

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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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. The committee in charge asked them to shut up shop only until 6 p. m., but the businessmen generously decided not to reopen until Monday morning.

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, and we're sorry he can't get a special dispensation to divide the suffrage privilege between Perry and Dauphin counties.

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; when the war clouds that now darken the skies of all the world, long ages since shall have been swept away and the sun of an everlasting peace shall shed its serene rays upon a smiling earth; when flocks of peace doves soar in the heights of an azure firmament where anon the warrior eagle was wont to preen his battle plumage.

The work on the new postoffice building may be completed.

Preparations for placing the country on a war basis has given an impetus to permanent road building which nothing else could have done. Every highway should be placed in the best possible shape, so that there may be quick communication between communities for the distribution of supplies and accessibility for rapid transportation of every sort.

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, urging upon the Legislature and Congress the enactment of prohibition legislation for the period of the war.

It is absurd that while the Federal and the State governments are straining every effort to increase the supply of foods, while the whole world is on the verge of a provision famine and while economists all agree that the breadbasket is to be the deciding factor in the world-war, we should continue to pour millions of bushels of grain yearly into the beer vats and whiskey stills of the country. Alcoholic liquors serve no good purpose in times of peace and they have been found in Europe to be of vast injury in time of war. Grain that is used to make whisky or beer is worse than wasted. It is turned from food to poison.

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. The food problem is by no means local and it cannot be solved by applying even the most drastic remedies to isolated 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. Credo, J. Hampton Moore and Henry W. Temple.

Every county will have a favored son in the gubernatorial sweepstakes of 1917. It is going to be SOME campaign. 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.

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. But partisan success cannot be predicated upon party dissension.

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. While Republicans are just as patriotic and will give just as cordial support to the President and the government as those of any party, they will still maintain the integrity of their party faith and stand shoulder to shoulder in all matters affecting the party organization.

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.

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. If he has any regard for the welfare of the common people or his own standing in popular opinion a little later he will push to an early conclusion his food control program.

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. The last official act of the Mayor was to issue the parade proclamation. It was his desire that the whole city join in pledging loyalty to the flag and devotion to the Nation.

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

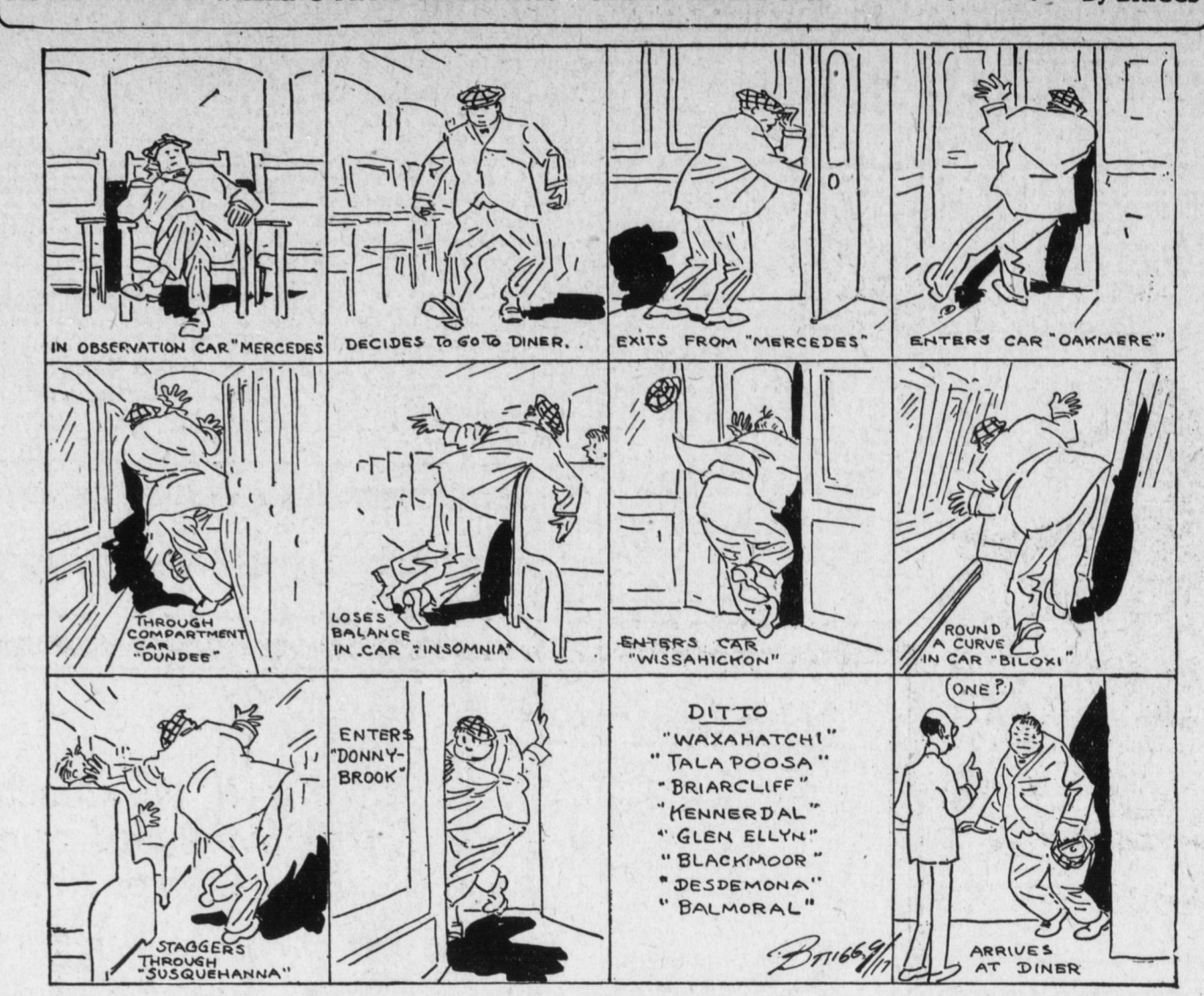
The backyard garden is a regular hotbed of patriotism. Ever since the racket started away back in Bunker Hill days, Boston has always insisted on getting in the war news, even if it is only seeing hostile submarines and hearing "heavy firing just off the coast."

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. More and more the people are beginning to realize that real 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.

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. Thousands of plants at the city nursery should be given permanent place along the river embankment.

MOVIE OF A MAN WALKING FROM OBSERVATION CAR TO DINING CAR



Politics in Pennsylvania By the Ex-Committeeman

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.

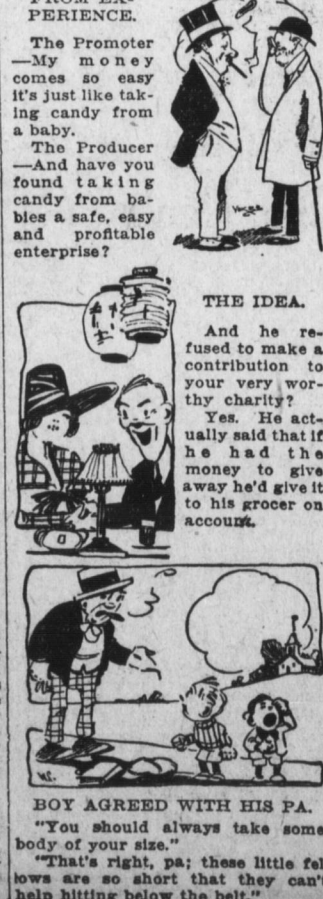
ENGLAND'S "PINCH HITTER" COMING HERE ON A MISSION

Arthur J. Balfour Arises from 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.

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.

OUR DAILY LAUGH



WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Lieutenant Governor McClain rejoices 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.

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.