

—And this is March.
—If it is Germany's plan to re-establish Czarism in Russia a German Prince has probably already been made.

—In just forty-six days a mighty army of fishermen will mobilize along the banks of streams somewhere in Pennsylvania.

—Talking about brotherly love, Bellefonte can have little to regret at the way she responded to Lock Haven's appeal for help.

—Our prognostication, made last December, has come true. Circuses will be permitted to travel next summer and the small boy, and his solicitous guardian who always thinks it necessary to accompany him, are notified that all the joy has not yet been extracted from life.

—Has anybody heard of anybody who has a bee in his bonnet to become a Democratic candidate for nomination to the Legislature. There was a time when the Hon. Bob Foster's lightning rod was always in the air, but even it came down after he landed the postoffice of his home town.

—It won't be long now until American made ships are sliding into the water at a rate faster than the submarines are sinking those of all the allies combined. When that day comes the tonnage problem will be solved but the more important one of cargoes will still be up to the producers of America.

—It is curious that Secretary McAdoo, Secretary Baker and Mr. Hoover, having all the sources of information that the government can command at hand, don't know half as much about what ought to be done to win the war as nine-tenths of the individuals who sit around warm stoves in isolated districts and air opinions founded on air.

—Here's hoping that Japan goes into Russia with the same determination that she did in 1910. She could render her allies a wonderful service now by setting her redoubtable fighters to the task of driving the Germans back and depriving them of the great store houses of food and other supplies that they are subjugating Russia to command.

—Last week the "Watchman" expressed the opinion that the government would make no price ruling on wheat that would be unfair to those farmers who have already sold their 1917 crops. That is to say we were certain that even if an advance had been allowed it would not apply to 1917 wheat held over until 1918. The new price of 1918 has been fixed at \$2.20 a bushel and the longer the old wheat stays in the granaries the more it will lose in weight and run the risk of destruction by fire and rats.

—When Governor Brumbaugh gets home from Florida he will announce his intentions regarding the calling of an extra session of the Legislature. It would seem that all the agitation for an extra session is for some covert purpose of the bosses. Why spend half a million dollars on such a meeting at a time when every penny ought to be conserved and when it is reasonably certain that an apportionment bill would not be put through or the Prohibition amendment ratified. The latter is the really important matter and the next Legislature is the one that should act upon it, for the reason that its members will have been elected because of their pledges regarding the amendment.

—Bellefonte groccymen who are trying to reduce the cost of an over extended delivery service might find the solution of their problem by offering a discount on purchases by cash-and-carry customers. If they were to get together and agree upon a rate of discount to be given those persons who pay cash and carry their goods home with them we have no doubt that the result would be a very material reduction in the cost of delivery. As at present conducted the business offers no inducement to cash customers or to those who carry their own purchases and under such a system the purchaser naturally says to himself: Why should I pay cash and tote my own goods home when Mrs. Doe pays her bills only once a month and won't be seen carrying even a box of matches on the street.

—On another page of this issue appears a report of the proceedings of a temperance meeting held in Bellefonte recently. If it is reported correctly the temperance advocates have decided to oppose any candidate for office who have ever opposed temperance effort. We trust that our reporter has misstated the attitude expressed at the meeting in question. The "Watchman" has repeatedly pointed out the fact to temperance advocates that the one and only place for them to strike is through the Legislature. By no distortion of the imagination can it be shown that any other public official is clothed with authority that can lawfully promote the cause of temperance—the word here being used as synonymous with, Prohibition. In other words, the temperance people could serve no purpose by proscription of candidates for local or county offices, other than those for the Legislature. And if it is their intention to do so we here make the prediction that it will cost them the loss of powerful support that they would have if they confined their efforts to the one field in which their cause justifies their campaign.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Promising Signs for Democracy.

The Democratic leaders who assembled in Philadelphia on Saturday wisely limited their activities to conference with respect to men and measures. To have named candidates or framed a platform would have been a usurpation of power. It was not only fit but needful that the party leaders should confer in view of the near approach of a campaign for the election of a Governor. Frequent meetings of the sort would be helpful in the work of maintaining a party organization and keeping the voters in condition for a vigorous fight. But the matter of selecting candidates and constructing platforms should be left to the people and the methods prescribed by law.

The meeting in Philadelphia on Saturday, according to authentic reports, was harmonious, enthusiastic and large. That is to say there was a considerable number of active, earnest Democrats in attendance and they cordially agreed in confidence of success in the coming contest. Such incidents cannot fail to be heartening to the rank and file of the party throughout the State. It plainly indicates that while the party leaders are fulfilling their obligations they are not usurping authority or undertaking to boss. Democrats will not tamely submit to anything of that kind. Being free men they want to exercise all the rights and privileges of free men even though it entails some trouble.

The meeting of Saturday was a sort of hand-picked affair, assembled on invitation, and expected to be acquiescent. Those in attendance were not chosen by the Democrats of the communities they represented. But they refrained from assuming to speak by authority and thus justified themselves. They might have done harm whereas they did good by calling the party "the colors" for the important contest impending. It is to be hoped that other meetings will be held and that at some time in the near future a representative meeting of the party will be held at which fidelity to the principles of the party will be expressed. We have reason to be proud as well as hopeful of the party.

—Of course the United States Senate will not expel LaFollette so long as Chamberlain, Weeks, Wadsworth and Hitchcock represent the Kaiser on the floor. They need somebody for a goat.

Railroad Bill Passed the Senate.

After considerable mischievous opposition the administration railroad bill passed the Senate in Washington on Saturday without a roll call. It provides for the restoration of the roads to their actual owners within a year and a half after the close of the war and gives the President the authority to fix rates as it should do. Most of the opposition was against these features of the measure. The Populist element in the Senate wanted to make the bill a vehicle for ultimate government ownership and to continue the rate making power in the Interstate Commerce commission. The first of these propositions would have made it dangerous and the second rendered it worthless.

The wretched operations of the Bolsheviks in Russia should serve as an admonition against all the schemes of the so-called Socialists in this country. Government ownership is among the cardinal doctrines of that misguided contingent and in whatever disguise it appears it ought to be resisted. Unfortunately the exigencies of war compelled the government to take over the railroads not because of mismanagement or disloyalty but in order to secure the full measure of co-ordination. Necessary traffic agreements made it impossible to get complete efficiency from roads individually managed and complete efficiency had become necessary. But with the end of the war competition may again be resumed to public advantage as well as in the interest of the roads.

Since the government took over the management of the railroads the elements have conspired to create difficulties. But capable and industrious effort has minimized the troubles and it may now be hoped that within a week normal conditions will enable the General Director to prove the wisdom of the step. He found cars scarce, motive power inadequate and labor unobtainable. But he bent his vast energies to the task of improvement and is now practically on "Easy Street." Congested terminals are no longer subjects of concern and ample motive power and abundance of cars will make his task an easy one. But he shouldn't be hampered by absurd conditions.

—Maybe the food regulations are annoying to certain well-fed gentlemen whose only enjoyment comes through the belly. But if they refuse to obey now they may have to take worse later on.

Kaiser Gets the Harpoon.

President Wilson threw another harpoon into the Kaiser's body the other day when he fixed the price of this year's wheat crop at two dollars and twenty cents a bushel. For some time the enemy's emissaries in Congress have been trying to tie up the reserved wheat by promising legislation providing for a higher price. But the President has put a stop to that sinister bluff. Under an act passed last August he fixed the price by proclamation and that puts an end to the false pretense. In this action he expresses confidence in the patriotism of the farmers and it is not misplaced. We must have an increased crop next year and that means increased planting. But the price is enticing.

Wheat at two dollars and twenty cents a bushel will be a profitable crop under ordinary conditions. With the best effort invested and favorable weather it will guarantee a generous reward. That being the case why should Congress undertake to fix a higher price for the cereal? A three dollar a bushel price will cause suffering among the poor all over the country. It would add considerably to the profits of wheat culture, beyond question, but what farmer wants excessive profits at the expense of widespread distress among the poor? Besides it is a good idea to let well enough alone. The farmers are enjoying splendid and deserved prosperity and poverty is not as prevalent as it might be.

But the important thing in this connection is the harpoon in the side of the Kaiser. His only hope now lies in his efforts to debase public sentiment in this country as he has in Russia. Through the German-American Alliance he has been operating in this direction for many years. He has reached the end of his tether, however. He can't fool the American public and he can't deceive President Wilson even for a brief period. Our farmers will not lend themselves to his selfish and sordid schemes and they will not refuse to hoard wheat but will hump themselves in order to increase the supply for next year to the end that ourselves and all our allies will have abundance.

—Meantime keep in mind the fact that Senator Wadsworth, of New York, is a share owner in the Beef trust which is an additional reason why he doesn't like the President's war policies.

"That Hoss's Eyes is Set."

There are no new developments in the trenches of the Republican factions of Pennsylvania. It may be safely predicted, however, that there will be no extra session of the Legislature. That absurd notion of Governor Brumbaugh met with no favor anywhere. It would have made a good deal of trouble for some of Penrose's friends who want to get back. But it is too expensive a method of bulldozing.

Denny O'Neil is still making campaign speeches over the State under the false pretense that he is performing his duties as Highway Commissioner. Thus the public is compelled to pay his campaign expenses. If there were even the shadow of a prospect of his winning this cheap form of grafting might easily justify itself to the enemies of Senator Penrose. But he hasn't the ghost of a show. A well-informed Republican is quoted in one of our metropolitan contemporaries as saying that he won't carry a single county while Sproul's vote in Philadelphia will be greater than O'Neil's in the entire State. It's a shame to make Nevin Dietrich steal the State's time under the circumstances.

The failure of John R. K. Scott and Harry Mackey to appear on the same platform with Sproul at Pittsburgh, the other day, was a day's wonder, but that's all. They are Vares wonderpieces and it was expected that Vares purposes to support Sproul would be expressed by one or both of them on that occasion. But without sending regrets or offering an explanation they stayed away. It was an unimportant matter, however. The Vares are for Sproul and a vehicle of conveying the fact to the public will be found in due time. Probably Brother Ed thought it a trifle early and possibly he wanted to enjoy another Penrose disappointment. But it won't be long delayed. "That hoss's eyes is set."

—Even a cursory survey of present conditions in Russia ought to have some effect on the minds of men in this country inclined to favor Socialism as a governing agency.

—We are still arresting and interning alien enemies but it may be for the reason that there is a scarcity of bullets. At least there ought to be some reason.

—If anybody has discovered an unsinkable vessel let every ship yard in the country get busy building.

Appealing to Popular Fear.

Wisely or otherwise there seems to have been established in this country a propaganda to spread alarm as to the result of the war. Public speakers, mostly men who have been with the armies of the allies in one capacity or another, are visiting cities and towns painting gloomy word pictures of impending calamity. The purpose is, no doubt, to arouse the public to a realization of danger that German success, with all its horrible consequences, is not only possible but probable, unless prescribed economics are practiced, stated conditions adopted and men and money supplied in vastly greater proportion in the immediate future than in the recent past.

There are various ways of arousing popular interest in public questions and the people of the United States are proverbially lethargic. In view of the fact that it may be wise to appeal to their apprehensions, the evil consequences of German victory can hardly be overstated. Before the recent invasion of Russia and the wholesale slaughter of a lot of helpless cowards, the beastliness of the German rulers was revealed. Since that their inhumanity has been magnified and men though blind must see what is to be expected from German victory. But a less forbidding form of admonition might have been devised. An appeal to pride and patriotism might have achieved the purpose.

The United States are the richest and most resourceful power in the world. The entente allies compose the most potent military force that has ever been assembled. It is possible that failure to respond to the requirements of the occasion might neutralize these advantages, however. But there ought not to be even the suspicion of failure. Thus far there can be no charge of that kind against the people of the United States. The response to the call for men was ready and full. The answer to the demand for money was prompt and liberal. But we have not equaled France and England and we are as much concerned as either. It is to be hoped that we shall not long remain behind.

Farmers in Centre county should awaken to the fact that the greatest care should be exercised this year in the selection of their seed corn. During the past few weeks this fact has been brought to their attention through the newspapers of the county by R. H. Olmstead, county farm agent, who has collected many samples for germination tests. But with all that there is likely to be a certain lack of diligence in this matter. And for that very reason the "Watchman" wishes to impress the matter most forcibly on the mind of the farmer, because a big crop of corn is most essential this year. If you are not positive of the fertility of your corn have it tested by the farm agent. Just last week a number of samples were sent in for tests and two of them showed absolutely no fertility. Others ran as low as three, five and seven per cent., while only a few showed a good rating of fertility. The white corn last year developed the best, while practically all the samples of yellow corn sent to the Farm Bureau are low in germination tests, showing that it had not fully matured when caught by the heavy frosts.

The death of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon constitutes a distinct loss to society. All of the mature years of his life were devoted to the welfare of his fellow men to the end that they and their offspring should become more rugged, higher types of manhood. As Commissioner of Health for Pennsylvania he threw all of his profound knowledge, gained through years of research work, into a campaign of education that has been of inestimable value to this and coming generations; because it has shown that preventive medicine in many cases make curative medicine obsolete.

—"Over the Top" begins in this issue. Read it, by all means. It will show you exactly what our boys will go through on the other side. There is no gloss or veneer to "Over the Top." It is the naked truth about a soldier's life in the trenches.

—It is not altogether easy, either, to work up sympathy for the Russian people. There ought to be a severe penalty for that sort of stupidity that makes statesmen out of demagogues.

—After all what's the use of prosecuting editors of German language newspapers and letting editors of English language papers who do vastly more harm go free.

—Wheat fields are not looking very promising in Centre county, but neither did they look promising at this time last spring.

—There is still a possibility of south Water street being paved the coming summer.

Government and Railroads.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

The Senate has very properly defeated by an overwhelming vote an amendment to the railroad bill providing that government control of the railroads should continue after the war until stopped by act of Congress. Government control of the railroads has been recognized as a war-time necessity, quite as imperative as government control of shipping, or of the manufacture of munitions and weapons. It is necessary in order that all the operations may be harmonized upon the keynote of national aims and needs, regardless of the profit or loss of any railroad or any section, and with that singleness of purpose which is recognized as the first essential for success in war. But what is warranted in time of war may be intolerable in time of peace. It would be folly to weight ourselves now with a government control of railroads to outlast the war and to be terminated only by an act of Congress which many inducements might defer.

The experience of the last few months has opened our eyes to the grave deficiencies of our vast and wonderful railroad system of which we have been so proud. We see that although we have double the railroad mileage of all Europe and do things that make our foreign railroad reading seem child's play, we yet have much to learn about the systematic working of a whole national transportation equipment. Therefore, our essay in government control may find us after the war, well disposed to continue some degree of such supervision; but surely, it need not urge us now to bind ourselves in any way to this war measure after the war.

Bring Potatoes from Hiding.

From the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

With food so badly needed not only in Europe, but right here in the United States it seems incredible that the loss of potatoes upon thousands of bushels of potatoes should face the country. Yet we have the word of the Department of Agriculture that such a loss does threaten. The potato crop of 1917 totaled 442,536,000 bushels, the largest on record in the United States. Here was enough food to take care of everybody and relieve the drain upon limited supplies of wheat. But the crop has not been moving to market. The Department of Agriculture estimates that only one-third of the surplus that is available for distribution has been shipped up to December 31 last. The remainder was on the farms or in the hands of dealers, by far the largest part on the farms.

Now comes the trouble. Potatoes will not keep like grains. They must be eaten within a comparatively short period or thrown away; and the season is getting late. How to speed up marketing is the problem. The Department has started a campaign with an appeal to the farmers and dealers to market their holdings at once. The appeal should meet with a ready response. A break in prices would result, but potato prices have been too high, anyhow, in view of the big crop. Lower prices would put more potatoes on the tables and help everybody in the end.

The Russian Tragedy.

From the New York Sun.

It is difficult to the point of impossibility for the ordinary enlightened citizen of a free and democratic nation to enter into the psychology of the Bolshevik mind. In the name of liberty they are ready to surrender to the most autocratic, the most brutal and the most liberty-hating government that exists in the world today. They suspend hostilities with an arch-enemy of democracy. At the same moment they turn their arms against their fellow countrymen and at least one of their former allies. Out of the dark mists that swirl and eddy in the east we catch glimpses of the Bolshevik forces fighting fiercely against Fins in Finland, Poles in Poland, Lithuanians in Lithuania, Ukrainians in the Ukraine, Cossacks in the Don and Rumanians in Bessarabia. It is clear that they do not object to fighting, they merely refuse to fight the enemy. They prefer to fight those of their own household. They declare their adherence to the principle of the "self-determination of peoples" but apparently to the Bolshevik mind the term "people" does not apply to the Fins, the Poles, the Lithuanians or the Ukrainians.

The Way to Do It.

From the New York Commercial.

Our best chance to win this war lies in letting President Wilson act the part of commander in chief of the forces without interference. As Senator John Sharp Williams caustically remarked: "If the President hasn't brains enough to run this war, we certainly can't give him brains by act of Congress."

Now Let the Show Proceed.

From the Pittsburgh Gazette Times.

It is understood that before the circus was given permission to go ahead, Mr. Hoover made some pointed inquiries about the upkeep of the fat lady, only to learn that she has been observing his rules carefully and will be billed this season as the living skeleton. Roosevelt must have got some late information from the munition factories of the country. He hasn't attacked the President for a week.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—David R. Burkey, a Civil war veteran, aged eighty years, of Philadelphia, takes a twenty-mile hike for his daily exercise.

—Burglars broke into the home of Mrs. Amadee Franks, at Uniontown on Monday, and stole two dozen fresh eggs, some potatoes, a jar of blossoming plants, several dollars in money and a gold watch.

—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the four-story flour mill at Benton, near Bloomsburg. More than 10,000 bushels of grain, together with all machinery, were consumed. The loss is estimated at \$35,000.

—Owing to the growing scarcity of coal workmen have begun tearing down more than 100 coke ovens at the Derry plant of the H. C. Frick coal and coke company. They will be taken to Saxton, Bedford county, which is in the heart of the Broad Top bituminous district.

—Lawson Calhoun, aged 23 years, of Dayton, near Kittanning, was killed on Monday night by an unidentified miner. Young Calhoun was assisting his father, Constable Harry Calhoun, to quiet a disturbance in the miners' camp when the shooting occurred. The murderer has not been apprehended.

—Arch Turner, who a few days ago shot and killed Edward Ralph while the men were in a lumber camp, on Tuesday in criminal court at Smithport, Bradford county, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to serve not over seven nor less than six years in the Western Penitentiary.

—Extensive building operations are now going on at the plant of the Aetna explosives company beyond Mount Union. They are erecting a dining room to seat 600, a refrigerating plant and a bakery. Six new dwelling houses are also being built. This construction calls for additional labor. The work will be completed in about six weeks.

—Determined efforts are being made by the State Live Stock Sanitary board officers to prevent the spread of some reported cases of rabies. The outbreaks have occurred in Chester and other eastern counties and rigid quarantines have been established. They are the first to be put into effect since the new dog code went into effect.

—Thomas J. Jennings, of Scranton, Pa., who heads the Pennsylvania Elks, recently appointed a committee to look after the members of the organization who have joined the colors. Mr. Jennings was elected grand exalted ruler of the Pennsylvania association at the last convention previous to which time he was exalted ruler of the Scranton Lodge.

—Fire broke out at 5:15 o'clock Sunday morning on the top floor of building No. 23 at the Hershey Chocolate company's plant at Hershey, causing a loss of more than \$500,000. The room in which the blaze occurred is about 200 feet long by 60 deep and more than a million pounds of chocolate in powdered form, one of the advanced stages of manufacture was stored there.

—Sixteen machine guns have been secured by Adjutant General Beary from manufacturers for the arming of the reserve militia, detachments of which are expected to be mustered in this week in Philadelphia, Chester, Coraopolis, Media and Reading. The guns are to be issued to machine gun detachments, four each going to regimental detachments, and one to the cavalry squadron detachments.

—Claiming the Susquehanna Coal company violated a contract to lease coal lands in Hazle township, Luzerne county, James G. Bolin and J. P. Williams, of Wilkes-Barre, have started an action in assumpsit against the company in which they ask \$100,000 damages. They allege they spent \$21,315 in the proving and in preparing mining operations and that they lost the gain on 500,000 tons of coal.

—Elias Phillips, the well known mine inspector, who resided in DuBois, just as he was entering the Adams Express office in his home town on Thursday, February 21st, fell over and expired instantly. Deceased, who was aged 58 years, was not only a most competent mine inspector, but a gentleman of sterling character. He is survived by his wife and several brothers and sisters. He was quite prominent in Masonic circles. His funeral took place on Sunday afternoon.

—The Tyrone police are holding as suspicious characters Heinrich Busch, a German alien enemy, and one of the crew of the German cruiser Shoening, which was in Manilla harbor when Admiral Dewey defeated the Spanish fleet and Bruno Muelner, another German alien enemy who was attached to the German steamer Pisa interned at Hoboken when war broke out. Both men were arrested on their arrival from Philadelphia, where they worked at the brick works.

—John P. Gephart, county road engineer, Edward McCollough, his assistant, and Edgar Powell, county draftsman, have brought mandamus proceedings in the Fayette county court against County Controller Harry Kisinger, following Kisinger's alleged refusal to sign their wage warrants for the month of January. The County Commissioners have approved the warrants, but Controller Kisinger refused to sign them because of no work being done on the county roads during that month owing to inclement weather and the war.

—Special agents of the Adams Express company throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Eastern Ohio have instituted a search for a clerk of the Pittsburgh office of the company, who disappeared late Saturday following the reported robbery of approximately \$85,000 in currency from the office in Pittsburgh. The money according to express company officials, was delivered to them by a Pittsburgh bank to be sent to a manufacturing concern at Doneora, Pa., for making up a payroll. The money was in direct charge of the clerk, for whom a search has been started, according to officials of the express company.

—Ralph Fagan, of Oneida township, Huntingdon county, has a full bred Holstein cow that is making quite a record. He bought her at a sale on November 16 last. On the 23rd of December she gave birth to twin heifer calves which he is raising. He weaned the calves on the 9th of January, and from the 10th of that month until the 10th of February, after giving the calves a couple quarts of milk apiece for their share, he sold her milk through his dairy, 541 quarts at ten cents the quart, bringing in \$54.10. He fed the cow fifteen pounds of chop and two sheaves of fodder daily, her feed for the month amounting to \$13.80. In a single month she had gained \$40.30 on her keep, and bid fair to be a clear investment long before the year is out.