

INK SLINGS.

The steam plant's busted
And the town's in despair
We're digging many ancient stores
From out their dusty lair

Old fashioned winters
Were for old fashioned folk
So when they sic one onto us
I'll tell you it's no joke

—Cheer up, summer isn't here of course, but it isn't steen degrees below zero.

—Is this the January thaw arrived like the trains, the mails and everything else, a few days late.

—By the time March gets here no one will care a tinker's dam whether it comes in like a lion or a lamb.

—From December 16th to February 4th the average low temperature each day was two degrees below zero.

—Many people in this neck o' the woods never knew until now what the weather man really has in mind when he speaks of mean temperature.

—If there is a ground hog we'd take our hat off to him were it not for fear of our old bald pate freezing while the ceremonial salute was being given.

—Heathless Mondays are to be continued. Weather conditions have again tied up traffic and made it impracticable to rescind the order, as was thought possible to do a few days ago.

—Think of the boys who made the supreme sacrifice on the Tuscania. Think of them before you begin to complain because you are asked to use less wheat flour in order that their kind may have enough of it too.

—So our boys are now actually holding part of the line in France. God strengthen them and bring us to realize that we must make the sacrifices the government is asking us to make in order that they can be properly supported.

—Carranza, the President of Mexico, has sent a message of felicitation to Kaiser Bill on the occasion of his birthday anniversary. Such things are rare in Potsdam these days so Bill is probably all puffed up over the well wishes of the old rascal who happens to be in power in Mexico.

—Governor Brumbaugh has indicated that he will return to the ranks of the school teachers at the expiration of his term next January. How thoughtful was His Excellency when he gave this information to the public. He is likely never to be heard of again after January so that it is well that some record is made of the retreat in which he can be found should anyone inquire.

—Food hoarders are being severely dealt with in Pittsburgh. For having more than forty-nine pounds of flour in your possession at a time or two pounds of sugar you are liable to a fine of \$5000 and imprisonment for two years. There is plenty of flour and sugar in the country but there won't be if people hoard it. The easy way, the patriotic way is to buy as you need it. It means a few more trips to the store, of course, but it also means a chance for the other fellow to get some.

—A Hun sub has gotten in its deadly work on another American transport freighted with our precious soldier boys and over two hundred of them went to the bottom of the sea without a chance to fight back. We must steel ourselves for announcements of such calamities. We are at war and victories are not won without some disasters. Are you trying to make it easier for the government to get these boys landed safely on the other side or are you kicking and complaining about every little sacrifice it asks you to make in their behalf.

—When the water in a tea kettle that was sitting on the back of a stove in which there was a banked fire froze solid on Monday night we thought we had heard the prize cold weather report of the deceased steam heat company's orphaned houses. But another came in that makes this refrigerating kitchen look warm as a Palm Beach pazzaza. In the really cold kitchen in Bellefonte Tuesday morning cream standing in a pitcher on the back of a stove froze solid while the semi-congealed good wife was boiling a cup of coffee for her husband on the front of it.

—The grocers of Bellefonte announce in another column of this issue that it costs \$15,000 a year for them to maintain delivery trucks. What an economic loss in times like these. While it is scarcely possible to wipe it out entirely patrons of the various groceries should co-operate to cut it in half, at least. Competition, of course, is responsible for a system that consumes half a gallon of twenty-five cent gasoline to deliver an emergency order for a five cent box of matches, but if the grocers are really organized and play fair with one another they can break up such wasteful practices. And if their patrons were to visit the stores in person rather than by telephone they could buy more profitably, as well as contribute a bit toward the effort to save a part of the \$15,000 now representing nothing more nor less than waste.

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Senator Hitchcock's Pop Gun.

Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, delivered his much heralded speech "agin the government" on Monday. It occupied a good deal of time and covered a good many complaints but in the last analysis revealed a single purpose which was a censure of the administration because some of the Nebraska grafters didn't get contracts they wanted at the prices they fixed. Transportation facilities are inadequate because of the weather. War supplies have been tardy because the transportation facilities were inadequate and fuel is scarce for the same reason. Airships have not been built as rapidly as needed and shipping facilities are lacking because of the absence of materials. But Hitchcock blames it all on the administration.

The truth of the matter is that Hitchcock and Chamberlain and all other Senators and Representatives in Congress who are embarrassing the administration with unjust criticisms and absurd suggestions are influenced by prejudice against the President. Those of them who pretend to be Democrats probably imagine that he hasn't correctly estimated their importance and want to curtail his influence on the public mind. The others of the small group want to manufacture materials to support their purpose to restore the Republican party to the control of the government at the next Presidential election. They are coordinating their efforts in full measure but are helping nobody but the Kaiser. Hitchcock did more in the interest of the enemy Monday than the German-American alliance has accomplished since the beginning of the war.

Senator John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, amply answered all the complaints of all the Senatorial grumblers in a brief speech following the lamentations of Chamberlain on Monday. After citing the fact that "not one charge of moral crookedness has been made against any man" connected with the administration, while in all other wars such accusations were made and sustained, he added: "What is the use of standing here and muckraking this administration. * * * Are we not all trying to do our very best? Is there a Republican on the other side of the Chamber who is not behind the American people in this war. * * * Do we not know we have got to win, and that the only way in God's world to win is to support the men who happen to be in authority?"

Pershing's men have had the proverbial "baptism of fire" and the report is that they stood well up to it in all its ugly phases. Fire, gas or bullets are alike to your Yankee lad when he is on the firing line and Jack Pershing will never have to blush for his boys.

Railroad Bill Will be Opposed.

Senator Cummins, of Iowa, and other Republicans in Congress are organizing opposition to the proposed legislation regulating the government control of railroads. Senator Cummins bases his opposition to the provision for compensating the railroad corporations during the period that the roads are under government control. He is afraid the government will be too liberal. Other Republicans will give other reasons, no doubt, for opposition. But the real reason which influences all of them is the purpose to embarrass the administration for the next Presidential campaign. That is the paramount problem of this session.

Legislation on this subject must be enacted during the present session of Congress. The railroads have been taken over and are at present being operated by the government under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. This action was taken in pursuance of legislation enacted during the last session with an agreement that the details of operation would be expressed in legislation to be considered subsequently. The wisdom of the action has been clearly demonstrated notwithstanding the adverse weather conditions which have obtained during the period. But the failure to complete the legislation might jeopardize the plan and neutralize the advantage.

The pending bill has been carefully considered by the Interstate Commerce committees of both Houses of Congress after full and free consultation with the experts in railroading of the country. It properly fixes a time for the surrender of the properties to their owners and though opinions differ upon that question those friendly to the administration are unanimous on the provision to which Senator Cummins objects. Mr. McAdoo would prefer a measure without a fixed time for ending government control but other well-informed and well-disposed persons are of the opposite opinion. The thoughtful people are likely to concur in this view. There is grave danger in leaving the matter to opinion.

Success May be Made Certain.

If the Democrats are not successful at the polls in this State this fall they will have themselves to blame. The Republicans are hopelessly divided. Their so-called leaders may be drawn together by the magnetic force of public plunder but the voters will not consent to the traffic. The time for such commerce has passed. Senator Penrose may consent to the spoliation of the city of Philadelphia by the Vares and the Vares may agree to give the State over to the predatory operations of Penrose and his gang. But the people will not ratify such a contract in vice. They have learned that Democratic victory doesn't mean commercial stagnation and industrial paralysis.

But the Democrats of Pennsylvania can make it possible for even an alliance to succeed. A true Democrat has an irrefutable aversion to party bossism. It is a form of servility which he will not or cannot endure. True Democracy requires a full measure of individual independence and complete equality among men. If the Democratic leaders should, this year as they have in the recent past, undertake to select candidates in secret conclave at a distant city, the rank and file of the party would be so outraged and resentful that the Penrose-Vare conspiracy might be successful, by default. We hope nothing of this kind will happen. It certainly should not happen.

Public officials enjoying the fruits of party victory are always unsafe party leaders. Party favors breed personal selfishness and public office is usually a reservoir of insolence. Men enjoying long continued tenure in office come to imagine that they have divine right to the title. Party leaders make themselves equally offensive when they usurp the functions of the people. Party candidates ought to be chosen by the party voters in the open where every voter has equal opportunity with others to exercise full liberty of thought and action. If the Democratic party will proceed on these lines to select a ticket this year its success will be as certain as that day follows night.

Political gossips are speculating upon the question as to whether or not Denny O'Neil will resign his present office when he opens his campaign for the nomination for Governor. We are not in Denny's confidence and therefore feel at full liberty to say that he will not resign one office until the commission for another is absolutely certain.

Result of Chamberlain's Break.

Senator Chamberlain's self-defence of his careless tongue vindicates the adage that "a renegade is worse than ten turks." In a speech delivered in the presence of a lot of enemies of the President, assembled at a banquet in New York recently, the Oregon Senator said that all the departments of the government had fallen down under the strain of making preparations for the war. The speech was printed in a New York paper and came under the observation of the President, who asked Chamberlain if he had been correctly quoted. He said he had, whereupon the President accused him of having distorted the truth. He might have appropriately used a "shorter and uglier word."

Senator Chamberlain was elected as a Democrat and under that pretense was made Chairman of the Senate committee of Military Affairs. In that capacity he instituted an investigation of the operations of the War Department during which he has employed every available expedient to embarrass the Secretary of War and discredit the administration. This course naturally attracted the notice and won the admiration of Roosevelt and other ambitious Republicans who are willing to sacrifice the country to gain party advantage and he was invited to address them in New York. Flattery has made many a stronger man foolish and some refreshments lead the tongue into absurd adventures.

In any event Chamberlain seems to have formed a partnership with Roosevelt and started an open fight against the President. But he began badly. He denied the statements contained in the newspaper report that he had said "all the departments have fallen down," and protested that only the War Department had collapsed. After this beginning he limped through a forest of verbiage, quoting all the unfriendly evidence that had been submitted and suppressing testimony of every witness who testified intelligently. If his purpose was to win the everlasting gratitude of Roosevelt he has succeeded and "that's all."

Strikes suppressed at the point of the bayonet are never permanently settled. "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still" and the labor strikes in Germany will be causes of worry to the Kaiser for some time to come.

Penrose and Vares in Agreement.

Senator Penrose and the Vares have come to an agreement, according to current gossip, for the coming campaign. These gentlemen have been saying some hard things about each other and threatening all sorts of reprisals. But the hope of plunder has brought them together and they are now pulling for a common purpose. The Vares to get one place on the Penrose ticket and a license to loot Philadelphia to their heart's content. Penrose gets all the other places on the ticket and all the rake-off from grafting operations in the State. In this deal the Vares are surprisingly modest. They might have got another candidate out of the seven. But they care more for spoils.

State Senator Crow, of Fayette county, spent two or three days in Philadelphia last week working out this harmony plan. It looked like a tough job in the beginning, but Crow is patient and persuasive and understands the subject. Penrose wanted Sproul for Governor and as many other State nominations as he could get. The Vares would like to pose as State leaders but cupidity is their ruling passion and the license to loot the big city was so enticing that they sacrificed their iridescent dream of State control. It may come later when they are better able to bear the expense and after the defeat of the Penrose ticket makes it an easier proposition. They are thrifty as well as cunning.

But what of the people of Pennsylvania if this vicious conspiracy is ratified at the coming election? At the recent election a majority of the people of Philadelphia organized a party and conducted a campaign to prevent the use of a license to loot, to the Vares. Though counted out by fraud they elected enough councilmen to accomplish their purpose. But Penrose betrays them into the hands of their enemy and in consideration of an unrestrained privilege to loot the State, sells to the Vares the license they covet. Will the voters of the State stand for this outrage upon their rights and property? Penrose appears to believe they will for his own friends boldly announce the deal.

The New Flour Regulation for Centre County.

For the guidance of all dealers in flour in Centre county I herewith submit the latest federal requirements covering the sale of same. The attention of all dealers in the commodity is respectfully called to its provisions with the request that they adhere strictly to them until further orders are promulgated.

W. FRED REYNOLDS, Food Administrator for Centre County

Col. W. Fred Reynolds, Bellefonte, Pa.

Please arrange to give the following wire publicity in your first local papers published: To all dealers in food products and to the consuming public in the State of Pennsylvania.

The President of the United States has by proclamation called upon the American people to further aid in the conservation of our wheat supply and other food staples to such an extent as will enable the continued support of our armies and the armies and civilian populations of those countries associated with us in the war. Pursuant to this proclamation the United States Food Administration has issued instructions limiting the sale of wheat flour by the trade to the ratio of one pound of wheat substitute to each pound of flour purchased; the rule to be strictly observed by all wholesale and retail dealers in food unless modified by such specific written authority as might be granted in exceptional cases by State Administrators because of a general shortage of wheat substitutes and difficulties and delays incident to transportation. The proposed ratio of sale was temporarily modified in this State. The authorities at Washington have, however, believe that ample time has been afforded the trade to renew and replenish stock of the wheat substitutes to sufficient extent to henceforth permit the full operation of the government regulation even though such operation may still for a time be attended by inconvenience in some localities and establishments. The need for wheat conservation is so serious as to demand instant co-operation on the part of the entire public. It is accordingly ordered that beginning Monday, February fourth, and continuing until further notice all dealers in wheat flour either wholesale or retail will be permitted to sell it only in combination with other recognized wheat substitutes. The minimum ratio of one pound of wheat substitute to each one pound of wheat flour sold unless it is first definitely determined that wheat substitutes in equivalent quantities have been previously purchased from another source. For the present a written and signed declaration by flour purchaser within the

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The German Strikes.

Germany is evidently having her own troubles and lots of them, but it would be a fatal mistake to count upon them to weaken her war power this spring. Her military discipline is too stern for that and her whole system of government too efficient and thoroughgoing. In spite of strikes and varied unrest, her war front efficiency is likely to be undisturbed until she strikes the long-expected offensive for a German offensive. Then, if she is even partially successful, she may be expected to crush the internal disturbances with an iron heel, but if she is unsuccessful we may look for the beginning of the end. The imperial German power at home, as well as abroad, depends, like all such power, upon success in war.

These strikes are not at all like the labor troubles of peaceful times, for they are practically strikes against war conditions. According to advices by the way of Switzerland, the Berlin strikers are demanding first of all "accelerated conclusion of a general peace without annexations or indemnities." They demand a lot of things besides including a participation of labor delegates in the peace negotiations, a point highly suggestive of Russian Bolsheviki influence, but it is most significant that peace in a hurry comes first. Evidently, the working masses of both the Central Powers are having a desperately hard time of it, the attention and resources of the governments being firmly concentrated upon maintaining and feeding the armies.

The news should urge the greatest effort on the part of all the anti-Teutonic governments to push the war vigorously—to strike while the iron is hot. There should be no waiting for a German offensive, for the best defensive is always offensive, as the Germans themselves have often shown, and as the Italians are even now showing. Wherever there is force enough and conditions at all favorable, we may look for a forcing of the fighting by our allies regardless of what the Germans may do, but the Germans are not likely to keep them waiting in spite of strikes in Berlin, or at Kiel, Hamburg, or anywhere else in Kaiserdom; for labor troubles won't trouble the war lords if they remain triumphant, and more than the old Roman conquerors were troubled by the howlings of plebeian Rome. German democracy, if it is real democracy, can only hold up its head if autocratic armies are defeated.

The Case of Mooney.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

It is interesting to note that the commission appointed by President Wilson has reported that Thomas Mooney, the San Francisco "bomb thrower," was convicted as the result of a "frame up." Mooney was brought to trial just at a time when there was a pretty general demand for some sort of victim. The President is attempting to secure a new trial for Mooney under circumstances that will make it possible to weigh the issues. It would not be surprising in times like these to find that here and there men had been railroaded to the gallops or to the penitentiary as a result of an infuriated public opinion. Such things happen in all lands in war times. They frequently happen even in times of peace. The President is to be commended because of his endeavor to make it certain that Mooney is guilty before he is hanged. Every nation will have plenty of things to regret in connection with the war, but the hanging of innocent men should not be one of them. There must be a considerable element of doubt in the case, or the commission appointed by the President would not have interfered.

Whole World of Hope.

From the Springfield Republican.

The outlook for our cause is encouraging. Consider these great strikes. They take place not in France, nor in Great Britain, nor in Italy, nor in the United States; they take place in Germany, whose string of military victories is so long and so impressive. Is it not an astounding feat thus suffered while its "defeated" foes suffer from no such rupture of the bond between labor and the government? Only last week the British labor party dedicated itself unqualifiedly to the vigorous prosecution of the war, and this week hundreds of thousands of German workmen throw down their tools and formulate demands to the effect that their government shall democratize itself and make a democratic peace untainted by the imperialistic spoliation of its neighbors. There is a whole world of hope in the contrast.

Wants to Know the Hen Herself.

From the Houston Post.

Eggs are selling at a nickel each wholesale and they are said to be yard eggs. We will believe they are yard eggs, not when the dealers tell us so, but when we are standing in the barn lot where we can inspect the nest as soon as the hen comes off and begins to cackle.

The Vulnerable Point.

From the Baltimore Star.

When it becomes necessary to expose those Hohenzollern boys to danger, then will the masters of Germany propose peace terms that may be worthy of consideration.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—In the recent thrift stamp drive at the Tarentum High school the students raised over \$25,000 to help win the war.

—G. Johnson Mellett, the mail contractor between McConnellsburg and Mercersburg, sold two fat hogs which aggregated 515 pounds and which netted him \$152.25.

—John E. Heckman, of near Chambersburg, has a pig that is a museum freak, having two complete noses, two mouths, two tongues, two rows of teeth and three eyes.

—An honor roll containing thirty-four names and a service flag with the corresponding thirty-four blue stars, was dedicated at the regular meeting of the Sons of Veterans, of Indiana, last Friday.

—A small epidemic of diphtheria has broken out in Knoxville, Indiana county, and the authorities of the Health Department have closed the schools there in order to check the spread of the disease.

—Cleo Schenck, a well known resident of Clearfield, met with a most serious if not fatal accident when he slipped and fell off the Penna Public Service mine tippie at that place Wednesday morning of last week.

—The Melville Woolen company has received authority from Col. Dalinski, Quartermaster Department of the army, that their mill in Skesville which manufactures 16-ounce melton cloth for soldiers will be permitted to operate.

—David Smiley, of Punxsutawney, night watchman at the company store in Eleonora, died shortly after noon Wednesday, as the result of frightful gunshot wounds in the head, inflicted by the accidental discharge of his shotgun at an early hour last Wednesday morning.

—Austin Mervine, of Summerhill, a machinist aged forty-three years, was instantly killed when he was run down by a passenger train in the Conemaugh yards of the Pennsylvania railroad, Saturday night. Mervine was repairing an engine when the accident occurred.

—Fire almost totally destroyed the interior of the Star Clothing building in Market square, Williamsport, at 10:30 o'clock Monday morning. The flames were discovered in the basement of Camarinos candy store and gave the firemen a hard fight. The loss is estimated at more than \$75,000.

—The Standard Steel Works of Burnham have erected additional buildings which are now fully equipped for the manufacture of five-inch guns for the United States government. This plant has been seriously handicapped during the past month, working less than half time owing to a fuel shortage, but will start this week on full time.

—Three Italians were shot to death at Monessen late Saturday night by three unidentified men, during a pistol battle on the main street of the town. The dead include Tony Longo, of Monessen, and two unidentified men, who, it is believed, reside in either Brownsville or Monongahela. Authorities express the opinion that the fight was the outcome of a Black Hand feud of long standing.

—Almost \$1,900,000 was received for licensing of motor vehicles at the State Highway Department in January, all records for revenue being broken and this sum will be added to the funds available for the maintenance of state highways, including the cost of keeping the roads open in winter. In the registrations were over 150,000 automobiles and almost 18,000 trucks.

—Contracts for reconstruction of two sections of state highway in Erie county, which will aid in linking up New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio roads were let on Friday by Commissioner O'Neil, who stated that they were needed for transportation of military supplies and foodstuffs. Bids for road construction in Clearfield borough were rejected because Clearfield authorities refused to join in agreements.

—The State Health Department at Harrisburg on Tuesday received notices of five new cases of smallpox in Pennsylvania, three in Erie, one in Sharsburg and another in Sharon. Two of the three patients in Erie are children and another was ment was made that the niece of J. W. Wright, principal of a school there, would be ordered because of the alleged violation of the law providing for the vaccination of the school children.

—Federal authorities last week took into custody at Windber, Andrew Janasz, an Austrian, charged with violation of the espionage act. Janasz, it is alleged, ridiculed the draft law and boasted that he would never fight for this country, even if he was a citizen. A week previous he was arrested by George Wilkinson, chief of the Berwind-White company police and held pending the arrival of federal officers. He is in the Johnstown jail.

—The Antracite Brewing company, of Mt. Carmel, feeling the effects of the decrease in consumption of its products, is equipping a portion of its big brewery for use as a creamery. The owners, who own near Fountain Springs and have herded there more than 100 well bred cows. The product will be transported by auto-trucks from the farm to the combination brewery-creamery at Mt. Carmel, and within a short time butter and other creamery products will be on the market. The Messrs. Malone declare that if "the worst comes" the entire plant will be transformed into a creamery.

—Hunted by police and detectives since late Monday night, when it is said he shot and killed his wife, John Bodner, of Erie, aged thirty-seven years, was probably fatally wounded on Tuesday in a revolver duel with Patrolman Benjamin Chamberlain, one of the men detailed to search for Bodner. The alleged wife murderer was reported dying in a hospital in that city. Bodner when discovered by Patrolman Chamberlain began firing at the officer and it is said fired five shots before one of the policeman's shots took effect. The body of Mrs. Bodner was found in the Bodner home by neighbors. A seven-year-old son is said to have told the police that "Papa did it."

—A legacy of \$3000 has been left to Henry C. Kraft, of West Hazleton, Pa., a ministerial student with the 31th Field Artillery at Camp Meade, Md., by the Rev. S. A. Bridges Stopp, a Lutheran clergyman of Allentown, who also gave Kraft the bulk of his library. Kraft was a friend of the deceased clergyman while a student at Muhlenberg, from which he was graduated last June. He was at Mt. Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary last fall preparing for the ministry when the Government ruled that he was not enrolled in any college as a theologian on June 5, when he registered for the draft. He called to the colors, threw down his books and reported at Camp Meade.