

THE VENETIAN TRIO.
Great Musical Entertainment for Centre Hall Next Wednesday.

From every source comes words of commendation and laudatory expressions concerning the Venetian Trio, a company of three musical artists who occupy the fifth number on the local Lecture Course, and who will appear in Centre Hall on Wednesday evening, February 27th.

The Venetian Trio was organized and coached by Harry Raymond Pierce, director of the Boston Lyceum School. They are finished in the technique of the musical art, and present a program which is refined, entertaining and possible of appreciation by the average audience.

Their program consists of three episodes: Episode I consists of mandolin, piano and guitar accompaniments, in Venetian costume, and a story of Venice. Episode II is entitled Dixie Land, a song and story; plantation melodies, arranged for trio, with piano and barjo accompaniments; barjo solos. Also southern stories in southern costumes. Episode III is entitled Songs of Long ago. A sketch introducing the ways, costumes, customs, music and stories of many years ago. The Mandocello is used for accompaniments, a new instrument to the lyceum profession, producing a very unusual and pleasing tone effect.

Don't miss this musical treat, in Grange hall, Wednesday evening, February 27th.

Seed Corn tests show up badly.
The county agent has received further results from the seed corn survey which brings very discouraging returns. To date he has tested twenty-seven cobs of corn which have given the following results on the basis of per cent germination: 89, 23, 55, 83, 82, 96, 50, 55, 100, 82, 92, 67, 73, 90, 75, 63, 25, 65, 64, 67, 41, 39, 83, 83, 92, 92, 64.

The question arises as to what per cent germination can one afford to plant. Figuring that it takes fifteen ears to plant an acre with an average yield of ninety bushels, every ear you plant is equal to a yield of six bushels, or in other words, every ear you plant is worth approximately \$10.00. Can you therefore afford to plant any seed below 100 per cent germination? It brings the fact further home that you should test every single ear in order to get a perfect stand as far as the seed is concerned.

If you are interested in testing your seed corn and need any information call or write the Farm Bureau, Bellefonte.

Road Supervisors Meeting.
A meeting of the Centre County Board of Road Supervisors will be held in the court house, Bellefonte, on Friday, March 1st. All supervisors are urged to be present at this meeting as important business will be considered.

Rural School Children to Take Census.
More than 20,000 young census takers have been set at work upon a survey of farm labor needs and farm resources of Pennsylvania. These census takers are pupils in the 8000 rural schools of the State. They are being aided by their teachers and school superintendents and when their work is completed they will have furnished to the Government data that is expected to be helpful in bringing farm labor to those districts where shortage exists.

The census is being directed by Robert W. Meyer, Farm Help Specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Meyer, whose headquarters are in the Philadelphia office of the Pennsylvania Committee of Public Safety, is urging all farmers to co-operate by answering fully the questions submitted on the forms being distributed by school children. Upon the completeness of the information volunteered by the farmers will depend the amount and character of labor resources organized for their support by the Government.

"If the returns are incomplete and inaccurate the Government will not know the real conditions and will thus be unable to give adequate assistance to the farmers," Mr. Meyer said. "These questions are answered for Government use only and to guide the Government in its efforts to meet the farm labor shortage. We trust all farmers will see that it is to their advantage to make full answer to our questions."

Advanced scholars will visit the farms and will fill in the information on the question blanks for farmers who may not have time to spare for this work. Returns will be made to the schools and through the schools to the County Superintendent who will tabulate the information obtained and will forward it to Mr. Meyer. The information will cover acreage, crop yield, equipment and live stock.

LIEUT. 'NED' KELLER AID TO BRITISH CAPTAIN.

Linden Hall Boy Writes Wonderful Letter to Mother About Bayonet Drilling.—Is Instructing Officers in Use of Deadly Weapon.

The following interesting letter was written by Lieut. N. W. ("Ned") Keller, who is in the officers' training camp at Camp Jackson, South Carolina, to his mother, Mrs. J. W. Keller, at Linden Hall. The letter was not intended for publication; however, Mrs. Keller kindly consented to give it to the Reporter for the benefit of the young man's many friends.—Editor.

323rd Inf., Camp Jackson, S. C., Saturday, 10:30 p. m.

Dearest Mother:
You may think this a strange time for me to be writing to you, for this is a very busy day for most all the officers and men in camp. However, I can say that I am a privileged character just at present and the whole forenoon has been my own. Had I sent you a card this week that I had been detailed as assistant bayonet instructor to the British captain who has charge of the whole division? Last Monday an order came from division headquarters ordering me to report at the bayonet course as assistant instructor, and when I reported on Monday afternoon at one o'clock I was told I had charge of the officers who were taking the course. It is the same course I took when I first came to camp and I have every reason to feel good over the recognition, for I was the only attached officer taking the course and all the other men in the class had been here for three months and had all the chance to prove their worth. Well, shortly after I finished the work as I told you I was assigned to Co. F again and was getting along just fine with everything and I never expected to be called to give instruction to the officers; I was satisfied to go back to my company and give it to them. At the time I did not know that we were being marked according to our ability in the work as well as the ability to impart that knowledge to others. When I went down to the course the first day the Sergeant Major told me that they had tried to get me for the work as soon as our class was through but for some reason they would not consent to leave me go from the regiment. The Lieutenant that took up the work was next to me and so they had him as assistant instructor ever since our class finished. Now he was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to take some more work there, and I was called to take his place. The vacancy had to be filled at once so they left me go this time. I thought perhaps I would only be called to finish his class, but the Captain told me we would continue the work next week so that I may have to carry on the work for a month or so. Each class lasts two weeks and then another set of men are sent to take the course. The Captain thought he would have at least four or five classes, so if that is the case the work will last several months. The General of the camp decides how long the work will be continued and I feel pretty certain that it will be continued for it is the best method of getting the men into fighting trim that we know of. I like the work because it gives me a little freedom and I am not tied down to the company from morn till late at night.

I go down to the course about nine o'clock in the morning and the Captain and I go over the work for the afternoon and plan how to improve the course, and this usually takes till eleven o'clock. I can then go up to my room and study or rehearse my work for the afternoon.

At one o'clock I report to the course with my book and the officers and men are assembled before we get there. The classes are formed and then the hard work starts and there is no let up till 4:30, except a fifteen minute rest.

We have them do the very hardest kind of work, such as jumping in and out of trenches, charging at dummies, and in fact anything that will give them lots of endurance. I finished my class yesterday afternoon and as a result I was off this morning, since Saturday afternoon is a half-holiday and my next class will be Monday afternoon. As I say, I like the work, but at the same time it is the hardest work done here in camp and no one thinks that I have a soft snap of it. It is very dangerous for an instructor I must take the initiative and show them the need of arousing their fighting spirit. At all times I must impress upon the men that the weapon is used to kill the opponent who will kill them if they fail to use the bayonet better than the opponent does. I must take all sorts of chances to show them the need of self confidence in using the bayonet and I must show them that they are going into that charge to kill or be killed, and the man who fails to make use of his bayonet in the proper way will never come back alive. At present my hands are all cut up and I keep them

(Continued on inside page.)

WEEKLY WAR NEWS DIGEST

Stories of Activities and Conditions Throughout the United States and on the Battle Fronts, from Washington, D. C.

CARRIER PIGEONS ARE BEING KILLED BY HUNTERS

Complaints have been made to the pigeon section of the Signal Corps that carrier pigeons of the racing homer type, being trained throughout the United States for communication service with the American Army, have been shot by persons on hunting expeditions.

Because of the important part carrier and homing pigeons are playing in the war, and the need for their breeding and development in this country, the War Department has considerably expanded the pigeon section of the Signal Corps. Homing pigeons constitute one of the most effective means of communication in the Army.

Any pigeon in the air may be a carrier pigeon flying from a loft under Government supervision. Its destruction may be a serious loss to the American Army. Anyone coming into possession of pigeons labeled "U. S. A.—18" indicating they are being trained for Army purposes, is requested to report the fact at once to the office of the Chief Signal Officer, Land Division, Washington, D. C.

TRUCK ROADS ARE MAPPED FROM MANUFACTURING CENTERS TO ATLANTIC SEABOARDS

A pathfinder car has started on a new job of mapping out Army truck roads for the Government, one official road having already been laid out from Detroit to the Atlantic coast and another from Buffalo to the seaboard. The car will go as far west as the Mississippi River and will map routes from cities in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

When this trip is completed the Government will have four main highways forming connecting links between the great manufacturing centers and the Atlantic seaboard. Motor trucks on their way to France will follow these routes.

SMOKELESS POWDER PLANTS WILL HAVE CAPACITY OF MILLION POUNDS A DAY

Plans and contracts are completed for the construction of two smokeless powder plants, each to cost approximately \$50,000,000. The estimated capacity of each is 500,000 pounds of powder a day, and from 10,000 to 15,000 men will be employed at each plant.

The initial output at each factory is expected not later than next August. Much of the product will be available for the allied nations.

1,500,000 WOMEN ARE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE IN UNITED STATES

According to a late report of the 1,500,000 women engaged in agriculture in the United States, 750,000 are under 20 years of age and 1,050,000 are negroes. A majority of the women workers are found in the Southern States.

The lines of work in which women will be likely to increase their farming activities, according to the report, are vegetable gardening, poultry raising, butter making, hog raising, etc. It is suggested that women who know how to operate motor cars may with little additional training operate tractors.

AUTOMATIC INSURANCE COVERS MEN LOST ON TORPEDOED TRANSPORT

Any American soldiers lost on the torpedoed transport were protected by United States Government Insurance and Government compensation. Those who had not applied for insurance were covered by automatic insurance which is payable to a wife, child, or widowed mother. The automatic insurance aggregates about \$4,305, netting \$25 a month for 240 months. Insurance that had been applied for is payable to a much larger class of beneficiaries and can go as high as \$10,000, netting \$57.50 a month for 240 months.

The compensation in case of death, given by the Government without charge and regardless of rank or pay ranges from \$30 to \$75 a month, based on the number of dependents. Payments under the compensation feature of the military and naval insurance act in case of death are payable to a widow, children, or dependent widowed mother.

The automatic insurance ceased on February 12, but the compensation feature of the act is a separate provision. The scale of compensation in case of death follows:

- (a) For a widow alone, \$25.
- (b) For a widow and one child, \$35.
- (c) For a widow and two children,

- \$47.50, with \$5 for each additional child up to two.
 - (d) If there be no widow, then for one child, \$20.
 - (e) For two children, \$30.
 - (f) For three children, \$40, with \$5 for each additional child up to two.
 - (g) For a widowed mother, \$20.
- The amount payable under the supervision shall not be greater than a sum which when added to the total amount payable to the widow and children does not exceed \$75.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AT WORK IN AREAS AROUND ARMY CAMPS

The United States Public Health Service is carrying on a campaign along sanitary lines in areas adjacent to 28 military camps. Complete sanitary work to prevent the spread of disease from the civilian population to military forces, and to protect civilians from communicable diseases where they have occurred among troops.

The organizations include physicians, sanitary engineers, nurses, attendants, and laborers. Methods undertaken include inspection of all establishments handling food supplies.

WARNING ISSUED AGAINST SCHEME TO SWINDLE FARMERS

Another scheme for swindling farmers of the United States has been discovered by the Federal Loan Board. A man advertising himself as an authorized organizer of national farm-loan associations is sending out advertising matter emblazoned with the national flag, stating that he will organize such associations at \$500 each, and will teach others the trick for a certain sum of money. His advertisements have reached farmers and business men over a large part of the United States.

(Continued on inside page.)

Temperance Forces to Meet at Bellefonte.

A mighty effort will be made by the temperance forces of the state to see that a legislature committed to the ratification of the Prohibition amendment will be elected this fall, so that Pennsylvania will show her patriotism by electing to down booze instead of being forced to Prohibition by reason of thirty-six other states in Union deciding that the country shall be dry.

In line with the above, a meeting of the temperance forces of Centre county, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Anti-Saloon League, the Centre County Temperance League and the Centre County W. C. T. U., will be held in Petriken Hall, Bellefonte, on February 21st, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of organizing for this important campaign. Also, on the evening of the same date, at 8 o'clock, a mass meeting will be held in the court house, to be addressed by Rev. C. F. Swift, D. D., of Philadelphia, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League.

War Fund Drive by Lutherans.

The National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare is launching a drive for a War Fund to place 150 camp pastors, brotherhood buildings and other much needed assistance in the various army cantonments.

For the present year \$750,000 is asked, and it will be raised by the nine general Lutheran bodies consisting of 2,500,000 members.

The commission has planned to place camp pastors in all of the training camps. This pastor will look after the Lutheran boys and form them into one body for church purposes. He will be free to devote his time to the needs of these boys. The boys in this way and will have their home church activities and especially will they have the benefit of the Lord's Supper. These pastors accompany the boys when they go "over there." It is then the boys will especially appreciate the services of these pastors as unfamiliarity with the language bars many from enjoying the service should they be within reach of a church.

The French Lutheran church has communicated her willingness to co-operate with the commission. Unless the church goes with the boys into the danger zones to strengthen and uphold them, how can she open her arms and expect to receive them when they return?

A Western man dropped dead last week while giving money to his wife. Notwithstanding this warning many reckless wives will continue to accept money from their husbands whenever they offer it—oftener.

Raise sheep and wine this year to help yourself and your country.

SCHOOL REPORT FOR FIFTH MONTH.

State's Local Report and Honor Roll in Borough Schools.

Primary school.—Number in attendance, males 18, females 19, total 37. Average attendance, males 15, females 17, total 32. Per cent. attendance, males 83, females 90, total 88. Those who were present every day during month are James Lutz, Paul Mariz, Wilbur McClellan, Robert McClellan, Elizabeth Breon, Helen Brown, Ruth Brown, Catharine Mariz, Dorothy Odenkirk, Alveta Weaver, and Frances Weaver. Only three—James Lutz, Alveta Weaver, and Elizabeth Breon, have attended every session during the term.—Helen Bartholomew, teacher.

Intermediate grade.—Number in attendance during month, male 13, female 23, total 36. Average attendance, male 12, female 20, total 32. Per cent. attendance, male 94, female 87, total 89. Names of pupils not absent during month: Joseph Rubie, Byers Ripks, Paul Smith, Clarence Zettle, Curtis Reiter, Louise Smith, Alma Lutz, Esther Mariz, Ruth Runkle, Helen Runkle, Mary Weaver, Helen Bohn, Lottie Keller. And those not absent during term: Byers Ripks, Paul Smith, Clarence Zettle, Alma Lutz, Ruth Runkle, Helen Runkle, Mary Weaver, Lottie Keller.—D. Rose Bushman, teacher.

Grammar grade.—Number in attendance during month, male 16, female 18. Per cent. attendance, male 91, female 90. Per cent. attendance during term, male 93, females 90. Those in regular attendance for the month: Sara Zettle, Hazel Ripks, Nona Wagner, Ethel Frank, Beatrice Kramer, Arthur Bohn, Albert Emery, Harold Breon, John Lutz, Daniel Smith, William Sweetwood, Isaiah Emery, Paul Fetterolf Albert Smith, Howard Emery. Those in regular attendance for term: Sara Zettle, Hazel Ripks, Nona Wagner, Ethel Frank, Albert Emery, Harold Breon, Daniel Smith, Albert Smith.—E. M. Miller, teacher.

Little Fellow Pierced With Pitch Fork.

Clyde, the eleven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Confer, of Potters Mills, was injured last Thursday while playing with several companions in the barn on the D. R. Foreman farm, tenanted by George Slack. The boys were enjoying themselves in play on the hay mow when in some manner Clyde was pierced above the left eye with a prong of a pitch fork. The steel point penetrated the eye about a quarter of an inch. The following day the pain became severe and symptoms of lockjaw manifested themselves. Dr. H. H. Longwell was hurriedly summoned and the physician succeeded in arresting the progress of the disease at once, so that the little fellow is practically out of all danger.

Tank Car Derails in Tunnel.

A new tank car, filled with gasoline and consigned to Coburn, behaved badly in taking a curve upon entering Paddy Mountain tunnel, on Monday morning, and derailed, necessitating the wreck train from Sunbury to arrive on the scene and place the car on the track. When the freight engine started to move its load the tank car again derailed. It required so much time to straighten out the tangle, owing to derailments occurring in the midst of the tunnel, that the west-bound passenger train in the afternoon was several hours late.

The Roll of Honor.

- Following is a list of the States that have ratified the National Prohibition Constitutional Amendment:
- Mississippi, January 8, 1918.
- Virginia, January 11, 1918.
- Kentucky, January 14, 1918.
- South Carolina, January 23, 1918.
- North Dakota, January 25, 1918.
- Maryland, February, 1918.

Dr. Bible Goes to France.

Dr. George P. Bible was recently highly honored with an appointment as a member of a committee composed of five public speakers who will be sent to France to inspect the great work being performed by the Red Cross in that country, later to return to the United States to lecture upon this splendid phase of war work.

Dr. Bible with Mrs. Bible left Bellefonte about a week ago, the former reporting at Washington, D. C., on Saturday. After securing his credentials, passports, etc., Dr. Bible was accompanied to New York by Mrs. Bible, from which point he was supposed to have sailed the latter part of last week.

A special meeting of the directors of the Patrons Rural Telephone company will be held in the Court House, Bellefonte, Friday, February 22.

The squirrel does not know how to eat, but he stores his food for the lean season. Learn a lesson from the squirrel.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Patriotism is not pessimism.
To-morrow (Friday) is Washington's birthday.

Those who can't fight must do the next best thing they can.

The Venetian Trio—Wednesday evening of next week (February 27th). You are only what you know you are—not what the other fellow thinks you are.

Bucknell University, at Lewisburg, will close three weeks earlier than usual, graduation exercises to be held the last of May.

Every wheat grain is now a bullet. Will you fire that bullet at the Kaiser, by saving it, or at our allies by consuming it when it is not needed?

John Camp, for many years engaged as a cabinet maker in Milroy, is now employed in an airplane factory, in Philadelphia, in which city he now lives.

Messrs. Elmer Mesmer, of Loganton, and Clayton Shessley, of Woodward, attended the funeral of the former's aunt, Mrs. George Michael, at Centre Hall, on Monday.

Col. Henry W. Shoemaker states that he is not seeking nor expecting to be made the chairman of the O'Neil campaign committee, and further says he is not in politics.

The Pritchard garage in Phillipsburg, destroyed by fire, will be rebuilt on double the scale, and will have 20,000 feet of floor space. The contract for the structure has already been let.

Mrs. Mary McClellan, in Phillipsburg, celebrated her ninety-third birthday on the 13th of this month. A dinner party was given for her at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Sowers, on Front Street.

The chewing done about the 50-50 war bread would be sufficient to masticate much more wicked stuff. If we don't have to do anything worse than to consume wheat flour on the 50-50 basis, we ought to all be happy.

A complete list of farm stock and implements to be sold by Messrs. Richard Brooks and D. A. Boozer, on Tuesday, March 19th, will be found in a large display advertisement in this issue. Everything to be sold is of fine quality and there is lots of it.

Clarence W. Musser, who a few years ago taught the Tusseyville public school, is now on the front in France. He is a son of F. S. Musser, of Middleburg, formerly of Penn Hall, and will undoubtedly do credit to the section of country he represents.

On the evening of St. Valentine's day the members of the Millheim High school and a few of their friends were very royally entertained at the Millheim Inn, all reporting having had a specially good time and feeling grateful to their host for his efforts in making it so.

Last week mention was made in these columns that Albert V. Moyer, of Lewistown, was numbered among the lost on account of the torpedoing of the transport Tuscania. Later relatives received a message from the U. S. authorities that the young man was officially reported as saved.

Earl H. Wert, a native of Aaronsburg, at a meeting of the directors of the Southwark national bank of Philadelphia held last Thursday was elected assistant cashier of the bank. Mr. Wert started with Southwark bank on July 1, 1913, after four years of service with the American bank, of the same city.

The cow and bull of Blair county's elk herd were killed last week by order of State Game officials on account of complaints of farmers of damage done by the animals to their crops. The two yielded nearly a ton of meat which was distributed among the hospitals and other state institutions in that county.

J. J. Slauterbeck, game protector for Millfin county, has just returned from a ten days' trip to the wilds after feeding the wild birds, and says the quail are practically extinct and the territory will have to be restocked. Turkeys are doing fine and only a couple of the big birds are known to have perished during the winter. Farmers and mountaineers are feeding them in large flocks.

A wind storm of cyclonic intensity, which passed over the county Tuesday night of last week, did its worst at Sandy Ridge, where it resulted in killing three men and injuring two. A large brick wall, forty feet high and part of a new building in course of erection by the General Refractories Company, was completely demolished. In addition to this roofs were blown off several houses and trees uprooted. The unfortunate men were caught in the falling wall and almost instant death resulted.