

# Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK

## INK SLINGS.

—Only two more days in which to do it.

—This is May and very little oats and no corn yet planted in Centre county.

—Buy a bond today! Have a heart! Put your money behind the boys who are standing between you and the Huns.

—Many districts in the county have gone over the top in the third Liberty loan but, thus far, only seven have won honor flags. The latter honor is procured only by the subscription for a bond by one or more in every ten of the population of the subscribing community.

—Germany is beginning to realize that our entrance into the war isn't the joke she tried to make her people believe it to be a year ago. German and Austrian papers are beginning to tell the truth now; urging their forces to hurry up and win a decisive victory before we can get there in the power they really know we will exert. If this means anything, it means that the Huns foresee the doom that will certainly be theirs when Uncle Sam gets all of his boys over there. It is prophetic of the words of one of the popular American war songs: "And they've put it up to us." They want to settle up that muss."

—Give the lie to those who would try to make you believe that our boys overseas are not comporting themselves in the traditional manner of splendid American manhood. Dr. John Price Jackson, whom all of Centre county knows because of his connection with the Pennsylvania State College, and who is now a Major with Pershing's forces in France, writes home: "During the three months I have been in Europe I have not seen a single disorderly or drunken American soldier. I have seen thousands of them, on and off duty, and a more manly set of young men of fine bearing, I never expect to meet."

—What a bunch of gallant lads were those forty-two conscripts who left here for Camp Lee on Tuesday. They were not just Janet Stewart thought of when she beheld a great parade of our trained soldiers and exclaimed: "It is democracy harnessed to discipline; it is the ideals of the nation made flesh; it is the flowering of the finest." But they were the makings of just what she saw and what she thought. Happy, eager, effervescent with life during their short period of mobilization here, their ebullient spirits almost completely dispelled the shade of sadness that falls over us upon such occasions.

—An interesting bit of political gossip comes from Clearfield county to the effect that Matt Savage, editor and publisher of the Public Spirit, of Clearfield, will be a candidate for nomination on the Democratic ticket to represent this District in the Senate. If the rumor is founded on fact and it is true that there has been a spontaneous and unanimous request in Clearfield that Mr. Savage become the candidate of the party there is a very strong probability that our District will have a Democratic Senator representing it in the next Legislature. The time is ripe, the opportunity is here and with this veteran newspaper man to bring a peculiar appeal to the voters the prospects of victory are surely hopeful.

—Don't think that just because you are going about your work as usual and, incidentally, making about twice as much money as you ever did before, that you are doing anything for the boy on the other side who is baring his breast to the Hun bullets in order that your future happiness may be assured. You are not doing anything for anyone but yourself by merely working. If you are putting in an hour or so more a day than you did in peace times, if you are giving to the Y. M. C. A., giving to the Red Cross and buying government bonds you are really helping, but if you have done none of these things you have been helping no one but yourself and you can't escape the charge of being a selfish unpatriotic person.

—Suppose that a product that the "Watchman" manufactures should be very essential to the winning of the war. Suppose the demand for it had become so great that the price had doubled, thus bringing us an enormous profit. Suppose, then, that the government and all our friends and neighbors should appeal to us to increase our production, either by increasing our capacity or working over time. Suppose that the nature of our business was such that we couldn't increase the capacity, that we could only have a normal output. Suppose even that normal output could not be produced unless we worked over time. Suppose we failed to work over time enough to hold our output up to normal, what would be the result? We would be miserable slackers, unworthy to enjoy the privileges we have as the heritage of a free people. That's what we'd be, if we didn't produce as much now as we did before the war. And even if we did produce as much now as we did before the war we wouldn't yet be doing anything to help. We'd have to produce more than we have ever produced before in order to help in the real sense. Apply this to the work or business you are in, dear reader, and determine whether you are really doing anything to help, or whether you are just doing what you have always done and getting twice as much for it.

# Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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## Senator Lodge's False Charge.

During a discussion of the Overman bill in the Senate, the other day, Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, said that the executive department and not Congress is responsible for the dilatory movement of war measures. Yet the bill under consideration at the time was introduced by the Senator for North Carolina early in February and after more than two months of useless delay was still far from the final stage. The first vote on an amendment was taken last Saturday, the final vote on the measure may be hoped for today or tomorrow and if that does not indicate tardiness the word has not been properly defined. In all the adverse argument, moreover, not a single valid objection was made.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the President to expedite war preparations by making such shift of authority as is essential to efficiency and to validate such appointments to service as are expressed in the call of Mr. Schwab to direct the ship construction. It ought to have been passed by both branches of Congress within a week of the date it was presented. But such bigoted partisans and wilful traitors as Lodge in the Senate have prevented prompt action with the result that thousands of lives of Americans and others holding the Western front against the Hun legions, have been sacrificed. The administration is not responsible for the delays. Congress has been criminally slow.

The test vote taken on Saturday guarantees the ultimate passage of the bill without amendment. The attack was made on its weakest point and failed. But it served to reveal the traitors in the body beyond question. The Democrats who betrayed their party as well as their country are Chamberlain, Gore, Hardwick, Hitchcock, King, Reed, Smith, of Georgia; Thomas, Underwood and Vardaman. How Senator Underwood got into such company is inconceivable. The others are inoculated with the Populist virus and simply expressed their antipathy to the true principles of Democracy in joining the Bolsheviks to help the Kaiser and autocracy. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, is equally out of place in the bunch.

Holland has acceded to Germany's demand for the right of way for sand and gravel but upon condition that the sand and gravel are not to be used for military purposes. They will be used for building trenches, of course, and Germany violates the agreement. But what can you expect?

## Conspiracy Again Organized.

Referring to the death, on Sunday, of Supreme Court Judge S. Leslie Mestrezat, the esteemed Philadelphia Record says: "Justice Mestrezat had many friends throughout Pennsylvania who have long felt that he would have made a good Governor, and it is no secret that he would have died while filling the place now occupied by Martin G. Brumbaugh had many of the Democrats who were looking at the situation of four years ago from an unselfish viewpoint had their way." Our Philadelphia contemporary is simply revealing the fact that Justice Mestrezat would have accepted the nomination of his party that year if it had been tendered to him, and that he would have been elected.

Four years ago the group of office holders and patronage brokers in control of the Democratic organization of Pennsylvania forced out of the fight every probable candidate who had a possible chance of election and nominated a candidate who had no chance in order to continue their control of the organization. A false claim that President Wilson desired the nomination of the candidate they had chosen helped them in their conspiracy to defeat the party candidate at the polls. President Wilson had no such thought at the time and has never entertained such a thought since. He believes in the right of Democrats to make free choice in the selection of candidates.

This same group of selfish boneheads is again in a conspiracy to prevent the election of a Democratic Governor in Pennsylvania. Each of them understands that with the election of a Democratic Governor the officeholders' contingent would lose control of the organization and their business as patronage brokers would end. A State Democratic victory would work a defeat of all their schemes and in order that such a result may be averted they have picked a candidate who can't hope for more than half the vote of the party at the election, which will guarantee the success of the Republican candidate, however distasteful he may be to the majority of the voters.

—Subscriptions to the third Liberty loan are a trifle tardy but it will be over-subscribed in the end and the fourth, fifth and all subsequent issues will be taken. This is the people's war and they will pay the expenses.

## O'Neil's Coffin Nailed Down.

The decision handed down by the Dauphin county court on Saturday in the matter of the right of Philadelphia Town Meeting Republicans to vote at the Republican primaries this spring, drives the last nail in the coffin of O'Neil's hopes. It means that 90,000 Republicans whom the Vares expected to exclude from the reckoning will vote for Sproul, reducing O'Neil's majority in the city to negligible proportions, even if the Vares do their best or their worst for him. It practically removes John R. K. Scott from the political equation, likewise, for it is a question whether he will be able to carry the city with this force against him, as it is certain to be.

There is something attractive in this elimination of a vicious element from the political life of the Commonwealth. Hypocrisy is a dangerous agency in public affairs and the Brumbaughs and the Vares personify this form of iniquity. Unhappily, however, the cause for rejecting is diminished by the fact that in the defeat of one of these factions there is victory for another, little if any better. Sproul's pretense of conversion to Prohibition is discredited by his legislative record of nearly a quarter of a century and the fact that his campaign cards are posted in every bar-room in the State. And then Scott is no more a quarter sessions lawyer than Beidleman.

But the voters of Pennsylvania can make the defeat of the Vares at the primary a source of gain to the State. The nomination of Sproul and Beidleman will probably extinguish the ambitions of the Vares and Scott for all time and in November, by the election of the Democratic candidates, the absurd pretensions of the Penrose gang can be submerged in an overwhelming defeat of Sproul and Beidleman. This result will not only improve the political morals of the Commonwealth but it will vastly help in the equally important work of defeating autocracy in Europe and throughout the world. These Republican factionists pretend patriotism but are helping the Kaiser by opposing the administration.

—A unique street meeting will be held on the Diamond (if weather unfavorable in the court house) next Saturday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock by Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, of Washington, and the popular Scotch corneter, Mr. David Reid, of Boston, who is also a good singer. Both are noted automobile lecture tourists. They will speak and sing from an automobile.

## Fit Rebuke of a Traitor.

Lincoln Colcord, a traitor who found a willing vehicle for his seditious rubbish in a Philadelphia newspaper, was justly and fitly rebuked by the Academy of Political and Social Science, which he undertook to address during a session at Witherspoon hall, Philadelphia, on Sunday evening. Mr. George Creel, head of the committee on Public Information, had addressed the Academy in reply to complaints of Mr. Colcord that news of the movements of the army and navy and operations of the government had been suppressed and a charge "that the government had fallen almost flat in its war program and that the allies are looking toward us in vain." Mr. Creel rebuked him completely on every point.

If all newspaper publishers were patriotic and all newspaper writers intelligent, there would be no need of censorship. An intelligent writer wouldn't write and a patriotic publisher wouldn't print information of the movement of troops that would enable the enemy to anticipate purposes and murder men on their way to duty. But here and there is entrusted with the preparation of news a viper, under pay of the enemy or in sympathy with him, who performs this sinister service for the enemy, and a publisher bigoted enough to print it for the reason that it helps a political organization as well as the enemy. Lincoln Colcord and the Philadelphia paper in question are in this class.

When Colcord arose to renew his attack upon the government he discovered that his audience was not in sympathy with his treasonable plans. According to the published report of the proceedings "men and women arose in all parts of the audience and heckled him, telling him to shut up. Several yelled, 'sit down,' we have heard enough of you!" But he continued to talk for a time until finally a "storm of comment and questions" literally forced him to his seat. It was the proper response of a patriotic people to a contemptible writer, though some audiences would have regarded a coat of tar and feathers a more appropriate remedy for so gross and provoking an evil.

—The thirteen wilful Senators who voted against the Overman bill were able to help the Kaiser in a small way for more than two months but their work will be of little use in the end.

## Conscription in Ireland.

Of course there will be conscription in Ireland, as there ought to be. It is the only fair and just way of raising an army and the British army of which Irish troops are an important part, must be kept up to full strength. An army made up of volunteers is magnificent. It embodies the bravest and the best of the communities from which it is drawn. But it puts a premium on cowardice. It gives encouragement to slackers. It discriminates against patriotism and manliness. Those who are afraid of the hazard or averse to the hardships and privations of army life stay at home while the better element fights the battles and bears the burdens of the country.

But you can hardly blame the Irish people for objecting to a conscription imposed upon them by a British parliament. The people of England objected to conscription when it was first proposed there but finally yielded to the force of necessity. The people of Canada protested most vehemently against conscription, though the matter was left to the determination of their own parliament. Reason triumphed and the conscription was ordered, but not until after several riots had been suppressed and forces invoked. The people of the United States, more amenable to reason than those of any other country, offered the least opposition to conscription, of the allies who were not used to it.

Just before the war in Europe broke out a conflict which had continued for a hundred years was concluded by a Parliamentary promise of immediate Home Rule for Ireland. It provided for an Irish parliament to determine such questions as conscription, as the Canadian parliament determined it for that British colony. But because of the war the execution of the Act was postponed indefinitely to the great disappointment of the people concerned. Nevertheless Irishmen enlisted freely and fought fearlessly. But the promise of self-government, "made to the ear and broken to the hope," is still unfulfilled. But Irishmen must fight for freedom for the world and conscription is the best way to fill the ranks.

—The German proposition to exchange invalid Russian prisoners for healthy and hearty German prisoners held by Russia, is characteristic. The Kaiser would steal candy from a blind baby and imagine it was a smart transaction.

## Seven Honor Flags Thus Far for Centre County.

As we go to press reports on the Liberty loan drive in Centre county are coming in so splendidly as to warrant the belief that there will be little doubt of our getting over the top by tomorrow. We have almost reached the \$600,000 mark now and the patriotic people of the county districts have caught the idea of the splendid investment opportunity that this offering of government bonds presents. It is something to be proud of, but it is going to be more. The last day will surely bring a scramble of buyers for the bonds.

Honor flags have been won by the following communities:  
State College Millheim  
Harrisburg Bellefonte  
Snow Shoe Miesburg  
Fleming  
All honor to the people of these communities. All honor to others that will strive to win the coveted emblem today and tomorrow.

—Housecleaning is now the order of the day in most households in Bellefonte, and next week is the time set by Governor Brumbaugh for a general clean-up week everywhere. This should be done not only by people living in the towns and villages but by those living in the country as well.

—Centre county is nearly if not altogether over the top in the third Liberty loan drive. Won't you help make it a certainty by giving her a good push today through the purchase of a bond. Boost her so hard that there will be no question as to whether she is over or not.

—We would like to sympathize with the German people because of the deception that is being practiced on them and the bereavements that follow. But what's the use. Boneheads who can be fooled as they are wouldn't appreciate sympathy or even understand it.

—The German death list multiplies fearfully but it never includes any member of the Hohenzollern family.

—There will be grouches as long as life lasts but their influence diminishes as intelligence expands.

—Money invested in Liberty bonds not only talks but it actually strikes the Kaiser.

—The April showers we have had, so we may look for the May flowers.

## HEROES ALL OF THEM.

### Another Bellefonte Boy Writes of His Work in France.

The following very interesting letter was received by Mrs. W. Henry Taylor, of this place, from her son, J. Reynolds Taylor, who is serving in France as a member of the 26th engineers.

Somewhere in France,  
Sunday, March 10.

Dear Mother:  
I received two letters from you, one on Tuesday and one on Saturday. It is good to know that you are all well and getting along nicely.

I never felt better in my life than I have since I came to France. Plenty to eat and not a thing to worry about, since I know you are all well. I will try to tell you a little about the country we are in. Several days ago we broke camp and moved here; it is a long way from where we were. The weather is fine, just like June at home. We are quartered in French barracks and are very comfortable.

A short distance from our camp there is an old castle, which at one time was a very beautiful place. The castle is built of stone and cement; also the walls which surround the large court. All through the grounds and gardens are countless numbers of evergreen trees and in the centre a large fountain surrounded by a lake. There are many walks and driveways through the grounds, outlined with rocks covered with moss. No doubt Kings and great men of the past have lived here. I am in a little rest house at one corner of the lake. It is all built of stone, even the benches and a table have been hewn from the rocks by men, ages ago. The entire nook is covered with evergreen vines. Your love of nature would make this very interesting to you if you could only see it. The shrubbery, trees and flowers are very different from ours; some very beautiful and curious to us Americans.

Sometime ago I passed by a city which was entirely surrounded by a stone wall that man could never scale. There are four large iron gates, one at each corner of the wall. This is the oldest city in France. I cannot tell you the name of it.

I found out yesterday where Harold is, only twenty miles from here. I will see him soon.

Well now, mother, I must bring this letter to a close. I hear the old chimes on the cathedral in a town close by, and I want to be in the mess line at camp for dinner. We are off this afternoon so I am going to take a walk over the country. I will tell you later what I see in my stroll. I must tell you of something that amused us very much. For several days we had been hearing a French woman blowing a horn, then go out the road from town. We could not imagine why she did this. Well, when we came in from work yesterday noon we had solved the problem:

Several of the old women gather up all the cows, pigs and sheep and take them out to pasture. The woman with the horn gives notice that the herds are coming.

Another day we were working out in the country when suddenly an old woman came running to us and motioned for us to follow. She seemed so anxious for us to hurry to the rescue that knowing not just what we were to meet, we followed cautiously and quietly. Just over the hill we found her old cow upside down in a watering trough. We helped her up; and now we are all heroes, we saved the cow.

Hoping the censor will pass this long letter, and with best love to all,  
Sincerely,  
J. R. T.

## Right from the Front Line Trenches.

The following letter was received this week by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob P. Smith from their son, Clarence Smith, of Ambulance company No. 2, who has had his baptism of fire in the front line trenches in France:

March 31, 1918.

My Dear Parents:  
I have just returned from the front and judging from what I saw there, there must be a real war going on. It is a wonderful experience. We had to carry the wounded on stretchers through the trenches, or out in "No Man's Land."

One can never forget the noise the shells make as they come over in the air. The boys have named the noise the "Gravestone Rag."

However, we all came through in good shape with a good record. Some of the boys had to wear their gas masks for four or five hours at a time. We slept in a dugout at night, because they are usually protected against gas and shellfire. But they are not proof against rats and lice. I received a letter the other day from Frank. He is over here now and getting along all right. I wrote to him a few days ago.

As I have gone about the limit now will have to stop, with love to all,  
CLARENCE SMITH.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Trinity M. E. church, of Phillipsburg, will celebrate its centennial May 12th.

—The local Odd Fellows of Phillipsburg celebrated the ninety-ninth anniversary of the founding of the Order at their lodge room Thursday evening. Guests were also in attendance.

—Forest fires, driven by high winds, endangered life and property and caused damage of thousands of dollars west of Derry and around Hilsie, Westmoreland county, on Sunday.

—Thieves entered the Punksutaway Talking Machine shop at an early hour Saturday morning, opened the safe and pried off the door and secured \$22 in cash and a \$50 Liberty bond.

—The glass manufacturing plant of the Barney Bond company, located at Smethport, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday with a loss estimated at \$100,000. The plant was one of the principal industries of Smethport.

—Edward Bohenski, an 11-year-old lad from Dent's Run, Elk county, while riding on a freight train near his home, fell under the wheels and had his leg severed above the knee. He is in a serious condition at the DuBols hospital.

—The four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Wool, of Sagamore, Armstrong county is dead and her parents and an infant daughter are in a critical condition at the Punksutaway hospital, as the result of a gas explosion in the bedroom where the four were sleeping.

—Eight persons narrowly escaped serious injury or death Sunday evening when a big touring car, driven by Russell Timblin, of Big Run, Jefferson county, turned completely over, plunging the occupants under. One woman was severely squeezed across the hips and is still unable to move her limbs.

—The gas explosion at Sagamore, Armstrong county, which cost the life of little Evelyn Wool, aged four years, claimed two more victims on Sunday, when her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Wool, died, leaving as the only survivor of the family the 18-month old daughter, who is in a serious condition as the result of her burns.

—Robbers broke into a shanty tenanted by Max Johnson, employed at the Hawstone refractories, at Hawstone, Huntingdon county, on Sunday night and carried away \$90. The money had been saved with a view of buying a Liberty bond and Johnson says it was some one who was familiar with the cache of his coin as nothing else was disturbed.

—Entering a plea of guilty to violation of the administration's flour order, Michael Smith and Michael Thomas, two Perryopolis merchants, set their own punishment at a hearing last Friday. They will receive a fine of \$100 each and a table valued at \$100 worth of Liberty bonds and donate \$100 each to the Red Cross. Ignorance was given as an alibi.

—The draft in Pennsylvania to date has cost \$52,147,92 according to figures made public on Monday by Major William G. Murdock, disbursing officer for Pennsylvania and who is in charge of the draft bureau. The total includes the pay of members of the various local and district boards, clerks, physicians, cost of supplies and incidental supplies.

—Mrs. Bessie Kaufmann Yarris, of Uniontown, was drowned and Harry C. Shoop, of Thompson, near Uniontown, was injured seriously when the automobile in which they were riding plunged through the railing of a concrete bridge, one mile north of Uniontown, early Sunday morning and landed in a creek. The man and woman were pinned beneath it.

—Because he is alleged to have pulled a Liberty bond button off a friend's coat and insulted the American flag, Stanley Levetzki, an Austrian, was mobbed and ducked in the Susquehanna river at Northumberland on Sunday by a crowd of angry citizens. State policemen rescued him and rushed him to the Sunbury jail, where he is held pending the action of the Federal authorities.

—Literally dug out from his cave under a barn in an isolated section near Ingersoll, Allegheny county, where he had provisioned and secluded himself for more than four months to escape the draft, John Mico, aged 25 years, who says he is American born, was started on his way to Camp Lee, last Wednesday. Mico said that during the four months of his seclusion he left the barn only twice for food.

—William Young, the white man stricken with smallpox at Woodland several weeks ago, is now fully recovered and was released from quarantine Friday. All the suspects have also been released. There is now but one case in the town, a colored man, who will be released the beginning of the week. Out of a total of seven cases developed, there were no deaths. It is thought the disease has been pretty thoroughly stamped out.

—Provisions are being made at the State Treasury at Harrisburg for the distribution of \$32,000 to the thousand High schools of the State under action recently taken by the State Board of Education. The money will be to assist High schools as the State allowance under the common school appropriation is not enough. Schools will receive the money according to three grades: First, \$800; second, \$600 and third, \$400. Bellefonte High school will profit according to its class.

—Harry S. Meyer, former vice-mayor of Williamsport, who recently returned from an extended trip to New York city, was arrested upon information made before Alderman A. H. Stead, of Williamsport, on Monday, on charges of carrying concealed and deadly weapons, threats and making threats upon various persons within the past two years. Meyer was given a preliminary hearing at three o'clock and was shortly afterwards committed to the county jail in default of \$500 bail.

—Charged with the theft of \$487 from the Adams Express company, David Richards, of Altoona, has been held for court by Alderman Will J. Lamber. The money had been sent by express from Philadelphia, to the Priscilla Coal company, South Fork, during the holiday season, when Richards was running on the Altoona-Pittsburgh division as a messenger.

Ten packages were to be given the Johnstown agent, but, according to the accused man's confession, only nine were placed in the hands of the agent, while the receipt called for ten. The missing package contained the money. Special Agent N. H. Gans suspected Richards and not the Johnstown man and worked upon the confession was written, read by Richards, and signed by him. An embezzlement charge was made. The defendant was unable to secure \$600 bail and was taken to jail.