

INK SLINGS.

—Yesterday surely was an ideal May day.

—Don't let us have any hang-overs to haunt us in our war record. Let us put our Victory loan up to the quota and over.

—The time is short. Put in your order for a Victory bond or Centre county will fall down in the last great effort of the war.

—Is Centre county's flag of victory in every war activity to be run down to half-mast because she has fallen down on the Victory loan?

—We have only two days to go and Centre county is not more than two-thirds of the way to the top of her quota for the Victory loan.

—If anybody thinks Germany will be other than an impotent power after she has signed the peace terms all they need do is read the terms carefully.

—Germany will be the notable exception in the signatories to the peace. While none of the others will get all they want she will get a great deal more than she wants.

—Some of the most difficult problems of the war are yet unsolved. It is true that an agreement has been reached concerning the trial of the Kaiser but the question of punishing Lenin has not even been taken up.

—A lot of pin-head American statesmen will have a great time making the people believe that Premier Clemenceau didn't know what he was talking about when, upon the final completion of the peace terms, he said: "I think it is a good peace."

—Last week the "Watchman" predicted that Italy would be back among her Allies in the Peace Conference just as soon as she could rub her glasses off sufficiently to get a broader vision of world affairs. Italy has not disappointed us. She is back.

—Now the know-it-alls will understand why a League of Nations could not have been formed after peace was agreed upon. The text of the terms reveal many points that can only remain operative so long as there is a League with power to admonish the world that it would be unsafe to violate them.

—All honor to those Lawrence, Mass., industrial workers who mobbed and ran out of that city two labor agitators. When labor shows such a sane attitude to the destructive propaganda of professional agitators who fatten on its distress it is a hopeful sign of the security of American institutions.

—Congress has been called to convene in special session on May 19th. My, won't our friends, the Republicans, have the time of their lives kicking us rascals out of all the jobs that will fall under their control and trying to get together in furthering all that beneficent legislation which has been promising the country ever since they went out of power in 1911.

—Don't let the home fires go out when the boy comes home. Home is the one spot which the normal man cherishes in his heart as long as there is a beat in it. Its influence over his life is incalculable. Make it all he has dreamed of its being when he was lonely and hard pressed on the fields of France. Keep it the shrine at which his secret devotions have ever been offered and you will be keeping him courageous and true for the part he is to play in the great world reconstruction that he offered his life to make possible.

—The glories of a spring morning surpass our powers of description. Fresh, sweet, bursting vegetation gives promise of life and hope to everything and the birds—songsters of the morning, caroling the dawn of a new day; their flute-like notes floating in at your window at five o'clock a. m., have a siren call to awake from the repose of a dreamless night. Ah, the birds, the English sparrow birds that roost on your shutter and start their grand peans of joy just when you are thinking of turning over for another snooze—Damn such birds of a spring morning.

—Of course there are many things in the conduct of the war that can be the subject of honest criticism, but, withal, everyone who helped at all helped to the limit of his or her ability. Some of them made mistakes. Who hasn't? Some of the boys suffered what may appear as unnecessary hardships, but they weren't intentionally imposed. So when you hear criticisms of this or that merely hold a mental picture of some soldier boy before he entered the army and after he came home up for comparison and you will come to the conclusion that whatever may have been wrong there must have been a wonderful amount of right in the way they were cared for.

—Bellefonte is getting on. Ordinarily we think that our culture and refinement could not be improved upon. Occasionally, however, we do take a step forward as was the case last Saturday night when two "ladies," as the gentlemanly bystanders remarked, engaged in a classic exhibition of the lady art of self defense in the Diamond of the town. After mauling one another over the pavement until one of them was nearly stripped of her apparel one of the gentlemanly custodians of the peace and dignity of Bellefonte approached the cycle of skirts and legs and hair that was revolving on the pavement and obsequiously apologized for intruding long enough to suggest that the "ladies" were blocking traffic and it would be more convenient if they were to go home.

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Admiral Sims a Witness.

When the Congressional investigations set in immediately after the assembling of the special session, Admiral Sims should be summoned at once. The purpose of all inquiries will be to prove that the administration of the war service was not only amazingly profligate but criminally inefficient. Admiral Sims is the available instrument for use in this enterprise. He actively participated in the work. He was the capable commander of the American navy in European waters during the war and frankly "owns the soft impeachment." General Pershing will probably be equally candid, and others who did things "over there" will acknowledge a considerable liberality in disbursements. Admiral Sims addressed several audiences in Philadelphia in the interest of the Victory loan, last week, and reverted to the profligacy of the government without even a symptom of regret or remorse. "You will hear that the navy spent millions of dollars," he said, "for things that were never used. I did myself. I had aviation stations built from which aeroplanes never flew. I had bases constructed and buildings put up which never saw use. Why if the Germans had given me six months' notice that they intended to quit, I could have saved a lot of money. But they didn't, and it was necessary that we build those things and spend this money. And the Germans knew we were doing this just as we knew what they were doing, and this knowledge helped them to make up their minds to quit before the quitting got any worse."

And in the face of this shameful confession of profligacy and inefficiency Admiral Sims had the audacity to admonish the public against the fault finders in and out of Congress now longing for the lifting of the floodgates of accusation. "You will hear some awful howls," he said. "Already you are hearing a lot of nasty, dirty little criticisms," he continued. "Tell those who are making them to quit and to talk like men. Keep your mind on the big things and forget the little things. The army made mistakes, but put it across. General Pershing was up against the most difficult military stunt that any General has ever had to handle when he had to keep a fighting army fed and supplied from a base 3000 miles away. No other country, enemy or Ally, thought he could accomplish it. But he did."

This is probably not the line of talk that the various investigating committees appointed for the purpose of muck raking the administration will want, but it is the kind they will get if they pursue the right line of inquiry and summon as witnesses men who know the facts. They want scandals of the sort that developed during the Civil War when the Secretary of War was forced to live abroad until the statutes of limitation could be invoked to save him from such testimony. Or maybe they desire such testimony as proved the management of the war with Spain an orgy of venality. But they will get nothing; of those kinds in the investigations now in contemplation.

Notwithstanding the fact that the campaign for the sale of war savings stamps has been allowed to lag during the Victory loan drive Centre county's quota has been increased to \$1.36 per capita, keeping the county second on the list in the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

Herbert Hoover says that "the loaf will be mightier than the sword in composing Russia," and he may be right, but it will be a wise policy to have the sword within reach while handing the loaf to Russians.

The German Minister of Finance declares that Germany will never surrender a foot of German soil and the world is wondering whether he was talking in his sleep or through his hat.

Our sympathies go freely where there is real suffering but exact justice requires punishment of actual crimes and Germany hasn't reached the limit as yet.

It is said that an osteopathic specialist is working on the Kaiser's brain and it may be added that the German government threatens to "pull his leg."

The late Crown Prince boldly asserts that Ludendorff is a liar and for the first time in recent years most people believe the Crown Prince.

Italy has gone back to the Peace Conference which proves that our old friend, Sober Second Thought, is still working at his old job.

It seems that Kaiser Bill hasn't lost everything. But the income tax collectors are about to go after a part of what he saved.

Lest you forget we wish to reiterate the confident prediction that the peace treaty will be ratified by the Senate.

The Pending Sedition Law.

In view of the sinister activities revealed last week it is surprising that there should be serious opposition to the measure now pending in the Legislature entitled "an act defining sedition and prescribing punishment therefor." It is said that the bill was prepared by the Attorney General of the State at the request of the Governor and for the purpose of divesting it of political atmosphere it was given to Representative John M. Flynn, the most influential Democratic member of the House of Representatives to "read in place." At a public hearing last week President Maurer of the State Federation of Labor, denounced it vehemently as a menace to labor but his friends deny this accusation.

It is universally admitted that the laws of the several States and those of the United States are inadequate in view of the Bolshevik propaganda now in operation. Previous to our entrance into the world war German spies were practically without restraint on this account and while our armies were crossing the seas hundreds of thousands of lives were imperiled because of it. Millions of dollars' worth of property was destroyed in this country and thousands of lives sacrificed to this laxity in repressive legislation. It is time, therefore, that something be done and the measure in question seems to be a movement in the right direction. It may need amendment but it certainly ought not to be killed.

The bill as it will be pressed to passage defines sedition as (1) making any outbreak or demonstration of violence against this State or the United States; (2) to encourage any person or persons to take any measure of overthrowing or destroying by any force or show or threat of force the government of this State or the United States; (3) to incite or encourage any person to commit any overt act with a view to bringing the government of this State or the United States into hatred or contempt. A few other provisions refer to destruction of property and printing or publishing matter within these definitions. It is difficult to imagine reasons against these provisions.

It is said that there are already laws on the statute books covering most if not all of these points. But they make such acts even though they involve loss of life and destruction of property misdemeanors with a penalty attached which holds out no terror to the imported miscreants who indulge in such crimes. The pending measure defines sedition as a felony and prescribes penalties fitting for such outlawry. It is not a menace to either free speech or a free press and is certainly not intended to infringe upon or impair the rights of working men. On the contrary it will prevent criminals from hiding under the mask of honest industry to evade just punishment for crimes.

Mr. Daniels' Mistaken Idea.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels is more sentimental than practical in his suggestion to "sink the entire German fleet, with proper ceremonies." It would teach a great moral lesson, he imagines and offers the opinion that all "who are not technical and who view the situation entirely from the moral side have the same idea and believe that the ships should be sunk with bands playing and flags flying." He admits the ships are "magnificent craft" but would serve a better purpose in keeping company with merchant ships sunk by the German navy during the war. It is a thrilling thought but an expensive operation.

Secretary Daniels has proved himself one of the most capable and efficient public officials of his day and generation. His management of the naval operations of the war was superb. But his plan of disposing of a billion dollar's worth of perfectly good property reveals a lamentable carelessness of values, to say the least. He is probably right in his statement that the German ships would be useless as part of the American navy. They may be deficient in bunker space and the living quarters for sailors may be and probably are cramped and unhealthy. But those defects are not sufficient to condemn them to Davy Jones' fleet.

"Wiful waste makes woful want" and if our able Secretary of the Navy will consult his economic instead of his emotional sense he might come to the conclusion that there are better ways of disposing of the junk in question. Reduced to scrap they would bring a considerable sum of money and put upon the market for sale as pleasure yachts or to be converted into cargo carriers a larger sum might be obtained for them. In any event it is unwise to waste material that might be put to useful service and we sincerely hope that Secretary Daniels' suggestion will not be taken too seriously.

—Have you done your part in making Bellefonte cleaner?

Italy's Claim to Fiume.

All of the excuses offered by American newspapers for supporting Italy's claim for the Adriatic port of Fiume are absurd and some of them are amusing. For example a correspondent of the New York Evening Post reduces the question to one of spoils. "Germany offered Italy much to remain neutral," he writes, and "the Allies offered her more to join them; Italy accepted the Allies' offer which was set down in the treaty of London, and Italy expects the Allies to live up to their terms." The New York Tribune declares that "Italy's claim rests on exactly the same ground that has led us to seek recognition of the Monroe Doctrine." The New York Sun puts it that "Italy can not be safe while a potential enemy is strong across the Adriatic. The London and Paris governments knew this when they gave their pledge to Italy. Italy has now done her part and is entitled to have that pledge executed."

The claim of Italy to the port of Fiume resembles the Monroe Doctrine about as much as a collapsible baby coach looks like the most powerful battle ship afloat. Even if it were true that Italy needs the port in question as a "measure of nationalistic defence," there would be no analogy in her claim, to the Monroe Doctrine. But as a matter of fact since the collapse of Austria Italy needs no nationalistic defence on the Adriatic further than that which practically makes that sea a pleasure lake or fish pond for Italy. Besides that the Allies never made a compact with Italy to give her the port of Fiume. They agreed to give certain portions of the Dalmatian coast and certain islands in the Adriatic sea to Italy and Italy as solemnly agreed that the port of Fiume should go to Croatia, where it belongs. That is precisely what the Peace Conference has determined to do with Fiume and what ought to be done.

The truth is, however, that these madly partisan newspapers don't care a straw about Italy, Croatia or Fiume. They support Italy's claim not because they think it is just but for the contemptible reason that they imagine that the defeat of the conference plan would in some measure and by some means impair the world confidence in Woodrow Wilson and diminish his influence in the United States. They represent the predatory element in the life of the country and President Wilson has earned the everlasting enmity of such pirates by making their business as precarious as possible and as hazardous. He has not objected to a single just claim of Italy or proposed the violation of any agreement though he is striving to make secret transactions of that sort impossible in the future. That is "the head and front of his offending" and right minded people "love him for the enemies he has made."

Philadelphia's Farce Comedy.

The more or less interesting farce comedy which has been intermittently running on the legislative stage at Harrisburg for three or four weeks reached a climax the other day when Senator Penrose triumphantly marched off with the scalp of Senator Vare dangling at his belt. It had the appearance of a bitter fight while in progress and the barrage of epithets was deafening. But now that the smoke of the battle has blown away it doesn't look as if much damage has been done on either side. Penrose got his bills advanced on the calendars of the Senate and House and stands to secure their passage. But Vare will resume business at the old stand as soon as the Legislature adjourns.

There is great need of improved methods in the government of Philadelphia and the measures championed by Penrose in the sham battle just ended might have been made to work the desired result. But the new charter as it has been whipped into form by the Governor and the politicians is not likely to accomplish much good. The basis of the Vare perversion of power is in the municipal contracts and the new charter will renew his license to loot for the reason that it provides for a continuance of the contract system by the vote of municipal Legislature and Vare will have the Council wrapped up safely and placed on ice as soon as it is chosen.

The bill ripping out the Vare controlled Board of Registration may effect some improvement and that taking from the County Commissioners the power to manipulate election returns by the vote ought to cause a vast amelioration. The Vare Registration board was probably the rottenest organization in the State and the power of the County Commissioners, acting as a Returning Board, was a menace to good government from the beginning. But the public has no assurance that the new Registrars will be any better than the old and the Return Board may be as bad as the former. All in all the only perceptible result of the fight was the satisfaction Penrose got out of the humiliation of Vare.

A Test of Loyalty.

From the Philadelphia Record. It is easy to understand why all persons who desire to bring about so-called social reforms by violence, all who approve of murder as a political argument, and all who want to undermine the government of State and nation, should oppose the enactment of the Anti-Sedition bill, now pending in the House at Harrisburg, and the reconsideration of the defeated bill to enlarge our efficient State constabulary. There is no reason, however, why either of these measures should encounter the opposition of any law-abiding and loyal citizen.

Neither the Anti-Sedition bill nor the State Constabulary bill abrogates in the slightest degree the rights of any citizen. The aim of the first is to prevent the spread of terrorism in this State by bringing within the pale of the law those who, too cowardly to commit the crimes already punishable by our statutes, covertly incite others to such outrages as the recent infernal machine plot by inflammatory utterances and writings. The measure is not an interference with freedom of speech or of the press; it is an interference with assassination, pillage and riot. As to the bill to enlarge the State constabulary, it is a measure of protection for the law-abiding. No orderly citizen can have any valid objection to plans for the more thorough policing of the State. The State constabulary has no enemies save those who are criminals in fact or in intent.

These two bills are urgently needed the better to carry into effect the will of the overwhelming majority of the people of Pennsylvania, as expressed in their laws, when challenged by an insidious enemy which would like to reduce our country to Russia's level of bestiality. They ought to have the support of every patriotic legislator at Harrisburg. The man who opposes measures to suppress disloyalty stamps himself as a sympathizer with the disloyal and an enemy of American institutions.

Rebuilding of Louvain.

From the New York Evening Post. No single restoration in Europe will interest Americans more than that of the Louvain University and Cathedral. The Rylands Library, in Manchester, England, announces that it has received or is assured of 20,000 volumes to be sent to Louvain toward the replacement of the library of 250,000 destroyed there in 1914. It offers greatly to increase the size of this gift by August 26, the fifth anniversary of Louvain's burning; learned societies, the British Museum and prominent publishers are donating books. Meanwhile Americans have offered a new library building, the cost of which may run to \$1,250,000. Could not a selection of the most suitable books for the library be made from those sent abroad for our soldiers? At Rheims it is announced that a majority of the Municipal Council and the Mayor are in favor of a partial restoration of the cathedral. It will be remembered that various Frenchmen, including Rodin and Rostand, declared against restoration, some arguing that as an untouched ruin it would most eloquently perpetuate memory of the German crime. The city must largely be rebuilt, and a little more space allowed about the cathedral. The world will not soon forget what Rheims means.

Sugar Enough for Real Needs.

From the New York Commercial. Estimates declare that sugar crops in the principal eastern countries will show a decrease of 1,581,637 tons from last season. The decrease in British India is estimated at 892,000 tons; Java, 519,637 tons; Australia, 100,000 tons, and the Philippines, 70,000 tons. This decrease represents about 9.2 per cent of the world output of 17,131,609 tons last year. In 1913-'14 the world production was 18,667,399 tons, a falling off for this season of about 13.8 per cent.

European beet sugar crops for 1918-'19 are estimated at 3,693,000 tons, compared to 3,179,000 in the pre-war year, a decrease of more than 50 per cent, during the four years of hostilities. The result of this shortage is shown even now, as prices in Europe, with the exception of Denmark, are higher than here by from 12 to 45 per cent.

The chief ray of hope for a larger sugar supply lies in our own South and in Cuba. From the island comes word that the sugar crop is larger than ever, so that even though the East may reduce its output there will be enough on hand for all ordinary needs.

Italy's Influence in Massachusetts.

From the Springfield Republican. Premiers Clemenceau and Lloyd George will regret that their position regarding Fiume should be repudiated by Senator Lodge. Possibly they fail to understand the Senator's political necessities. Surely they may be excused for not appreciating the influence of the Italian societies of Boston, which had already forced the politicians of the Massachusetts Legislature to pass a pro-Italian resolution on Adriatic questions, and the salient political fact that Massachusetts elected a Democratic United States Senator last November, much to the injury of Mr. Lodge's own prestige.

A special meeting of the Logan Fire company will be held next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. All members are requested to be present.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—Gordon B. Ads of Trout Run, Lycoming county, picked up a purse containing \$30,000 in cash and negotiable checks while in Philadelphia a few weeks ago, and recently received a reward of \$2000 from the owners, the Geiger brothers.

—Central Pennsylvania bakers received notice May 1st of an advance in wheat flour of 75 cents per barrel making it \$14. This came as a surprise, they said as they had bought flour the week previous with no intimation of a rise in price.

—The annual reunion of the Fifth regiment Pennsylvania volunteer infantry Spanish-American war veterans will be held at Clearfield this year, and arrangements are being made to make it the biggest in the history of the organization.

—With faith in the future business prosperity of the county, Hughesville residents have organized a company for the manufacture of furniture. The concern, which is capitalized at \$60,000, all of which has been subscribed, is asking for a State charter.

—During the month of March John H. Moore, prothonotary of Clearfield county, issued first papers to 128 aliens and received thirteen applications for full naturalization papers. There are seventy-five applications for final papers at the naturalization court to be held June 13.

—A bill approved by Governor Sprull last week authorizes counties to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$1000 a year to historical societies instead of \$200 as heretofore. With a sum of this amount available there is no reason why there should not be a live historical society in every county in the State.

—Mrs. Susanna Temple of Lutzville, Jordan township, Lycoming county, died last week at the age of 93 years, and 10 months. She was the oldest woman in Jordan township and was the mother of thirteen. Her progeny consists of 115 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

—To help them more nearly meet the increased expenses of living, three Methodist churches in Williamsport have advanced the salaries of their ministers. The schedule of new salaries follows: Dr. R. S. Opler, Mulberry Street church, \$1500; the Rev. A. C. Shue, Third Street church, \$1500; the Rev. G. H. Ketterer, Market Street church, \$1200.

—Driven to desperation by hunger, sneak thieves entered the family residence of druggist P. M. Hastings, at Lewistown, and ate a loaf of bread and pickled eggs, which were in the refrigerator, and passed valuable silverware and jewelry, which were on the kitchen table, the hungry burglars ate their midnight meal after forcing their way into the home through a rear window.

—The Petroleum and Producers company, of Philadelphia, has drilled in an oil well on the Jones farm, south of Corsica, Jefferson county, that is making from eight to ten barrels a day. The well was shot in Saturday. Gas has also been found on the Jones farm and another well for oil is being located. Much of the territory in the vicinity has been leased. The T. W. Phillips Gas and Oil company is drilling on the W. E. Glean farm just north of Corsica.

—Williamsport police do not intend to allow I. W. Wisem to thrive in that city. When an I. W. membership book was found in the possession of Joseph W. Leach, who said his home is in Boston, last week, Beach was quickly sent out of town and told that he and his ilk were to give Williamsport a wide berth when passing through Pennsylvania. The man had been employed at a big industrial plant there and his connection with the I. W. W. was unknown until he revealed it when in a state of intoxication.

—A court case which has just been heard in Elmira, N. Y., discloses the fact that Ralston, Lycoming county, has been an oasis for the thirty ones of the New York State city, which is now dry. Two men who had not only limbed too freely on a visit to Ralston but had also carried home a plentiful supply of wet goods were arrested for bootlegging conduct, and at their hearing before an Elmira alderman revealed that there has been more or less steady traffic in liquor between dry Elmira and wet Ralston for a long time.

—Charles and Joseph Allegro, father and son, of Kane, Jefferson county, have been bound over to court in the sum of \$2500 on a charge of arson preferred by C. W. Seaton, deputy state fire marshal. It is alleged that last February Charles Allegro set fire to his store, completely destroying it. The fact that the building was estimated as being worth only \$500 and the insurance amounted to \$2000 caused the investigation. It is alleged that the evidence was strong enough to hold both for court.

—Suit for \$600 for the loss of his eight year old son's life was begun Friday afternoon by Reuben Gottschall, of Sunbury, against Mallick & Erdman, Sunbury building contractors and plumbing mill men. Young Gottschall was killed last summer by being kicked by a horse when he was at work around the barn where the defendant's horses were stabled. It is alleged that the defendants were negligent in allowing a boy to go so near a horse that he was kicked. He should have been provided a reasonably safe place to work," the plaintiff says.

—A gift of \$4800 to cancel the mortgage on the Mary M. Packer hospital at Sunbury was received by the trustees of that institution Wednesday from Mrs. Mary Caroline Packer, widow of the late James C. Packer. The announcement was made by J. Simpson Kline Esq., president of the board of trustees and executor of the estate of Mr. Packer. The gift comes at a time when the hospital has felt the pinch of raising prices and when more calls than ever are made upon it in the services in the community. The interest on the mortgage has always been a sum that was difficult to pay, particularly because of the fact that it brought no return in service.

—Russell Herman, aged twenty-two years, was instantly killed near Loganton, Saturday night, his neck being broken in an automobile crash. The vehicle collided with a horse and buggy while Herman and four other young men were going to the scene of a fire at the barn of F. P. Barnes, near Eastville, to render assistance. Their lights went out and as they started back to refill the tanks they ran into the buggy. Herman was thrown against the top of the car. His brother, Edward, sustained severe injuries, four ribs being torn loose. Others in the party were more or less badly bruised and injured. The buggy was wrecked but the occupants escaped with bruises. The fire to which the men were going, destroyed the Barnes barn, together with several calves, all the tools and feed. It is believed to have been of incendiary origin.