



WHAT A GERMAN RULE MEANS TO A CONQUERED LAND.

Systematic Exploitation of Belgium Under the Rathenau Plan.

Washington, D. C., (April 17).—The systematic exploitation of Belgium by the Germans under the so-called "Rathenau Plan" is revealed for the first time to the American people in the latest publication of the Committee on Public Information, issued today, entitled "German Treatment of Conquered Territory." It is based upon unpublished reports to our Department of State, and other sources as yet little known in this country, and presents an appalling record of calculated German greed and brutality. Much of the most damning evidence is derived from the official orders and other utterances of the Germans themselves.

The Rathenau plan was suggested early in August, 1914, by Dr. Walter Rathenau, president of the General Electric Company of Germany. It consisted essentially in the formation, under his direction, of a bureau to procure an unending supply of essential raw materials for the war such as rubber, saltpetre, metals, etc., both by purchase in neutral markets and by seizure in occupied territories. Secretly a more dastardly purpose was pursued. "The plan aimed not merely at making war support war by contributions and requisitions forced from the conquered people. It also sought to destroy the industries among the subject peoples so that it might not be possible to build them up again for some years, if at all. In the meantime, the German authorities counted upon their ability to capture the markets of the world for their own wares."

As an example of the deliberate crushing of Belgian competition, the case of the glass industry is cited. This was one of the most flourishing industries of Belgium before the war, the German glass manufacturers could not compete with it in the export trade. In the words of the head of the German organization of glass manufacturers, "It became vital to the German manufacturers of glassware that the Belgian manufacturers should be stopped from going to neutral markets." Accordingly, the German administration in Belgium was appealed to, and it promulgated "an order stopping importation, transit, and exportation" of these goods. Seizure of Belgian trade secrets was another feature of this typically German plan.

The extent to which Belgian plan has been denuded of its wealth, war materials, machinery, means to transport and man power under this iniquitous plan is almost unbelievable. "All crude materials indispensable for Belgian industries," reported Brand Whitlock, our Minister to Belgium, as early as August 2, 1915, "were requisitioned and sent to Germany—leather, hides, copper, wool, flax, etc. Furthermore, if not the entire stock, at least the greatest number possible of machinery parts were shipped to Germany, to be used, according to German statements, in making munitions which Belgian factories had refused to produce." Belgian draft horses, the best in the world, were seized and sent to Germany to be sold to German farmers. A long list compiled from the German official orders is given of the articles ordered seized in Belgium. It comprises some 300 separate items, listed under such headings as minerals and metals, chemicals, machinery, food, clothing, textiles, household articles, old materials, oils and explosives, metal products for industrial establishments, medical supplies, etc. The articles range from tungsten steel to ground slag, from electric condensers and conductors to printer's slugs and matrices, from all grades of bread-making to oat straw, from bath tubs to stair-carpet rods and door knobs, from old rags to the skins, horns, feet, bones and carcasses of horses, calves, goats, rabbits, and dogs. Nothing apparently is overlooked or forgotten in this ruthless robbery of the quivering victim. It is German efficiency joined to German usucapiousness and disregard of all rights on the part of those not able to defend themselves.

Professor Dana C. Munro, of Princeton University, is the compiler, assisted by George C. Selley, of the University of Wisconsin, and August C. Krey, of the University of Minnesota. The pamphlet is part two of "German War Practices," the first part of which, by some authors, was issued several months ago.

"In some respects the material in this part," write the authors in the introduction, which deals with the treatment of conquered territory, seems at first of a less brutal and revolting character, as injury to property is always less serious than murder and enslavement of people. But when the treatment of conquered territory is studied carefully it is clear that the system shows itself here in an even more brutal form, because the

(Continued on inside page.)

DISTRICT S. S. CONVENTION AT CENTRE HALL, APRIL 25.

Afternoon and Evening Sessions in Lutheran Church.—The Program.

The twenty-fifth semi-annual Sunday-school convention of the eleventh district of Centre county will be held in St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran church, Centre Hall, Thursday, April 25, afternoon and evening. District, county and state Sunday-school workers will speak at the convention.

The program follows:

AFTERNOON SESSION—2 O'CLOCK
 Devotions.....Presiding Officer, Mr. C. E. Royer
 Greetings.....Pastor
 Appointment of committees.....Pastor
 "Why I Go to Sunday School".....Rev. W. H. Williams
 "The S. S.'s Bit in the World War".....County President L. L. Harvey
 Election of officers.....Rev. R. R. Jones
 Minutes of November meeting.....Rev. R. R. Jones
 Adjournment.....

EVENING SESSION—7:30 O'CLOCK
 Devotions.....Pastor
 Enrollment of Schools.....Miss Martha Robinson
 Address.....Rural Dept. Supt. of Penn'a. S. S. Association
 Offering.....Rev. J. Hill
 The officers of the district re: President, C. E. Royer; vice president, W. W. McCormick; secretary, Mrs. S. W. Smith; treasurer, W. F. Rocky.

Would-Be Bad Man Loses Nerve.
 After breaking up all the dishes and household furniture, and driving the family from the house, Ray Hull, 23 years old, barricaded himself in an upper room of his home at Woodland, Clearfield county, on Thursday afternoon, and threatened death and destruction to all who approached.

The sheriff of Clearfield county was sent for. When he reached the place Hull was shouting defiance to all the world and brandishing a butcher knife. The official hopped nimbly up the steps and when he introduced himself and explained his mission, the would-be bad man decided not to "monkey with the buzz saw" and promptly "caved".

He was taken to jail at Clearfield and will be held for court.

Democrats Who Filed Petitions.

Democratic candidates who filed petitions at the State department, May 11, are:

- FOR GOVERNOR.**
 Joseph F. Guffey, Pittsburg.
 Eugene C. Bonniwell, Philadelphia.
 John J. McDevitt, Wilkes Barre.
- FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.**
 J. Washington Logue, Philadelphia.
 Howard O. Holstein, Harrisburg.
- FOR SEC. OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.**
 Asher R. Johnson, Bradford.
- CONGRESSMEN-AT-LARGE.**
 S. R. Turner, Pittsburg.
 J. F. Gorman, Allentown.
 J. Calvin Strayer, York.
 Fred Ikeler, Bloomsburg.

GUFFEY FOR GOVERNOR.

Announcement of the candidacy of Joseph F. Guffey, of Pittsburg, for the Democratic nomination for governor of Pennsylvania, has been received with every evidence of approval on the part of the Democratic and independent voters of the state and it is probable that Mr. Guffey will go before the voters of the November election as the unanimous choice of his party. Under ordinary circumstances his election would be improbable, because of the strong hold the Republican machine has on the state, but the conditions at present are such as to give encouragement to the Democratic party and to all who believe in wholehearted support of President Wilson's war program.

Aside from support of the President and his war program the leading issue of the campaign this year has to do with the federal prohibitory constitutional amendment. There is no attempt on Mr. Guffey's part to sidestep this question. He has come out squarely in favor of ratification of the amendment by the Pennsylvania legislature and thus pledges himself to work for such action. He also declares in favor of woman suffrage.

Commenting on Mr. Guffey's candidacy, the Pittsburg Press, a Republican newspaper, says: "While The Press is a Republican paper, devoted by conviction to the fundamental principles for which the Republican party stands, and while Pennsylvania is a staunch Republican state, Mr. Guffey's announcement may fittingly be chosen as an occasion for reminding Republican leaders that if the Democrats nominate him and accept his platform the Republican nominee no matter who he may be, is going to have a real fight on his hands."

Y. P. B.'S ENTERTAIN.

Six Contestants Battle for First Place.—A Festive Party.

The entertainment in the Grange Arcade, under the auspices of the local Y. P. B. U., on Saturday evening, rendered by the members of the Y. P. B. U., was decidedly one of the most interesting and instructive given in a long while. The large audience was liberal in its applause, and that applause had every mark of genuineness stamped upon it, and it was received with due appreciation.

This contest is arranged by the State Y. P. B. U., who furnishes the program and rules under which the contest is held. The contestants were: Nona Wagner, Frederick Moore, Sara Zettle, Hazel Ripks, Reuben Zettle, and Esther Wagner.

Prizes and surprises were offered for the contestants. The winner was named by ballot, each member of the organization voting for his or her choice. The result of the voting indicated that Nona Wagner was the favorite, who, by the way, was the youngest of the competitors. The prize was a Thrift Card of three dollars value, and all the others were presented with a Thrift Card of one dollar value.

After the contest, a playlet entitled "Dane's New Regime," was rendered in a most delightful manner. The story was one in which it was meant to emphasize that the present-day girl—one who has a proper regard for her moral and social standing—must taboo young men using booze and cigarettes. Each of the children participating did most splendidly, both as to performance and speaking, as well as singing.

Mrs. Lillian Moore presided at the piano for a male quartette, who so kindly gave their services on this occasion.

The children participating in the playlet and contest were: Adeline McClenahan, Sara Zettle, Nona Wagner, Esther Wagner, Hazel Ripks, Annabel Smith, Beatrice Kresmer, Pearl Ruble, Ernest Frank, Reuben Zettle, William Sweetwood, Harold Keller, Frederick Moore.

Rev. Still Resigns Pastorate.

At the Tuesday afternoon of last week session of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, Rev. Josiah Still resigned as pastor of the Centre Hall and Milesburg Presbyterian churches. His resignation was accepted to take effect in a few weeks.

Rev. Still's resignation came as a surprise to many of his friends in Centre Hall. He came here in the fall of 1916, following the death of Rev. W. H. Schuyler, Ph. D., and the following February he was installed.

Motor Falls Near Lewistown.

A big meteor falling a hundred yards away from the Pennay Middle division tracks, near Shawnee, at the entrance to Lewistown Narrows, caused considerable excitement at 1:28 Monday morning.

A distinctive flash in the heavens was the first warning of the phenomenon's advent, according to a Pennay track watchman at Shawnee. It struck the ground with a terrific roar and the resultant explosion temporarily deafened the man. He was badly frightened, but informed local officers of the serial descent a few minutes afterward.

Operators at Lewistown Junction and other points noted the explosion. Their wires were only momentarily affected, the trouble leaving no damaging results. The watchman said the sky was illuminated for a great distance as the ball of fire dropped. This is the first instance of a meteor's appearance in this section of the state.

Red Cross Elects New President.

The local Red Cross Society held a meeting in the P. O. S. of A. hall, Monday night, for the purpose of electing a new president, this being necessary on account of the removal of the former president, Mrs. H. F. Bitner, from this place. The election resulted in the selection of Mrs. Clyde Smith for president.

W. S. S. Window Cards.

Pretty little window cards, such like the Red Cross styles, are given out at the local post office to those having War Savings Stamps. For every member in the family holding a stamp, The Torch of Liberty is attached. If you are the owner of a War Savings Stamp, ask the postmaster for a card.

Death Penalty for Wife Slayer.

Samuel Edwards, of Somerset county, was electrocuted at the Rockview Penitentiary on Monday morning for the murder of his wife, committed less than a year ago.

Auction at Meigs'.

An auction sale will be held at Meigs' store, Colyer, on Saturday evening. Everybody is invited.

LOCAL WAR ORGANIZATIONS

Not Awake to Their Responsibilities.—Too Much Sitting Tight on Cash for "Over the Top" Spirit.

Reports received from Red Cross societies, Third Liberty Loan Bond and War Savings Organizations are so far in advance and show so much more activity over these organizations covering our local community, that the Reporter is compelled to call attention to the apparent lack of real pep in our local organizations. Of course, these organizations cannot do everything, and it would be unfair to hold them wholly responsible for the accomplishment of all that ought to be done. It is not unfair, however, to say that these organizations are lax, are not using the means at hand, nor is individual effort put for to any considerable extent by the various officers.

These conditions ought to be remedied; they must be if anything worthwhile is to be accomplished. Something has been done, but not enough. The Red Cross should open up a permanent place for sewing. The town council long ago offered a room, equipped with stove and light, all free. This would give many an opportunity to work short terms; it would bring together the skilled and unskilled, and together much could be accomplished.

W. Harrison Walker, Esq., County Chairman War Savings Committee, asked the Sunday School superintendents throughout the county to have organized in each Sunday-school a sales committee of War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps. How many local superintendents have acted? If they have acted, how much personal effort have these superintendents put forth to have their appointees act? Who will contradict when it is said that none of these committees have put forth an effort worth while, if any at all?

Who can truthfully deny that treasurers of various organizations are sitting tight on funds that ought to be invested in government securities?

It is high time to wake up; get busy. It is time to act as though we realized the true condition of things, and quit sucking the teat to which the stunted pig holds fast—if we want to "go over the top".

Gregg Twp. School Board Buys Robert Smith Home.

At the public sale of the real estate of the late Robert Smith, held at Spring Mills on Saturday, the large brick residence, located opposite the hotel, and known for years as the Duncanson property, was purchased by the Gregg township school board for \$5995.00. It is the purpose of the school board to fix up the property for the fast-growing vocational school which last year was established at Spring Mills. The location is ideal and the building can be converted into an excellent school building at comparatively small expense.

Another Local Boy in France.

A card carrying the plain statement of the safe arrival of the troopship at a French harbor, was received from Fred Stover by his mother and sisters in Centre Hall, on Friday. "Iritz" had been in training at Camp Lee, Va., and later at Camp Merritt, New Jersey. He is attached to the 19th Engineer Corps.

SCHOOL REPORT FOR 7TH MONTH

Details Local Report and Honor Roll in Borough Schools.

Grammar grade.—Number in attendance during month, male 15, female 18. Per cent. of attendance during month, male 92, female 98. Per cent. of attendance during term, male 93, female 92. Those in regular attendance for the month: Esther Wagner, Sara Zettle, Grace Fye, Annabel Smith, Hazel Ripks, Nona Wagner, Gertrude Ruble, Vianna Zettle, Ethel Frank, Florence Krape, Grace Miller, Beatrice Kresmer, Harold Keller, Albert Emery, William Sweetwood, Leah Emery, Paul Fetterolf, Albert Smith, Howard Emery. Names of those in regular attendance for term: Sara Zettle, Hazel Ripks, Nona Wagner, Ethel Frank, Albert Emery, Albert Smith.

Intermediate grade.—Number in attendance during month, male 13, female 23, total 36. Average attendance during month, male 12, female 21, total 33. Per cent. attendance during month, male 95, female 94, total 94. Names of pupils not absent during month: Byers Ripks, Paul Smith, Clarence Zittle, Frank Groze, Theodore Breen, Curtis Reiber, Bernadene Wagner, Esther Maris, Grace McClenahan, Ruth Runkle, Helen Runkle, Mildred Bitts, Agnes Gearty, Miriam Moore, Mary Weber, Mary Weaver, Edna Luse, Florence Zettle, Lottie Keller. Those not absent during term: Byers Ripks, Paul Smith, Clarence Zittle, Ruth Runkle, Helen Runkle, Mary Weaver, Lottie Keller.

DEATHS.

John William Smith, a most excellent young man, died Sunday morning at three o'clock at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Calvin Vonada, near Centre Hill, from the effects of a fractured leg. Mr. Smith, whose age was about twenty-six years, made his home with his aunt since the death of his father, about fifteen years ago. About five weeks ago while operating a power saw on the Vonada premises, his right leg was caught in the belting with the result that the bones below the knee were badly fractured. The leg was in such condition that it appeared that amputation was necessary, but the young man pleaded that everything should be done to save it. The fracture was reduced by Dr. H. H. Longwell and in a few days the young man took on new hope, his condition showing steady improvement until a week prior to his death when there was a rapid turn for the worse. The excruciating pain he suffered reduced his vitality to a point where an amputation of the limb would have undoubtedly proven at once fatal. Although everything possible was done to save his life, he passed away early Sunday morning, in great agony, remaining unconscious to the very end.

Deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, both deceased, and was born at Potters Mills. His kindly disposition and ability to turn his hand to any sort of work which presented itself, made him a great favorite in the Vonada home, where he was regarded as one of the immediate family. The sad circumstances attending his death have cast a pall over the entire community where he lived and was so highly respected.

Surviving him are three brothers and one sister, namely, Frank Smith, who is with the American Expeditionary forces in France; Harry, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Frank Gibboney, of Altoona, and Adam, of near Centre Hall.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning in the M. E. church at Sprucetown, Rev. W. H. Williams officiating; burial at Sprucetown.

Philip Heim, a respected citizen of Spring Mills, passed away at his home on Sunday morning at two o'clock. About eight hours previous he sustained a paralytic stroke, rendering him unconscious, in which state he remained until the end.

Deceased was born at Kratzerville, Snyder county, and came to Centre county when the branch railroad was built to Spring Mills and westward, helping in the construction work. He later learned the stone mason trade. He was twice married, his first wife, who was Sara Zettle, having preceded him to the grave. Two children survive to this union: Mrs. W. F. Colyer, of Centre Hall, and Clarence Heim, of Harrisburg. His second wife, who was Miss Nancy Smith, also survives. There also remain four sisters and one brother: Mrs. Calvin Weaver, of Rebersburg; Mrs. Ceylon Horner, of Kratzerville; Mrs. Peter Horner, of Shamokin Dam; Martin Fetter, of Kratzerville; John Heim, of Lewisburg.

Mr. Heim was aged sixty-five years and eleven months. Funeral services will be held this (Thursday) morning at 9:30 o'clock, at his late home, and burial will follow in the Georges Valley cemetery, Rev. D. S. Kuriz, his pastor, assisted by Rev. Miller, to officiate.

Paul R. Weaver, one of Port Matilda's most substantial and respected residents, passed away at his home last Wednesday evening, death being due to pneumonia, which was contracted about two weeks ago. Deceased was born at Port Matilda on October 28, 1880, and was a son of the late Thomas and Katherine Weaver. He had resided in the town of his birth all his life, following the occupation of agriculturist. About seven years ago he was united in marriage with Miss Pearl Gingery, who with one son, Russel, survives to mourn his death. He is also survived by seven brothers and three sisters.

The funeral was held on Saturday afternoon; burial at Port Matilda.

After an illness lasting about five weeks, Miss May Rote, of Tyrone, passed away at the Altoona hospital last Wednesday morning, death being due to septicemia. Miss Rote was born at Bellefonte on March 28, 1863, and was a daughter of Samuel (deceased) and Margaret (Wise) Rote. About twenty-six years ago she moved to Tyrone where she has resided ever since, being engaged in the dressmaking trade. Surviving to mourn her death are her mother and one sister, Mrs. Sayer, of West Winfield, Pa. On Friday the remains were taken to Bellefonte where interment was made.

Other deaths on fourth page.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The Tyrone Weekly Herald has suspended publication.

Progress Grange will meet on Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Jerry Miller, of DuBois, was the guest of Mrs. Lizzie Jacobs, over Sunday.

Dead robins lying along the roadside testify to the severity of the recent snow storm.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Slack, of near this place, recently visited the former's sister, Mrs. Alfred Catherman, near Laurelton.

James W. Swabb, of Linden Hall, publishes letters testamentary on the estate of Mrs. Rachael Amelia Dietz, late of Potter township, deceased, in this issue.

Harry Musser, who started farming on the farm of his father, Jacob Musser, near Penns Cave, called on the Reporter on Friday and enrolled as a subscriber.

The patriotic barbecue, together with all other features, which was to have been held at State College last Saturday, was postponed until Saturday of this week, owing to the bad weather.

Ralph Bitner, holding a commission as First Lieutenant in the U. S. Signal Corps, and stationed at Mineola, near New York, visited his father, Dr. H. F. Bitner, at Lewisburg, last week.

After several months with the Commonwealth Trust Company's (Philadelphia) clerical force, Albert Stover is back in Millheim and will give his services to the Hosterman & Stover hardware company.

It is presumed that the boys at Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga., among whom are a number from Centre Hall and vicinity, have left for "over there" since much of their baggage has been sent home.

Fred Dice, son of Rev. W. J. Dice, Bloomsburg, enlisted in the U. S. service, although but nineteen years old. He is known in the valley, having lived in Millheim, where his father served the United Evangelical church as pastor.

Most of the fraternal organizations did well in buying War Savings Certificates, the P. O. S. of A., Knights of the Golden Eagle, Ladies Temple K. G. E., and Lady of the Valley Rebekah Lodge having made investments in this character of government securities.

D. J. Meyer forwarded the Reporter a copy of the Columbia (S. C.) Record, containing an account of a Liberty Bond meeting in that city at which McAdoo was the chief speaker. This indicates that Mr. Meyer was a front seat spectator, and that he thinks the Treasurer's address ought to be read by all good Americans.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Altoona as a city, the Altoona Tribune, on Saturday, published an anniversary edition replete with early history of the Mountain City, together with pictures of the men who figured in the civic affairs of that day. The edition shows great care in preparation and is well worth preserving for the future.

The Centre County Farm Bureau has for distribution at its office the following bulletins: Grain and Grain Products giving recipes on the various mixtures and substitutes; Meat and Meat Substitute; Food Requirements and the Menu; and Home Dressmaking. Anyone desiring these bulletins may have same by calling at the Farm Bureau Office, Court House, or by dropping a card giving name and address and receive same by mail.

The local postmaster states he must doff his hat to the farmers in the sales of War Savings Stamps. During the past three weeks the farmers have done nobly, and if they keep on at the gait they are now moving the sales at the local office will soon lead all others in the county outside the larger towns—Bellefonte, Philipsburg and State College. A community like this can offer no adequate reason for being behind. And the farmers can pull us to the front quite easily if they will so to do.

Those who braved the mid-winter weather conditions last Thursday night to hear George Rogers, the blind musician, in his entertainment given under the auspices of the local P. O. S. of A., were well repaid, for his performance was nothing short of marvelous. A harmonica held in place by a wire contrivance, and an auto harp, were the instruments with which he produced all manner of music, from ragtime to classical. His imitation of Sousa's band selections were fine, while he provoked a great amount of laughter in his bird imitations, whistling and piano playing.