

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK

INK SLINGS.

—Chautauqua is on. Are you attending the interesting sessions regularly?

—Pray oftener for the boys. They are up on the front lines and God knows they need and have merited your prayers.

—The government is calling for buglers for the army. There seems to be a dearth of them, but not of the kind who blow their own horns.

—Blight seriously threatens the potato crop in Centre county. Many of the plants are withered and brown with only half formed potatoes at their roots.

—Don't lose sight of the fact that the Hon. John Noll is going to fight to get back to the Legislature with exactly the same grit that he fought for the Union from '61 to '64.

—The present one may be Germany's "peace offensive," but up to this time all that it has resulted in has been an opportunity for the Allies to get a piece of the German army.

—The sons of America's greatest men are laying down their lives that the world may be made safe for Democracy. Former President Roosevelt's youngest son was shot down and killed while flying behind the German lines on Sunday. No one has heard of any of the Kaiser's sons getting near enough to the front to be in danger.

—A gentleman who said he knew what he was talking about told a "Watchman" writer a few days ago, that John Noll was sure of three thousand Republican votes for Assemblyman from Centre county. If that's the way our friends, the opposition, feel about it now why not make it unanimous by the time election day rolls 'round.

—If there be any shortage of boats in which to send the German prisoners we are capturing over there back to the States, where they might be brought to save the trouble of shipping food over to them, we would suggest that we might absorb enough German kultur to make us believe that it would be all right to force them to start to swim across.

—The "Watchman" is singularly fortunate in being able to publish elsewhere in this issue a series of letters from our well known physician soldier Maj. David Dale. Because of his characteristic antipathy for notoriety or publicity of any sort we feel that the Major will not sanction our taking liberties with his private correspondence with friends, but be that as it may this series, covering his trip over and first work in France, is written in such delightful simplicity and covers so much detail that we know all of our readers will be greatly interested.

—The cables that have been coming from France within the past few days must thrill the hearts of the parents who have sons over there. What valor, what noble determination to win they have shown! Surely the world has never seen such joyful martyrdom in a righteous cause as has been revealed in every assault they have met or made. It must be a wonderful thing to be the parents of such soldiers, to realize that in the acid test of supreme trial all of the uncertainties of his childhood and youth are dissolved and the clear, clean MAN is revealed.

—There have been quite a few responses to our brief appeal of last week for remittances on account that will aggregate enough to pay for a car load of paper that has just arrived. We were desperately serious when we made that appeal and we are just as serious now in repeating it. If you are in arrears even for a month in your account with the "Watchman" won't you please send your check or postoffice order for \$1.50. Positively, we will have to have the money to meet this and other bills and the profit on the paper has been reduced by the high cost of all materials to the point where we can ill afford to spend three cents on postage to write a personal appeal to each subscriber. Do it now. It means little to you, but a lot to us.

—Congress is approaching the levy of the proposed eight billion dollar revenue measure with a purpose that seems to us will make it the fairest tax raising law that has ever been imposed on our people. The present intention apparently is to make it a direct tax, a level levy on every taxpayer according to his means and that would be as it should be. While it is all right to say that the rich should pay most of the taxes it is all wrong to permit some classes to escape entirely as has been the case under previous war measures. Many classes of labor, for instance, with their wages increased four hundred per cent. and their living cost increased not more than one hundred per cent., have not contributed in any way to the support of the government, yet in many ways they have profited out of all proportion to others because of the demand for their services. A direct tax will exact something from everybody and especially, if it affects labor, it will produce the salutary effect of impressing on the minds of such persons the seriousness of war and the duty of citizenship. The thing that the average man gets for nothing he rarely values highly and that might be one of the reasons that labor is so prone to strike while the government is in a fight for its very existence.

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STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Germany's New Drive. Palmer Has Burned the Bridges. Send Democrats to Congress. GERMANS MADE ANOTHER DRIVE ON WEST FRONT.

Germany's New Drive.

That the German drive on the western front has been resumed with great earnestness and vigor appears to be certain. On Sunday operations on a front of sixty-five miles long was begun, the main objective being the American troops on the Marne. Little progress was made, however. Some troops got across but no substantial gains resulted and the enterprise was most expensive. The fighting has been continuous since but the net result to the Kaiser is disappointment and diminution of force. Not only have a vast number of men been killed but on the first day the American troops, in a well-directed counter attack, captured a considerable number of prisoners.

Of course the failure of this effort will not end the war for the Kaiser and his associate butchers realize that nothing will save their status and death in one way is quite as satisfactory as in another. But it may be safely predicted that this failure will end the efforts to reach Paris or the Channel ports by force. Since the 21st of March, when the movement with that purpose in view began, more than a million lives have been sacrificed, and though there are not as many miles between the German army and those objectives as there were, the achievement is just as far off. In other words at the Marne the Kaiser is no nearer Paris than at Soissons.

The part performed by the American troops in this encounter is justly a subject of pride to all Americans. They were as ready for action as the German veterans and as efficient as any soldiers could be. Mention of their service by Chancellor Bonar Law in the British Parliament was greeted by cheers and the French commander conveyed his appreciation of their prowess in a congratulatory telegram. These are cheering incidents of a grave tragedy but at the same time admonitions to activity in supporting them with men and munitions. America has accomplished much already but there is much yet to do for in the last analysis it is up to the United States to compel victory.

—Congress is entitled to a rest. It has achieved much during the nearly eight months since the present session began and a good deal of its work was valuable. But considerable time has been wasted in talk and some in politics of the sinister variety. If it will behave after its return in August, however, all errors will be overlooked.

Elect Democrats to Congress.

Voters in Pennsylvania should keep in mind the great importance of sending genuine friends of President Wilson to Congress. The Republican machine is bending all its energies to electing Congressmen who will oppose the President's war policies. The sinister plans of these machine politicians is to prolong the war until after the expiration of Woodrow Wilson's term of office. That course will cost the country hundreds of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of treasure. But it would let the machine managers in for a share in the loot which they hope will flow from the adjustment of affairs after the war. They have been away from the spoils so long that they are desperate. Just as certain as fate the election of a Republican Congress will result in a reversal of the war policies of the government and the sacrifice of all the good that has been accomplished since the moment war with Germany was declared. From the beginning the Republicans in both branches of Congress have been striving to embarrass the President. It is true that in the end most of them have voted for such measures as he asked but only after they have failed to bluff him into accepting their plans. They are afraid to vote as they desired because they know that the vast majority of the people are in accord with the President's views and that adverse action would be properly construed and resented.

If their party were in the majority in either or both Houses of Congress their tone would be different. They would then oppose the President in everything and compel him to yield to their reasonable demands and questionable policies. The expense in life and money is of no importance to them. The spoils is the object of their hopes. Therefore party lines have no place in the Congressional contests this year. It is a question of patriotism against partisanship. Those who favor the speedy and successful ending of the war against autocracy will vote for candidates who are in political as well as personal sympathy with the President.

—The Presidential veto saved Congress from some of its worst blunders and the recess has postponed if it hasn't prevented some others.

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Palmer Has Burned the Bridges.

In ostentatiously entertaining Senator Sprout, Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania and conspicuously ignoring Judge Bonniwell, Democratic nominee for the office, during their recent visit in Stroudsburg, Mitchell Palmer plainly exposed his purpose in holding on to the control of the Democratic organization. It was obviously to use the machinery of the party for an office over which he hopes to exercise influence. An attachment formed in college and strengthened by kindred ambitions for social distinction and political powers offers greater opportunities than an ordinary party alliance that never developed personal admiration.

Mr. Palmer wanted to select the Democratic candidate for Governor so that in the event of the election of either Mr. Sprout or his own man he might be "the power behind the throne." His failure to accomplish his purpose at the primary election left him the alternative of helping to secure the success of his friend in the ultimate contest. To this purpose he bent his energies from the moment the primary polls closed until the meeting, for re-organization, of the State Committee nearly a month later. He had attempted to fool the public during the primary campaign by compelling his own hand-picked candidate to make a false pretense of favoring prohibition and then undertook to fool the nominee by forcing upon him a hand-picked campaign manager.

But he didn't fool the candidate any more than he fooled the public and now he has "burned the bridges behind him" by openly showing his preference for the candidate of the opposition. Greater perfidy has never been revealed in politics in this or any other State. It will not succeed, however. The Democrats of Pennsylvania will not approve such palpable treachery. They are a fair-minded folk who understand that Judge Bonniwell was fairly nominated and justly entitled to an honest and friendly organization to manage his campaign. Mr. Palmer admitted the justice of this claim on the floor of the committee and the Democratic voters will not ratify the outrage then perpetrated.

—German General von Ardenne admits that there may be a million American soldiers "over there," but thinks they are not up to the military standard. If he goes up against a contingent of these Yankees he will have a rude awakening.

Mr. Wanamaker's Great Error.

In responding to felicitations upon his eightieth birthday Mr. John Wanamaker, the Philadelphia merchant prince, perpetrated a faux pas which is likely to get him disliked. Answering the very kindly and appropriate telegram of Secretary of the Navy Daniels Mr. Wanamaker wrote: "The unparalleled achievements of the President, yourself and his administration, to speedily win the war, deserve the unqualified support of all the people who have any American blood in them by birth or adoption or by adoption of race, face or place." That is certainly a fine sentiment and handsomely expressed but hazardous in the face of the facts. Moreover it is not unanimous.

Mr. Wanamaker ought to know that nine-tenths of all the real American blood in this country radiates from the heart to the several extremities of the body of Theodore Roosevelt and the Colonel doesn't share in the great merchant's appreciation of the President, the Secretary of the Navy or the Cabinet of Woodrow Wilson. On the contrary the Colonel, who knows everything, understands that nothing has been achieved by either of these agencies toward speedily winning the war and that the President, the Secretary of the Navy and the Administration haven't done a thing since the beginning of the war except put the country on a toboggan slide to "the demitition bowwows."

Mr. Wanamaker is a great merchant, a generous philanthropist and an admirable citizen, beyond question. But he doesn't know much about war or government or he wouldn't have permitted himself to make such a "slip of the pen" as is expressed in his amiable reply to Secretary Daniels' congratulatory message. Nobody has a right to attribute any great merit to any man who is not able to dwell in the twilight of Colonel Roosevelt's affections. President Wilson forfeited this privilege when he put the everlasting "mark of decay" upon Roosevelt's absurd ambition to organize a dynasty in this country. But Mr. Wanamaker will, we hope, live down his error.

—It is rumored that von Hindenburg is dead but some rumors are too good to be true.

—The surest way to help Russia would be to strangle Lenin and Trotsky.

Send Democrats to Congress.

Chairman Hays of the Republican National Committee is constantly striving to change the political complexion of Congress. He pretends that he is engaged in a patriotic work and that the achievement of his purpose will promote the success and hasten the end of the world war. But analysis of the facts refutes his claim. Some Republican Congressmen are in the habit of supporting the war measures and where the utility of opposing them is obvious nearly all of them vote for administration measures. It is plain, however, to every close observer, that they are acting so, not from patriotic motives but in order to support the false claim of Chairman Hays. It is camouflage.

With a Republican majority in the House of Representatives in Washington the war policy of the administration would be reversed even though the operation cost millions of lives and prolonged the war for years. This fact is shown clearly by the attitude of the leaders of the Republican party. The spokesman of the party in unofficial life is Theodore Roosevelt. The mouthpiece of the organization in Congress is Boies Penrose. Both avail themselves of every opportunity to revile the President and create distrust of his war policies. With a majority in Congress behind them they would muzzle the President and convert the war office into a political machine to promote their sordid ambitions.

There is no obligation upon the electorate of the country as binding, this year, as the duty of supporting the President in his splendid efforts to successfully conduct the war to a speedy conclusion. The only certain way to accomplish this is to elect Democrats to Congress. They will be bound to the President by bonds of political sympathy and ties of party pride. At any other time and under any other circumstances an effort of the opposition to win the party success might be justified. But no purpose other than that of winning the war is tolerable now, and the way to win the war is to support the President in Congress and out. Vote for Democratic candidates for Congress.

—German troops on the western front are in a bad way. If they move forward at once they are certain of a licking and if they remain where they are the forces of the allies are being so augmented that they will get a worse licking later. "Between the devil and the deep sea."

No Pheasant Hunting in Centre County This Year.

Centre county will not be the dumping ground for pheasant hunters this year. The State Game Commission, at a meeting in Harrisburg last Wednesday, declared every county in the State with the exception of Philadelphia and Delaware (where there are no pheasants) closed to the hunting of ruffed grouse, commonly called pheasant, effective at once.

The "Watchman" has persistently taken the stand that it was unfair for hunters who had secured the closing of their home counties, going into other counties to kill the game, notwithstanding the fact that they were entirely within their rights in doing so. But they did it, just the same, and the result is that the past two seasons pheasants have been so scarce in the Centre county mountains that there was no sport in hunting them.

Just what the result of closing the season for one year will be cannot now be told, but this year has been a good season for hatching and rearing of young birds and unless we have another long, hard winter ahead of us, it ought to result in making pheasants more plentiful next season. Of course, the increase in the number of pheasants will depend to a great extent on how the hunters obey the law. If every man religiously refrains from shooting the birds, the closing of the season will probably bring about the desired result, but if a few hunters kill the birds regardless of the law, taking their chance on being caught at it, the ruling of the State Game Commission might just as well not have been made.

—To win the war while a Democratic President is in office will break Senator Lodge's heart but we hope operations will not be checked on that account.

—"Outwitting the Hun" the thrilling war experience of Pat O'Brien, begins in this issue of the "Watchman." Don't fail to read it.

—The action of Congress on the price of wheat shows scant respect for the patriotism of the farmers.

—The boys on the other side are certainly doing their duty over there. Are we doing ours here?

—Anyway we haven't heard "Is it hot enough for you?" very often this season.

Checked Within Ten Hours by American and French Army. Germans Fought True to Tradition.

The new German drive—the fifth phase of the enemy's west front offensive—was checked within a few hours.

Starting at daybreak Monday, the Germans' advance was stopped at mid-day. From then on the allies apparently assumed the initiative on most parts of the fifty-mile front, pushing the enemy back by counterattacks. Completely halted in their initial rush, the German command called off its infantry in the evening, and the attacks had not been renewed up to 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. A composite report on Monday's fighting shows the following:

INITIAL RESULTS IN GREAT DRIVE. The Americans holding the allied left wing threw the Germans back across the Marne, after the enemy had advanced about three miles south of the river. Between 1,000 and 1,500 Germans were captured, including an entire brigade staff.

Farther to the left, a minor German attack was met by the Americans, west of the Chateau-Thierry, and completely repulsed.

Another secondary enemy operation, still farther to the left, in the Ourcq river region, was stopped by French artillery fire.

On the allied right wing, another American force (probably to the north-eastward of Hurlus) broke up wave after wave of German infantry and failed to lose an inch of territory.

Along the Marne to the right of the Americans, between Passy-Sur-Marne and Mareuil-le-Port, a front of about eight miles, the Germans evidently progressed as far as St. Aignan and La Chapelle-Monthodon, four miles south of the river, and still maintain a large portion of their gains.

Between the Marne and Rheims, the enemy advanced an average depth of three miles, from Chatillon-sur-Marne north-eastward to Bligny, penetrating the villages of Belval and Pourcy.

South of the Rheims, the Germans progressed on two sectors. Between Brunay, seven miles southeast of Rheims, and the Suppe river, sixteen miles east of Rheims, they advanced to Prosnes, a penetration of four miles. Further eastward, the Germans advanced to Souain and Perthuis.

AMERICANS FOUGHT BRILLIANTLY. The German attack began at 3 a. m. Initial attempts of the enemy to bridge the river were frustrated by American artillery and machine gun fire.

As the boche fire was concentrated on the American positions in the bend of the river, from three sides, our men gradually fell back in perfect order and the Germans succeeded in throwing six pontoons across.

Following the cleverest dictates of strategy, the American retirement continued until our men reached the base of the salient created by the bend in the river. There they halted at 10 o'clock and resisted all efforts of the boche to dislodge them. Coolly, despite the harrassing fire, the officers began preparing for a counter-attack. Shortly after noon it began. Slowly and methodically as though executing some training maneuver, the Americans pressed forward. Their advance was irresistible. They drove the Germans back more than two kilometers, (a mile and a quarter), before there was any slackening of the attack. When it did halt, it was voluntary.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—When workmen arrived at the Mammoth coke plant at Mt. Pleasant, Sunday morning, they found the legs of a man sticking out of a coke oven. The body had been burned.

—John L. Gibbs, postmaster at York Springs, kept his stamps and postoffice money in his home at night. Thursday night thieves ransacked his residence and got away with \$600 in stamps and government money.

—Fire of undetermined origin on Saturday destroyed the breaker of the Harleigh, Brookwood Coal company, at Harleigh, Luzerne county, which was operated by Madeira & Hill. The loss is estimated at \$200,000 and 200 men have been temporarily thrown out of work. The average daily production was 400 tons. Arrangements are being made to continue mining and sending the fuel to nearby colliers.

—Through his counsel, C. W. Miller Esq., S. Constone, of Watsonstown, last week brought an action in assumpsit against the Direct Supply company claiming \$1,535 with interest. The claim is brought for services rendered at the Watsonstown ostrich farm as laborer and caretaker of the ostriches and the use of cattle, farming implements, grain, and for freight on the same from Ginghamton, N. Y., to the farm.

—While her husband is at war, Mrs. Richard Jones, of Nanticoke, will fill his place as bank teller in the First National bank of Nanticoke. Mr. Jones enlisted for special service under the selective draft and left on Monday for State College. His wife, who was patriotic enough to waive exemption claims, has gone to work to fill the vacancy in the banking institution caused by her husband's call. Mrs. Jones is a graduate of Bloomsburg Normal school.

—Charles McCool, aged eighteen years, of Belleville, had a leg crushed when his motorcycle collided with an auto in Kishacoquillas valley on Sunday afternoon. He was taken to the Lewistown hospital, where the injured member was amputated. The accident was witnessed by Alpha Baum, of Bellefonte, who happened along just as it occurred. The young man was riding on the main road and ran into the automobile just as it came out of a side road onto the main highway.

—Miss Anna McGill, eighteen years old, of McEystown, encountered a large black bear Sunday night as she drove the dairy herd from the pasture. The cattle were pasturing in an old field along the mountains and as a young heifer passed through some thick underbrush, Bruin made a spring from her, but, forewarned, the heifer made for getaway and the bear ambled off into the brush. James McGill, the father of the girl, took his gun and spent several hours trying to round up the bear, without results.

—On the first day that he worked as a brakeman on the west lump at the Northumberland yards late last Thursday afternoon, W. F. Geiger, aged twenty-eight years, and married, of Bloomsburg, suffered both feet crushed in an odd accident. He was rushed to the Mary M. Packer hospital at Danville, where both feet may have to be amputated. Mr. Geiger was a brakeman, and took two cars down the track. He could not hold them, and when they met other cars, the impact caused the load on a gondola which he was riding, to shift, and caught his feet between the end of the car and a heavy wheel.

—Greensburg is without a postmaster. Postmaster John M. Zimmermann resigned several weeks ago, his resignation taking effect June 30, fifteen days before his term expired. Justice of the Peace J. Q. Truxal was appointed acting postmaster and he now announces that he does not want the job. John Painter, for several years assistant postmaster, is in charge. The Greensburg office has a very heavy volume of work and lately was given the extra duty of auditing the accounts of 101 small offices. It was at first believed that there would be a big scramble for the place, but the heavy duties make the job unattractive.

—Exhausted or seized with cramps as he was swimming across the Juniata river at Tuscarora Sunday afternoon, Thomas Laird, aged twenty-two years, went down and was drowned. His body was not recovered until 8:30 by the members of a party with whom he was camping. Young Laird had started out to swim across the river and back on a wager and was on the return trip when he sank. He was a son of H. S. Laird, formerly P. R. R. supervisor at Lewistown. His mother is dead. He was a student at the University of Pennsylvania and was spending the summer vacation with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Weber, of Lewistown.

—County Food Administrator Grier Hersh, of York, on Friday compelled Max E. Kunkel, proprietor of a flour mill to return to his customers excess profits realized on the sale of bran and middlings. Kunkel had been charging \$2.00 per hundred for bran and \$2.10 per hundred for middlings. The government prices are \$1.50 and \$1.75. The price of bran and middlings is set on the basis of the government's set price for wheat which is \$2.10 per bushel. The mills of that vicinity have been selling middlings at \$1.80 at the mill and \$1.90 a hundred when they delivered for their own make. They sold western middlings at \$2.50 at the mill, and \$2.60 delivered.

—The heroism of Miss Pearl S. Kipel, twenty-eight years of age, signal operator in a Pennsylvania railroad tower, near Herminie, Westmoreland county, who ran several hundred yards with her clothes ablaze, for help, became known on Friday. Alone in the tower at an early hour Thursday morning the oil lamp over her key dropped. Instantly the spilling oil set fire to the girls' clothes and to the building. She tried in vain to put out the blaze and then ran to the first farm house, where her burns were dressed. The signal tower was burned to the ground with a loss of \$1,725 and the interlocking switching system was thrown out of commission temporarily.

—The 1918 maple sugar crop in Pennsylvania is estimated at 968,000 pounds and the syrup at 440,000 gallons. The weather in the maple tree sections was favorable for a good flow of sap, the cold nights, alternating with warmer days. The flow furnished a very good quality of sap. It is estimated that there were 1,220,000 trees tapped in the State during the season and that the average sap was 3.7 pounds to the tree and as syrup was a year ago and an increase in production as nearly 100,000 more trees were tapped than a year ago. Last year the estimated yield of sugar was 988,000 pounds and syrup 370,800 gallons from 1,130,000 trees.

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