

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 19

The initiation of all wise or noble things comes and must come from individuals.—J. S. Mill.

PATRIOTIC MERCHANTS

The merchants of Harrisburg did a purely patriotic thing when they agreed to close their stores Saturday afternoon and evening in order that their employees may participate in the great patriotic demonstration.

Too bad that B. F. Umberger, so long active in all municipal work, has succumbed to the lure of rural life. We shall still hold him, however, as a citizen of Harrisburg in everything except the voting privilege.

SOME SWEET DAY, BY AND BY

Some sweet day, by and by, when the whispering breezes of spring time shall have given way to the warm winds of summer, when fall and winter shall have come and gone and come and gone again in innumerable procession throughout the slow rolling years.

Preparations for placing the country on a war basis has given an impetus to permanent road building which nothing else could have done.

BOOZE ON THE BRINK

EVERYBODY except a few besotted individuals who care more for their daily rounds of booze than they do for their daily rations of food, or those of other people, will approve the resolutions adopted by the suffragist leaders of the State in conference here yesterday.

A WISE DECISION

The committee in charge of Saturday's patriotic demonstration wisely concluded not to postpone the celebration because of the death of Mayor Meals.

Wife Volunteers, Too

Rushville, Ind.—Since A. L. Stewart, city engineer, has offered his services as a civil engineer to the national council of defense, Mrs. Stewart, who formerly was a telegraph operator, has written to Daniel Willard, chairman of the transportation and communication committee of the council of defense, that she will serve in the capacity of a telegrapher if she is wanted.

lated districts. This is a matter for the prompt attention of Congress. As Dr. Swallow said the other day in a letter to the executive, an opportunity for service now presents itself to President Wilson such as comes to few men. Will he grasp it?

If your neighbor's chickens disturb your garden, talk first to your neighbor; after that remember that possession is nine points of the law and that chicken potpie makes a fine Sunday dinner.

THE COMING CAMPAIGN

ALREADY certain prominent members of Congress from Pennsylvania are erecting their lightning rods for the governorship contest of next year. Among them is said to be Colonel Thomas S. Creko, J. Hampton Moore and Henry W. Temple.

Among Republicans there is very general criticism of the factional differences which have endangered the party alignment in Pennsylvania, but notwithstanding these differences there are signs here and there of a more sane conduct of party affairs.

There are those in the Democratic camp who imagine that the fact that the country is now in war will add that particular organization. This does not follow by any means.

So long as this is a government of the people and for the people and by the people the party as such will continue to exist and to perform its functions.

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FOOD CONTROL

PRESIDENT WILSON should lose no time in presenting to Congress his plan for food price control during the period of the war. Every commodity that comes to the table is subject to unjust tax at the hands of speculators intent upon taking the maximum profit from transactions in food-stuffs that have no other purpose than the inflation of profits for personal gain.

This juggling of provisions brought about the overthrow of the Czars in Russia. Food speculation in Germany is a growing menace to Hohenzollern ambitions and England is just now beginning to appreciate how serious it is to trifle with the food supplies of a people.

With all that is being done to increase the yields of all manner of farm products this year there should be no question about everybody in America having enough to eat next winter if the price is kept down to a reasonable level. The President is headed in the right direction.

Every vacant lot in Harrisburg should be utilized this year in the raising of food products. Now is the time to get busy.

A WISE DECISION

The committee in charge of Saturday's patriotic demonstration wisely concluded not to postpone the celebration because of the death of Mayor Meals.

There's one thing pretty sure; Hindenburg will never be foolish enough to let them name another line for him.

The backyard garden is a regular hotbed of patriotism.

Ever since the racket started away back in Bunker Hill days, Boston has always insisted on getting in the war news, even if it is only seeing hostile submarines and hearing "heavy firing just off the coast."

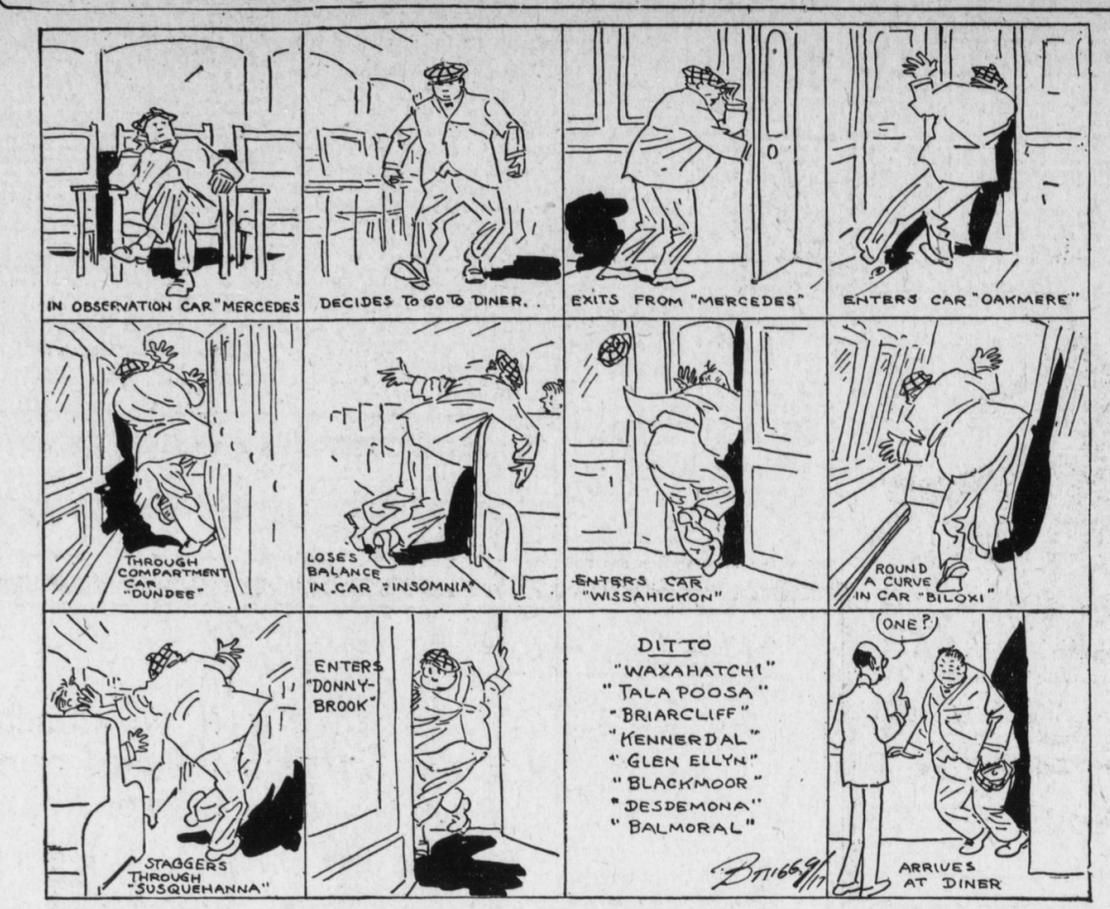
The news dispatches indicate that the Germans in the East are about to retreat to another great victory.

Through the State Board of Education a careful survey is to be made of the work which may be done by the school children of the Commonwealth in this crisis.

The gorgeous showing of yellow bloom along the river embankment, between Walnut street and the city pumping station, is material evidence of what can be done along the entire River Front.

The suffragists are right in going beyond the State Legislature for the necessary legislation. Desirable as such an enactment would be at the hands of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, it would be of little avail so long as other States placed no ban on their alcoholic manufactures.

MOVIE OF A MAN WALKING FROM OBSERVATION CAR TO DINING CAR



Politics in Pennsylvania

According to stories which are going in political circles the hearing to be accorded by the joint appropriations committee next week to members of the State Commission of Agriculture is expected to "start something" in regard to the appointive power in the Department of Agriculture.

Denny O'Neill is absolutely right in his position to make Pennsylvania a dry State for the period of the war and to convert into food everything which has heretofore been going into booze.

Members of the State Senate have made up their minds that no appointments will be sent to the Senate for confirmation until after Senator Charles A. Snyder becomes Auditor General, and it is said that some of them do not look for the resignation of the Governor's position on recess appointments to be made until the night before the Legislature is to take its recess after acting on appropriation bills.

Proposed amendments to the State workmen's compensation system are likely to figure considerably in the politics of the present legislative session. The labor leaders who came here for the hearing before the House labor and industry committee are making strenuous efforts to get Governor Brumbaugh to declare in favor of some of the radical changes covered by the Woodward and Michel bills, but the Governor has maintained the same position as the Compensation Board, and declined to make any statement one way or the other.

The visit of William Flinn to Harrisburg continues to be much talked about and it is expected that some of the fruits of it will turn up in appointments that will be announced here. It was said about the Senate that Flinn's visit was more to try and head off the Lynch bill to repeal the nonpartisan election part of the second class city act than anything else. Flinn has taken an advanced position on nonpartisan elections and it was wagged to-day that if the Lynch bill got through the Governor would veto it.

An interesting story was started in Western Pennsylvania yesterday to the effect that Governor Brumbaugh did not intend to accept the resignation of Congressman O. D. Bleakley, of Venango, and would not call a special election. The Governor's office stated that while the Bleakley resignation was in hand nothing had been decided about what to do with it.

It is not generally known that Congressmen are state officers and the certificates of their election are sent from the State Department. The Governor signs their papers just as he signs the commission of the Auditor General.

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ENGLAND'S "PINCH HITTER" COMING HERE ON A MISSION

Arthur J. Balfour Arises to His Great Capacity Only in Times Crisis—On Other Occasions He Prefers Leisure and Study to the Hard Work of Public Life and His Countrymen Admit They Do Not Understand Him.

ENGLAND is sending on a secret mission to Washington the man that England has confessed time and again it does not understand. Arthur J. Balfour has been the riddle of English politics for a generation.

Balfour has been in English politics forty-three years—he is 59 now. He has held many positions, from that of a mere under secretary to a minister. He always has been a figure to be reckoned with; defeats never have lessened his prestige, though he has tasted many of them.

Members of the family of Cecil, Balfour, of course, was born to a political career. A man could not be a politician and do otherwise than take up for racing. This always has been a friendly youth. In the House of Commons he showed an aptitude for nothing but leisure. He became president of the local government board and later secretary for Scotland. In both these positions he missed every chance of doing anything remarkable.

This was the man the Marquis of Salisbury—Balfour's uncle and then the greatest of the Cecil's—appointed to the tumultuous job of chief secretary for Ireland. The Irish Nationalist island was in a worse state than usual at that time, which was 1884. Men were being shot down almost every day; it was openly stated the next chief secretary would not live many days after setting foot upon Irish soil. It was into this seething welter that the studious, indifferent young Balfour stepped.

Balfour, the lazy and pampered, soon became Balfour the iron fisted. He brooked no opposition, he arrested men right and left, he stamped out all violence. The man completely altered his habits. Instead of arising at noon he arose at daybreak, he learned the intricate details of Irish politics and he never quailed before the fiercest opposition of Parnell, Redmond, Dillon, Morley and other able and determined Irishmen.

But after completing that task Balfour came back to England and fell into his former easy going habits. He golfed and played tennis and read much, but worked little. Then old Lord Salisbury called the young man to his side as a lieutenant. It was the start for Balfour to change again. He brooked no opposition, he became the supreme debater, the incomparable fighter. If a bill came up over which there was a decisive party war Balfour would be depended upon to learn every detail of it, master every phase of its effect and lead the argument for or against it.

Before he became prime minister in 1902 he had started a movement to increase England's naval strength. To Balfour must be given the credit for perceiving the danger that lay in Germany. He brooked no opposition, he became the supreme debater, the incomparable fighter. If a bill came up over which there was a decisive party war Balfour would be depended upon to learn every detail of it, master every phase of its effect and lead the argument for or against it.

As a prime minister Balfour was not successful simply because he opposed reforms that the people were determined to have. His administration brought him into sharp conflict with Lloyd George and Asquith and in the end he was beaten by the forces they led. Balfour fought always with the conservatives; he sought to retain for the upper classes the privileges that

people demanded. The rising flood of democracy engulfed him. For two years he was out of the British Parliament altogether, but he got back and became again a dominating figure whenever he chose to be.

Why he has kept to his political career is something that he himself once said he could not explain. "Give me my books, my golf clubs and leisure and I would ask for nothing more," he once said. "My ideal life is to read a lot, write when I feel like it, play plenty of golf or tennis and have nothing to worry about. I could give myself that kind of life, yet I do not."

Is a Rich Man He is a rich man, owning an estate of more than eight thousand acres in addition to extensive real estate properties in London. His library is one of the finest in England. Truly he, if anybody, could afford to quit work and enjoy the sort of life he cares for most. But he is constantly in the thick of English public life and remaining at that eminence naturally calls for a great deal of hard and fatiguing work.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

In these progressive times, war for men seems to mean votes for women.—New York Sun.

English womanhood is marching through the munitions factory to the polling place.—Boston Herald.

The Russian provisional government has decided to abolish capital punishment. Probably Nicholas feels a little better now.—Charleston News and Courier.

There's no law against hoping the new Russian government will abandon the custom of using "pi" lines as names for their cities and officials.—Macon Telegraph.

The esteemed Herald suggests that von Hindenburg, in his "masterly retreat," is luring the Allies to Berlin. Perhaps he wishes to compel them to live there and starve as the Germans are doing.—New York Morning Telegraph.

A mammoth oil-driven harvester that is being tried on Australian wheat fields strips about sixty acres a day.

Journeyman tailors of St. Joseph, Mo., have again organized. They allowed their union to lapse several years ago.

The United Mine Workers of America is conducting a vigorous organizing campaign in Maryland and adjoining coal fields.

The thousand and three hundred Manitoba (Canada) boys and girls are entering a vegetable gardening competition this year.

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks has secured a working schedule signed by the Maine Central railroad to apply to its general offices.

Washington's Legislature has passed the first-aid-to-the-injured bill, which provides that a portion of the cost shall be borne by workers. The trade union movement attempted to have the cost placed on industry.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE.—The Promoter—My money comes so easy it's just like taking candy from a baby.

The Producer—And have you found taking candy from babies a safe, easy and profitable enterprise?

THE IDEA.—And he refused to make a contribution to your very worthy charity? Yes, he actually said that if he had the money to give away he'd give it to his grocer on account.

BOY AGREED WITH HIS PA.—"You should always take somebody of your size."

"That's right, pa; these little fellows are so short that they can't help hitting below the belt."

Evening Chat

The Tuscarora-Path Valley State highway route which the delegations from the Cumberland and Juniata valleys asked the Governor and State highway officials to take steps to improve is destined to furnish the second of the connecting links between the William Penn and Lincoln highways. One such link is furnished by road which cuts from Everett across Huntingdon county, a very pretty stretch of country. The Path Valley route begins at Fort Loud and goes through one of the finest valleys in the State, the Allegheny valley, and then to the Juniata river. The roads are in fair shape considering the fact that while over 100 years old not much has been done to improve them in the modern sense and it would probably not take so very much money to make them first class.

The valley traversed by the proposed highway is like those in the upper part of Pennsylvania. It is sparsely settled but abounds in beautiful scenery. It is of great interest in the history of Pennsylvania, too, for before the Revolution it was one of the valleys behind and beyond the parties of savages were intercepted and thrown back. It was a sort of No Man's land in the French and Indian war and even in later years the people who settled in it had their flintlocks handy.

Action of the House of Representatives on the woman suffrage resolution on Tuesday and the meetings of the suffragists in this city yesterday and to-day have attracted national newspaper attention. The suffragists in Pennsylvania have been making a plucky fight and rallied after their defeat in 1915 with such vim that a good many people, including many of the suffragists, expected that they would get through their constitutional amendment resolution about the same way that they did in 1915. It was but a narrow margin and the killing of the resolution by the refusal to reconsider was flushed from the Atlantic to the Pacific and there were many messages received here yesterday and to-day asking for information on the result.

Reports of "heavy firing" heard at sea and of German war vessels of mysterious appearance disappearing in the fogs off the New England coast, remind men who were about newspaper work in the Spanish days of the days of excitement before Cerberus' fleet was trapped. There was hardly a day that went by without a Spanish ship being sighted and where and every time the Atlantic fleet fired a gun there were reports circulated of a heavy engagement. The result was that the telephone bells worked themselves into a state of hysteria about newspaper offices. The last week the number of inquiries made of newspapers about reports of Spanish ships was so great that the questions asked about the proposed patriotic demonstration.

By the end of the week one of the landmarks of old State street will probably be well along toward demolition. The National hotel was put in the hands of the wreckers on Tuesday and Wednesday. The National, which was erected there was a hotel near the corner of Fourth and State streets, proximity to the State Capitol having caused a tavern to be opened there about seventy years ago. The predecessor of the brick hotel was a log house near the corner which old timers say contained a huge pile of lumber. The National had a succession of genial landlords, Fred Ebel being the latest. The demolition of the hotel has attracted much attention from the denizens of the Eighth ward.

One of the interesting results of the comment of war has been the flood of inquiries made at offices of insurance companies regarding life and accident policies. The bulk of the life policies are attached in the last few years what is known as the "war clause" which was designed to protect the company in the event that the insured went to war. Whether this will result in a higher rate of interest has taken up arms is what is interesting a good many people.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Lieutenant Governor McClain rejoiced in an automobile which is numbered 22222.

George Wharton Pepper, chairman of the public safety committee, walks several miles a day to keep himself in condition.

William Flinn, the former Bull Moose leader, who was here this week, says he likes to come back to legislation here there he was a figure for many years.

Ex-Senator J. M. Campbell, of Mercer, who was here yesterday, has congressional aspirations.

C. E. Carothers, the deputy secretary of agriculture, owns a couple of fine farms and can turn a furrow, too.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg makes special steel plates for almost any kind of industrial work?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG Partisans of Andrew Jackson held a state convention here in 1824 and boomed him for the presidency.

First Among the Captains (Philadelphia Public Ledger) Said Rabelais nearly four centuries ago: "Corn is the savior of the world. To what better use can thousands and thousands of school and college boys devote their next vacation than to help forge these sheaves of wheat?"

Who will organize the regiments, brigades and divisions of college boys who do not go into the army and marshal them upon the thousands of farms where they can create the sheaves of war, which their comrades in arms will need?

Your Uncle Reuben Cortmessel marches first among the captains of industry in the present strife.