



## LETTER FROM FAMINE-STRICKEN ARMENIA

W. Ned Keller, in Letter to His Mother at Linden Hall, Describes Appalling Conditions.—Newly-Buried Corpses Are Uncovered and Flesh Eaten by Starving Natives.—Dead Horses and Donkeys by Roadside Picked to the Bone.

The City of the Dead, Erivan, Armenia, Mar. 12, 1922. Mother O'Mine:

Just a few gleanings of our work here in a country enduring the awful strain of starvation and terrible suffering.

One really must visit a famine stricken country and see with his own eyes before he can realize the mental and physical suffering that the inhabitants of such a district are undergoing. In the vicinity of Erivan it is a common sight to see children hunting in muddy gutters for apple cores or anything that at one time resembled food—little boys and girls sleeping in dirty stables, covering themselves with earth and straw to keep warm; village peasants leaving their homes and starting for the overcrowded cities only to find on their arrival that there is no food to be had.

To take care of all these children and those coming into the city each day from the famine-stricken villages the Near East Relief in Erivan would need twice the number of buildings which they now occupy. We already have thirty-seven buildings, but with the crowded condition of the city, it is almost impossible to obtain extra space. Every Near East Relief orphanage is filled to the utmost, and fifteen hundred children are being fed each day in the Near East soup kitchen while waiting for a place in one of our orphanages. The halls of the orphanage are crowded with mattresses at night to make room for a "few more" who were taken in after the beds had been filled.

Several days ago some of our orphans suffering from tuberculosis were sent to our tuberculosis hospital up in the mountains. To fill their places, children were picked from the streets. They were so weak that they could hardly walk from their dingy holes and hovels to the Near East Orphanage and one was so far gone that she died before the night was over.

Practically all the children taken in from the streets are suffering from various forms of skin diseases (scabies or favus) in addition to being undernourished.

In order to try to cope with the present situation, we have opened new orphanages and hospitals at Etchmiadzin, in the monastery building. This village is about ten miles from Erivan. We find we can overfill the buildings with homeless children in the streets of Etchmiadzin and children living even within the gates of the monastery.

The government is maintaining some orphanages but with its limited resources, both in food and money, it can do very little to ward off the dreadful suffering which is bound to occur this spring. The Near East Relief must open a great number of new orphanages in this district to save the thousands of children who are slowly starving to death.

It is pathetic as one walks through the bazaars for the once picturesque shop-keepers of Erivan have left because there is no longer a demand for silks, embroideries, perfumes, spices and all the other fascinating articles found in an oriental bazaar. The dimly lighted roofed streets, once gay with color, are deserted as far as trade is concerned, but they are serving a new purpose, for when we have any room to take in more children we have no trouble picking from the several hundred of little boys and girls who have found shelter in the deserted bazaar berths. Our purpose is to first clear the streets and bazaars of Erivan of girl orphans and then later hope to find quarters for the boys who are still in the bazaars.

There are at least 200,000 people within a radius of fifty miles of Erivan who are in great need of food and clothing. Of course, it is impossible for the Near East Relief to even consider extending relief to such a great number, with the other demands on our budget, but nevertheless that is the number that should be aided for some time. We are well on the way to clothe every ragged child in Erivan and with our soup kitchen working overtime, where we give each child a bowl of hot soup and half pint of bread daily, we are beginning to realize that our efforts have not been in vain. Aside from merely feeding and clothing our children we are also trying to give them a liberal education. For instance, all children are given a half day's schooling and the other half day is spent in our weaving fac-

ories and industrial schools where the children make all their own clothing and other necessary articles.

We don't mind telling you that boys will be boys, are far-off Armenian youngsters are just as keen about Boy Scout organizations as are their more fortunate American friends. At present 247 older boys in our orphanages here in Erivan are having a great time learning all about Scout lore, at the same time building strong, healthy bodies from their once undernourished frames. 210 of them have passed the Tenderfoot Scout tests, and are on the second tests, while 64 have just begun the Tenderfoot tests.

Until recently we were employing over a hundred guards to protect our numerous buildings throughout the city. In order to economize with our available funds these people are now replaced by our Boy Scouts who are doing the work most efficiently.

And now just a bit of tragedy, connected with these thousands of older people we are not able to reach. Last week as I passed one of the local cemeteries I noticed a number of Government guards stationed at short intervals around the place, and when I inquired of my interpreter why they were there he said, "Many of the starving people were coming to the cemetery and digging up the bodies of those people buried a few days previous and eating the flesh." It is a quite common sight to see people picking clean the bones of dead horses and donkeys that have been left lying by the road due to starvation. Only this morning as I went to the office I was confronted by a woman at the gate who had a small bag of decayed potato peelings and she did not hesitate to show me that that was all she had to eat. By her side there were two small children, and she was holding a third one in her arms.

We have even cases of cannibalism, and throughout the Caucasus and Russia the population are leaving their homes to save themselves from death by starvation. The starving are eating up the last cats and dogs and it is reported that they even eat the old sheep skin lining of their coats.

In closing let me say that one might almost think Erivan, Armenia, was a small transplanted section of America. The Stars and Stripes wave wave proudly over every one of our many buildings here.

The other night one of our native employees was married, and as is the custom, the marriage procession came marching down the street, led by a band. They were playing "The Star Spangled Banner." We could hardly believe our ears—our national anthem played by a Russian military band, on Soviet soil!

It is surprising how well the educated people here follow American politics, and how familiar they are with the names of our great men. The other evening Mr. Rowland and I were invited to the home of a business man. One of the many toasts was, "To the health of Theodore Roosevelt, the great friend of the Armenian people." Another was to George Washington. They inquired as to "what Abraham Lincoln was doing now. It makes no difference in the toasting whether the one so honored is dead or not. Toasts were drunk "to the health of all Armenians massacred by the Turks," and to the health of those who fell in the Great War.

All for this time.

The next few months are going to be trying for us, for we are going to have more than we can handle. For instance, every day we are sending 75 children from here to Alexandropol to be entered into the trochoma hospital. The medical department gets the children ready and then I send five or six wagons (fourgons) to the hospital and we load on the children, their extra clothing, blankets, mattresses, and food for a day, and send them to the station three miles away. During the day I order two box cars at the station and have wood and stoves put up for them. About five o'clock in the evening the children arrive at the station and after getting the mattresses and blankets scattered over we pile about 35 children in each car and there they sit until 12 o'clock at night when the train leaves for Alexandropol. Of course, we put attendants in each car and in a day or so they arrive at their destination. To replace these children they send us 75 of their children who have been cured of tra-

### WILL BACK PINCHOT.

#### Delaware Republicans Plan to Repeal Sprout in His Home County.

Elimination of Governor Sprout and a thorough clean-up of the sinister combine in control of the State's affairs, are the main issues of the Republican primary campaign. In the opinion of Judge Johnson, of Delaware county. For these reasons, Judge Johnson, who has been a political factor in Delaware county, the home haldwick of the Governor, for upward of a half-century, is ready to take the warpath and turn his organization over to Gifford Pinchot, the independent candidate for Governor.

Judge Johnson and many of his followers frankly declare they are not in entire sympathy with the convictions and opinions of Pinchot, but as between the forester and Attorney General Alter, the handpicked candidate of the Governor, they prefer to take their chances with the former.

Republicans of Delaware county are divided into two factions, the Sprout and the anti-Sprout. Judge Johnson, as the recognized leader of the "antis" expects to turn the county against the Governor at the primary and thereby place Mr. Sprout in the position of having been repudiated by his own neighbors.

#### H. S. Commencement at Boalsburg.

The commencement exercises incident to the closing of the 1921-1922 term of the Boalsburg High school will be held in the Lutheran church, Wednesday evening, May 3rd, 8:00 o'clock. Prof. H. C. Lanks is the principal and he has made a good reputation for himself and no doubt his pupils will show his good work at these exercises which are open to the public. The commencement speaker is Dr. David Allen Anderson, of State College.

The Baccalaureate sermon will be preached by Rev. J. W. Wagner in the Lutheran church on Sunday evening, 7:30 o'clock, preceding the graduation exercises.

The graduating class is composed of the following members: Russel Bohn, Heister Lonberger, William C. Smith, Mildred Gingerich, Clara Brouse, Ruth Royer.

#### Will Open Ice Cream Parlor.

The undersigned will open an ice cream parlor at his residence near the railroad station, Centre Hall, on Saturday evening, April 22nd. Parlor will be open every evening thereafter, and the best grade of cream will be sold by the dish or quart. Your patronage is solicited.—Clyde Bradford.

Under a new law Mexican, Civil war and Spanish-American pensioners will be paid monthly instead of quarterly as heretofore.

chests and the cars come back by the next train. This has been going on for the past two weeks and will continue until we have all the trachoma children out of this district. Then, too, we must be thinking of the big moving we are going to do shortly. That is, move all our orphanages and hospitals up into the mountains about 30 miles from here. We have taken over a village end expect to convert it into a city of orphanages. This is going to require an immense lot of work, for first of all the buildings must be repaired and put into shape before the children and equipment can be moved. Added to our present difficulties is the fact that so far we have had to haul our first supplies about a third of the way on fourgons and then they must be transferred to sleds, for the snow is very deep and impossible to get through with wagon. During the past, three weeks our conveyers have had a very difficult time to make the trip. The last time they tried to get through they found fifteen men, two camels, and a number of horses lying dead along the way. They had been caught in a heavy snow storm and had perished. It is quite a contrast, for here in Erivan we are having perfect spring weather and already we have discarded our overcoats. In a few weeks we will start moving, and imagine the work it will be to get together forty or fifty ox carts and load all the children and their clothing and equipment and start them off. It means we will move one orphanage at a time—300 to 500 children—and everything that they have in the orphanage. We hope to get all our 5000 children moved up this summer and also all supplies and food to last them till next spring, for during the winter it will be impossible to move any supplies, due to the roads being closed.

That is only one of my present worries, along with keeping all the work going here and getting all my supplies up from the station, three miles distant.

With kind regards to all at home, and love to you,

Your boy,  
NED.

### DEATH RECORD.

YEARICK—An extremely sad death occurred when Mrs. Harry Yearick, of near Madisonburg, passed away on Sunday evening after an illness of pneumonia. She was the mother of six children, the youngest being but six months old. The funeral took place Wednesday morning, the services being held in the Evangelical church at Madisonburg and burial in Rebersburg.

Mrs. May Edith Yearick was the daughter of Robert Douty, of Rebersburg, and would have been thirty-one years old had she lived until the thirteenth of next month.

GARVER—Elias S. Garver died at his home in Grant City, Missouri, Sunday morning. Interment was made on Tuesday in that city.

Mr. Garver was a native of Potter township, but went west when a young man and engaged in the newspaper business, and in that line of business prospered. He was an ardent Democrat and exercised a great influence where his paper circulated. During the Cleveland administrations he held various appointments and also again came into prominence in Missouri politics during the Wilson regime.

There survives the deceased a wife, nee Miss Mary Decker, a native of Missouri, H. H. Garver, a son, located in Chicago, Ill.; and one daughter.

RIPKA—The body of Private George Morris Ripka, Co. B, First Gas Regiment, U. S. Army, who died in Base Hospital No. 53, of bronchial pneumonia, on October 25, 1918, arrived in Lewistown Thursday last and was received by undertaker W. A. Barr and conveyed to the parental home near Milroy. Private Ripka's body is the last one of Millfin county soldiers who died overseas to arrive here, and was among the last 7,900 to be taken from under the poppies of France for burial in the soil of their own native land.

Funeral services were held on Saturday afternoon in Zion cemetery, near Colyer, by Rev. P. T. Gorman, pastor of the Milroy Methodist church, assisted by Rev. Wagner of the Presbyterian church, Frank McClenahan Post No. 287, American Legion, Milroy, attended the funeral in a body, and had charge of the obsequies. The deceased was a faithful member of the Methodist church and was aged 23 years, 4 months, 29 days. There survives him his father, George H. Ripka, three sisters and one brother—Mrs. Morris Long Copra and Myra, at home; and Lloyd, of Hanover.

WINKLEBLECH—Mrs. Amelia Ellen Winkleblech, wife of J. B. Winkleblech, of Lewisburg, died in the Geisinger hospital, from pneumonia, following an operation for gall stones. She was aged 51 years, and was the mother of Rev. John F. Winkleblech, of Hartleton, who during the past few years, frequently visited the home of Miss Emma McCoy.

BENNER—Miss Sarah Benner died at the Danville hospital, where she had been a patient for about two years, aged 66 years and 9 months.

She was a daughter of the late Benjamin and Sarah Benner and is survived by one sister and three brothers—Mrs. Amelia Williams, of Monessen; D. J. and Thomas, of Woodward, and William, of Bellefonte.

The remains were shipped to Coburn and conveyed to Woodward, where funeral services were held. Interment was made in the Woodward cemetery.

RUSSELL—Miss Gertrude O. Russell, of Lewisburg, suffered a stroke of paralysis beginning of April and died from the effects some days later.

Miss Russell was born in Aaronsburg, March 23, 1870, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Russell. About 35 years ago she moved with her parents to a farm at Red Top, north of Lewisburg, and resided there until her father was accidentally killed by the falling of timbers at the barn during a high wind storm, after which she and her mother made their home with her sister, Mrs. James L. Miller. She clerked in many stores and during the past ten years was the efficient clerk at the University book store.

She was a faithful member of St. John's Reformed church, Lewisburg, and an active member of the Sunday school, serving many years as a teacher until compelled to resign her class on account of failing health. She was a member of the missionary society, and for many years vice president of the Ladies' Aid society and at the time of her death was treasurer of the Sunday school.

Funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. H. H. Rupp, of the Reformed church. Interment was made in the Lewisburg cemetery.

(Other deaths on inside page)

### LOCAL "HIGH" TEAM WINS FROM SPRING MILLS V. S.

#### Battling Rally in Eighth Inning Brings Victory by 4-3 Score—Visitors Play Snappy Game.

Two evenly-matched teams—Centre Hall High school and the Gregg Township Vocational School, of Spring Mills, played an interesting and hard-fought game of baseball on Grange Park on Friday afternoon. Centre Hall won, 4 to 3. Falling to take advantage of several good opportunities to put the game on ice in the earlier part of the conflict, the local team came through in the eighth inning when the score stood 2 to 1 against them, and by earning three runs, won the game then and there. The visitors, however, refused to recognize defeat and kept on playing consistently good ball, adding a run in the eighth to their one scored in the early part of the game, and another in the ninth, so that the game was in doubt until Newton Crawford struck out the last man in the game and sent the visitors' chances for winning sky-high. Newton, by the way, pitched a splendid game, allowing only four hits and striking out thirteen batters. Spring Mills' left hander, Haney, also pitched well, but was found for eight very timely bingles, several of which were for extra bases and proved damaging to the hopes of his team.

A better-played school game would hardly have been possible. With clock-like regularity inning after inning passed by with scarcely more than the minimum number of batters appearing at the plate, hence the game was played in almost record time. There was no disputing with either umpire, Knarr or Riden, both of whom satisfied all concerned. In all, it was a nice clean game, and the Spring Mills youths proved themselves gentlemen of the highest type. They have a good team, and give promise of developing several real good players who should put their town on the map by reason of a fast ball club.

The Centre Hall "High" team also played a fine, steady game, naturally a better one than the visitors, in order to have come out a winner over the lads from down the valley. Here is the score, showing all the details:

CENTRE HALL HIGH SCHOOL				
	R	H	O	A
H Emery, 3b.....	1	1	3	3
Durst, ss.....	0	0	0	1
Snyder, rf.....	0	1	0	0
A Emery, 2b.....	0	1	2	3
Faust, c.....	0	2	13	0
Musser, lb.....	0	1	9	0
Crawford, p.....	1	1	0	5
Fetterolf, lf.....	0	1	0	0
Sweeney, cf.....	1	0	0	0
Jodon, rf.....	1	0	0	1
Totals.....	4	8	27	15

#### SPRING MILLS V. S.

SPRING MILLS V. S.				
	R	H	O	A
Corman, ss.....	1	0	0	0
Braucher, 2b.....	1	1	2	0
Malone, c.....	0	0	0	0
Haney, p.....	0	0	2	3
Bartzes, cf.....	1	1	2	0
Zettie, lf.....	0	2	2	0
Gramley, lb.....	0	0	6	1
Winkleblech, 3b.....	0	0	1	2
Slagle, rf.....	0	0	1	0
Totals.....	3	4	24	9

The score by innings:  
Spring Mills V. S.—0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1-3  
Centre Hall H. S.—0 0 0 1 0 0 0 3 x-4

Two base hits, Bartzes, Braucher, H Emery, Faust; three base hits, Zettie and Crawford. Struck out, by Haney 5; by Crawford, 13.

#### Fire at Fillmore.

On Saturday morning, about eight o'clock, fire broke out in the dwelling house on the Kephart heirs' farm, at Fillmore Station, on the Buffalo Run railroad, and was totally destroyed. The origin of the fire, although not positively known, is supposed to have been from a defective flue on the attic. The house was a pretentious one, in good repair, and three stories high, the height of it making it impossible to baffle the flames. On the west side of the house stands a large barn, and to save this it was necessary to call the Bellefonte fire company, who responded, taking their chemical engine with them. The barn had a steel roof on it and this possibly is responsible for its standing today.

The Kephart farm was occupied by Gray and Benner Kephart and two sisters. Insurance was carried in the Farmers' Mutual company to the amount of \$1600, and a cash company carried \$1500. Some thirty years ago a dwelling house was burned on the same site.

F. M. Fisher, of Centre Hall, representing the Farmers' Mutual company, met other representatives of insurance companies on Monday to adjust the loss.

### TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

#### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Bellefonte will entertain the Central Pennsylvania League of Red Men at their annual convention on May 6th and 7th.

Fairbanks has given the best that is in him in his "Three Musketeers." At the Opera House, Bellefonte, April 25, 26, 27, 28.

Tanlac builds up the weak, run down student and makes you feel strong, sturdy and well, as nature intended.—Centre Hall Pharmacy.

If the plum trees produce but one good plum for every 500 blossoms the crop will be an abundant one. Every plum tree in this section is a perfect mass of blossoms.

A district Sabbath school convention will be held in the Reformed church at Rebersburg on May 1st. One or two state and several county workers will be in attendance.

The State Department of Labor and Industry, at Harrisburg, is maintaining an office at Altoona where an effort is being made to place all kinds of labor, including farm help.

Mrs. Leah Christie, of Philadelphia, arrived in Millheim on Tuesday afternoon of last week and will act in the capacity of housekeeper for M. S. Fiedler. Mrs. Christie is a native of that section where she is well known.

Two of Spring Mills' dyed-in-the-wool baseball fans—Jasper Wagner and Windom Gramley—saw the baseball game on Grange Park Friday afternoon, in which their team met defeat at the hands of the local High school nine.

Clearfield county will have a number of its highways improved during the coming summer. Bids were opened for not less than a half dozen sections within the past two weeks. Four of the sections will cost something like \$770,000.

A concrete bridge is to take the place of the dilapidated wooden structure between Lemont and State College. The new bridge will also be wider than the old one, which will aid in making for safety by lessening the curve on the College side of the bridge.

The commencement exercises of the Millheim High school will be held in the Auditorium on Thursday evening, May 4th, at 8 o'clock. The class is composed of four girls and two boys, as follows: Evelyn M. Snyder, Marion A. Meyer, Jean D. Hosterman, Grace M. Musser, G. Franklin Stover and Norman W. Braucht.

George W. Rumberger, last week celebrated his eighty-fifth anniversary. He is a resident of Unionville, but he is in such fine physical condition that he is not at all confined to his home, coming to the county seat quite frequently where he has spent much of his time, having served as prothonotary and also did much clerical work in the court house after his term of office expired.

The wheat and hay fields are looking unusually promising for a bumper crop. There was little or no heaving of either wheat or clover shown at any time this spring, and the season for this work is now passed. With wheat at between \$1.25 and \$1.40, depending on what market you sell at in Penns Valley, and hay at \$17.00, the farmer can look the future in the face without blinking more than any of his neighbors.

G. Calvin Weaver, a Freshman at State College, has been appointed a midshipman at the naval academy at Annapolis. The young man is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Weaver, of Flemington, and graduated at the Lock Haven High school last year. He entered State College last fall as a Freshman but now that he has received the appointment to the naval academy he will withdraw from the College as the appointment is effective at once.

Revand Mrs. Fred K. Stamm and little daughter accompanied Franklin Heckman from State College to Centre Hall, on Thursday, and called at the Reporter office. Their trip here was in the interest of a three-act play, entitled, "Kicked Out of College," by students of Faith Reformed Church, that will be put on the stage in Grange Arcadia, Centre Hall, Saturday evening, May 6th, for the benefit of the Christian Endeavor Society. Rev. Mr. Stamm is the director of the play, which no doubt will be highly pleasing. Admission, 25 and 15 cents; reserved seats, 35 cents.