

INK SLINGS.

-When the women get a vote all the candidates will be "Lady's Men."

-One in every five inhabitants of Centre county is a member of the Red Cross. Old Centre is doing her part, isn't she?

-It is beginning to look as though the Kaiser, having greased the Bolsheviks for fools, is in danger of losing his hard.

-When shaking and shivering because of the cold weather these days, cheer up! Trout fishing season is a little less than three months away.

-We are anxious to find out who among the "Watchman's" present readers have taken the paper continuously since it was started sixty-three years ago.

-Beginning with today all the business places in the United States not absolutely essential to maintaining human life and the business structure of the country, are supposed to be closed and remain closed for a period of five days in order to conserve coal.

-The new British Food Controller, Lord Phonda, appears to have been attacked with the "high strikes." He has handed out a roar on the food situation which is as surprising as it is uncalled for unless the food statistics of the past year have been systematically falsified.

-Inasmuch as we have really had an old fashioned winter we are justified in hoping that we will have the January thaw that always was part of the weather program. But when it comes it will probably bring a flood that will tie traffic up as effectually as the snow has done.

-The women of the country will remember Tuesday, January 10th, 1918, for all time, for that was the day on which the constitutional amendment granting them suffrage passed the House of Congress by the necessary two-thirds majority and made their cause a national issue.

-When Al. G. Field's minstrels have to abandon their palatial palace cars and take to riding "straight backs" for the sake of minimizing railroad loads the small boy may well inquire as to whether circus will be traveling next summer. It is a long distance prediction, but we believe that the circus train will be traveling next summer because we believe that the circus will be regarded as an essential in the way of alleviating mental depression.

-Lest some of you who are heaping unjust and unwarranted maledictions on the War Department forget let us remind you that as yet no such scandals have come out of the recent stupendous war preparation as disgraced the country in 1898, when Alger was directing the machine that was fighting Spain. There has been no "rotten beef" served to the soldiers and there has been no writing home for necessary hospital equipment, such as was done by our boys immediately after their arrival at Chicamaugua to find nothing of the sort there. And the present undertaking is many times greater than was that of 1898.

-The Hon. George Washington Rumberger, he of "The Cat Came Back" song, farmer, pedagogue, county office-holder, airship captain and prophet of Unionville, presents the idea that any person has pored over the "Watchman" for more years than it has been his pleasure to do. He says: "I would no more think of doing without it than I would think of doing without my daily meals of chicken and waffles, ice cream, etc." Think of the combination! Such food, and the "Watchman." With such gastronomic and intellectual feasts for sixty-three years it is no wonder that George never grows a day older, that he is always seeing way over the tops of the mountains that tower above his cosy home and doing his bit by way of a pleasantry or kindly helpfulness to cheer the other fellow on his way.

-We are with Senator Kenyon in his contempt for those fanatics who would have us believe that our soldiers abroad are drinking themselves to death. It seems that some Prohibition agitators just can't keep their mouths shut. If they hear of a person taking a glass of light wine or liquor that is enough for them to start a story that the fellow is a confirmed drunkard. And so they harp about the drunkenness of the American soldiers in France and hold the flag up as a shield when they declare that the drinking is reducing the efficiency of our army. Granting that such lies were all true, drinking evidently didn't affect the efficiency of the German army, for isn't it recorded that their triumphant march clear through Belgium and almost to the gates of Paris was made with men continuously drunk on the loot from the wine cellars of the country they passed through. And isn't it true that when some of these abnormalized cranks took President Lincoln to task because they thought General Grant was drinking too much whisky that the martyred Christian President asked them to let him know what kind of whisky Grant was drinking because he thought it would be a good thing for some of his other Generals. The boys in France are all right. General Pershing says so. The pity is they can't be brought home and their calumniators sent to take their places.

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Touching the Vulnerable Spot.

In the appeals of western Pennsylvania Republicans to the Vares, of Philadelphia, to support Denny O'Neil for Governor, the "fine Roman hand" of that candidate is clearly revealed.

The Business Men's Association of Armstrong county telegraphed that Mr. O'Neil would carry Armstrong county with ease. The Business Men's Association of Tarentum telegraphed that "realizing that with you lies the power to elect the next Governor of Pennsylvania, we would say that in the Twelfth legislative district Mr. O'Neil would poll 80 per cent of the total vote."

Of course these ardent appeals to the Vares were not addressed to either the intelligence of the Philadelphia bosses or even to their prejudices, which are strong. An appeal to their intelligence would be like a blank cartridge aimed at the moon and there is no need of stimulating their prejudices. But it was skillfully directed to the most vulnerable point.

The "coal hogs" ought to be butchered but they are not fit to eat.

Distress Will Force the End.

The authorities are wise, no doubt, in preparing for a long war. It is possible that the military operations in Europe will continue for two or three years and it is generally felt that the burden of the final struggle will be upon the United States.

The news that comes from Germany through private sources indicate an early exhaustion of the resources of Germany, however. Miss Herring, daughter of the late Judge Herring, of Bloomsburg, who recently returned from Germany tells stories of deprivations and distresses among the people which leave no doubt that the end is near.

While in Saxony, Miss Herring writes, she was so weak from malnutrition that she couldn't follow her studies. "In Dresden last winter," she adds, "conditions were perfectly terrible. \* \* \* Potatoes formed our only diet and they were always frozen or rotten. \* \* \* Prices were out of reach of any except rich. Ham was three to four dollars a pound and butter three dollars a pound. The ration of bread was three pounds a week and it was made mostly of cabbage root. With one meal a day of such material the people got through last winter. How they are suffering now will probably be learned later but the contemplation of it compels the impression that the end of the war must come soon.

Working With the Enemy.

If Secretary of War Baker were under indictment for treason the Senate committee which is investigating conditions in Washington could hardly have been more discourteous to him. Senator Weeks, of Massachusetts, a bond-broker, has been particularly inquisitorial and Senator Wadsworth, of New York, has revealed his partisan spirit at every stage of the inquiry.

Secretary Baker in his statement of conditions presented rather a rosy situation. He showed that all records had been broken in the matter of achievement. With a meager basis upon which to build a splendid structure had been erected and that not only a great army had been recruited but that it had been provided with a magnificent equipment, comparatively speaking.

Secretary Baker frankly admitted that mistakes were made in the beginning of the work of preparation and that there is still urgent reason for a full measure of energy in providing men and materials. But he made it clear that everything possible is being done to meet every exigency of the future and that our great army will fulfill the most sanguine expectations when called into the front trenches as is likely to be in the near future.

Some fellow has suggested that Theodore Roosevelt be appointed Minister of Munitions in the President's Cabinet. And there are hopeful souls who imagine we have no use for lunatic asylums.

Old Fashioned and Democratic.

Senator Sproul has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Governor, according to the program referred to in these columns last week. The factional war, also predicted in the same article, has been declared. Thus the politicians have an abundance of food for gossip and they are ravenously "eating it up."

It has been said that Sproul would not run unless he had assurances in advance of the Vares support. The moment his announcement was made O'Neil went to Philadelphia but failed to see the Vares. Meantime Vares says the Penrose ticket is ridiculous and Brumbaugh refuses to say whether the Vares have thrown him overboard or not.

It doesn't matter much to us or other Democrats of Pennsylvania how this problem of local politics resolves itself. The Republican party in the State is down and out. It has been rotten for a quarter of a century but kept the fact concealed through the force of plunder and graft. But concealment is no longer possible. The Vares will go with whichever faction of the party is strongest in the hope of retaining some of the spoils of office. But they have neither the courage to employ sufficient fraud to win or the strength to win without fraud and the opposition will be equally impotent.

The railroad officials may be willing to help McAdoo to success in his transportation enterprise but the weather shows no sympathy.

Singularly enough only those who would like to see Germany win are able to see faults in our work to defeat Germany.

Railroad Problem to Solve.

There must be something the matter with the railroads. The unusually severe weather accounts for some of the deficiency in service, of course, for fewer cars can be hauled by a locomotive in extreme weather. But Director General of Railroads, McAdoo, issued an order the other day, or made a request of shippers, to unload cars consigned to them that are held at the terminals. This would indicate a scarcity of cars and reports from various sections of the country indicate that storage yards are literally filled up with empty freight cars.

The scarcity of motive power seems to be the seat of the trouble, and energy should be directed to remedying that want. In ordinary weather one locomotive would easily haul ninety or a hundred cars over any grade. Since the cold spell set in, if the statements of railroaders are to be relied upon, an ordinary locomotive has difficulty in hauling thirty cars over the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. But even at that if the motive power is properly taken care of and renewed as rapidly as possible, there ought to be enough locomotives to haul all the trains needed to transport the products of the country.

The present conditions are intolerable and improvements must be made at once. Revenue to meet the war expenses cannot be raised unless the industrial life of the country is in good condition. The industries can't be kept in motion unless they are provided with fuel. We are informed that fuel is available in plenty but there are no cars to carry it to the industrial plants.

On page two of this issue of the "Watchman" will be found an article on "The Patriotic in Music," being a paper read by Rev. Malcolm DePue Maynard, pastor of St. John's Episcopal church, at the December meeting of the Bellefonte Chapter D. A. R. The article is very interesting throughout and Rev. Maynard makes some very timely suggestions that Bellefonte and other places in Centre county could act upon with profit to each and every individual.

While Bellefonte did not get the full force of the blizzard which swept in from the west the latter part of last week it got enough of it to make every individual wish for some of that hot weather they complained about last summer. Beginning with a hard snow storm last Friday evening it continued until almost midnight when it turned to rain. It rained the balance of the night and in the morning blew up cold, growing colder all day Saturday. By Saturday evening the wind was blowing a regular hurricane and the thermometer dropped to below zero with the result that Sunday morning gave us about the worst spell of weather we have had during the winter.

Who will knit the sweaters and socks when the women are out electioneering? Why, the women will. They've been doing it all the while they have been campaigning for suffrage all over the United States.

Those traitors who undertook to stop the draft by legal process find little comfort in the supreme court decision. Chief Justice White declares that their objections "are too frivolous for further notice."

If Governor Brumbaugh had been half as zealous in the temperance cause during the last session of the Legislature as he is now the result of the vote on local option might have been different.

War Cost and Confidence.

Uncle Sam's pay-roll, we are told, is now very nearly a hundred million dollars a month. A staggering sum, surely, but we may remind ourselves that we, the people, are practically taking it out of one pocket and putting it in the other. The money is all or nearly all—being spent in this country, and the only thing that needs concern us, is that a large part of it goes for the inevitable waste of war, the unproductive employment of men.

Besides all that, there are many millions spent for war supplies that are to be burned up or shot away, and we may thank our good fortune that this is to be in distant theatres of war, and not in our own land; that there is to be no wrecking of the country, the feeding, clothing and maintenance of army and navy.

It is certain that no other country can stand the financial burdens as well as we can. No other country involved in the war is so unselfish in its war aims. Both of these truths are appreciated, even by our enemies, and we are therefore in the best position both for pushing the war and directing the efforts for peace.

The world appears to have gone mad with horrors and disorders multiply, but as Garfield told a New York mob at a critical period of the Civil war, "God reigns and the government at Washington still lives."

A Hot Time in Germany.

It begins to look as if the Germans are going to pay dearly for their fatuous dream that they were going arrogantly to ride rings around the Bolsheviks and make a separate peace with Russia which would bring the greater part of that country into their camp, tied and bound.

The radicals are asserting that Germany ought to have accepted the terms of the Bolsheviks, that no annexations and free determination of nations as to their alliance or independence is just. Ludendorff and Hindenburg are said to be ready to resign if the mildly less militaristic Dr. Kuehlmann and Count Czernin, Austria, do not recede from their very slightly liberal views.

All affirmations and discussions of principles relating to the freedom of the seas, the openness or the secrecy of diplomacy, the reduction of armaments, the League of Nations, and the self-determination of peoples may be put aside as of secondary moment until we have made sure the foundations of peace which President Wilson rightly says must be unshakable, for otherwise "no part of the structure of international justice can stand."

Mr. Rockefeller has made another liberal contribution to the Rockefeller Foundation and a further increase in the price of gasoline may be looked for.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Mrs. Catherine Rodgers, aged 84 years, of Hooversville, is doing her share for the American Red Cross by knitting for the soldiers and sailors. She is one of the oldest knitters in Somerset county.

-The plans are proceeding for the horse and motor races to be held tomorrow on the ice in the West branch of the Susquehanna river at Lock Haven, the volunteer offering to go to the local Red Cross.

-Ruth Amelia Carlson, aged four years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Carlson, of near Scottsboro, fell into a tub of hot water Wednesday and died on Thursday afternoon from the effects of the burns.

-At a meeting of the Fort Anties Chapter, D. A. R., Jersey Shore, announcement was made that Col. Henry W. Shoemaker has presented a boulder to mark the site of the last Indian grave in that vicinity.

-The Ladies Aid society of St. John's Lutheran church, Williamsport, at the annual congregational meeting held last Wednesday evening, presented the church with a check for \$1,000 for the new church fund.

-After running away from home six years ago, at the age of thirteen years, William Knight was located recently at Punxsutawney and after police communicated with his father in Arama, Cal., he was sent to his home.

-Struck by a light engine running westward on an eastbound track in the Lewistown Narrows, Pennsylvania middle division, Mason Suloff, aged 30 years, a track walker, had both legs severed last Thursday morning and died at midnight in the Lewistown hospital.

-Damages of \$2,639 are claimed by Jesse Kohr, of Conewago township, York county, in a suit against the Fox Baking company, of York. The plaintiff alleges that his wife swallowed a pin while eating bread sold by the defendant company, and that she had to undergo an operation.

-The jury in the case of Nettie Richardson against Henry Deniston, a wealthy reclusive of Pittsburgh, for \$500,000 for breach of promise, failed to agree on a verdict and was discharged. This is the second jury to disagree on the case. The first jury awarded Miss Richardson \$100,000.

-The State Compensation Board has made an award in favor of the dependents of a tanner who died from anthrax contracted while handling hides. It is held that anthrax is a disease suffered in the course of employment and to be regarded as an accidental injury. The man was employed by the tanning company of Somerset.

-Engineers H. E. Moses and I. M. Glace, of Harrisburg, have been sent by the State Commissioner of Health to Wilkes-Barre to investigate a type of illness prevalent in parts of Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Forty Fort, Luzerne, Edwardsville and Wyoming and to work with the department's county medical inspector, Dr. Charles H. Miner.

-Nine hundred pupils of the Second ward school at Kittanning were marched safely out of the building, though halls and rooms were filled with smoke and flames on Monday, when the building was destroyed by fire with a loss estimated at \$100,000. The building, an old structure, consisted of fourteen rooms and the fire had gained considerable headway before being discovered.

-M. Luther Stover, a retired farmer, residing about one mile from Cassville, was instantly killed at noon on Monday at the Mapleton depot crossing by the engine of a freight train. With his wife and daughter he had gone to Mapleton to take the train to Huntington, where they expected to attend the funeral of Mrs. J. Oliver Wright. He became confused by the approaching train, thinking he would miss his train, and ran right in front of the engine. Both his legs were ground off. He was aged about seventy years and leaves a wife and three children.

-Although several days have elapsed since Charles H. Scheleg, the young Mahanoy farmer, was found brutally slain on the Big Mountain path leading to Gowen City, the murder still remains unsolved, although officers have expressed confidence that there would be important developments within the next few days. County detective Joseph Gill, special officer McNut and the state police at work on the case, have worked tirelessly on the murder mystery ever since the finding of the victim's body Saturday afternoon and they have secured several tangible clues which it is hoped will result in the arrest of the slayer or slayers.

-Issac Solomon was arrested at Lewis-town Sunday night charged with obtaining money under false pretense. Solomon visited the Protestant churches where he claimed he was a converted Hebrew and that during his week in Lewisstown he had converted two prominent Hebrews to the Christian faith. Solomon asked at each of the churches for a few minutes to state his case and, of course, a collection followed to cover his expenses. When arrested \$300 in cash, valuable diamonds and bank books showing that he had \$3,000 on deposit in a Detroit bank and \$2,000 in a New York bank, were found on him. The Jews disclaim all knowledge of the man or his activities in this section of the State.

-By forcing in a window in the hallway leading to the wareroom of the J. G. McCrory store on Tenth street, Tyrone, thieves got away with about \$165 in cash and numerous small articles of merchandise at an early hour Tuesday morning. The robbery was discovered in the morning by Charles Klee, manager of the store, when he arrived and found that the front door was unlocked. Upon a hurried investigation it was found that footprints were discernible in the snow leading from Logan avenue to the window through which entrance was gained. After securing their plunder, the thieves departed by the front door, and as yet no clue has been obtained which will lead to their identity.

-A fugitive from justice for fifteen months, Edward Fleck, of Johnstown, wanted for embezzlement in that city, walked into the Altoona police station Saturday night and was recognized by Lieutenant of Police B. F. Miller, who held the man for Flood city officials. Fleck, it is said, admitted that he ran away in 1916 after he confiscated several checks and cash to the amount of \$50 from his employer, A. Litzinger, a Johnstown drayman. The man said he wandered all around the country but finally drifted back to Altoona. He was seeking lodging at the police station when arrested. In response to the message from the lieutenant of police, the Johnstown police stated Fleck was wanted there and an officer was sent to take him back to that city.