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E. J. STACKPOLE, Pres. and Editor-in-Chief
F. R. OYSTER, Business Manager
GUS M. STEINMETZ, Managing Editor.

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FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 20

GENERAL VON BISSING

REPORT of the death of General Von Bissing, governor general of Belgium, reaches this country. The death of Von Bissing will be hailed as a blessing by millions of Belgians and with rejoicing by friends of humanity everywhere.

Von Bissing it was who was made military governor of Belgium immediately after the invasion. It was he who sat complacently by and saw Belgian women grossly mistreated by brutal soldiers.

"You can't buy preparedness," says an exchange; no, but a full purse helps a lot.

FRIENDLY AND SYMPATHETIC

THERE is now pending in the House Committee on Immigration at Washington a bill requiring persons not citizens of the United States who are subjects of countries with which the United States is at war to register through the postoffice of their respective places of residence for the purpose of surveillance.

To the German subjects within our gates there is given the assurance of good will so long as they conduct themselves in the proper way. "The American people," says a recent statement, "look with the greatest friendliness and sympathy on the German subjects who face the trial of residence here while the United States is at war with Germany."

As has been frequently suggested, the Federal Government at the present time is relying upon the friendly devotion and loyal support of those aliens of enemy nationality who have found homes, livelihood and privileges within the territory of the United States.

Harrisburg's Planning Commission is doing much for the proper development of the city and its suburbs. As we are now on the verge of another era of expansion, the efforts of the commission to provide for open spaces and detached houses will doubtless be exerted to the limit.

RUSSIA PREPARING

THE American-Russian Chamber Commerce looks for a high development of commerce between the new Russia and the United States following the war, declaring that Russia will take our manufactured articles and will send us raw materials.

Under the present administration such an appeal to American investors might meet with favorable response. In the first place, Russia will operate under a protective tariff law, a policy which the Democrats in this country refuse to accept.

OH, MAN!

in business in Russia would doubtless find a government doing all it could to encourage them, instead of continually harassing them. One or two large American concerns now have subsidiary plants in Russia, and when representatives of these concerns appeared before the Ways and Means Committee they made the assertion that under the Democratic tariff policy it would be more profitable for them to manufacture their parts in Russia, paying the low Russian wage scale, and ship the parts to this country to be assembled, and that was just what they contemplated doing before the war changed the situation.

The American-Russian Chamber of Commerce is not altogether actuated by philanthropy. What that body would like to see is a large increase in the sale of Russian goods in the American market, and they would not confine it to raw materials by a long shot. Even with the war on her hands, Russia has undergone some wonderful development in her steel industry, and steps are being taken to increase her forest output and export.

What are you doing to encourage the birds this year? A little birdhouse, a simple fountain or some food, will attract thousands of the songsters year after year.

INCREASING THE FOOD SUPPLY

Governor BRUMBAUGH is stirring the interest of the people all over the State in the raising of food products and the general cultivation of the soil. He has issued one appeal after another calling upon all classes of people to make use of the land. He often refers to the "loafing hillside"; and it is for the purpose of making use of every available inch of tillable ground that the Governor is asking the people to get busy now.

He has called upon the trustees of State institutions to plant at once something that can be used as food; to the State Highway Commissioner he has said that the forces at work upon the highways may be assigned to cultivate the soil; and he is determined that no red tape shall interfere with the important service which he has in mind.

ARMY NEEDS ARE URGENT

THE announcement that intensive training for reserve officers and those desiring commissions will start in the early part of May indicates that the first step has been taken toward the rebuilding of an army that can represent adequately the United States in the great world struggle. Three months at least must elapse after the camps are under way before the officers will be equipped and instructed to handle the 500,000 volunteers or draftees. Six months to a year will then be required to whip the 500,000 into shape to hold up their end with the regular army and the militia. The announcement comes none too soon.

Optimism and the exercise of foresight are not incompatible. We may hope and believe that the war will be over before the need arises for mobilization of the full capacity of the nation, but that need not prevent us from avoiding the error of adopting the short war fallacy which proved so unfortunate for France and England. This nation must prepare for a long war, and if Congress ever can agree it would seem that such will be the plans, and so emergency measures are out of place. Universal military training is to be desired, but the processes involved in working out the scheme that in five or ten years would give every young man military training are too intricate for the immediate need.

The President's plan of selective conscription is the only feasible way to get immediate results, and the sooner our representatives in Congress react to a strongly united public opinion, the more quickly will America truly "find herself."

The moral and practical effect of America's entry into the war is good in that it brings up financial and industrial re-enforcements for the allied entente. But that is not enough. Armed participation is the next move and any individual or group of individuals who place obstructions in the way of a rapid development of the country's latent military force for the purpose of stepping into the fight, is not made of the stuff of Valley Forge and Gettysburg.

Maybe the grain price juggling will have a good effect; Government control, for instance.

If the enrollment for the parade continues to grow, we may have to send out of town for spectators. If Von Hindenburg continues to "retreat to victory" the Kaiser may have a chance to celebrate it in Berlin, after all.

OH, MAN!



Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Notwithstanding the inability of Governor Brumbaugh and the leaders of the Senate to reach any understanding in regard to the sending of recess appointments to the upper house for confirmation as required by the Constitution it is likely that the Governor will fill some of the vacancies within the next month or so and trust to developments to have the men named continue in office.

Incidentally, the State administration is prepared for suits which may be started by taxpayers or anyone else to test legality of administrative offices by men who have not been confirmed.

Gossip is heard that the Governor has made tentative selections for the superintendency of public grounds and buildings, for which Private Secretary William H. Ball is once more being mentioned; administrator of banking, for which General C. M. Clement has been the most mentioned; and chief censor, which is also to go to Philadelphia. Reappointment of Dr. Nathan C. Shafer as superintendent of public instruction, is regarded as certain.

The administration people contend that the appointment of a secretary of internal affairs to succeed Henry Hock does not have to go to the Senate for confirmation and it is believed an appointment to that office will come along very soon. Ex-Congressman D. F. Lefean has been much mentioned for this place, but Western Pennsylvania administration leaders are said to want it for their section.

Pittsburgh people are coming here in force on Tuesday to discuss the bill to remove the non-partisan feature from the second-class city act. The hearing will probably be a lively one.

Philadelphia's city council yesterday voted to record against the bill to make the city council a single chamber, but there was a lovely debate before the action was carried. Governor Brumbaugh last night announced that nothing had been determined regarding the resignation of O. D. Bleakley as a congressman from the twenty-eighth district adding that the question rests in the hands of Attorney General Brown.

JOIN IN "POTATO" PATRIOTISM

NINE Governors have added their influence to the promotion of Ernest Thompson Seton's Woodcraft Potato Clubs and have agreed to help or have named State officers or commissions to enlist the aid of boys and girls and adults who cannot do other war service. Postmaster Thomas Patten, of New York City, has given the Woodcraft Potato Clubs the use of his estate at Seabright, N. J., for potato planting and Mrs. Henry Seligman, of New York, who has an adjacent estate at Seabright, has offered to finance the planting and care of the gardens by the Monmouth County Woodcraft Potato Club.

The Eagle's Song

This poem, by Richard Mansfield, singing of the reconciliation of North and South under the Stars and Stripes, was written before the war with Spain, but is even more appropriate to-day than it was then.

The lioness whelped, and the sturdy cub. Was seized by an eagle and carried up. And homed for a while in an eagle's nest; And slept for a while on an eagle's breast; And the eagle taught it the eagle's song; "To be staunch, and valiant, and free and strong!"

Germanis, Awake

Awake, O Germans! Hark! The bell intones for you the warning knell. Of kings and potentates who claim To rule on earth in heaven's name, Thy duty, plainly written, lies Across the clearing Russian skies, And see the despot's day is past.

War Book for Schools

Why should not the Federal Government issue a pamphlet for use in all the public schools of the country, giving an account of the causes of the war, of the issues involved and the reasons for the participation of the United States? It is important that the boys and girls who are to constitute the next generation have a correct understanding of this tremendous episode in history, that they do not develop racial prejudice, one-sided views, and that they see the conflict not as a fight to show we "can lick" somebody, but as part of the world-wide democratic movement which will free the German people as well as the rest of the world from the domination of a wrong set of ideas—ideas that are hostile to the real interests of civilization.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"Germany is fighting for the freedom of the world," says the Cologne Volks Zeitung, whose editor is hereby nominated for the presidency of the International Humourists' Association.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

There's this advantage about food preparedness; it will not come amiss, no matter what the war situation may be.—Marion Star.

About the time one has become impressed with the paper shortage and begins to fear the worst along comes a copy of The Congressional Record as a reminder of the great, if not sinful, waste.—Toledo Blade.

If Germany wishes to array any more enemies against her, she soon will be forced to send Zeppelins to raid the folks on Mars.—Kansas City Star.

If spring would only get fully sprung!—Boston Advertiser.

Japan, too, has decided to recognize the new Russian government. Already the old one is unrecognizable.—Boston Globe.

Labor Notes

Plumbers are among the highest paid of workmen, the average wage throughout the country for a day of eight hours being more than \$5.

Notice issued by the British military authorities calling certain colored workmen in the South Wales coal field to the colors have been canceled.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia passed the second reading of a measure to grant the suffrage to women and to allow them to practice law.

In several instances where British munition factories have been built in solitary waste a complete village has been built for the women, with school, church and institute.

Wages in miners in Nova Scotia have increased by approximately 25 per cent. since November 1, 1916. War bonuses have also been granted.

Women police for South Africa are recommended by an authority on law and order "to meet social problems of present day," as brought about by the war.

Hamilton (Canada) Labor Council endorsed the resolution of the Guelph Trades Council, asking the Dominion government to remove the embargo on oleomargarine and to admit it duty free.

Missouri's Labor Commissioner has issued a statement in support of a bill intended to compel employers to pay the wages of employees when discharged.

England is caring for its women munition workers in a very practical way. In most factories canteens supply hot meals day and night, rest and ambulance rooms have been set up, and women doctors and nurses are in constant attendance.

OUR DAILY LAUGH

IMITATION. Mrs. Knagg: Before we were married you said you'd go through fire for me. Mr. Knagg: And ever since we've been married you've made it so hot for me I feel as though I'm making good.

COULDN'T FOOL HIM.

No, Willie, dear. No more cakes tonight. Don't you know you cannot sleep on a full stomach? Well, I can sleep on my back.

Evening Chat

Harrisburg seems to be getting ready for tomorrow's big patriotic demonstration as far as flags go and if the purchases being made and the flags now being shown are anything to go by there will be a display of the Star Spangled Banner to-morrow which will be worth while traveling to the State's Capital to see. The beauty of it is that the placing of the national colors on the outer walls is not confined to any particular section or even the line of march of the parade to-morrow, but it is general all over the city. Flags are flying from small homes in the side streets and no matter how narrow the thoroughfare there is a flag to a block at the very least. In residential and business sections there are very handsome flags flown and it is to be noted that flags of foreign origin, including many whose heads are not naturalized are showing the American flag in the United States and this is especially true of the Italian families. The colors of the United States and the Italian kingdom are to be seen in quite a few windows. Every mill or factory of any size is flying the flag, in some of the plants every separate building has a flag and there is a rivalry to see which one has the best and the largest. A trip up through the Pennsylvania railroad yards shows the flag flying from every building from the lower end of the city to Lingletown road and Enola and Rutherford have flags galore. The showing of the colors is far more general than during the Spanish war.

Old residents are recalling that it was this week fifty-six years ago that the First Ladies came to this city on their way to Washington. The Lewistown, Reading, Pottsville and other companies of militia left their homes on April 18 and reached here within a few hours. Most of them spent the night of their arrival here on the floors of the State Capitol and were hurried off to Washington next morning for breakfast lunches given to them by the Harrisburg people.

A visitor from another planet dropping into Harrisburg first glance would see little to place this city in the United States is really at war. Apparently it is the same carefree crowd that usually throngs the streets but every now and then something happens that shows the alert is in the air. The whistles of the nearby industrial plants were blowing to denote the raising of flags in excitement everywhere evident. Men and women came rushing from stores and offices to discover the cause of the noise. Everywhere men were asking: "What is it for? What does it mean? Especially the public interested in the Harrisburg Pipe and Pipe Bending Works. When the alarm for box 51 struck recently, one anxious citizen answered the plant for several minutes. When he finally got in touch with a clerk and inquired if the plant was on fire, the clerk replied in a matter-of-fact way, answering the same question since the alarm struck that he had not, as yet, had time to look outside to see where the fire was.

The coming of war has not only brought out many reminiscences of stirring times in the days of other national struggles, but has revived memories of the days intimately associated with military affairs. Many of these spots are well known but there are many which have played quite a part in local history and State history, for the latter, which is not known of. It would be interesting to get the locations of the various armories or drilling places in Harrisburg, and especially at the time of outbreak of war. For the last forty years or so the City Gravel Armory, at Second and Forster streets, had been a military center. Years before that the hall which occupied the site of the present HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH building was the military place and at one time it was the site of a building now stood on the rear of the property now filled by the Harrisburg Public Library was a military headquarters. There must have been other places.

The gardening work being done about the city rather indicates that the fine beds of flowers which have been so much admired in many parts of Harrisburg will give way to the lowly but vital potato plant this summer and that there will be corn stalks instead of golden glow bugs in the fields instead of sinias and ladyslippers. The seedsmen say that they have been asked for more varieties of vegetables than they knew existed and that the number of folks who have been asked about cabbage stalks has been remarkable. The cabbage sets could be sold over a dozen or more times.

The fine weather has brought out the first flowers of the Capitol Park display and very appropriately they are, red, white and blue. The bright red of the tulips along the front of the plaza is offset by the blue and white hyacinths in the beds near the Hartman statue. There will be thousands of plants in bloom in Capitol park in the next few weeks.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

J. M. Fraizer, prominent Philadelphia hotelman, is urging the big hotels to cut down the number of soured and stale dishes served.—F. H. Barker, one of the Cambria members of the Public Defense Committee, is a former judge.—Col. O. C. Bosbyshell, Philadelphia, veteran war speaker at the celebration of the Pottsville First Defenders.—Col. E. M. Gross, Greensburg school teacher, has been given a whole farm to children for gardens.—Judge Aaron Swartz, of Montgomery, will be given a dinner in honor of thirty years on the bench.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg engines are in use in Uncle Sam's navy yards. HISTORIC HARRISBURG This city was a distributing depot of quartermasters' supplies during most of the Civil War. A Vanishing Trick Two local friends of a noted magician were the guests at dinner. "You do some wonderful things on the stage," one of his friends observed; "but I am inclined to think you are a handi-capped when you are away from your apparatus." "To an extent, yes," the magician admitted; "but there are many things I can do anywhere on a moment's notice." "Let me see you do something now." "All right. Take, for instance, this snake, the Brussels sprouts and the salad." "Yes." "In a very few minutes we will cause all of them to entirely disappear."—Youngtown Telegram