

INK SLINGS.

The weather man is about as popular now in this neck-o-the-woods as the Kaiser.

Melting snow is likely to make the streams too high and cloudy for good fishing on the opening day of the season, next Monday.

Had Tuesday's snow kept up much longer farmers would have had to use snow-plows on their fields before they could have resumed plowing.

Just as we turned the clocks forward somebody seems to have turned the season back and nearing the middle of April we are enduring the most atrocious type of March weather.

Is Centre county going over the top with the third Liberty loan. Of course she is, and with the fourth and fifth and sixth as well; should they be necessary to equip and feed our boys right.

The lovely (?) snow storm that made Centre county look like January in April made us feel like yanking a lot of personals off of page 8 of this edition that tell of sundry families who have arrived home to "open their houses for the summer."

Australian wheat is now beginning to find its way to our allies and will continue in greater quantity as the pressure for ships for other service is relieved. It is interesting also to note that Australian farmers are receiving only \$1.54 a bushel for their crops.

The revelation that American submarines have been working in foreign waters since early last fall is another gag in the mouths of those misinformed claquers who are continually railing about our government's not having done anything since entering the war.

The robin, the daffodil, the onion and the sapling bender snows must have formed an alliance for they all came together on Tuesday and Wednesday and buried everything under nearly a foot of "the beautiful," if that is what it can be called when so unacceptable.

There seems to be a lull in the fighting on the other side. About the only news we have had during the past few days has been estimates of the German casualties and they run so high as to lead to the belief that the Kaiser must be running short of cannon fodder.

Gradually the patience of easy-going America is being worn to the breaking point and you need not be surprised if, ere long, a lot of loud-mouthed seditious characters who mistake liberty for license in this country are stood up against a wall with a firing squad in front of them.

Judging from the amount of interest farmers are evincing in the new Liberty loan we will not be surprised if they play a very important part in putting it over. They have been wonderfully prosperous; the government has been most considerate of them and, if for no other reason, one good turn deserves another.

Hindenburg is telling the German people to "wait." Not to get uneasy because his much heralded drive on the west front has been checked. But if Hindenburg and the German people wait much longer we will be there and he'll have no chance to wait. He'll beat it for the Vaterland with an American bayonet jabbing under his coat tail at every jump.

Col. Hugh S. Taylor is in the field for the Democratic nomination for Congress in this District and the Hon. John Noll has a paper in circulation that is designed to make him eligible to enter in the race for the nomination for Assembly. A few more surprises of this sort and Democrats will begin to sniff some political activity that if it does nothing more will at least put a little pep into an organization that certainly needs it.

On April 6th we celebrated the first anniversary of our entrance into the great world war. A resume of our work in that time shows much of mistake but more of achievement than even the most optimistic had hoped for. We are going fine now and can't be stopped until the best traditions of American chivalry and determination have made their impress on the world. Let us all stand behind the President, with noble impulse and hopeful purpose.

A recent compilation of the cost price of a loaf of bread from the time the grain leaves the granary on the farm to the time it reaches the consumer reveals the startling fact that the farmer receives forty-five per cent. of the whole cost. In other words, practically all of the increased cost of bread today goes to the farmer in the increased price he is allowed for his wheat. In 1913 the farmer received only twenty-six per cent. of the cost of the bread.

Charles M. McCurdy, chairman of the Liberty Loan committee for Centre county, makes quite an address to the public in this issue of the "Watchman." You should read it, because it is the opinion of the head of one of our splendid banking institutions, the judgment of a man who has spent a life time in weighing financial problems in their relation to the economic welfare of the country. Mr. McCurdy looks like Col. House, the President's confidential consultant, and is very like him in the respect that he doesn't often make public his thoughts, but when he does the public may well ponder over them seriously.

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War of the Republican Factions.

Interest in the Republican faction fight seems to have shifted within a week from the contest between Senator Sproul and Denny O'Neil to the strife between John R. K. Scott and State Senator Beidleman, of Harrisburg, for Lieutenant Governor. The candidacy of Paul W. Houck for Secretary of Internal Affairs has stirred up some feeling among the factionists of Schuylkill county but is unimportant otherwise for Houck will be distanced in the first heat. But there are all sorts of dickerings over the second place on the ticket. The Vares insist on Scott and Penrose is equally "set" in his determination to nominate Beidleman. Several offers of harmony have been turned down in order to keep Scott off the ticket.

On Saturday last at the weekly conference in Philadelphia an offer was made to withdraw Houck if Beidleman would also be withdrawn. But it was indignantly rejected. It is understood that Sproul would have been willing to make this deal for he realizes that one Quarter Sessions lawyer on the Pardon Board is quite as good as another and Beidleman's practice has been largely in that court. Besides Sproul is not as confident as Penrose. He realizes that the road to success, after the nomination, will not be strewn with roses and that it will tax the party resources of the organization to elect any candidate even with an entirely harmonious party behind the ticket. There are a good many voters who are inclined to support the President regardless of past affiliations.

But Penrose is compelled to oppose Scott's nomination. In the fight against the Vares machine in Philadelphia last fall he made such pledges to the reformers as to make the support of a Vares emissary utterly impossible. Heretofore he has not been so particular about keeping political promises but heretofore his promises were made to men of the rough neck variety and didn't require any subsequent consideration. Now it's different however. He pledges to oppose the Vares in all their ambitions were made to men of social and commercial standing and the betrayal of them would involve important consequences. The Senator is particularly anxious to stand right with big business and business men are afraid of Vares.

The German press may misunderstand the President's Baltimore speech in some respects but it will hardly misinterpret the notice contained in the text that the terms of peace will not be framed in Berlin.

Senator Vares' New Departure.

We have heard of "Satan reproving sin," and there is a tradition that "when the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be." But neither of these incidents is as ludicrous as Senator Vares, of Philadelphia, publicly urging his rough neck followers to "cater to the church vote," for the reason, as he stated it, that that vote has "to be reckoned with in the coming primary." Stuffing ballot boxes and employing gunmen can no longer be depended upon to carry elections even in Philadelphia and Senator Vares advises the adoption of "the livery of heaven," as an expedient worth while. "If any candidate has been set aside because he was for prohibition," the Senator added, "the mistake should be rectified."

Possibly it is true that "there are many churchmen willing to aid" his gang, and he may be wise in warning his friends "not to cross the church people." But to those who have observed his methods and estimated his associates from a distance it seems incredible. From the beginning of his political activity he has been affiliated with the toughest element of the slums. A collector of garbage his companions were of the lowest type. But his influence with them was compelling and he became an important figure because their servility was complete. Petty criminals invariably found a safe refuge in his friendship and in them he had a dependable political asset. That was the source of his power.

But the Senator has always been ready and willing to adapt himself to existing conditions. His admonition to his followers means that the time for rough-housing in politics is ended. This year at least he believes that the appeal must be made to decency rather than to base passion and he makes the pretense of virtue. But he is not ready to go to the limit. That is he is not willing to abandon his candidate for Lieutenant Governor though he frankly and freely advises the adoption of reform methods as a bait for the "church vote." How far he will succeed in his purpose remains to be seen. To what extent he will fool "the decent element" is problematical. But he will do his best.

England and France are buying wheat in Australia at \$1.54 a bushel but Senator Gore is helping the Kaiser by holding out the promise to American farmers of \$2.50 a bushel.

President Wilson's Baltimore Speech.

On the anniversary of our entrance into the great world war, at Baltimore, President Wilson made clearer than ever the ample reasons why we took that epochal step. On behalf of the people of the United States he had asked Germany whether her purpose in the war was "justice or dominion." Germany had closed the seas to our commerce and ruthlessly murdered our men, women and children. In a spirit of kindness he appealed to those who had a right to speak for Germany why these outrages were perpetrated. The military leaders who are the real rulers of Germany replied that their purpose was "dominion, and the execution of their own will upon the other nations of the world."

To prevent this world wide calamity the Congress of the United States, on the 6th of April, 1917, declared that a state of war between this country and the German empire existed. In behalf of all civilization as well as in the interest of our own national liberty and safety this action was taken and the cheap conquest which Germany has achieved over Russia, proves the wisdom of the act. But to make the declaration effective, to fulfill the purpose for which it was made, the vast cost of the greatest war in history must be met and the great proportion of the burden is upon the people of the United States. It was because of this that the President, at Baltimore, on Saturday, recited the facts and drew the conclusions.

The medium of meeting this obligation which is upon the people of the United States is the Liberty loan. Every man, woman and child in the land must contribute to this achievement. It is not a gift, for the government guarantees the repayment of the money and a generous interest for the use of it. But even if it were a gift it would be wise to supply the funds for if the war is not won every sort and description of the resources of the people will be confiscated to reimburse the Huns for the expenses they have incurred in the conquest of the world. The government asks but a moiety of this vast aggregate but the Hun will take all and other things of greater value to honorable men and women.

Of course your lynch mob free enemies who use their mouths too freely is to be deprecated. But Congress refuses to provide a proper method of administering just punishment.

Sheep Killing Dogs Must Be Stopped.

In Ohio, during 1917, dogs killed 24,000 sheep, according to the experiment station of that State. The same authority estimates the total number of sheep in Ohio as 3,000,000, so that the per centage of loss from that cause is small. But under existing conditions it is vastly too large. The country needs every pound of wool that can be produced and more. The loss of that number of sheep means the loss of nearly 150,000 pounds of wool. It is estimated that twelve pounds of wool will clothe a soldier for a year so that the product of 24,000 sheep would clothe 150,000 soldiers. With three or four millions of soldiers to supply, the country can't afford this loss.

There probably never was an American, sound in mind and body, and with red blood coursing through his veins, who didn't like a dog. He is the most faithful and affectionate creature in the world if properly trained. But dogs of that type don't kill sheep. It is the vicious type of dog, such as were underfed in puppyhood and compelled to forage for sustenance, that develop the destructive habit. Persons who breed and keep dogs under such circumstances ought to be punished. It isn't always the fault of the dog that he does things that are reprehensible. Sometimes they are taught to do wrong and other times they are forced by hunger or exposure to commit depredations. But they must quit killing sheep. Wool is too valuable and necessary to be wasted.

Moreover the loss of wool and meat of sheep actually killed by dogs does not express the full measure of the evil of sheep-killing dogs. In a section where sheep-killing dogs operate extensively farmers become afraid to breed sheep and thus the wool producing power of the community is diminished in a ratio that can't be estimated. All know that there is always a ready market for wool and at profitable prices. But if a considerable portion of the clip is to be lost every year because of sheep-killing dogs the enticement of markets and profits is lost and for the reason that the product is reduced the government is unable to properly clothe men who are entitled to the best of everything.

Von Hindenburg is simply demonstrating that defeat comes high when an enterprise for "victory at any price" fails.

A tip to von Hindenburg: "He who hesitates is lost and he who doubts is damned."

German Defeat a Certainty.

The war may continue for three years and it may end in six months but when it ends it will be in a victory for Democracy and in the elimination of autocracy. The recent drives of the German forces have made these facts plain. With brutal disregard for human life the helpless Huns have been driven up against the deadly fire of the allied guns to be slaughtered. If such a sacrifice of man power had been rewarded by achievement, it might have been justified as a military necessity. But it accomplished nothing of value. It failed of its purpose in every respect. It cost nearly half a million men and yielded no recompense. The grand total was a dead loss to the German empire.

The German man power has been taxed to the full measure of exhaustion. Every male inhabitant of the empire between the ages of sixteen and seventy has been taken into the ranks. There is no reserve capable of bearing arms and enduring the labor of military life in war. Financially the empire is equally exhausted. The debt is greater than the value of all resources. The interest on the debt created for the prosecution of the war amounts to more than the revenues of the empire. That means national bankruptcy as certain as fate. It makes universal poverty inevitable. Even a victory without indemnities would be of no value to a people thus burdened with debt and dishonor.

Under these adverse conditions the Kaiser may be able to keep up a pretense of war and inspire in the hearts of his helpless victims a hope of ultimate victory for some time. It all depends upon what the allies do and largely upon how the people of the United States act. If envious and malignant traitors are permitted to give aid and comfort to the enemy by wilfully lying about our achievements for some time. If our troops and those of our allies are not abundantly supplied with food, clothing and war equipment, the enemy will be encouraged to struggle on. But if the traitors are silenced and the Treasury kept full the beginning of the end will soon appear.

The very fact that many young men in Centre county have not volunteered for service in the army but have waited their call for the national army is no evidence that they are lacking in either patriotism or courage. On Wednesday one of the young men who was summoned for examination and who lived quite a distance from the railroad, found it impossible to come to Bellefonte by automobile on account of the deep snow so he got out one of the old farm horses and rode the distance of fourteen miles to Bellefonte. Since the advent of the automobile farmer's sons have gotten out of practice at riding horseback and when the young man above referred to stripped for examination before the local exemption board he looked as if he had gone through a German barrage, but smilingly told the members of the board that any man who could ride horseback fourteen miles through a foot of snow to report for examination ought to be fit for service, and he was passed by the board.

Thomas Beaver has been shorn of his glory of being first lieutenant of Troop C, Pennsylvania reserve militia under an order issued Monday by Adjutant General Frank D. Beary to Capt. Edgar McKinney, of Tyrone, to proceed at once to complete the organization of the troop by enlisting all its members at Tyrone. In consequence thereof Capt. McKinney has recommended the appointment of John Elliott Trego as first lieutenant and Charles T. Snyder as second lieutenant. Under the new order Bellefonte will not contribute any members to the cavalry troop.

There are some sections of Centre county where some of the residents have so far persistently refused to turn their clocks ahead the one hour, according to the recent act of Congress. Others in the same community have turned on their clocks and the result is rather confusing. In fact, it is stated that the preacher in a certain locality has set his preaching hour just midway between the old and new time so that he can catch his parishioners coming and going.

If you have given all you can after having determined to cut out every possible needless expenditure, you have fulfilled your obligations to the country, but not otherwise.

If Roosevelt would pay some attention to public opinion he might discover that unjustly knocking the President is a poor way of getting public favor.

Any way Lenin and Trotsky gained nothing by their perfidy and there is some reason to hope that they have lost a good deal.

They are all good enough, but the "Watchman" is always the best.

New Rules for Wheat Conservation.

Patriotic conservation of wheat requires that we limit our family consumption to one-third that used in normal times and in no case to exceed a total wheat diet of six pounds per month per person including bread, macaroni and wheat products of every kind, nature and in every form whatever, including flour used for thickening gravies, binder in quick bread and other culinary purposes; this to continue until the next wheat harvest, or further notice.

To permit wheat conservation in this degree, it is necessary to employ in the family diet, an equal quantity of the official cereal substitutes or, with every pound of wheat product used in any form a pound of corn meal, corn flour, buckwheat flour, barley flour, oatmeal, oat flour, rice or rice flour, feterita flour, and meals, potato flour, rolled oats, corn starch, hominy, soy bean flour, corn grits, sweet potato flour, tapioca flour. These cereals should be mixed with wheat flour in home bread making as nearly as possible in the proportion of one pound of cereal substitute to two pounds of wheat flour, and in no case should more wheat be used than in the preparation of one pound of cereal substitute to three pounds of wheat flour. The balance of cereal substitutes should be used without wheat flour in the preparation of corn bread and muffins, buckwheat cakes, breakfast cereals, etc.

In the application of these regulations to families dependent upon bakers' bread and doing no home bread making, it should be understood that the baker's "Victory" loaf contains only 25 per cent. substitutes. Patriotic observance of the conservation rules requires a limit in the use of "Victory" bread to 12 pounds per person per week. Where this amount of bread is used, only one-half pound of flour per week per person may be used for all additional purposes of cooking and pastry, as macaroni, crackers, cakes, wheat breakfast cereals and every other form combined.

The foregoing rules apply to family practice only and do not affect in any way the regulations for wheat consumption in public eating places, clubs, etc.

Public eating places, clubs, etc., will continue to observe two wheatless days per week as heretofore, Mondays and Wednesdays, on which no wheat product will be served in any form whatever, except in "Victory" breads or other "Victory" products. No public eating place, club or similar establishment will serve more than two wheatless days per week as heretofore, Mondays and Wednesdays, on which no wheat product will be served in any form whatever, except in "Victory" breads or other "Victory" products. No public eating place, club or similar establishment will place on tables or offer foods containing wheat in any form unless especially ordered. No public eating place, club, or similar establishment may buy wheat flour, wheat products or wheat food in any form, in total combination, in excess of six pounds per month per person entertained, figuring on the basis of three meals served per day per person.

Retail grocers and other retail dealers in flour, including flour millers who retail, shall not sell or deliver wheat flour to individual consumers, residing in towns or cities, in quantities in excess of 2 1/2 pounds, nor to any individual consumer in rural or farm communities in quantities in excess of 49 pounds. In no case shall he knowingly sell or deliver to any individual consumer an amount of flour which will make the purchaser's total supply greater than is reasonably required for his household or establishment during the next thirty days, on the basis of six pounds per month per person. This rule is not intended to authorize at any time sales in an amount in excess of that above prescribed.

The dealer (including the miller) shall not sell or deliver wheat flour to any individual consumer thereof, unless the buyer purchases at the same time one pound of wheat flour substitute for every pound of wheat flour purchased, or in case of whole wheat or graham flour containing at least 95 per cent. of the entire wheat, six-tenths of a pound of wheat flour substitutes for every pound of such whole wheat or graham flour purchased.

Bakers may not purchase wheat flour in excess of seventy per cent. of the average consumption during four months preceding March 1, 1918.

Manufacturers using edible wheat flour or other wheat products for non-food purposes will cease such use entirely.

To furnish our allies with the amount of wheat required to maintain their war bread from now until the next harvest, is a military necessity which can only be met by a rigid observance by all American people of the foregoing rules as an irreducible minimum of wheat conservation. Those among our population who are well-to-do, and those engaged in the lighter occupations, as well as those in agricultural districts, when cereals other than wheat are abundant and where housewives are more skilled in their preparation, can make greater sacrifices in the consumption of wheat products than are here provided for. Many thousands of patriotic families throughout the land are using no wheat products whatever except the very small amount required for cooking purposes and are doing so in perfect health and satisfaction.

W. F. REYNOLDS, Federal Food Administrator of Centre County.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

John G. Thompson, aged 72, poor director of Westmoreland county, died last Thursday at Mt. Pleasant.

Last Saturday twelve members of the Johnstown police force rounded up a team of twelve horses in a race on a first time in the history of the city that any policeman has attained to ten years' service without interruption.

DeWitt Spencer, of Williamsport, received an injury recently while nailing the floor in a chicken house. He struck a nail, the hammer hitting the edge and it flew up, the end going into the ball of the eye. It was not known whether or not the sight would be lost.

The Cresson Board of Health officials have ordered the closing of the first six grades of the public schools for a period of two weeks owing to a number of contagious diseases in that community. This is the second time this term the Board of Health has closed the schools.

By order of the federal food administration the flour supply of the James-town Supply company, Jamesstown, Mercer county, has been confiscated and the company forbidden to deal in flour for sixty days. It was alleged that the rules of the administration were violated.

The first arrest of an illegal trout fisherman under the new fish code has been reported at the Department of Fisheries. The man was arrested in Elk county for fishing two weeks ahead of season and having forty trout, or fifteen more than the new legal limit in his possession.

E. B. Dysart, a Tyrone lad, seventeen years old, cannot go to war, but he is doing his share at home by buying war-saving stamps and Liberty bonds. The chap has already purchased \$175 worth of stamps, owns two Liberty bonds and expects to purchase two more of the late issue.

The fire that swept over 8,000 acres of forest lands along the old Coudersport pike last week proved very destructive. The fire spread over 5,000 acres in Clinton county and 3,000 acres in Lycoming county. The roar of the flames could be heard for a quarter of a mile and came with such a rush at times that the fire fighters had to flee for safety.

Four girls employed by the government as clerks at the aviation and ordnance depot construction developments near Middletown were injured and four others bruised when the automobile in which they were riding from home to their work struck a pole and was overturned. They will recover. One of those injured was secretary to Major William B. Gray, officer in charge of construction.

Because he failed to report to the city authorities that a case of smallpox existed in his home, H. Shiffen, of Morrellville, near Johnstown, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$25 and costs or serve thirty days in jail. He paid the fine. City physician L. W. Jones, testified against the defendant. It was brought out that the defendant's daughter and a boarder at the Shiffen home had the disease in February.

Frank Krise, aged thirty-six years, of Roaring Branch, Lycoming county, fell from a hay loft at the home of his mother on Saturday afternoon and died without regaining consciousness. Krise had just returned from Florida. He left the house about 9:30 o'clock to go to the barn to look for eggs and when he did not return a search was made for him, resulting in the finding of his body by his aged mother about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Approval has been given by the Public Service Commission to the mergers and lease of various companies of the Pure Oil system. Some of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey properties are transferred to the Ohio company. The formal transfers to the Pennsylvania Railroad of the Shaw wall and Lebanon and Susquehanna, Bloomsburg and Berwick Railroads were approved and the Hog Island branch of the Pennsylvania in Philadelphia approved for two years.

The State Livestock Sanitary Board has placed an embargo against importation of dogs and cats from the State of Wisconsin. This action was taken on information received from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, that serious outbreaks of rabies, or hydrophobia, had occurred in twenty counties. Rabid dogs running at large through the southeastern part of that State have bitten and caused the destruction of a number of valuable farm animals.

Under the act of July 11th, 1917, it is incumbent on the register and recorder of every county in the State to carefully investigate and report on the death of each individual in the county from infancy to old age, to the Auditor General, so that the direct inheritance tax may be collected in all cases. This work makes necessary an additional clerk in the office of the register and recorder, to be known as an investigator of deaths, who will also be assistant deputy register and recorder.

After terrorizing passengers on a Chicago-Pittsburgh express on the P. R. R., for several hours on Monday, and forcing two of the crew to jump for their lives, Karmine Carcio, a Mexican, 60 years old, barricaded himself in the baggage car and was shot and killed by George Martsoff, railway detective, when the latter went to arrest him when the train reached Pittsburgh. The Mexican, thought to have been crazed, went through the sleeping cars and with a long knife slashed the berth curtains and threatened the people.

The Watsonstown Door and Sash company has just booked a contract for twelve thousand sash, through a New York contractor. The sash are for the U. S. Navy Department, to be used in the construction of a big storage building. The sash will contain six lights each, requiring seventy-two panes of glass, the glazing being no small part of the job. The contract will tax the capacity of the sash department of the plant for several weeks but the hustling managers are confident of completing the work in good order and on time.

The State opened two of its large camps for the reforestation of large areas of land in central Pennsylvania on Monday and by the time the tree planting season ends Forestry Commissioner Robert S. Conklin hopes to have 9,000,000 young trees in the ground. It will be the most extensive tree planting operation ever conducted in Pennsylvania. Seven million trees will be planted by the State, while two million will be planted by coal, water and other corporations on their open lands or by organizations interested in reforestation. The State has grown the trees in its own nursery. The two camps will plant two million trees. Later on camps will be opened in Lycoming, Potter and Tioga counties. The coal companies which will reforest have programs covering years.