

—Former President Theodore Roosevelt is dead. In many ways he was a great man. In some he was beyond understanding.

—The League of Nations is a certainty and it may be safely predicted that it will be laid on lines closely resembling those indicated by President Wilson.

—Four more States have ratified the amendment and "the brewers big horses" have closed up that much more of the gap on their way back to the farms.

—Berlin is reported as having gone dance mad. It is not surprising nor will it be more so if old Doc. Solc cables over here begging us to contribute money to pay the fiddlers.

—You will miss one of the very best of the many exceedingly interesting letters from the other side that the "Watchman" has published if you fail to read Major Rex Cooper's letter in this issue.

—Let us either make the Y. M. C. A. go right or close it entirely. The odium of an indifferent Association in Bellefonte must not be a blot on the splendid name it holds almost everywhere else.

—Italy's reception to President Wilson revealed the warmth of the Italian heart. The masses there declared him to be the President of the World and hailed him as the political and social savior of mankind. What a tribute.

—Auditor General Snyder has announced that Governor Brumbaugh has drawn \$134,000 from the State Treasury during his term of four years. Without entering into a discussion as to how the Hon. Martin G. got it we are inclined to remark that there have been no graft scandals with political crooks running away with millions of dollars since he has been in Harrisburg.

—The women are having the time of their lives at the auction now going on in this place. They bid with an abandon that indicates that a lot of husbands must have had to bid adieu to the last leaf on their bank rolls as their wives sallied forth. The very evident craze they have for this kind of shopping might be turned to their disadvantage by some shrewd politician later. If they get the vote and are not wanted at the polls we are quite sure a good auction would serve the purpose of keeping hundreds away.

—Of course Governor Brumbaugh must be given credit for some really useful endeavor during his administration; but we recall no act during the four years he has served as chief executive of the Commonwealth that is more to be commended than the appointment of William H. Keller to the vacancy on the Superior court bench. We scarcely regard it as so much of an honor to Mr. Keller as to the Superior court bench itself, for he is a man of such character and a lawyer of such ability as to add materially to the respect that the public has for a Court that has been prostituted to the caprices of machine politics through the miscarriage of the non-partisan election law. Governor Brumbaugh has given to the Commonwealth through his appointive power a man of much higher calibre than many who have been chosen by ballot.

—Being somewhat interested in the farming game and having frequently heard those more actively so declare that in this high cost of living era the farmer is the real sufferer we have been somewhat shocked to discover that we are in reality the real beneficiaries. The increase of the cost of products tell who is getting the most out of the high prices and during the five year period from 1913 to 1918 wool jumped 205 per cent, wheat 184, corn 116, hogs 124. All of these are products of our farms. In the same period iron jumped only 114 per cent, sugar 107, petroleum 63 and forest products 43. From this it would appear that we farmers who have been complaining because our clothes and our implements cost too much had better "sing mum" for fear the other fellow begins to wonder why our products are relatively so much higher than any others.

—Lock Haven and Tyrone papers are kidding themselves nearly to death with the idea that Bellefonte isn't nearly as big a blotch on the map as her present and past fame would indicate. It is all because the aviators on the new New York to Chicago aerial mail route have had some difficulty in making connection with their landing field in this place. Our envious neighbors refer to the wealth, intellectuality, political greatness and beauty of environment of Bellefonte as if it were all gone and because of its disappearance the birdmen are not able to locate us. Bellefonte is greater than it ever was. In truth this fact explains the difficulty in question. There is so much dynamic force, such powerful magnetism shooting out of this little burg as to disturb the cosmos of nature in such a way that even the compass doesn't function properly within a radius of fifty miles. When aviators are taught to compensate for this phenomenon there will be no difficulty. Meanwhile we might remark that neither Lock Haven nor Tyrone have ever been noted for anything that we recall other than a lot of industrious, hospitable citizens who make Bellefonters feel very welcome in their towns, take a few of them to church with them and invite others to have a drink.

—Senator Jim Ham Lewis, of Chicago, will not be in the Senate long but he is a fast talker and can tell the Republicans a good many truths between now and the fourth of March.

—There would be something like justice in a sentence of all the interned German sympathizers to deportation.

Democratic Watchman

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Organization of the Legislature.

The Democrats cut a small figure in the organization of the Legislature the other day. Stupid or perverse leadership has reduced the membership of that faith to the lowest level in the history of the State. The opposite ought to be true for within half a century party favors have never been so abundant. But the party leaders appear to have no desire for political success. It might impair their prosperity as patronage brokers and that is the purpose and object of their political activities. A successful party will not tolerate selfish bosses. Victory incites competition in leadership and competition destroys monopoly. Our leadership has reduced us to a select few.

But the few Senators and Representatives in the Legislature at the organization started out right and revealed both the inclination and ability to do good. In the Senate Asa K. DeWitt, of Luzerne county, was the party nominee for president pro tem, which is an assignment to leadership. In the House, John M. Flinn, of Elk county, was made chairman of the caucus which marks him as the minority leader in that chamber. Both are old line Democrats without qualification. Two years ago the party leaders were in control and set up a trading post for commerce with the Vares. This year there will be nothing of that sort and the party will have a meagre but an earnest force on the floors.

The organization was quickly effected because on one side the force was too meagre to check the machine and on the other side too servile. The party boss is in the saddle and ready to ride rough shod over opposition. There may be some controversy over local legislation for Philadelphia but in everything else the voice of the master will be paramount. The lust for office will be the moving force in the work and the party whip the agency of expression. The handful of Democrats on the floors will be vigilant and incorruptible but of no potency. Harmony or extinction will be the order and those who protest will be promptly punished for their temerity.

—The retail liquor dealers are taking out licenses just as if they have assurances that "bone dry" on July first is only a bogie. It is not likely they would pay so cheerfully a full year's license fee for a half year privilege to sell.

Avoid Invidious Distinctions.

Now that the soldiers are coming home and that they are justly entitled to the best of everything available care should be taken to avoid distinctions among them. In the first place there is no real difference in merit between those who volunteered and those "selected" by the government. It required courage, of course, for young men comfortably situated and happily surrounded to give up their advantages and offer their lives on the altar of patriotism. But the impulse which held others to obligations to dependents while their patriotism was equally ardent is hardly less admirable and many if not all the selected men were thus held in restraint.

The inclination to make a difference in the treatment of boys who served over seas and those who were held in camps and cantonments on this side of the water should be avoided. When these courageous and patriotic young men entered the service of the country they divested themselves of all thought of personal safety and committed themselves to the absolute control of the military authorities. Whether they went abroad or remained in cantonments was entirely beyond and outside of their control and while those shipped across were gratified those left behind would have been equally willing to answer the call. They were alike patriots and each "every inch a soldier."

The United States of America not only surprised the world but set up a new and higher standard of manhood during the brief period of our participation in the war. An army nearly four million strong was enlisted in about a year and upon a basis never dreamed of before. The millionaire and common laborer stood on an actual level whether in the trenches, on the firing line or in the cantonments, and whether one or the other his enlistment depended upon no bounty or bribery. We created the grandest army that has ever been mustered since the beginning of time and its achievements in action and in preparation for action is worthy of the highest praise that can be bestowed.

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Senator Lewis Has Their Measure.

Senator Lewis, of Illinois, has correctly interpreted the purposes of Lodge, Sherman and other Republicans in Congress in their malicious criticisms of the President's peace plans. They are striving to impair the influence of the United States in the impending Peace Conference. It is a perfidious policy but a political necessity. In actual war times it would be treason. But in the corroded minds of bigoted partisans national disaster is preferable to political defeat. The election of a Democratic President in 1920 will register the complete collapse of the Republican party and those party leaders would rather see the government destroyed than such a party defeat.

And in their work they are as stupid as they are malignant. When President Wilson expressed his intention to attend the Peace Conference they sent up a chorus of protest from coast to coast. In their feeble minds it implied a violation of the constitution and the shattering of cherished precedents. But when the great statesmen of all the world acclaimed the wisdom of the action they adopted another course and offered advice that was confusing but not desired. Their thought was to convey to the conference an impression that President Wilson is not in accord with public sentiment in the United States and that the delegates to the convention designated by him have no authority to speak for this country.

As a matter of fact the Senators in Congress have no more to do with making treaties than the members of any cross roads debating society. After the treaty is made and referred to the Senate for ratification that body may approve or reject the instrument. But it has no voice either in the selection of the delegates or in their action in the conference. President Wilson understands these facts and is ready to take the consequences. He has gone to the conference with a treated purpose to strive for such a treaty as will be satisfactory to the people of this country and having secured such a convention he knows that the bone heads in the Senate will not dare to reject it.

—That roster of German sympathizers entitled The Golden Book is not likely to be among the "best sellers" of last year.

Death of Mr. Roosevelt.

There is wisdom as well as beauty in the Latin proverb which forbids speaking ill of the dead. Of Theodore Roosevelt volumes might be written which would not be over flattering to his memory. Notwithstanding such weaknesses he was a man of great versatility if not of profound ability. He was intensely American and intolerant of those who viewed the obligations of patriotism from an angle other than his own. In his statement that "he seized the Panama Canal Zone and left Congress to discuss it afterwards," he was true to his impulses. He had no consideration for those who opposed him. But he had a faculty of attaching men to him that was marvelous and during the years since he retired from office life has had a following such as no other American has been able to acquire. No other man could have held popularity as he has since the failure of his ambition in 1912 embittered his life. Men whom he vilified as criminals have lauded him as freely as those whom he favored in his explosions of temper, and his most violent spasms attached rather than repelled men of all types. In life he was a magnet and in death he is mourned as few men of his day or generation have or will be.

—The Superior Silica Brick company, which has established quite large operations at Port Matilda, will in the near future consider a proposition to increase its capital stock from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000. Any company that can entertain such a proposition after being in existence the comparatively brief time that the Superior Silica Brick company has must have an outlook for the future that is not only remarkably encouraging for the stockholders but also for the community in which its operations are located. And because of this fact Port Matilda is to be congratulated. That little village, nestling at the foot of Bald Eagle mountain was heretofore known principally because it was a station on the Bald Eagle Valley railroad and because of its unusually large quota of good citizens, but there is now grave fear that these two very good points about the town will be submerged in the reputation which the new brick company is sure to give that place once it gets to be a million dollar corporation. And about the next thing we are likely to hear is the incorporation of the little village into a borough and a big political fight on as to who will be its first mayor. And then, we suppose, they will want their cash that the men and boys of that community will gather in while pressing bricks for the brick company.

Limit of Absurdity Reached.

In their various efforts to create friction between the representatives of the United States in the Peace Conference and those of Great Britain, the limit of absurdity has at last been reached. The other day Secretary of the Navy Daniels said to a Congressional committee that in making appropriations for the navy it would be wise to provide for the cancellation of contracts so that in the event the conference determined upon a decrease in armaments building operations might be stopped. "There," immediately yelled Lodge, Smoot and the whole pack. "The administration is coercing Great Britain to consent to President Wilson's 'freedom of the seas' heresy."

What Secretary Daniels meant and what he actually said is that if the conference determines upon a decrease of armaments the naval program now in contemplation would be subservient of that provision of the convention. The present program of the navy is the creation of a navy second only to that of Great Britain in the immediate future and ultimately one second to nobody. We have heard so much about unpreparedness and realized so fully that an adequate navy is essential to self-preservation as well as commercial security, that a rather ambitious program was determined upon. In fact this policy was adopted during the first administration of Grover Cleveland but was abandoned when the Republicans returned to power.

If it is agreed, however, in the Peace Conference that armaments will be decreased, the necessity for such a naval program will disappear for we will be in no danger of invasion or commercial disturbance and may safely save the expense. If on the other hand it is determined to let each nation take care of itself the ambitious naval program will continue as long as the administration at Washington is in the hands of the Democratic party. But no coercion of Great Britain is contemplated on the subject of the freedom of the seas or anything else. The administration is enjoying most cordial relations with the government of Great Britain and proposes to continue so.

—Japan has revised her estimate of the military power of the United States and the same may be said of Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, and a few others in and out of Congress.

William H. Keller Appointed to Superior Court Bench.

Governor Brumbaugh on Monday appointed William H. Keller, of Lancaster, a judge of the Superior court to succeed John W. Kephart, of Ebersburg, who last fall was elected to a seat on the Supreme court bench. Mr. Keller during the Brumbaugh administration was first deputy Attorney General under Francis Shunk Brown. While the Governor's appointment threw consternation into the Penrose ranks of the Republican party it cannot help but prove a meritorious act, because Mr. Keller is well qualified in every way to fill a seat on the Superior court bench. And Bellefonte and Centre county are especially to be congratulated upon the elevation of another of its former citizens to this higher rank in the judiciary of the State.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Keller the new Superior court judge was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, on August 11th, 1869, where the family lived when his father was employed in an official position in Washington. They returned to Bellefonte in 1873, and Mr. Keller was educated at the Bellefonte public schools and Franklin and Marshall college, Lancaster, studying law at George Washington University, Washington. He was admitted to the bar in 1893 and located in Lancaster, being a member of the firm of Coyle & Keller. He was a delegate to the Republican national conventions of 1908 and 1912. As first deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania he handed down a number of judicial opinions of state-wide importance. That he will make an able Superior court judge is beyond question and his many Centre county friends congratulate him upon his elevation to that bench.

—Herbert Hoover may have been impolite to those German beggars, but it must be admitted he gave them the right "steer" as to their ultimate destination.

—Brumbaugh may go out of office cordially despised among the politicians but he is making it hard for them to entirely forget him.

—Don't worry about the Kaiser getting his old job back. There is no resemblance to Napoleon in the Hohenzollern makeup.

—There will be big news for certain sections of Centre county coming out of Harrisburg ere long.

—For high class job work come to the "Watchman" office.

Railway Control.

From the Philadelphia Record. The complaint that the transportation system had almost broken down when the government took over the lines is too much like Senator Chamberlain's charge, less than a year ago, that the War Department had almost ceased to function. It was a very great exaggeration.

The undeniable defects in the transportation service were the result of the policy or lack of policy of Congress, ably supported by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Congress had very recently, by the Adamson act, added heavily to the expenses of the railroads. The demands of the Commission upon the roads has also increased their operating expenses. Besides this, there were repeated demands for more wages, which public opinion and the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the mere exigence of a Federal Board of Conciliation, compelled the companies to compromise or to arbitrate. The arbitrators almost invariably split the difference, so that in one way and another the government and the public demand that the railroads should now cease their work, combined to increase the expenses of the companies. Meanwhile the Interstate Commerce Commission, in the supposed interest of the public, was refusing almost wholly the applications of the companies to be allowed to raise their rates. The profits of the companies were reduced, and the attitude of Congress and the Commission still further menaced them, and it became difficult for the companies to raise new capital. Therefore they could not provide the additional rolling stock, extensions and terminal facilities which their growing business demanded. They pointed this out to the Commission, which replied that they were making a great deal of money and did not need any more.

The war created an emergency, and for financial as well as for operative reasons it was necessary to take possession of the roads and operate them as one system. This was the very thing Congress had been trying to prevent for thirty years. It had insisted that the companies must compete, although the Commission had reasons to prevent a combination of railway companies from taking advantage of their power to extort money from the community. Neither Congress nor the country raised any question of the necessity of the government control; if the government assumed it, they would take it for it. It asked for the control of the roads for two years after the war, and Congress cut this to 21 months.

The Director General of Railroads raised rates, which the Commission refused to allow the companies to do. He raised rates between \$600,000,000 and \$700,000,000, which the companies could not do unless they were allowed to raise rates. He effected certain economies by eliminating competitive features of administration, but Congress has insisted on maintaining those features. Nobody believes that the railroad properties should be immediately handed back to their owners under the ruinous conditions outlined above. It does not follow that advantage should be taken of a war emergency to pave the way for government ownership.

A Case of Sour Grapes.

Williamsport Correspondence of the Philadelphia North American.

The old-time rivalry that characterizes the relations between nearby towns is nearly the same size has broken out anew between Bellefonte and Lock Haven. The feeling arises over Bellefonte's success in locating near its borough lines a landing place on the aerial mail route between New York and Chicago after Lock Haven has felt the honor and distinction was assuredly hers. By a little coup of some of her hustling and foresighted sons, Lock Haven obtained the privilege of entertaining the first birdman who attempted to carry Uncle Sam's letters from New York to Chicago by airplane last summer. The visit of the aviator was made the occasion of such a big event in the town that all the townspeople felt that Lock Haven would be made a permanent landing place.

Suddenly, however, the authorities saw fit to change the station to Bellefonte, and then Lock Haven began making faces at her neighbor. The latter now finds its chief solace over the loss in reading what newspapers of the State have to say about the failure of the proposed mail schedule. An excerpt from the Tyrone Herald of recent date, was recently given prominent position in the Lock Haven papers for reasons which are apparent on the face of the printed word. The Herald commented as follows:

"The one-time flourishing town of Bellefonte, that boasted of its large iron furnaces, glass works, nail works, puddling mills, iron forges, chain factories, rich farming districts, towns that produced more Governors than any other town of its size in the United States, seems to be passing of the map or the compass of the airman who carry the mail that way is out of gear. It may be necessary for the promoters of the air route to erect an Eiffel tower or aid the birdmen to find the proper location. The first day of its trial the airplane landed at State College, twenty miles away, and a few days later the plane going east landed at Currysburg. In time the air mailmen will get acquainted with the town of Governors and effect a landing without trouble."

But Bellefonte cares little for this harmless joking. Its people smile to themselves every time they read one of these blasts, feeling that they are not far wrong in the belief that the vine of sour grapes is the inspiration back of them.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEystone.

—Somebody at Blossburg, likely disappointed at not receiving what they wanted for Christmas, broke into Kazmark's clothing store and selected \$600 worth of presents. Kazmark believes in Christmas all right, but he wants to limit his gifts and select the recipients. The thieves gained entrance through the cellar door.

—The various plants of the Elk Tanning company, the general offices of which are located in Ridgway, have gone on an eight-hour schedule. The plants have been working on a nine-hour basis for the past two or more years. During the war there has been a very heavy demand for leather and now that hostilities are ended, the demand has eased up somewhat.

—Deputy Attorney General Emerson Collins in an opinion rendered last week to Walter Nichols, acting Commissioner of Labor and Industry, decides that "the boiler of a steam threshing machine is not subject to boiler inspection under the provision of the act of 1903 where its use is limited to the operation of a threshing machine." The question was raised by Mr. Nichols.

—Roast ostrich is to be the central item on the menu at a dinner to be given to a number of friends on January 14th, by Robert Hunzinger, a well known Bloomsburg hotel keeper. One of the birds at the Bloomsburg ostrich farm, which recently went to pieces after being founded on the financial rocks for several years, has been purchased to grace the feast. The bird weighs upwards of 250 pounds.

—John Simpson Evans, a native of Altoona, who was graduated from the High school in that city in 1902, is the commander of the new superdreadnaught, New Mexico. He was graduated from Annapolis in 1906. He was an officer on one of the ships during the great trip around the world during the latter part of the Roosevelt administration, and took a post-graduate course in 1915. He was commissioned commander of the New Mexico in August.

—A cow that was bred and buttered in Bradford county has set the State College record. She is a Holstein, of course, and just completed a 365-day test, in which she "gave down" 22,247 pounds of milk, from which 851 pound of butter and 3065 pounds of cottage cheese were made. She paid for her keep and had \$479 to show on the profit side of the ledger. Her caretaker was also a native Bradfordian, F. M. Jones, who urged her to this remarkable feat by appealing to her pride, likely.

—With the closing of the Aetna powder mills at Newton Hamilton, the Pennsylvania railroad officials on the Middle division announced that beginning Friday, eight week trains running between Huntingdon and Newton Hamilton would be abolished. With the powder plant closed there will be no necessity of running these trains. The distance between Newton Hamilton and Huntingdon is almost fifteen miles, and the eight trains carried many workmen to and from their homes.

—Eight new cases of typhoid fever have developed in Huntingdon, making a total of sixty-five cases, or one in about each one hundred of Huntingdon's inhabitants. The cause of the epidemic is believed to be the borough's water supply, which is obtained from a creek which drains a purely farming community of twenty-five miles. Its pollution is ascribed to a typhoid case in the suburbs. A letter from the State Health Department has arrived at that place and is now in charge.

—More wealth was unearthed at the humble home of Parkesburg's recluse, Edward Moore, who died recently, following a stroke which came on while he was counting his money, the accumulation of half a century. The other day a cleaning out of an old fireplace in the house, Constable William Hawk unearthed a tin box which contained \$840 in \$5 gold pieces. The money was turned over to the bank which holds other effects, including, it is said, \$30,000 previously found in the old man's domicile.

—A large barn containing all the season's crops, thirty head of cows and two horses, was consumed by fire of a mysterious origin on the old Samuel McElrud farm, on the Harrisburg turnpike, a mile from Brandywine Manor, near Coatesville, early Monday morning. The farm is owned by William Ford, a Philadelphia hotel-keeper. The place was fired by Gus Roberts. The stock was of the Guernsey type. Several hundred bushels of oats and tons of hay and straw were consumed. The loss, estimated at \$30,000, is partially covered by insurance.

—Notwithstanding that the shell plant of the Worthington Pump and Machinery corporation has cut down its force to virtually one-fourth of its war-time quota of 5000, and that other local industries have completed their government contracts, Hazleton looks for a continuance of extraordinary prosperity during the current year. This hope is held out because there will be no curtailment in the operation of the anthracite coal mines, which will be kept going at their fullest capacity, not only this winter, but next spring and summer, to catch up with orders.

—Squire Levi Leedom, a Justice of the Peace at Hollidaysburg for many years, and who for a number of years has been employed at the Prothonotary's office in that place, is probably the greatest guardian for children in all of Blair county and probably the State. Attention was called to this by Prothonotary Guy R. Lingafelt's office by Judge Thomas J. Baldridge. Squire Leedom, when no one else can be found to assume the guardianship of children that come before the court, is always ready to assume this trust, and has become the guardian of scores of fatherless and motherless waifs.

—Wilson College, the Presbyterian college for girls, at Chambersburg, will come into possession of real estate and buildings valued at more than \$50,000 through the death of Mrs. Anna Lortz, at her home in that place. Mrs. Lortz's husband, John Lortz, who died several years ago, was a staunch friend of the college, and at his death willed his estate to his wife with the proviso that at her death it should go to the college. The estate consists of the residence formerly occupied by Mrs. Lortz, a building now occupied by the Franklin county Home for the Aged, and a large farm just east of Chambersburg.

—The Rev. Dr. John S. Wrighton, a minister for more than half a century without missing a single Sunday in the pulpit, even on vacations, died suddenly on Saturday, on a train in Massachusetts while on his way from Clarion, Pa., to Wellons Falls, Vt., to assume a new pastorate on Sunday. He was an author of several religious books and was pastor at Johnstown, Brookville, Pittsburgh, Warren, O.; Lincoln, Ill.; Scranton and Clarion, Pa., serving at Scranton from 1901 to 1915. He was the oldest graduate of the University of Lewisburg, now Bucknell University, with the exception of the president, Dr. John Howard Harris.

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