

INK SLINGS.

—And this is the first day of spring.

—Easter has been too late for the girls this year. They just couldn't save their new straw hats until April 20th.

—We are not so much interested in Senator Lenroots' statement to the effect that Germany is whipped, but we are earnestly interested in a plan to keep her whipped.

—Enrico Caruso, the great tenor, will have to pay \$153,933.70 income tax for 1918. It is a fortune in itself, but the singer can be consoled with the thought that it came easy.

—Exert your influence with your returned soldier boy to have him carry on the insurance the government sold him at a rate so cheap that he can never hope to duplicate it in any regular company.

—The bugologists tell us that we are to have a plague of seventeen year locusts during the coming summer. The winter has been so soft that we must surely expect a few flies in the weather dumping.

—On and after July 1st letter postage will be at the pre war rate. Letters will go for two cents and postal cards for a penny postage. It might be well to keep this fact in mind so that that date doesn't find you overstocked with two cent post cards.

—The United Mine Workers of America have adopted as a fundamental principle; a six-hour work day, five days a week, and a substantial increase for all work. They don't want much, do they? And yet they cry, "No beer, no work." If they don't intend to work any more than thirty hours a week they don't deserve any beer.

—At the one hundred and three roll calls of the short session of Congress, from December 2nd to March 4th last our Member, the Hon. Charles Rowland, answered present twelve times. At that he wasn't absent as much as Congressman John R. K. Scott, of Philadelphia, who has only one "here" to his credit throughout the entire session.

—A great deal of criticism and some abuse was heaped on George Creel when he organized the government's work of publicity for the war. He has just resigned his post and the aftermath is the gratifying news that he made one feature of his publicity—and one that was greatly appreciated too—pay all of the expenses of his department. The profitable publicity was the movie films sent out.

—We have had only four snowfalls of any consequence during the entire winter and none of them were to be compared with the least of the snows of the winter of 1917. The season has gone all awry and few of us would have a bit of regret if nature falls to come through with the "union snow," the "saplin' bender," the "daffodil snow" or the "poor man's manure," all of which we have been wont to consider as preliminary to real spring weather.

—On its editorial page the Altoona Tribune declares that "Great Britain will never do other than good to the United States." And on the first page of the same edition it throws a seven column scare head over Lenroots' declaration that Britain has drafted the peace treaty so as to revolutionize the foreign and domestic policy of our government. Evidently the left tugging editor on the Tribune never lets the right paragrapher know what he is doing.

—It is beyond us to figure out a reason for the wonderful prices horses are bringing at farm sales this spring. With tractors, trucks and pleasure motors displacing them, with grain and hay higher in price almost than they have ever been and with the government releasing to industry thousands upon thousands of its overstock of horses it would seem that all of offerings at farm sales horses would be in least demand. Quite the reverse is the fact and it is a very poor specimen of equine that isn't being knocked off anywhere from two to three hundred dollars.

—The stuff the average American soldier boy is made of was shown the other day when one of them refused to accept a pension of \$5,000 because he had apparently lost the sight of an eye while in the service. The records were clear and nothing could have stopped him from taking the government's bounty for his injury but his own honesty. His eye was gone when he enlisted, but he tricked the enrolling officer into accepting him "or service to his country by committing to memory all the letters and their position on the vision test card. Any one would know that a boy with such patriotism would be too honest to turn it to a handsome profit.

—The Altoona Tribune is trying to shift the odium for the outrageous filibuster at the close of the last Congress from the shoulders of the Republican party. It states that "it was not the Republican party but a group of foolish Senators, led by Sherman, of Illinois." Inasmuch as Sherman, of Illinois, and all the other foolish Senators in the group are Republicans and the Republican party is responsible for them it looks very much as if the Tribune is trying to ladle out flapsnooze. Certainly a Senator of that party is a unit of the Republican party, for if such were not the case why would Gif Pinchot and all of his followers be declaring that the party will be wrecked if Penrose is given a certain committee chairmanship in the next Senate.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—The highest average yield in the past five years for buckwheat was made in Northampton county with 26 bushels in 1915.

—For the second time within a month the retail price of milk has dropped one cent in Gettysburg. A month ago milk was selling at thirteen cents a quart. It is now eleven cents.

—Irwin C. Keller, of Cleona, Lebanon county, sold three of his monster rabbits of the Flemish Giant breed, all does, and of his own raising, for \$175. They weighed 14 pounds, 12 pounds and 8 ounces, and 16 pounds and 8 ounces, respectively.

—While there has been very little snow protection this winter, neither has there been much alternate freezing and thawing to cause heaving, consequently the grain is in good condition. Present indications point to large wheat and rye crops in Pennsylvania this year.

—George E. Smith and Charles W. Swank, two Pittsburgh division brakemen of the Baltimore and Ohio, were arrested at Connellysville by railroad detectives on the charge of stealing whiskey. The officers say the two men had in their possession thirty half-pints of whiskey.

—Alleging her husband starved her, so that she was compelled to leave him in Butler, Pa., Sarah R. Elmore has brought suit at Reading for divorce from John B. Elmore, of Mt. Washington, Allegheny county, on the grounds of desertion. The couple lived together only six months.

—While walking along State street, Doylestown, Mrs. Wynne James was attacked by a muskrat or sewer rat, and severely bitten on the ankle. The rat then attacked Peter Siegler and two daughters, who ward off with an umbrella, knocking it over three times before it gave up.

A freak of nature in the vegetable kingdom that is attracting much attention at Castanea, Clinton county, is a grape arbor on the premises of O'Neil Marticello, some of the vines of which are in full bloom, even when the temperature is at and below the freezing point. If the cold does not kill the blossoms Marticello will have ripe grapes much earlier than his neighbors.

—200 Mexican quail will be distributed in Lancaster county, in the near future, arriving there from Levado, Texas. 36 pair of Gambel quail will also be distributed in this county. Last year, 15 pair of the same were distributed with good results. 15 rabbits were also distributed through the county. Samuel S. Keene, of Christiana, Pa., State Game Warden, is in charge of this work.

—Oscar H. Zimmernan, who enlisted when only fourteen years old and is said to have been the youngest soldier in the United States army, has just arrived at his home at Hanover, after eighteen months' service overseas without a scratch. He enlisted immediately after the United States entered the war. His father is a German and at one time was an engineer on the former Kaiser's ship, Hohenzollern.

—A canvass made among the potato growers in Lancaster county shows that not a single one will plant more than usual and only a few who would plant as much as last season. Most of the men said they would reduce their acreage. One who has been planting largely for years will plant only one-half what he did last season. Many farmers will plant only what they consider necessary for their own use.

—Henry W. Bucher, a farmer living near Litz, Lancaster county, has an Alderney grade cow which gave birth to twins. At two weeks of age the calves weighed 220 pounds, and since they have been taken away the cow is averaging 13 pounds and 6 ounces of butter a week. Mr. Bucher's five cows yield 53 pounds of butter a week. A cow which came from his stably and is now owned by Harry B. Snavely, at Rome, is with calf and besides nourishing the offspring gives over six pounds of butter a week.

—Charged with having gifted the United States mails of \$8,000 worth of war savings stamps, Robert Bradley, of Chambersburg, was taken into custody late Saturday by Deputy United States Marshal Harvey T. Smith, of Harrisburg. Bradley is railway mail clerk and is also accused of taking about \$15 in cash and a gold clock valued at \$100. The clock he pawned, and it, with the rest of the stolen articles, has been recovered. As the theft is alleged to have taken place near Pittsburgh, Bradley was turned over to the federal authorities there.

—A bunch of foreigners entered the office of John H. Moore, prothonotary of Clearfield county, Monday for the purpose of securing their first citizenship papers. They were much pleased over the prospect of becoming American citizens, one of them being so delighted that in his joy he went away leaving a hat that cost him all of \$2.50. But this prospective son of America has no reason to regret his oversight, because he took with him the \$5 federal prothonotary Moore. It is remarkable how quickly the foreign population catch on to the ways of Americans.

—Isaac Warmkessel, of Henningsville, Bucks county, went to town on the anniversary of a very unlucky day, and related some of his experiences that took place since he was stricken blind thirty-nine years ago, by a premature dynamite explosion. One eye was shot out of his head and the retina in the other was injured so badly that five operations performed in a noted eye hospital failed to bring back the sight. During all these thirty-nine years he has done his own farming and assisted his son, on the latter's farm. He husks corn in season, spreads manure and miraculously does almost any kind of farm work. A few years ago, he constructed a stone wall around his farm house that is considered a model for neatness. Then in winter time, when the groundhog hibernates, he is ever so lively in his workshop and makes from 2000 to 2500 brooms every winter.

—A short time after making a public confession in the East Main street Methodist Episcopal church, Lock Haven, on Sunday night, of his desire to lead a better life, William J. Merritt, aged 55 years, a woodsman, went to the Susquehanna river and committed suicide. A body was found floating in the river about nine o'clock on Monday morning, by Harry Bowers, in shallow water about two hundred feet below the dam, and was pulled into shore with a pike pole. A crowd gathered and the body was soon identified. Investigation showed that Merritt had removed his hat, coat and vest at a point some distance above the dam and placed them on a rock. A gold watch and a bank book, showing deposits of over \$400 in a local bank, were found in his clothing. Merritt's home was at Lowville, N. Y., but he had been employed in lumbering throughout the North Tier counties and in New York State.

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