

INK SLINGS.

—Spring will be here in just twenty-seven days.

—Many tractors will be working on Centre county farms next summer.

—How thankful we ought to be that we are not in Lock Haven's plight today.

—Friday, February 22nd, 1902, is the day of the greatest flood in Spring creek ever recorded.

—Spring styles call for narrower and shorter skirts for women. They are going "over the top"—of the shoes, but the bow-legged girl will probably be a slacker.

—Col. Roosevelt is recovering and will soon be able to be about again. His ear was the cause of his dangerous illness; probably strained listening for a third call to the White House.

—Pity poor Russia! Think of the peace terms she will have to submit to at the hands of her German conquerors and imagine, if you can, what the tyrants will exact of us and our allies if we do not master them.

—Those draft evaders, who have just been sentenced to twenty years imprisonment at Leavenworth, stand just one chance of getting out. Kaiser Bill will release them, if he likes us, but the if can't carry much hope to these slackers.

—The snow has been going away without the expected disastrous floods. A day or two of melting then a brief freeze up to stop the water until the streams subside enough to carry away a new supply. Surely Providence is taking care of us.

—Let us let you in on a sure tip. We know a man who knows when the war is going to end. If you want to know when that much prayed for event will be look on page four of this issue, for a little jingle that will tell you just where you can find the new wise man.

—As an incentive to rouse you to the importance of greater gardening efforts next spring just remember how handy those beans, beets, tomatoes, etc., that you canned last summer, came in during the winter. Its far nicer to run to your own cellar than to the store and it doesn't cost as much, either.

—A fight is on at Washington to raise the minimum price of wheat to \$2.50 or \$3.00 per bushel. Whatever may be the outcome of it, however, it will apply only to the 1918 crop. The government will play fair with those farmers who have taken it at its word and sold their 1917 crops at present prices by making it unlawful for those who have not to hold their 1917 crops to be sold at any advance that may be made for the 1918 crop.

—President Wilson talked plain English to William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. "Will you co-operate or will you obstruct" put it right at the labor autocrat in a way that left no middle ground for him to take. The President has shown extreme consideration for labor ever since he has been in the White House and has a right to expect it to back him up, but a greater right to show it in plain language that there can be no middle ground when it comes to the matter of duty in the war.

—The "Watchman" is going to call all of its 1917 men to the colors. Look at your label and if you are in that class the only thing that will save you is a prompt remittance of \$1.50. If you don't send it we're going to conscript you, even if it costs a three cent postage stamp to serve the notice. There is nothing between a much needed pile of news paper and a pocket-book flat as if an elephant had stepped on it but our readers of the 1917 class and a few older ones. Won't you help us get over the top of a new pile of paper? You did it a year ago.

—Every day there is a new list published of the names of our brave boys who have died fighting for you and for me in France. They can never come back. They have given God's greatest gift for you and for me. And what are we doing? Quibbling, complaining, rebelling because we are asked to make less of gluttons of ourselves, in order that the cause for which they have died may live. May the shades of the giant patriots who are lying in French soil rise to cast a haunting rebuke over the pigmy spirits on this side of the sea who yammer at everything.

—If Washington doesn't soon curb itself in the use of paper, ink and presses there will be a famine in all of these commodities. Never in the history of this office has such a deluge of franked mail swept into it as is now coming. So much of it is utterly useless to any newspaper reader, so much obsolete by the time it is received, and so much previously covered by the metropolitan dailies that it seems like a sheer waste of time and material to permit its continuance. This great leak is not only sapping the funds at Washington but in our own State as well. Every department at Harrisburg has gotten the habit and tons and tons of perfectly good paper has thousands of dollars worth of work put on it each week and then burdens the mails in its journey of uselessness to the scrap basket under some desk.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 63.

BELLEFONTE, PA., FEBRUARY 22, 1918.

NO. 8.

Not So Bad After All.

Naturally there has been a good deal of complaint about the plans adopted for the conservation of food and fuel. The average American citizen grows restive under restraint and most of us say what we think regardless of results. But as the subjects of our complaints are analyzed and the achievements of the regulations reviewed we find that conditions are not as bad as we imagined. For example the meatless day and the wheatless meal have not greatly impaired our strength or to any perceptible extent harmed us in any way. But they have accomplished wonders in heartening our allies and comforting our friends in the foreign trenches.

In an address before the alumni of Williams College the other evening Dr. Garfield told of the result of the recent five-day industrial suspension, which was so roundly condemned in this country and in Germany. "Four hundred and eighty ships carrying more than 2,000,000 tons of food, fuel, munitions and other war supplies which had been tied up in Atlantic ports were bunkered and sent to sea between January 17th, the day the order became effective and January 29th. A normal number of ships only remained at anchor," he said and added, "and the flow of supplies necessary to the American expeditionary forces and the allies had been re-established." Besides that "the rails were cleared for important shipments of steel and other commodities to factories, without which the most essential war industries would have been closed, but not in orderly fashion."

In view of these facts what American man or boy, woman or girl is not willing to bear the small privations and meet the trifling inconveniences imposed by the authorities who have carefully studied the subjects and are acting for the public good? Most of us like the good things of life and some of us yearn for the luxuries. But the necessities of our kindred in foreign camps, who have offered their lives that we may be secure of comforts in the future, are of greater importance than our caprices. Nobody in our government imposes hardships simply to make others suffer and no fair-minded person will refuse to do a bit when the reward is so great.

—Naturally enough the first suspicion of graft in the war activities is developed in Philadelphia. It is said that frauds have been perpetrated in the purchase of land for the new shipyard on Hog Island.

Crime Fails of Its Purpose.

In debauching Russian mercenaries with bribes Germany seems to have "sown to the wind" and is now reaping the traditional harvest. The Russian revolution was an impulse of patriotism. But it was stifled by German intrigue and diverted by German conspiracy. Instead of serving the purpose of freeing the people from the yoke of autocracy it was made an instrument to aid militarism through the bribery of selfish and ignorant men who had obtained control of the government. By those base means Prussian diplomats hoped to release a million of troops in service on the Eastern front to steady and strengthen the shattered and tottering lines on the West. But the conspiracy has failed and the hopes withered.

In the history of the world there has been no such era of intrigue and organized crime as has characterized the German conduct of the pending war. Every principle of justice has been violated, every element of civilization outraged by the ruthless and murdering Huns who are in control of the German Empire. Kindly disposed observers have tried to draw a line which would exculpate the German people from blame for this state of affairs. But analysis disappoints their amiable expectations. If the German heart were right, if the German mind were humanly inclined, the brutalities, the atrocities, the beastliness of the German authorities might have been checked. But the worst meets approval in Berlin.

The poor, miserable, mercenary culprits in St. Petersburg have enriched themselves, no doubt, through the sacrifice of their country, but will probably not live to enjoy the evil fruits of their perfidy. But that is unimportant. The main fact is that Germany has failed of her plans to profit by a conspiracy which would have been infamous even if successful. The expectation of separate peace has gone glimmering and instead of sending the vast army of the East to overwhelm the trenches in France and Flanders it is now necessary to withdraw energy from the Western line in order to reorganize the demoralized forces on the Russian border. It is a fit reward, however, for a brutal undertaking.

—With the price of wheat fixed by law at three dollars a bushel "the farmer can always take care of himself, oleo."

Penrose Must Take Scott.

The latest gossip coming from the Pennsylvania Republican trenches indicates that Senator Penrose is reluctant to accept John R. K. Scott as the candidate for Lieutenant Governor. In a previous reference to this subject we expressed the opinion that Penrose's self-respect would be outraged if the Vares forced Scott upon him. But the Vares are persistent in this demand. They know that "the big fellow" will stand "the gaff" if he has to and they dearly love to see him squirm. Long separation from the spoils, protracted yearning for graft have a chastening influence on minds trained as his has been and though he may protest vehemently, he will yield ultimately.

The gossip, however, removes all question of the nomination of Senator Sprout for Governor. At this writing his candidacy has not been formally announced but it will be within a few days and may be before this issue of the "Watchman" reaches its destination. Denny O'Neil's ambition is already as dead as the traditional "door nail" and the Vares are scheduled to decorate its coffin. It won't be a joyful function either. The epithets which Denny has so freely hurled at Penrose are more musical to the Vares ear than the squeal of a pig in a South Philadelphia backyard. But accepting Scott as a candidate is punishment enough, they reason, and what's the use of painting a rainbow.

It may be assumed, therefore, that Sprout for Governor, Scott for Lieutenant Governor and Houck for Secretary of Internal Affairs will compose the ticket. Houck is not entirely persona grata to Penrose but he will do. When Brumbaugh goes into the hole Houck will be as servile as any one else could be and Penrose will get three out of the four candidates for Congress-at-Large. It is not all he expected. It is not the proportion he has been used to. But conditions have changed and as it is all he can get it will have to be satisfactory. The Vares are his Nemesis and their vengeance is inexorable. And it will be worth while to see him trying to look pleasant.

—The war is costing vast sums of money but if the savings now being practiced and the thrift now being inculcated become a national habit it won't take long to recover it all and set a balance on the right side of the account.

Talk of an Extra Session.

The report that Governor Brumbaugh contemplates an extra session of the Legislature is probably without foundation in fact. There is no reason for an extra session of the present Legislature. The last three Legislatures failed of the constitutional duty to reapportion the State into Congress, Senate, Representative and judicial districts. But it is not likely that the present body, having failed at its regular session to fulfill its obligations would do so at a called session. As a matter of fact the Governor didn't urge it on the present Legislature or its predecessor, though it was his constitutional duty to do so, and the pretense of an extra session on that account is obviously folly.

Friends of the Governor have also suggested the desire of ratifying the prohibition amendment to the Federal constitution as a reason for calling an extra session of the Legislature. If there were even a remote possibility of that result the extra session might be worth while. But during the regular session of the present Legislature a proposition to consider local option was voted down by a large majority. Will the Governor say that he has information of a change of heart on this question by a considerable number of the Senators and Representatives in the present Legislature? Unless he has such information the calling of an extra session for that purpose would be absolutely futile.

An extra session of the Legislature would cost the tax payers of Pennsylvania between five and six hundred thousand dollars. That is a large sum of money and we know of no place where money grows on trees. Yet the re-apportionment of the State and the ratification of the prohibition amendment might be worth it in the opinion of many. On the other hand, however, there is no need of hurry in either case. If the next Legislature will get on the job promptly there will be ample time to attend to one before the next census and the other before the amendment can go into force. The probabilities are, therefore, that the Governor's purpose is ulterior and the extra session will be for partisan purposes.

—The Republican National committee refused to elect Mr. Adams, of Iowa, chairman because of his pro-German proclivities, but elected him vice chairman in spite of because of them. That is drawing fine lines.

Valuable Lesson Imparted.

President Wilson has settled the ship carpenter's strike in the right way. In reply to a rather impudent demand of a rather absurd labor agitator for a personal interview he said: "It is the duty of the government to see that the best possible conditions of labor are maintained, as it is always its duty to see to it that there is no lawless and conscienceless profiteering, and that duty the government has accepted and will perform." A personal interview wasn't necessary to convey this information and there has been no personal interview. But there was a pertinent and persuasive question in conclusion, "Will you co-operate or will you obstruct?" The President asked.

A personal interview with the President would have been a fine subject for boasting for a demagogue who had revealed a willingness to sacrifice the interests of the country for his personal aggrandizement. He could have said that he had brought the government to its knees begging his indulgence in a little personal enterprise and that the President was obliged to reckon with him. But he was sadly disappointed. The President couldn't see any public advantage from a personal interview and made his ideas on the subject entirely plain by putting a direct question where it would do the most good. "Will you co-operate or will you obstruct?" means precisely the same as "are you for or against us?"

Labor is entitled to full and even generous recompense. It has been patient, patriotic and forbearing. But all working men are not unselfish and attempting to take advantage of the necessities of the government to force even just concessions to labor is quite as bad as employing the same opportunities to profiteer in other things. The government was paying good wages for ship carpenters and willing to do better. But the President was not willing to let a selfish demagogue use a labor organization to hold up necessary work in order that he might exploit his importance before the world. Mr. Cunningham has learned a valuable lesson by this incident and let us hope it will do him good.

—There are Roosevelts, Chamberlains and Hitchcocks in England as well as in this country and faithful officials and capable soldiers are being nagged into impatience on both sides of the sea.

Centre Counties No Shirkers.

Frank L. Dersham, of Lewisburg, the income tax man who spent two weeks and three days at the court house in Bellefonte, did not complete his work here on Wednesday as expected but will be here the first five days of next week. Before he came here the internal revenue department figured that at least fifteen hundred people in Centre county were subject to the income tax law. A "Watchman" representative asked Mr. Dersham how nearly correct this estimate was, but he was unable to give figures because he was only here to give information and not to take in returns, and until the final returns are made public it will be impossible to tell how many people in Centre county will pay income tax, or the total amount thereof.

But one thing was evident during Mr. Dersham's stay in Bellefonte, and that is that there are few, if any shirkers in Centre county so far as paying income tax is concerned. Asked Mr. Dersham how nearly correct this estimate was, but he was unable to give figures because he was only here to give information and not to take in returns, and until the final returns are made public it will be impossible to tell how many people in Centre county will pay income tax, or the total amount thereof.

This did not include only people from Bellefonte and other towns in the county, but throughout the county at large. In fact, if the exact truth were known it is quite likely that a big per cent. of the people were farmers. One particular case the writer has in mind is that of a farmer, well up in years, who came to Bellefonte last week with his son to see if he was liable for income tax. He owns and farms a small farm and unhesitatingly stated that off of their small farm they were making over a thousand dollars a year. But as his wife is living and he is the head of a family he was told that he was exempt up to two thousand dollars. "Well," said the old farmer, "I kind of thought I was, but not knowing for sure I came in to find out because in a time like this I don't want to shirk my part in the affair, and I'm a little too old to go out and fight."

And it is this spirit of every man doing his part which will make the United States the big factor in winning the war and making the world safe for democracy ever after.

—Mr. Will Hays has been elected chairman of the Republican National committee. There's Will, Willie, Nil, Nillie and Nit.

HOSE-ANNA.

From the Pitchfork.
The new spring hose that Ann has got Prove her to be a patriot.
Upon each one there is a flag, Red, white and blue—the latest gag
Of fickle style
And for a mile
The slackers gaze at Anna's shin.
Recruiting service she is in.
The flag upon the court house tower
May float unnoticed by the hour;
The solemn solons may be wise
But Ann knows how to advertise.

Is Holland Coming In?

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.
On the eve of the more active resumption of warfare on the western front, attention is suddenly invited to Holland by an announcement that the Dutch merchant marine, or all that is left of it, has been placed at the disposal of the Entente Allies for transportation, presumably of merchandise, outside of the danger zones.

This is not a violation of neutrality, nor would such freight-carrying within the war zones be such violation. As often pointed out when we were neutral, refusal of such freight would be violation of neutrality, as it would deny to those belligerents who had the mastery of the sea, one of the advantages gained by force of arms; namely, the benefit of commerce and of the receipt of war supplies and munitions.

On the other hand, Holland and the Scandinavian nations, and even Spain, have been the victims of constant German violations of neutrality by the sinking of their merchant ships without warning. In mortal terror of the fate of Belgium Holland has endured everything to keep out of the war, and has been so extremely careful to avoid any offense to Germany that even this announcement, that the very considerable remnant of her great merchant fleet will be at the disposal of the Entente for carrying trade outside of the danger zone, is noted as a nervy performance.

Germany has promptly taken notice by a statement from the Berlin foreign office that the use of these ships "for Germany's defeat" is regarded with grave concern. And the warning is added, "We must protect ourselves, for our national life is at stake."

This may threaten more than the submerging of the Dutch ships, for the Dutch evidently hope to keep them out of the danger zones. The incident suggests once more that sudden developments bringing little Holland into the war and vitality affecting the whole western front may follow, for the food situation in Holland is also serious and its supplies can only be supplemented from over the seas; while it can bring the seas over the land to bar invasion and summon naval help. The Dutch may also find that their national life is at stake. Now that Russia has been wrecked, Holland, rather than Denmark, may be the pivot of new war developments.

Feel Better, Look Better.

From the New York Tribune.
There is one of the food advertisements that strikes us as a pattern of eloquence. We gladly take it as a text. "Eat less, feel better, look better," it runs. Now it is everlastingly difficult to persuade an American stomach to understand just how giving up his pet dish once or twice a week is going to make or break the German nation 3,000 miles away. Food will win the war. But don't ask any stomach to believe you. Far better approach the eager, yapping thing with an argument addressed to its own level of understanding. Talk to it not of ideals and the civilization of the world, but get right down to taste, digestion, blood, adipose tissue, speed, comfort and the hope of a happy old age free from pills and pepsin. The capitalist's figure is coming out and the military figure is coming in. The sooner the stay-at-homes digest this truth the better. There is no spare time in which to act. The beauty that comes from a slender waistline is not to be won over night, as how many fox-trotters have learned to their grief. Eat less, feel better, look better. Begin now. You will just about be able to become a husky, roaring youth again with the health of a lumberjack and the beauty of an Adonis by the time the peace treaty is signed.

fooling Themselves Only.

From the Johnstown Leader.
It is not at all remarkable that the Berlin newspapers crowd with great joy over what they believe is demoralization of the American morale by the Tuscan disaster. "Frightfulness" has been greatly relied upon by Germany, ever since the war began. Armless Red Cross nurses, babies impaled on bayonets, sunken hospital ships and hundreds of other horrors are part of the premeditated German war plans.

It goes to show how little Germany understands the character of the other peoples of the earth. She cannot realize that America is in the war to put down such things as this Tuscan "frightfulness" and that the more of such things the stronger America's determination to put an end to them. It will be an enlightened Germany when her policy of "frightfulness" comes home to roost.

—When \$50,000,000 worth of war stamps can be sold in a few months, mainly to children, it means that the people are behind the government war policy with all their might.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Patrons of the R. F. D. route out of Derry are in danger of not having any delivery very soon. At present there are none after the job although the route pays over \$100 a month.

—Mrs. Mary McClellan, an aged and highly respected resident of Phillipsburg, on Wednesday of last week delightfully celebrated her ninety-third birthday anniversary, a family dinner being the feature of the day.

—The long-expected award in the appraisal of the Huntingdon Water company's plant for its sale to the borough of Huntingdon was received last week. The value of the plant is placed by the appraisers at \$157,684.

—Naz Giamaria, an Italian, was taken to the Williamsport hospital Friday morning from Emporium, suffering from a serious stab wound in the lungs, inflicted by Nick Patallo with a jack knife, when a quarrel arose during a game of cards.

—Fire destroyed the big dairy barn of Herman Brinkman, Latrobe, last Friday, when four cows and two hogs were burned to death. Two horses and four cows were taken out, but one of the horses was so badly burned that it had to be shot.

—A Canadian slacker, named J. Frank Leslie, arrested several months ago near Peale, and since confined to the Clearfield jail awaiting the action of the immigration authorities, has been sent back to his native land to be dealt with by the Canadian authorities.

—Peter Folkody, of Blairsville, aged 30 years, who shot himself through the mouth last Wednesday after killing Constable Joseph Arley, of Blairsville, died at the Indiana hospital on Thursday as a result of the wound. He was unmarried and had been employed in the Blairsville coal mines for several months.

—Frank Dandrea, of Tarentum, is out of jail under \$1,000 bail. He is charged with selling liquor without a license. Fifteen barrels of wine were found in his cellar, but Frank said they were for "family use." The authorities say that he has soothed the thirst of many an arid soul of his immediate family.

—Over two hundred students of Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, Pa., were hurriedly sent away from the school Sunday because of an epidemic of scarlet fever among the students. There are fifteen cases at the institution and it is feared that these boys who have gone to their homes may spread the infection.

—Three business houses, including the McEwen department store, one of the largest in the lower Juniata valley, were burned at Mifflin on Monday with a loss of probably \$100,000, partially covered by insurance. The fire started from a defective fuse and swept a block. In addition to the McEwen store, the hardware establishment of Guss Bros., and restaurant of Mrs. G. B. Duncan were destroyed.

—While Albert Bollman, of Etchebergetown, was unloading coal cars at the Savage mines near Riddlesburg, on February 8th, he fell from the car, a distance of about seven feet, and had his neck broken, dying almost instantly. He was aged about 29 years and is survived by his wife and three children. The unfortunate man was buried at the Reformed church cemetery in Yellow Creek, Bedford county.

—The sum of \$22,000 changed hands when the property of the Williamsport Iron and Nail company in the borough of South Williamsport changed hands recently. The purchase price was made public Wednesday when the deed was filed for record in the register and recorder's office at the Lycoming county court house. The sale was effected January 17th. The purchaser was Ellis Claster, of Lock Haven.

—Mrs. Sophia Smith died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Guyler, at Duncannon, last Friday, after a short illness from diseases incident to her age. Had she deceased lived until March 2nd she would have rounded out her 100 years. She was born in Perry county, near where she died, on March 2nd, 1818, and retained her faculties until twenty-four hours before her death. She was able to read and knit without the aid of glasses all of her life.

—Ray Meyers, aged 17 years, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Meyers, of Clearfield, was run over by a train of cars in the N. Y. C. yard at Clearfield on Wednesday, the 13th, and instantly killed, his body being badly mangled. He was employed in the yard, and when run down was standing on track No. 1 making notes of the seals of a train on an adjoining track. He was a switch tender, but was temporarily relieving another in looking after the seals.

—Florence B. Rich, a Dickinson Seminary student, and son of W. F. Rich, a wealthy woolen manufacturer, of Woolrich, has been used for damages as the result of a fatal automobile accident near Avis last July. Rich was driving a car, which collided with a machine owned by William D. Heck, of Jersey Shore, killing a two-year-old child of Howard B. Drake of Benovo. Drake sues for the death of the child and Heck for damages to the machine.

—Two men were drowned, a three-span steel bridge washed away and many homes in the lower lands inundated at Tionesta on Friday, when Tionesta creek, backed by a jammed ice pack running in the Allegheny river, flooded the town. The other bridge was so badly damaged by the flood waters that it has been closed to all traffic. Walter and Jesse Dawson, brothers, are the victims of the flood. Their home, located near the river bank, was completely covered. A searching party discovered the bodies on Friday.

—County Food Administrator Charles L. Davidson, of Fayette county, last Friday reported to State officials of the finding of 3,000 pounds of hoarded flour in 12 residences at Keister, a mining town near Uniontown. In one house the raters found 900 pounds in sacks between the outside wall and a false wall. In another house, 800 pounds were confiscated and in another 600. The flour in sacks had been sewed in a mattress in one place while in another, sacks were placed between the mattress and the bed springs on unused beds.

—Captain J. T. Danforth, named to command the company of reserve militia at Warren, has placed twenty-six men on duty guarding property, including explosives, endangered by floods at Corydon, Warren county, although the company has not been mustered into State service. The captain reported having armed and provisioned the men from local stores and that he had established headquarters at Warren. He was commended by Adjutant General Beary for his action and will report to the capitol while the men are on duty.