

**INK SLINGS.**

Several years ago the simple life was a fad. Now it is a necessity.

Talking about "keeping Lent," it is easier for an umbrella than anything else we know of.

While thinking of Lincoln the other day a little sympathy for Wilson would have been in order.

At Clarence on Sunday morning, February 9th, 1908, thermometers registered 29 degrees below zero.

Make up your mind now that when next summer comes you are going to lay in your winter's supply of coal.

Russia being out of the war it is up to us to throw that much more weight into the balance in favor of the Allies.

Half a loaf is better than no bread at all and unless we speedily accept the half-loaf proposal we are inviting the time when we will have no bread.

Ladies! Corn bread is said to be wonderful for the complexion. It beats all the "beauty shop" creams ever concocted. Eat thereof and knit, and thereby do a double bit.

Surprising how many Republicans there are who think they are fit to be Governor of Pennsylvania. This is probably because in recent years the standard of fitness has been gradually lowered.

Ten cars of coal rolled into Bellefonte on Monday night, but nature had thawed us out and it didn't look half as good as it would have ten days ago when the mercury was 70 degrees lower and there wasn't a car in sight.

The fifty-fifty order on wheat flour purchases doesn't mean that you can buy twenty-five pounds of flour and twenty-five pounds of substitute; then eat the flour and go back for more on the theory that you still have twenty-five pounds of substitute in your home. The purpose of the plan is to have you get along with half as much wheat flour as you formerly used by substituting something else in for the other half.

Mayor Keister, of Harrisburg, has blazed a trail for municipal potentates all over the State. He has construed the vagrancy law as to apply to every person who doesn't work and is going to see to it that a lot of chronic loafers in his home city become producers instead of continuing as drones. More power to him and we respectfully commend his example to the serious consideration of our own Burgess Walker.

We note with satisfaction and much of hopefulness that the leaders of our party in Pennsylvania have had their ears to the ground and have decided against the plan of star chamber nominations, so repugnant to the ideals of Democracy. Two or three men are not going to meet in Washington, as formerly, and then send out the names of the nominees whom we are to vote for. An open conference is to be held, free discussion of the merits and availability of prospective candidates is to be permitted and party opinion rather than individual is to be the guide. Let us hope that the plan is carried into execution, for if it is we can win in Pennsylvania next fall. If it isn't the campaign will be lost before it is started.

Suppose the government should grow tired of begging us to save flour and other food stuffs. Suppose it should then go into the market and buy all it needs to supply our armies and permit our allies to do the same. What would happen? It wouldn't be necessary to be begging and explaining to us the necessity of saving, because we would then be at the mercy of a supply depleted to the point where we would have to consume on less than a fifty-fifty basis or do without entirely. We don't appreciate what the government is doing for us. That's the trouble. It is really trying to make what we have go as far as possible and at the same time keep the price within our means. Don't for a moment lose sight of the fact that flour is lower in price today than it was a year ago or that it would probably be two or three times as high as it is now were the government to go into the market and buy what it needs, leaving us to look out for ourselves.

The goal famine in Bellefonte necessitated the combination of several churches; that is two congregations of different denomination worship together in one edifice; the respective pastors taking Sunday about in officiating. The result has been surprising. Instead of four half filled auditoriums there are two almost crowded and there is the feeling and inspiration that a revival is in progress. The splendid singing inspires the pews the fine audience inspires the pastor and the service arouses a new enthusiasm. This accidental massing of church going people is not without its lesson. There is very little sectarian preaching any more. Ministers are all pouring out the simple gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, for that is all the world needs, and inasmuch as it is human nature to want to be where the crowd is it would not be better to have a few churches crowded than a lot half filled. Let the word get abroad that the S. R. O. sign is out at one of the churches and you'll find piles of people who wouldn't walk in and take the best seat on ordinary occasions greasiness themselves to try to squeeze into the vestibule.

# Democratic Watchman

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### Russian Peace and Austrian Prospects

Except in so far as the Russian peace pact releases German troops for service on the Western and Italian fronts it can afford the Kaiser little help. Since the Russian revolution nearly a year ago that contingent has been a liability rather than an asset to the allies. Under the peace treaty the Russian troops will be demobilized and the German forces on that front may be considerably decreased. But the German prisoners held in Russia will not be available for several months and the Russian granaries will not be accessible to Germany for as long a time. In view of these facts the rejoicing in Germany following the announcement that a peace treaty has been agreed on was rather excessive.

During the early stages of the war hundreds of thousands of German and Austrian troops were captured by the Russians and since that have been lodged in Siberia and at other remote points. It will take a long time and a vast amount of money and trouble to transport them to points where they may be of service to Germany. Besides that the Bolsheviks is not in control of such sections of Russia as might be of the greatest service to the Kaiser. The delay in getting at the wheat supplies will be vastly augmented by the danger in transporting the wheat. Meantime the forces of the allies are being increased rapidly and before the peace treaty yields an advantage worth while another treaty may be made which will put both the Kaiser and the Bolshevik traitors beyond the power of harm.

In an address to Congress on Monday President Wilson plainly pointed a way for Austria-Hungary to escape the further tragedies and privations of a war instituted and prosecuted for the aggrandizement of a selfish autocracy. His tender friendship of a tottering people may not get an immediate response but if the contrary develops before Germany gets any advantage from a corrupt bargain with perfidious agents in Russia there need be no surprise. Count Czernin has already signified his sympathy with some of the propositions of the President and it is not improbable that upon a sober, second thought he will come to desire a peace that will endure because it is just.

The disaster to the Tuscania was lamentable, of course, but such things must be expected. We are sending great numbers of troops across the sea and Germany is very anxious to prevent their arrival. That so few have been prevented thus far is a subject for rejoicing.

### President Wilson and the Farmer.

President Wilson revealed his splendid attitude in relation to public affairs in response to the delegates to the Federal Board of Farm Organizations, recently in session in Washington when they called upon him. The delegates presented a memorial urging the President to "appoint a commission of nine from their body to serve as an intermediary between the government and the farmers in solving agricultural and labor problems." There is certainly great need for an understanding between these elements. The farmers are literally "up against" the most perplexing situations. They have their own interests to conserve and they want to serve the country. There should be coordination.

President Wilson didn't undertake to shift responsibility on this important question. He didn't dismiss his memorialists with vague promises of future action. He didn't deceive them by pretenses that he was too deeply absorbed in other problems to give their suggestions just consideration. He clearly and candidly replied that he could not, off-hand, answer so important a memorial as theirs. But he assured them it would receive his "most careful, respectful attention." He said that many of the suggestions contained in the memorial had been under consideration and he expressed the belief that many of them are approaching a successful solution as he is able to work out for them.

In the last analysis the farmers of the country are the support of the government. Upon them, in the end, will devolve the duty of winning the war. The feeding of the armies is a vast task but only a small part of the obligations which the farmers have or must in the near future assume. The families and dependents of the fighting men must be supported and the farmers must provide the materials for their sustenance. Therefore the President was right when he expressed pleasure at meeting these representatives of the farmers, appreciation of their patriotism and confidence in their unselfishness. And he was as sincere as he was candid in discussing problems with them.

Besides that President Wilson's speech may create a revolution in Germany which bayonets can't suppress.

### Mr. Humes Justly Complains.

Mr. E. Lowrey Humes, United States District Attorney for the Western district of this State, seems to have gubernatorial aspirations and the right idea of selecting a Democratic candidate for that office. In a recent interview he deprecated the habit of a handful of office holders assembling in a city outside of the State and picking candidates for the party. Possibly if the few had indicated a preference for him, he would have condoned the offence now as he has in the past. In fact he declares that only because Mr. Vance McCormick declines to run "it is necessary that the sentiments of the Democrats of the State should be determined in order that the most available men and strongest candidate should be nominated." Why this distinction is not revealed.

As Mr. Humes says "the prospects of electing a Democratic Governor this year are very excellent." Every reasoning mind is set against the scheme of the Republican factions to give Philadelphia over to one machine and the rest of the State to another, to loot. But the Democratic voters will not vote for candidates chosen by a small group of office holders without giving them an opportunity to participate in the choice. Mr. Humes' protest was brought out because Congressman Campbell, of Pittsburgh, had announced that a candidate had been picked in Washington who would be forced on the party. The protest was timely and appropriate. Even if the most capable and popular man in the State had been selected under such circumstances there would have been cause for complaint.

The abandonment of the State conventions was a cunning trick of crafty politicians to perpetuate their control of party organizations and machinery. Since 1912 there has not been an opportunity to discover suitable material for party leadership. In the Democratic party, for example, less than a dozen men have chosen the candidates, distributed the favors and manipulated the machinery since that time. Not a single new figure has been added to the group or a new thought introduced into the councils. Mr. Humes justly protests against the continuance of this condition. He may have been moved by selfishness or influenced by ambition. But whatever the cause he gave expression to a thought which is growing in the minds of the Democratic voters of Pennsylvania.

Don't bawl your grocer out if he won't sell you all the flour you think you ought to have. Look in the mirror and see just what a person who hasn't enough patriotism to make some sacrifices for his country looks like.

### Disappointment for Denny O'Neil.

In so far as Denny O'Neil is depending upon the Vares influence to get him the Republican nomination for Governor he is destined to a sad disappointment. Senator Vares is going to support his colleague in the General Assembly, Senator Sproul. It may not be "a labor of love." Possibly it will be a support reluctantly given because Senator Vares understands that the inauguration of Sproul as Governor will mark an indelible line shutting him out of the councils of the State. But it will create a vast reservoir of graft in the city of Philadelphia in which Vares may wallow like a Hog Island porker, indefinitely. It will guarantee "the bacon" in inexhaustible quantity for four years of stealing.

And Denny O'Neil is making it easy for Senator Vares to determine his course in the primary campaign. His appeal to the church, the Christian association and the Prohibition societies is simply blazing the way through a forest of uncertainty for Senator Vares to march into the Penrose camp. The liquor interests have not been unfriendly to Vares. The purveyors of vice and the element of evil in the "tenderloin" of the big city have no aversion to the Vares. A wink from big business cautiously tipped has never failed of a rise from the Vares. And these potential elements in the politics of Pennsylvania are not enthusiastic for Denny O'Neil. On the contrary they are quite the reverse.

Then Denny O'Neil is gathering about him an element with which it would be impossible for the Vares to affiliate. Of course they have tolerated Brumbaugh because he has been a convenient instrument in their hands during his term of office. But when he loses his power he will forfeit their support. And Gifford Pinchot! Setting him up in the face of the Vares is like flashing a red flag in the face of a mad bull. In view of these incidents it will be easy enough for the Vares to let Dave Lane, Harry Mackey and kindred spirits in the Philadelphia Republican committee steer them away from the O'Neil cantonment and into the camp of Penrose and the support of Sproul.

### Good Results Accomplished.

The insincerity of Senators Hitchcock, Chamberlain and others in nagging the President and incidentally conveying information to Germany, is revealed in their opposition to the Overman bill. They professed that their only reason for demanding a War Council and Minister of Munitions was to centralize authority and coordinate the work of preparing for war. They protested that a War Council of three persons and a Minister of Munitions would compass the result. The Overman bill provides for even a closer corporation in this direction. It vests in the President full authority to do the work they declare to be necessary, absolutely free of the danger of disagreement.

If there was any merit in the proposition to create a War Council it is preserved in the Overman bill. A War Council would have been in direct conflict with the provision of the Federal constitution which declares the President shall be commander in chief of the army and navy. He has no option in the matter. The provision is mandatory and if he desired to "pass the buck," as the German sympathizers like to put it, he is forbidden. But the Overman bill points a way by which the purpose or the functions of a war council may be met within the limits of the constitutional authority. It authorizes the President to so adjust or organize the departments and bureaus of the government that the desirable coordination may be obtained.

But the traitorous Senators are not willing to put their own methods into operation without humiliating the President and violating the constitution. We can see how Senators who were opposed to the Hitchcock and Chamberlain scheme might consistently object to the Overman bill. It is drastic and if misused might work disastrous consequences. At its worst, however, it couldn't be any worse than the Chamberlain plan and it would have the merit of being within the constitution while his proposition is not. It may not pass but has already served an excellent purpose. It has exposed the hypocrisy of certain Senators and left them in the limelight as contemptible traitors.

General Pershing says that "if the French line holds the Germans back until April or May my prediction is that nothing can stop the allies from breaking through the German lines and bringing the Kaiser to his knees." And while he is in that prayerful attitude a swift kick under the chin might send him to the grave in proper shape.

### Penrose Must Pay the Price.

It seems that the terms upon which Senator Penrose has purchased the temporary co-operation of the Vares are more humiliating than were at first indicated. The Senator is required to accept John R. K. Scott as the candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Not long ago Senator Penrose made public his estimate of Mr. Scott. He described Scott as a sort of "spawn of the slums" who has grown rich by levying tribute upon vice. A debased Quarter Sessions lawyer, the Senator intimated, his clients are drawn from the red-light section of the city and his professional activities limited to that environment. To have such a candidate forced on him would be intolerable to an honorable man.

But Senator Penrose seems to be equal to the emergency. Not long ago Theodore Roosevelt denounced him as a moral monster unfit for association with decent citizens but he is now hobnobbing with Roosevelt as the most promising source of party spoils. Of course Roosevelt and Scott have no cause to worry. They have sounded the depths and even if their estimate of Penrose previously expressed remains unchanged they lose nothing by the combination. You can't make pitch blacker any more than gold can be improved by gilding. But the voluntary degradation of Penrose to the level of these political pirates is surprising. He was well born, well educated and ought to do better.

The Vares have set the price of their services to Penrose, however, and laid down the conditions upon which he may affiliate with them. The city of Philadelphia must be turned over to their predatory purposes and John R. K. Scott named as the candidate for Lieutenant Governor. It is a high as well as a humiliating price but it must be paid "or else." It is a trifle hard on Sproul too, whose social and moral status has been on a higher level. But Sproul is "between the devil and the deep blue sea" and must accept the conditions presented or give up his long cherished ambition to be Governor. It is not a theory that confronts him. It is a hard, horrible and humiliating fact which must be met.

Just thirty-four days until the first day of spring.

### "This is War!"

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

While the loss of the Tuscania is not a disaster of the appalling sort indicated by the first despatches, it missed being that by a very narrow margin, and only because there were plenty of vessels at hand to rescue the human cargo under favorable weather conditions and near to a friendly shore. Even so, the number of lives lost is great enough to make a profound impression throughout the country, re-awakening that dread of the lurking submarines which had so long been slumbering lulled by the assurance that our troops were going over without let or hindrance from the subs; so careful and thorough were the measures taken for their safety.

Now it will be remarked that it was a British transport under the convoy of British war ships and some will assume that an American vessel under our own naval convoy would have been safer, but there is no warrant for that, the British having an unbroken record for the safe trans-Atlantic movement of Canadian troops. The disaster will serve to urge even more elaborate and thorough precautions against U-boat attack and for life saving in the event of attack; also redoubled energy in offensive search for the German subs. Perhaps it may also urge the long-discussed policy of a great allied naval offensive against the German submarine bases; a policy which many American naval experts have favored from the moment when we entered the war; attack of that sort, regardless of probable losses, being in harmony with all our naval traditions from the sea fights and lake battles of our revolution in 1812 to the days of Farragut and Dewey. There is reason to believe that a great naval offensive by the British, French and American fleets has only been awaiting the right moment for effective co-ordination with military operations. Particularly as success might give a new base for an army.

At any rate, the sinking of the Tuscania will further inflame the war spirit throughout the land. Our troops already on the front will be eager to score against such savage foes and those who are going over will be the less earnest for realizing more keenly the danger of the crossing. Once again we are reminded that "this is war."

### Turn On The Light!

From the Johnstown Leader.

After all the fault finding as to details, the country now knows that Uncle Sam did a big job in a big way—and didn't shout it from the housetops while he was doing it.

It appears now that instead of being negligent in the matter of making heavy artillery, we are playing the same old game according to agreement with our Allies—letting them make the big guns for us.

As shipping is the crucial thing in winning the war, the tonnage saved for other purposes, by having the Allies make our big guns, is vastly important. It means more food, supplies and more American soldiers transported to do it.

It is enough to know, however, that our part of the general Allied program has been and is being completely performed. We are doing what our Allies want us to do, all that they expect us to do and the way they want us to do it.

We believe it would be good policy in the future for the War Department to make public all the information it possibly can about the conduct of the war. Yes, it would be well to give the public information even if some of it does reach Germany.

The people are well united in support of the President. They want to back him up to a victorious finish. But they ought to know enough about the war to enable them to avoid the snares laid for their judgment by any who want to play politics with the war.

If Secretary Baker persists in the policy of frankness adopted in his last appearance before the Military Affairs committee, the people themselves will attend to the politicians, no matter what party claims their allegiance.

### War in Earnest.

From the New York Sun.

War 3,000 miles away is we see, close at hand in the very center of our hearts, when comes the slaughter of American troops. We had expected it would be in the field. It is on the sea. None the less it strikes home. Now the nation will be aroused as it has not been since the Lusitania atrocity, although we have been under arms for nearly a year. At last we shall know what this war means. We shall buckle down to the biggest job of fighting the world has ever known. The American people will go to their war with all that is in them.

### Mark Tapley at the Bat.

From the Omaha Bee.

Other evidence to the contrary, this has been the shortest winter in our national history—we have been short of wheat, short of meat, short of fuel, short of clothing and short of about everything but hope and courage.

The Kaiser appears to have a special aversion against American soldiers and unless the signs are misleading he will have greater reason for his hatred within the next few months.

### SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—While Joseph Rovito, of Shamokin, was negotiating for renewed fire insurance, an oil stove explosion burned his store, at \$5000 dead loss.

—For his official services during the month of January, Burgess J. Calvin, of Hollidaysburg, tendered a bill to the borough council for 30 cents. The Burgess receives his compensation on a commission basis and the business done in his department for a month aggregated only \$5.

—Another case of smallpox has developed in South Phillipsburg. Mrs. Matt Reznick being the latest victim. Quarantine was placed on the house Sunday morning and all precautions have been taken. The schools of South Phillipsburg have been closed for two weeks to avoid any further spread of the dreaded disease.

—With the refusal of the Shamokin borough council to grant them a wage increase of \$10 a month, the entire force of patrolmen, including chief of police and house sergeant, Wednesday night gave Chief Burgess Zimmerman ten days' notice of their resignations, if council fails to reconsider the refusals. The patrolmen receive twenty-one cents an hour for an eleven hour day.

—Robert Patton Habgood, of Bradford, twice a member of the House of Representatives and formerly president of the Republican State League of clubs has announced his candidacy for the gubernatorial nomination at the Republican primaries next May. Mr. Habgood declares himself a friend of the proposed Prohibition amendment and of Woman Suffrage. He says factionalism in his party has gone to seed.

—Deputy Attorney General Hargest has advised Secretary of Agriculture Patton that under the dog law of 1917 county treasurers are not entitled to extra pay for the work imposed upon them by the statute, but that a county treasurer has authority to employ clerks necessary to carry out the provisions of the act. The Secretary of Agriculture is also advised that persons wanting dog taxes forwarded to them by mail must pay the postage on them.

—With a roar that was heard all over the village and with a crashing of glass in every house within 2,000 feet, the Sheffield plant of the Interior Oil and Gas company let go shortly after nine o'clock last Tuesday morning. How the accident happened or what caused it is unknown and George Gray, the only person on the premises, was blown through one wall of the building and escaped unharmed. Fire followed the explosion and destroyed the plant, with a loss of \$20,000, and a neighboring house with a loss of \$500.

—Mrs. Catherine Duffy, of Jenkintown, was seriously and possibly fatally burned at her home in that borough last Tuesday afternoon, when she attempted to thaw out a frozen pipe, using rolled newspapers for the purpose. Her clothing was ignited and her screams brought a son, James, who was on another floor. The woman was a veritable torch when the son reached the bathroom. The son's hands were burned as he tore the clothing from his mother, stamping out the flames to prevent the house being ignited.

J. F. Kline, aged twenty-three years, is in a critical condition at the M. M. Packer hospital, Sunbury, suffering from a bullet wound in his chest following an affair which occurred Saturday night at the establishment of S. E. Rooser, near Northumberland. Rooser was arraigned before a justice of the peace of Sunbury on Monday morning and held pending the outcome of Kline's condition. It is alleged that Kline made an effort to force an entrance to the place when Rooser appeared upon the scene. A fight ensued and the shooting followed.

—John R. Thompson, of Salona, has a Holstein cow which gave birth to twin calves on Saturday, February 2. On the following Wednesday another thorough-bred Jersey cow in the same herd on Mr. Thompson's farm gave birth to another pair of calves. In each pair one is a male and the other a female and one is red and the other black. The only way of accounting for the rapid increase in Mr. Thompson's herd is the fact that he is chairman of the Agricultural committee and a member of the Finance and Livestock committee of the Clinton county Public Safety committee.

—Pennsylvania will not only have a record breaking maple sugar crop, but one which will be very valuable in the present shortage of sugar, according to information received by officials in Harrisburg, who have been hearing from various counties where the tapping of trees will soon begin. The State Forestry authorities are being asked by many people for information as to the way to get the sugar. Last year the production of the State, according to the Department of Agriculture, was 1,000,000 pounds of sugar worth from fifteen to eighteen cents a pound and 400,000 gallons of syrup worth from \$1 to \$1.50 per gallon. Somerset county is probably the best maple sugar producing county in the State.

—Benzine flowing into the Schuylkill river from a leaking tank at the Philadelphia Rubber works became ignited Sunday night and caused one of the most spectacular fires in the history of that city. For more than half a mile the edge of the river was ablaze, flames from the stream of fire at times shooting fifty feet into the air. Many boat-houses along the front and a number of motorboats and other small craft were destroyed. The plant of the rubber works was badly damaged and the Baltimore & Ohio bridge over the Schuylkill was put out of commission, seriously delaying traffic to and from the south. Although no estimate of the financial loss was available, it is said to be considerably less than \$100,000.

—A man giving his name as Albert Smith, who is believed by the police to be implicated in the murder of Frank Hurley at Blue Ball, near Phillipsburg, two years ago, was captured at Slab Run on Sunday by chief of police Painter, of Falls Creek. Painter was informed that a man who knew something of the Hurley murder had been hanging around the Slab Run locality for several weeks and quietly slipped in and got him Sunday afternoon. He gave his name as Albert Smith and admitted that he had been in the neighborhood of the murder and had seen the blood of the man on the railroad tracks; also that he had traveled forty miles that night, partly by automobile, to get out of the section. Smith was taken to DuBois and Sheriff Gorman, of Clearfield county, notified, who went to DuBois on Monday and took the man to the Clearfield jail for a further investigation. Frank Hurley was beaten to death. His head was smashed to a pulp and the body placed on the railroad tracks in an effort to cover the murder. No arrests had ever been made.