

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK

INK SLINGS.

The rains on Monday and Tuesday spelled salvation to the corn and late potatoes in Centre county.

Judge Bonniwell stands a fair chance of being our next Governor if he is given a fair chance to launch a campaign.

Here's hoping that there will be no holes in that pocket hanging down between Rheims and Soissons through which the Hun can escape.

To bring our army up to the five million men mark, which now seems to be the aim of the War Department, a new draft of 1,125,000 will have to be made.

Meantime is any friend of Russia preparing to prove that helping the Russian government will not be strengthening the Bolsheviks to help Germany?

Our troops are reported leading the allied advance now and they are still maintaining that traditional American fighting spirit of holding on to everything they gain.

Another case of locking the stable after the horse is probably gone is the movement on foot to attempt to prevent the dissolution of the Central Railroad Company of Pennsylvania.

Uncle Sam has employed twenty-thousand women since February 1st. The ladies always did know how to beat men to it. Here they are getting the berths before they even have the vote.

This is August. Next month cool days and nights may be expected. The month following you will probably need some heat in your house. Have you provided for it? If not, further delay will be costly.

The fourth Liberty Loan drive will open September 28th and close on October 19th. It will probably be to raise six billion dollars and the interest rate will probably be the same as that of the third Loan, four and one-half per cent.

Jeff McLemore thought we ought to stay off ocean going vessels because the Kaiser threatened to kill us if we didn't. Jeff's constituents down in Texas didn't agree with him and have failed to renominate him to represent them in Congress.

Anyway, when the Hon. John Noll goes back to Harrisburg Centre county will have a representative there who will know how to get things done and who knows the people of Centre county well enough to know what they want done.

The Czecho-Slovaks and the Bolsheviks in Russia are running a fine little side-show to the big war. Our sympathies are with the former and our prayers are that Germany won't get away with all there is of value in Russia before the Bolsheviks gets what's coming to it.

If it is true that Turkey has severed relations with Germany it is probably out of a wholesome respect for what an American Thanksgiving day feast requires as the principal dish. Thanksgiving day is coming on apace and the American army in France is showing signs of getting what it goes after.

If the Huns expect any mercy to be shown them by America's fighters they had better cease, once and for all, the practice of bayonetting our wounded boys, which they evidently did in the fighting at Serdy. We have always been accustomed to fighting fair, but if there is any danger of our methods being understood by German kultur we can do it the other way also.

Milwaukee is insisting in the use of English in public places. A very good move indeed, but why not in private places, as well. It is in the latter that enemy aliens meet to plan their seditious undertakings and if the practice of speaking foreign languages in this country is to be broken up among those who are permanently located here it must be stopped everywhere. Its use in private places is far more dangerous than in public places.

Labor is going to be conscripted. The government finds it necessary to see that all essential business is kept running at a maximum capacity and to that end has formulated a plan for the supply and employment of labor. The new regulation went into effect yesterday and so far as Centre county is concerned it will be controlled by two boards, one located at Bellefonte, the other at Lock Haven. Full details will be published in the county papers next week.

You know the chief burgess of Milesburg has had some experience in inspection of the water-ways of Pennsylvania, because for some time he was in the employ of the State Water Commission as an inspector. Habit being hard to break up the leading factotum of our nearby borough, with two companions, sallied forth, a few nights ago, to inspect the waters of the Bald Eagle with a scoop net. The net leaked of course, but one of the party must have leaked, too, for the state con-nabulary heard that the former state water inspector was keeping his hand in by a little night practice and was right on the job. The result was that the chief burgess, his two friends, scoop net, suckers, trout and all were landed in one haul of the legal net thrown about them. How conditions change. Once the State paid the chief burgess of Milesburg for inspecting waters. Now the tables are turned and the chief burgess does the paying.

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Judge Bonniwell's Appeal.

Judge Bonniwell's appeal to the people is characteristic. He has always been an uncompromising foe of political bossism and when the patronage brokers, Mitchell Palmer and Charles P. Donnelly "double-crossed" him in the organization of the State committee, he met the issue precisely as he had met similar conditions in the past. In 1910 when he believed that William H. Berry had been cheated out of the nomination for Governor in the Allentown convention, he appealed to the people for reparation, organized the Keystone party and overwhelmed the regular party organization. When organized and imported gunmen defeated justice in the Philadelphia primary election of 1916, he appealed to the people and organized a political revolution which actually carried the city though counted out by political pirates in control of the voting machinery.

With a vast majority of the Democratic voters of the State behind him, as revealed in the primary election vote, Judge Bonniwell hoped that he would be treated fairly by the so-called leaders in the organization of the campaign committee. It has been the custom of the past for many years to consult the nominee for Governor as to the chairman to conduct the campaign, as Judge Bonniwell states. But this year four gentlemen, only one of whom was a member of the State committee, in a secret meeting held in Philadelphia four days before the date of the organizing meeting, selected a chairman, not because of fitness, ability or experience, but as it has since developed for the reason that he would serve their sinister purpose, and the piratical operation was subsequently ratified by a servile committee framed up for the purpose.

Judge Bonniwell did not refuse to avail himself of the assistance of the party organization. But he refused to acquiesce in a conspiracy which had for its palpable purpose the sacrifice of the candidate to the selfishness of a group of patronage brokers. As he states "the organization of the party in Pennsylvania is impotent and inefficient. Members of the State committee meet but once in two years for which they are elected. They do nothing to forward the election of any Democratic ticket." But they can contribute largely to the defeat of any candidate who is not servilely obedient to the bosses and their juggling with the chairmanship this year proves the purpose to thus betray Judge Bonniwell. It is a most iniquitous conspiracy, an infamous outrage upon the party and should be condemned by every voter of the party.

Judge Bonniwell has earned the favor which the party has bestowed upon him by faithful and efficient service in the past. He has been an eloquent and willing advocate of the principles of Democracy for many years. He zealously supported the late Governor Pattison in all his efforts to rescue the State from the piratical Republican machine. He has been a capable supporter of President Wilson in every contest in which he has been involved. He has been as fearless in opposing bossism in his own party as he has been courageous in attacking vice in the organization of the opposite party. If he is supported as he ought to be in his present purpose to reorganize the party he will be elected Governor and that event will mark the end of political brigandage in Pennsylvania and the restoration of "government of, for and by the people."

Bellefonte has always been noted for the intelligence and discrimination of its residents but the discrimination now being practiced by the ice dealers of Bellefonte, who all summer have refused to go only on certain streets of the town, is not the kind of discrimination that is extolled by the housekeepers on the taboored streets. Last year federal food administrator Howard Heinz issued an order in effect that ice dealers must give equal service to all portions of the town, but so far this year Bellefonte dealers are serving ice within zones prescribed by themselves without making any provision for residents outside of their prescribed limits. It is just possible that the matter will be taken up with the federal food administrator this year to secure a ruling in the matter.

Probably the Crown Prince has changed his mind about war. He once had a notion to start one "just for the fun of it." When the pincers began to pinch him on the Marne he couldn't find where the fun came in.

President Taft has practically secluded himself since his Saratoga speech. He is probably ashamed of the statement that a Republican Congress ought to be elected this year.

Von Hindenburg isn't dead. He occupied an advance position in the recent retreat from the Marne.

Elect Democrats to Congress.

If there were any just causes of complaint against the management of our end of the war or the progress in preparations there would be reason for striving for change in the political complexion of Congress. The work thus far has been conducted by the President with the support and consent of a friendly House of Representatives. The enlistment of a vast army and its transportation over seas, the development of the navy and the mobilization of the industries of the country for war purposes have all been achieved under the policies of the President and a Democratic Congress. If the results of these efforts had been disappointing, if these efforts had failed, demand for change might be justified.

But the contrary is true. The whole world stands amazed at the splendid achievements of the administration in its war work. Summarizing the work of the four years of war an authority recently declared that "transcending the significance of any event in the actual theatres of the war, American participation in the conflict, involving the transportation over seas of more than a million men to engage in it, must remain for all time the great outstanding feature of the fourth year of the struggle." The same expert adds: "It is upon America that the entente is relying for the men and resources to turn the tide." But this will not be accomplished by changing the policies of the government. The expectation is based upon continuance of present policies.

The administration entered upon its herculean task under most adverse conditions. The opposition in Congress resorted to every expedient to retard its work and harass its energies. If the complexion of Congress is changed a reversal of the policies which have achieved so much will follow and the end of the war will be postponed indefinitely. Every advocate of such change understands this fact but just for party success and political plunder urges him to strive for the change notwithstanding the consequence. It is the duty of every patriotic citizen to oppose such purposes. The only effective way of supporting the President at this time is to elect Democrats to Congress.

Representative McLemore, of Texas, author of the resolution to forbid Americans from traveling on European ships during the war, has been defeated for re-nomination. His purpose was to embarrass the President but he seems to have submerged himself.

Fourth Anniversary of the War.

Four years ago last Sunday, July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and Germany started a vast army to devastate France. From the beginning it was sensed as a world war but nobody imagined it would last more than a year and the idea of American participation in it wasn't even dreamed of. Within six months, it was estimated, the expense of such a war would bankrupt any power in the world and Germany indulged the vain delusion of world domination within a brief period. The fourth anniversary of this cruel tragedy was celebrated last Sunday by the rout of the imperial army of Germany from its position on the Marne and French and American troops in pursuit.

The four years that have elapsed since that event in 1914 have been epochal in various ways. Minor disturbances in the Balkans had been settled and thoughtful people were encouraged to hope for a long period of peace and prosperity. But Germany had been long cherishing an ambition to extend her dominion and expand her system of government and a minor and unimportant tragedy, the assassination of an Austrian archduke, was made the excuse for unleashing her "dogs of war." No other nation was prepared to oppose her sinister purposes and the opportunity to take advantage of the military weakness of the others was strong in the minds of the military autocrats in control at Berlin.

During the intervening time much has been accomplished in the interest of humanity. The mask has been torn from the face of German kultur and the beastliness behind it so plainly revealed that it will never in hereafter deceive any intelligent people or individual. The process of achieving this result has been cruel and heart-rending but worth the supreme sacrifices it has entailed for the beginning of the end is now in view and soon the world will be not only a safer but a better place in which to live. Autocracy will die the death of a suicide for its last representatives, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey will be wiped off the map when peace is declared.

The estimate of the fighting qualities of American soldiers is said to have undergone a great change recently in the neighborhood of Berlin.

War Conditions Satisfactory.

Fighting in France has gone on with unabated fierceness during the past week and though little progress has been made in forcing the enemy back vast improvement is shown in the relative positions of the combatants. The hope of a week ago that a considerable portion of the German army would be bottled up in General Foch's "pincers" seems to have been dispelled for the present by the savage counter attack of the Crown Prince's troops, largely augmented by reinforcements, but the menace is not yet removed and escape will be an expensive process. Instead of military prison pens the German soldiers appear to be heading for hospitable grave yards.

Since the allied offensive began the enemy has been driven back several miles and even the extraordinary counter attack on Tuesday afternoon failed to break or swerve the American and French lines. It was probably not intended as the beginning of a new offensive. Its purpose was to check the advance of Allied troops or hold them while valuable and vast stores were being shifted out of danger. But it didn't entirely achieve this purpose for while American troops were combating the movement at one point, the French contingent was moving in and drawing tighter the cordon at another. The Crown Prince's army with its supplies may yet be captured in the pocket formed by Foch.

The summary of the week's operations may therefore be regarded as fairly satisfactory. We have sustained comparatively little loss in man power and none in morale while it is certain that the enemy has suffered immensely in both. The German machine is shattered beyond reconstruction and though the "High Command" will persist in the sacrifice they are palpably without hope of reaching either Paris or the Channel ports. Our own gallant troops have performed wonders and will continue their glorious work and it is for us to give them that moral and material support that is essential to the complete victory now almost in sight.

Another hopeful thought is that Democratic Senators who opposed the war policies of the President during the last year will go into permanent retirement about the time the Kaiser loses his job.

Paying the Penalty.

The city of Philadelphia is now reaping the harvest and paying the penalty of corrupt and incompetent machine government. Within a week one section of the city, the Vire balcony, has been suffering from race riots. For more than two weeks the primary election crimes of the Fifth ward have been under judicial investigation at West Chester and on Tuesday the grand jury of the United States District court began an inquiry into charges of frauds perpetrated by the draft boards. In the West Chester proceedings amazing crimes have been revealed. In the draft board inquiry the trail of the political serpent appears and in the race riots the hopeless imbecility of the municipal government is clearly shown.

If these troubles and misdeeds in Philadelphia were purely local affairs the people of Pennsylvania might wisely pass them up as of no public importance. It might be justly reasoned that the people of that city having shown themselves incapable of self government are getting precisely what they deserve, rotten government. But unhappily Philadelphia dominates the legislation and to a great extent controls the politics of the State and the corrupt government is the instrument with which they acquire the power of evil. Because of these facts the people of the State have an interest in the maladministration of the government of the principal city of the State. And thus it becomes our affair.

The evidence taken in West Chester shows that a murderous conspiracy was formed to carry the Fifth ward of the city for one vicious candidate against another not much better. Of itself that is bad enough. But the evidence also shows that with the knowledge and consent of the Mayor of the city the police force was prostituted to this nefarious work. In that fact lies the great measure of turpitude. The agencies provided by law to preserve the peace are used to promote murder and the people are to blame because they have unwisely chosen their officials. For these reasons the people of Pennsylvania are humiliated beyond measure and shamed beyond expression by the events referred to.

That new "made-in-Germany" King of the Pinn will soon know how "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

One egg a month is the Berlin ration, according to reports, and the chances are that it is a bad egg at that.

Strikes in War.

From the Philadelphia Press. It is reported that the War Department has a bill prepared for submission to Congress when it reconvenes in August to stabilize labor conditions by preventing strikes. There is nothing more incompatible with the efficient conduct of a war by any nation than large and persistent labor disturbances. They paralyze industry and halt the movement of armies and navies by cutting off their necessary supplies.

Strikes by coal miners, railroad men, and telegraph men are more immediately disastrous in their effects than strikes in other occupations, but all strikes on a large scale are weakening and hurtful to the government when engaged in war. Is it helpless in their presence or is there a way to compel would-be strikers to settle their labor difficulties in some way that will not harm the government or else postpone them altogether?

Everything else must yield to the exigencies of the situation in time of war then why should not labor bend and make concessions as well as the rest. Personal liberty is suspended in time of war. Men must leave their occupations and their homes to fight for their country. We are regulated and restricted in our food and our fuel and lights, our clothes and our liberty of movement. Everything is secondary and subordinate to the supreme task of defeating the enemy. He who interferes with the accomplishment of that great task is an enemy if abroad and a traitor if at home. Why then should an exception be made of the walking delegate whose orders stop the mines and the mills, the railroads and the shipyards to the infinite embarrassment of a nation in arms and the great joy of the armed foes that are seeking to destroy it.

A government that is engaged in war abroad and permits itself to be impeded at home in this way shows itself self conscious of great inherent weakness. The right of self-defense is the supreme law of nations as well as of individuals and this nation must defend itself from strikes as well as from Huns. There ought to be no necessity for such a law as is now proposed at Washington. The patriotism of the people should be sufficient to prevent a strike at this time. As it is evident that patriotism cannot be relied upon in all cases the government should be given the power to make a large concerted strike at home in time of war an impossible crime.

Four Years of War.

From the Altoona Mirror.

Let us have peace! So spoke the master militarist of America two and fifty years ago. So say we, men and women of America, after viewing the desolation and destruction of four years of the worst warfare the earth has ever known. Let us have peace—let us have peace as the broken sword of Prussianism is tendered in UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

Protesting war, we are forced to believe in a war which became necessary to regain peace for the world. Respecting peace, we protest against a pseudo-peace which the preparation of mankind may use as a preparation for renewed war.

Let us have peace! But let it be peace between peers. The only peer of democracy is democracy. When Prussianism flouted its own royal bonded word as "a scrap of paper," it forever adjured all rights to enter into another treaty with self-respecting people. When Prussianism speaks now, no matter how fair the words, neither its friends nor its enemies believe itself! How can there be a parity between unfaith on its part and unbelief on ours?

Prussianism's only absolution is retraction. Its only symbol must be "surrender." Either surrender to the forces of the world which it has outraged or surrender to its subject peoples which it has oppressed and deceived.

Getting the Ships.

From the Williamsport Sun.

America's ship building program is going forward under the efficient and enthusiastic direction of Charles M. Schwab at a rate that a few months ago was thought possible. Mr. Schwab has just returned to Philadelphia from a tour of the Pacific coast shipyards and he is more optimistic than ever as to America's ability to "deliver the goods" in the way of ships. "The United States alone delivered ships enough in June to make up for seventy-five per cent. of the total shipping sunk by the U-boats during that month," he said. In a short time, he predicts, the ship tonnage output will reach 500,000 or 600,000 tons a month, and when all the yards are going full speed they will turn out 10,000,000 tons a year. "Ships will win the war" and America is getting the ships.

Exit, Jeff McLemore.

From the Altoona Mirror.

Jeff McLemore, representing the Seventh Texas district in Congress, introduced the House resolution which, had it been adopted, would have denied Americans free and lawful use of the ocean, in deference to Germany's submarine decree.

At the primary election in Texas a day or two ago, McLemore ran a poor third, and did not carry a single county in his district. Texans evidently desire to be represented in Congress by men who will not restrict the right of an American to use the sea on a lawful and legitimate errand.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Owners of the Buffalo Valley fruit farm at Millinburg, Pa., who have an orchard of 15,000 peach and apple trees, report that they will have from five to seven thousand bushels of peaches.

—An order for twenty-four tons of hobnails, to be used in a Pershing trench shoe for American soldiers, has been received by a Scranton company from the Endicott Johnson company, of Johnson City, N. Y. This is the largest order ever received by that company for shoe nails.

—The Apostolic Holiness Association of Bethlehem has sold seven acres of park land between Bethlehem and Allentown to the Apostolic Holiness Council of Pennsylvania, which association will use the site to establish a permanent Bible school and Theological Seminary. The price paid was \$30,000.

—So great is the number of cases to be heard in the Fayette county courts this fall that the jury commissioners were instructed to draw jurors for ten weeks, beginning the first Monday in September and continuing until the third Monday of November. It is estimated that more than 200 criminal cases are set for trial.

—Within six weeks it is expected the new western Pennsylvania institution for the insane, near Blairsville, will be ready to receive patients. S. S. Reighard, of Altoona, announced after attending a conference of the trustees at Blairsville. The old buildings are being remodeled. Accommodations will be provided for 250 patients.

—The heaviest man in the United States army, Vernon K. Flora, of Enola, Pa., has gained ten pounds since he entered the service by special induction six weeks ago, and he weighs 289 pounds. Flora had to be sent to Washington to have his uniform specially built for him, serving with the 106th Engineers, he is on the shores of France.

—In order to help out during the labor shortage, Miss Helen Lee Pardee, daughter of I. P. Pardee, president of the Hazleton First National bank, and granddaughter of the late Ario Pardee, pioneer coal operator, took a position as clerk in her father's banking house. Two of Miss Pardee's brothers are with the colors, one being in France.

—Justice of the Peace J. H. Moody shows no mercy to loafers in Farrell, Mercer county. Every man who is brought before him and is proved to be an idler in the strict sense of General Crowder's "work or fight" order is given a sentence of several months in the workhouse. He has sent more than a score of loafers to the institution within the last week.

—When Dr. Frank Conahan left Morca, Luzerne county, on Saturday for New York to enter the medical corps as a second lieutenant, Morca had no other physician upon whom to call. Despite the fact that 1000 of its men and boys follow the hazardous occupation of coal mining, doctors are so scarce that the operating company can't get a practitioner to replace Dr. Conahan.

—The county food administrator has received notice that two men falsely representing themselves as agents of the United States Food Administration, have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Allegheny county jail and \$100 fine. The penalty was imposed by the United States court for the western district of Pennsylvania. These convictions and drastic penalties are pointed to as serving to protect the public from further activity by such imposters.

—Three tramps, two of whom were colored individuals serving a ten days' sentence for train riding, escaped from the Clinton county jail Saturday night and are still at large. The men who got into the yard by prying loose a bar from a window, managed to work their way to the top of the wall and the jail building and then let themselves down on the outside of the wall to the alley by means of a rope made by tearing a bed blanket into strips. The discovery was made Sunday morning, when the rope was seen dangling from the outside of the wall.

To have been struck, rendered unconscious and partly paralyzed by a bolt of lightning while at work 500 feet from the surface, was the experience of Alex Shevisheskie, a track repairman at the Excelsior Coal company's Carbin colliery at Excelsior. The repairman was relaying a section of mine track in a drift during a terrific electrical storm. A bolt of lightning struck the rail at the driftmouth, shot the 500 feet through the drift and sent the workman across the gangway into a ditch. Fellow-workmen were knocked down. Shevisheskie was removed to his home in an unconscious and paralyzed condition.

Bereft of a loved one and a home and fortune almost in the twinkling of an eye was the sad portion meted out by fate to Thomas and Sarah Conrad, an aged brother and sister, residing in the mountainous edge of Lebanon county's divide from Schuylkill county—about three miles from Lickdale. A brother, Daniel Conrad, who lived with the other two for many years, died several days ago. To make the attendance of friends at the funeral easier, the body was removed to the home of another brother, at Outwood. The corpse had been removed only two hours when lightning struck the house and it burned. Consumed with the structure were over \$500, which represented the savings of years.

The Potter county sealer of weights and measures has issued warning to all retailers, which warning is as good for every other county in the State where the law is enforced, that they will be promptly prosecuted for weighing and selling with other commodities paper, paper plates, boxes or twine. A recent court ruling forbids selling wrapping material with other goods. The dealer says: "The law does not contemplate that a dealer should use a wooden dish or a dish in which he weighs a commodity. The purchaser must receive the full amount for which he pays and the law in any of its provisions does not permit the dealer to charge the weight of a container in which the article might be sold.

Mrs. Charles Q. Hillegass, of Pennsylvania, holds the record for knitting sweaters by the Upper Montgomery branch of the Red Cross, which furnishes each of the lo-Red Cross, which furnishes each of the lo-calls boys enlisted and drafted, with a sweater. Mrs. Hillegass made these twenty sweaters within the last eight months, in addition to performing household duties. Added to this she devotes two evenings and an afternoon each week to Red Cross work in the branch's workroom, where hospital garments and surgical dressings are made, and one evening a week for charitable work for the Phoebe Deaconess Home at Allentown.