the shadow at 3:05, become total at 4:38, and remain so for just seventeen minutes, or until 4:55. The eclipse will end at 6:27. Thus it will be seen that all persons astronomically inclined will of necessity have to get up in the morning if they want to see this eclipse.

—General Pershing appears to be equally effective with the pen or the sword. He can build epigrams quite as well as trenches and when he gets after the Huns they will find that he is good on the chase.

—For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.

DEAR HAZEL.

By Doc Mardis. Dear Hazel, the girl with her dress to her knees, (Why, gosh, you would think that the poor girl would freeze); And stockings so white that the small flakes of snow That flutter and light on her ankles can't show, And a sweater coat 'round her that's only a joke, (A stranger would think that the girl was fast broke).

Dear Hazel the girl with her dress to her knees, And stockings so thin they're a part of the breeze, She sniffles around with half her clothes off, And sneezes out: "Gee, but I sure got a cough!" While each day she says: "The wind cuts through me!" When the wind's got nothing to stop it, you see.

Dear Hazel, the girl with her dress to her knees, And legs most as bare as the limbs on the trees, You'll probably live a lot longer than those Who wrap themselves up in warm, heavy clothes.

An Army of Five Million.

From the Philadelphia Record. We have no idea that it will be necessary to send to Europe 5,000,000 troops, or half that, but the President has a sound idea in insisting that the plans for the next fiscal year shall provide for an army of that number. We are not trying to kill Germans; we are trying to make Germany see the hopelessness of the struggle and give up. If the Kaiser won't give up so long as his subjects consent to die for him, it is important to impress his subjects with the conviction that it is of no use to die for him because Germany cannot win in any event, and it might as well give up before exterminated.

It is important to make the German people understand that we can send 100,000 troops to Europe every month not only till next summer, but the year, and all the years after, by every possible way. In the course of increasing numbers. Hundreds of new American steamers will go into service before the end of 1918. Scores have gone into service lately and will continue going into service.

So far as it can the German government will try to keep knowledge of the facts from the subjects and victims, but it cannot succeed. A good deal of news percolates into Germany, and pretty much all gets there eventually, even if some of it arrives a little late. The war will be shortened by every demonstration that Germany cannot possibly win. In the course of time the German people will discover that they have been crushed, but that is a slow process. We need to make our plans on so vast a scale that the German people will realize the hopelessness of going on with the struggle.

So long as the Germans were in the ascendant, the result of the elaborate preparations for this war, they were eager to have the war stop "in the interest of humanity." Now, the allies have caught up with the Germans in the military equipment, and, while they still show a good, solid front, their supplies are approaching exhaustion. Now, humanity demands that the Germans give up and save the useless effusion of blood. They have been pretending that the responsibility for continuing the war was on their enemies. Now, it is palpably on the Germans. The longer they resist, the more Germans will get killed, but under no circumstances whatever can the Germans win.

The spectacle of an army of 5,000,000 men in the United States from which we are sending 100,000 or 200,000—as it may be, in a year—to France every month will make an impression on the German mind. The bigger the force we can collect, the shorter time will be necessary to use it. An army of 5,000,000 would be a powerful peace argument. Even the Germans could feel the force of it.

The Italian Situation.

From the New York Tribune. Five weeks ago the German blow upon Italy fell. Out of the obscurity of that moment certain facts are now beginning to emerge. We know, for example, that the Italian general staff were not the victims of a surprise attack. Cadorna knew and had reported to his allies that the attack was coming. Quite as clear now is the fact that the main disaster was not due to the number of German men or German guns concentrated upon the upper Isonzo river. It was due primarily to treachery. It was due to the fact that certain Italian brigade commanders ordered their men to surrender and this order was due to a two-fold propaganda of treason, the propaganda of Italian Socialists and Italian Clericals, one operating among the soldiers, the other among the officers. Allied armies have now come to the support of Italy. Unless we recognize that the same forces which induced the Italian disaster are operating in France in England and here in the United States we shall have at no distant date to confront another crash, another collapse like that which has taken place in Russia in totality and in Italy in part. Germany has lost the war so far as it is a military question. She cannot defeat the armies of her enemies, and cannot hope to win in any way.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Thieves entered the home of Lawrence Cowher, of Williamsport, and stole \$107 in cash and rings worth \$400. They over-looked \$250 more.

—Harry Snyder, a well known DuBois barber, dropped dead Friday afternoon while in the act of shaving a customer. He was 62 years old and had lived in Du-Bois for about ten years.

—Cresson has an epidemic of measles and announcement was made that the four lower grades of the local school would be closed for at least two weeks. Twenty-nine cases were reported last week.

—Saul Kanarr, of Beech Creek township, Clinton county is proud of the fact that although eighty years old, he has husked corn for fifteen days, thereby doing his bit towards harvesting the nation's crop.

—Philip Watt, aged seven years, of Muncy, had his leg broken in two places the other day when he attempted to jump on a farm wagon. He was dragged some distance before a passerby saw the accident and stopped the horses.

—Administrators and executors of estates are required by a new federal law to file a complete appraisal of the estates in their charge with the collector of internal revenue. This is a new law and there is a penalty of \$500 for failure to do so.

—The Hepasiz band of Williamsport dedicated a large service flag at the headquarters on Sunday afternoon. It carried thirty-six stars; thirty-two for the members of the bluejacket and four for an equal number of members of other bands of that place in the service of the United States.

—Florence, the four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Durnelle, of Seneca Heights, was burned to death last week at her home. It is believed that the child was playing with matches and in some manner set fire to her clothing. Her mother beat out the flames but it was too late to save the life of the child.

—Every man who voted at Blue Ball, Clearfield county, on election day will be examined by a representative of the State Health Department in an effort to check the spread of smallpox in that community. One of the members of the election board had the disease in an eruptive stage on election day. It is considered likely that every voter will be vaccinated.

—A fire Sunday night caused the death of nine horses and a loss of \$30,000, when the stable and bakery of Jacob Otto, of Burgetstown, burned. The residence of Mr. Otto, nearby, was saved by very hard work, a bucket brigade being formed, which saved the properties adjoining the bakery. About 100 sacks of flour and many loaves of bread were destroyed.

—Forty-eight bituminous coal mines are in full operation along the branches of the Huntingdon & Broad Top railroad in Huntingdon and Bedford counties. They are located on Shoup's Run, Sandy Run and Six Mile Run. With the large output going to the markets, both east and west, the Broad Top railroad is hauling more coal just now than for the past five years.

—John Edgar Hinger, of Johnstown, was instantly killed at the new Franklin blooming mill of the Cambria Steel company, Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Hinger was a foreman of brickmasons and was directing the building of a scaffold and had climbed upon it to test it when it gave way and he fell to the ground. He died in an ambulance on the way to the hospital.

—Attorney Reuel Somerville, of Johnstown, representing a group of creditors, purchased the plant and equipment of the Patton Brewery Co. at public sale on Saturday afternoon. The consideration was \$12,550, plus \$3,760 in judgments. The sale was conducted by attorney Arthur Simler, receiver for the company. The Central Hardware Supply Co. will take over the building.

—The body of Benjamin Rine, aged 55 years, of Beavertown, was found by his wife beside the furnace in the cellar of his home late Sunday night. Rine was a well known business man of the town and returned late Sunday evening from church going to the cellar to fix the fire for the night. When he failed to return his wife investigated and found his body. Heart failure was given as the cause of his death.

—George Bokovich, aged forty years, an Austrian, died in Altoona on Sunday from gunshot wounds received Saturday night while he was guarding the explosives house of the Pittsburgh Limestone company quarry at Clover Creek. Police are seeking his assailant. The shot came through a window. No attempt to molest the explosives was made. The man crawled to a farm house a mile away and gave the alarm.

—It is worthy of note that the Rush township road supervisors at the present time have over \$4,000 in the treasury. In addition to this splendid sum they have due them the State bonus for the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917, amounting to about \$5,000. This is surely a splendid showing, no doubt surpassing any other township in the county and unequalled by very few others in the State. The supervisors are to be commended and congratulated.

—When a highwayman held up Mrs. Samuel Fertig near the railroad station at Dauphin and robbed her of \$20 and a gold watch, the Rev. William Zweig, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, was the first to organize a searching party and hunt the highwayman. The minister scoured the town for four automobiles and in one car, led the chase over the mountain roads. The highwayman, it is believed, evaded capture by hiding in the underbrush.

—Farmers in Butler county who have been holding their potato crop for higher prices received a jolt, when it was announced that the Chamber of Commerce had decided on drastic measures. The retail price there was \$2 a bushel and the wholesale price \$1.75. Large producers are holding out for higher prices. If farmers refuse to sell at reasonable figures, the Chamber of Commerce plans to ship potatoes in from other States and sell them at cost plus the freight.

—The J. C. McCrory company, operating a chain of five and ten cent stores, one of them in Bellefonte, has negotiated a fifteen year lease on the Witmer Inn property, Clearfield, for their store in that place. The chief reason for wanting the property is to secure a frontage on Second street for the Market street store. In the event the deal goes through with Landlord Pickering to take over his lease, the Witmer Inn will cease to be a place of entertainment for travelers, and will be converted into a business block and office building.