

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1918

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein.—MATT. 10:15.

WANTED—A PRACTICAL HEAD

THE conditions which now exist in the Water Department as a result of a mistaken policy of economy are so serious as to justify the greatest care possible in overcoming a situation which involves peril for the whole community.

In the present instance, the welfare of the city is at stake and there ought never again to arise such a situation as confronts Harrisburg by reason of the policy of reducing water rents at the expense of necessary equipment and expansion of the pumping and reservoir facilities.

It is not improbable, however, that out of this serious development may come a realization on the part of the people that it is up to them to give a little more attention to the selection of proper officials to conduct the necessary business than has been the case in recent years.

MUDDLING

OF course, the newspaper or individual who has the temerity to express a difference of opinion regarding any feature of the present administration at Washington will be accused in certain quarters of lack of patriotism, but unless there is a quick change of front regarding many things that affect the interests of the people, there will be a whirlwind of protest before the year is much older.

It is perhaps reasonable that the enemy should be given no comfort through criticism of military effort or lack of preparation, but when it comes to civic administration, as in the case of the revenue measures and the regulations growing out of their enforcement, the people have a right to be heard.

Since the turn of the year bankers and lawyers and the people generally have been wondering how they are to construe certain provisions of the war tax law and even the special representatives of the government sent out through the country to help the taxpayers make proper returns are unable to clear up mooted questions growing out of the special tax features imposed under the war revenue measure.

It is difficult for experts to tell what a law means and what is required of the people, how under the heavens are the people themselves

to determine these matters? Too many "worthy" Democrats may be muddling the situation, perhaps.

STAND BY HOOVER

FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT'S endorsement of Herbert Hoover comes at a time when the federal food controller is sorely in need of popular support. He has been subjected to unmercifully severe criticism at the hands of the congressional probers and is in danger of losing that confidence which the public has reposed in him.

Mr. Hoover, in accepting the controllership, was actuated only by the highest patriotic principles and that while his orders have worked some hardship they have worked of inestimable value in conserving the food supply not only of this country but of the allies as well, and that as a result the country has been saved a disaster of the first magnitude.

Unquestionably, Hoover has made a lot of enemies. He has also made a number of mistakes. But as a whole what the former president says of him is true. It must not be forgotten that Mr. Hoover is a man of independent means and that he is now working without salary, save the dollar a year which the government allows in such cases as his. As a result of his splendid efforts in Belgium, where at the outbreak of the war he saved the people of that stricken country from starvation, he became acquainted as no other man in the world was, or is, with the food supplies of the world and he early recognized the necessity of food conservation in this country for the period of the war.

It is worth while to know that not one of his acts, so far as the congressional inquiry has developed, is open to suspicion and that in almost every instance his judgment has proved to be sound. The opinion of Mr. Taft is that no more personal antagonisms should be allowed to stand between this nation and the successful prosecution of the war, and he chides those who place their selfish interests before those of the nation as a whole. This is a proper view and if it were worked out in practice at Washington, there would not be so many blunders, nor so many little men in big places.

RAILROAD CONTROL

GOVERNMENT control of the railroads of the country during the war will determine one and for all the question of government ownership of these great public transportation agencies. It must not be forgotten by the people that the very thing which the law has prevented—the pooling of traffic facilities—is now being done under government direction, with the result that embargoed freight is moving with increasing activity everywhere.

Practical patriotism has been demonstrated by the railroad officials all over the country. The voluntary act of the 693 railroads of the United States in merging their competitive activities for the period of the war and the uniting of all in one continental system was a fine exhibition of constructive patriotism by the great transportation agencies. Co-ordination of the nation's carriers was the only solution of the big problem. Freight congestion will rapidly disappear under this same treatment of an increasingly serious situation. Thousands of cars have been saved for general traffic by the pooling of coal and lake ore.

We must remember, as we so deeply into the war, that it is not possible to do in a war period the things that were possible and reasonable in peace times. Nor should we forget that the railroad corporations have been hampered almost to the limit of utter demoralization by regulations that even the government found it necessary to eliminate in the interest of the fullest use of the transportation systems of the country.

One in twenty-seven Assuming that the State of Pennsylvania has 8,000,000 people and that there are 200,000 automobiles or trucks or other motor vehicles, that means one out of every twenty-seven persons, to be liberal. And yet it is not one of the States where automobiles are really numerous. A year ago it was estimated that there were 3,600,000 automobiles in the whole United States or one to every twenty-nine persons. That number must have materially increased in the last year, just as the registrations at the State Highway Department showed a gain. It may be added that the bulk of the cars in the United States last year were owned in the big agricultural States of the West and the group of three States just to the west of Pennsylvania, which are the center of the car-making industry. Some of those States had a car to every eighteen or twenty persons.

They have all been making so much money that the average is possibly higher now. But Pennsylvania is doing fairly well to have one car for every twenty-seven persons. It means that all of us will get a ride some time during the year anyway and that Commissioner O'Neil will have a constant flow of money through license to keep up the main highways.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Men who have been following the course of the controversy between Auditor General Charles Snyder and the officers of the State Insurance Fund over the Auditor General's desire to audit the fund are of the opinion that the matter will go to court and that a general opinion as to the powers of the Auditor General will be given. The act of 1810 gives the Auditor General authority over all public accounts. The Attorney General has held in effect that the fund is not a public account. The next move will be made by the Auditor General.

Next week argument will be heard in the Supreme Court on the "re-cess" appointment in the case of the position by Mayor Joseph B. Armstrong upon the latter entered upon his term as city executive," says one of the interesting things is that Mr. Snyder's charges that the fund administrative charges were excessive were denied in a victory over Mr. W. J. Roney, manager of the fund last night.

County Treasurer Edward D. Frieberthauer, of Allegheny, has announced that he had appointed Edward M. Kenna, ex-legislator, to succeed Samuel J. Grenet as county treasurer. Mr. Kenna has completed his term of service as mercantile appraiser, a position in which he was elected by county commissioners. Prior to his selection for mercantile appraiser, Mr. Kenna had served as police magistrate. He was formerly deputy treasurer of the Philadelphia Board of Registration Commissioners. Governor Brumbaugh will make the appointment this week. Mr. Snyder having tendered his resignation prior to assuming his new duties next Monday morning. The office of registration commissioner pays \$3,000 annually, while that of deputy treasurer pays \$10,000. Mr. Walsh is a member of the Republican city committee and a friend of the Governor.

Ex-Representative William Walsh, Vice leader of the Forthright ward, will succeed City Treasurer Frederick J. Shoyer as a member of the Philadelphia Board of Registration Commissioners. Governor Brumbaugh will make the appointment this week. Mr. Shoyer having tendered his resignation prior to assuming his new duties next Monday morning. The office of registration commissioner pays \$3,000 annually, while that of deputy treasurer pays \$10,000. Mr. Walsh is a member of the Republican city committee and a friend of the Governor.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Allies can stand another Verdun, but can Germany?—Wall Street Journal. The country may submit to a porkless day, but Congress—never!—New York World. It is feared that when Russia finds herself she will know what it is that she has discovered.—Kansas City Star. Daniels hopes that we will not hate the Germans. But we can dislike them.—Philadelphia Public Ledger. An optimist is one who reads eagerly about Senate inquiries into the conduct of the war.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The deep-seated democracy of the Bolsheviks is indicated in Trotsky's announcement that if they don't have a majority in the Constituent Assembly they will overthrow it.—Chicago Herald.

The State Press

Intelligent people in France and Britain discovered long ago that the German system operates by arousing all possible internal dissensions in the minds of the people. The American citizen or the alien who devotes much of his time to denouncing alleged evils here at home while he is doing and saying what the kaiser is willing to pay to have done and said—that is the important fact.—Newcastle News. The Congress of the People's School Board of Philadelphia are at work on the German textbooks eliminating the atrocious stuff that has been sung the praises of the kaiser and of the damnable "kultur" which has been made the vehicle of empire building with the sword. But why bother to scissor and mutilate? Why not throw the books out altogether? Why not, indeed, banish the study of German from the schools? Germany is an outlaw nation. Its one thought is domination through brutality. When this war is over Germany will not be spoken of among German people. The language will never be heard of in diplomacy. The world can get along very well without it. Throw it out!—Philadelphia Inquirer. Meanwhile, the allies must fight until the military power of the nations is crushed and the kaiser is ready to submit peace proposals that mean something.—Altoona Mirror. Both Sweden and Spain have hastened to show their friendly and sympathetic feelings for Germany; and that the latter has more than avowed, and that of the latter society concealed, by their acts of encouragement to the false, faithless and dishonest Bolshevik government of Russia. Sweden and Spain have made their choice, so have America, France and Great Britain. When the war is ended there will be a frantic scramble to secure the friendly acknowledgment of these allies in whose hands will rest the destinies of the world. But when those nations recognize their friends it is not likely that Sweden and Spain will be on the list.—Lancaster New Era.

Statistics from the most dependable sources agree that the death toll in the present war is nothing compared to former wars. But when the number of men killed in action or died of wounds in the present war is at the rate of only 11 per cent. At the battle of Shiloh the Ninth Illinois lost 63.3 per cent.; the First Minnesota at Gettysburg, 32 per cent.; and the Sixty-ninth New York, 1,000 out of 1,200 in twenty minutes.—Lebanon News.

A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE



Over the Top in Penna.



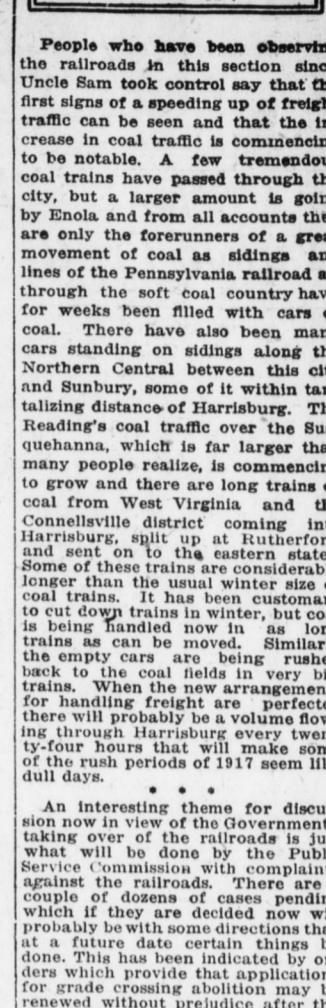
OUR DAILY LAUGH



WELL KNOWN PEOPLE



DO YOU KNOW



Kaledines and the Bolsheviki

By A. J. Sack, Director, Russian Information Bureau, Woolworth Bldg., New York City.

FOR the last twelve years, since the Russian Revolution of 1905, every average American citizen has known at least one Russian word, the word "Cossacks." I have just ended a speaking tour through the United States, and after addressing during the past five weeks, fifty-seven meetings in thirty-two states, with an attendance of about 65,000, I have learned that every average American citizen knows now at least another Russian word, the word "Bolsheviki." The Cossacks led by General Kaledine, are now fighting the Bolsheviki who endanger the very existence of the Russian Republic, and the purpose of this statement is to interpret for the American public the real meaning and significance of these two factors in Russian life.

I will begin with an explanation about the Cossacks. People in this country who are not conversant with the Cossacks A counter-revolutionary power. The ground for this presumption lay in the fact that the Cossacks, who were the Bolsheviki extensively for suppressing revolutionary uprisings in Russia for the last two, three decades, it must be said as a matter of fact, that the old government sent against the revolutionists, not only the Cossacks, but all other units of the army and the entire army as long as the Czar's government was able to control it, was used in Russia as a counter-revolutionary force. The uprisings in part of the Russian Empire in 1905 and 1906, were suppressed partially by the other part of the fleet, which had not joined the revolution, and partially by the artillery at the fortresses of Kronstadt and Sveaborg. The famous revolutionary uprising at Moscow, in December, 1905, was suppressed by a few regiments of infantry which came down from Petrograd.

On the other hand, there is a version that the revolution in March, 1917, started in Petrograd after a Cossack shot a police officer who had just before killed a student for trying to arrest the Provisional Government. And the Cossacks in Petrograd were the first military unit to join the revolution. About two weeks after the revolution, the Provisional Government met in Petrograd, and it is very timely now to recall the resolution unanimously adopted at this Congress.

"The Congress of the Cossacks' Delegates of all Russia has faith in the administrative genius of the State and in the principle of statehood, which has manifested itself in the darkest moments of our national history. The Congress firmly believes that the Provisional Government, pursuing a domestic policy based on the consent of all the organized democratic forces, and a foreign policy of complete harmony with the Allies, will be able to guide Russia into the paths of liberty and democracy. The Cossacks of all Russia, inspired by a deep democratic spirit, are ready to render all their support to the Provisional Government in its work of eradicating anarchy, preventing a counter-revolution, and safeguarding freedom of election to the Constituent Assembly so that it can be a true expression of the popular will, and thus be instrumental in making Russia a true democracy."

While some people in this country are still inclined to consider the Cossacks a counter-revolutionary force, the Russian democracy, with the exception of the Bolsheviki, are of the opinion on this point or any other should not be taken too seriously, think otherwise. The All-Russian Council of Workmen and Soldiers Delegates received a resolution from the Cossacks' Congress with exceptional kindness and gave their seats among the presiding officers.

General Kaledine, whose name only recently became known in this country in Russia, received a telegram well known during the war from the Commander of the Eighth Army. General Kaledine acted then against the German army, and he is now acting against the Bolsheviki. He is always very slow, taking his time to prepare a plan and the necessary measures for its accomplishment; but when he strikes, it is almost always a mortal blow. After hearing many things about Kaledine from the Russian officers who have fought under him, I would say that Kaledine may be called the "Russian Tank." His movements are "slow but sure and effective" reaching the objective.

Over the Top in Penna.

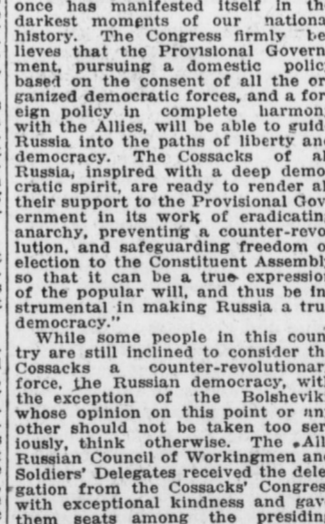
By A. J. Sack, Director, Russian Information Bureau, Woolworth Bldg., New York City.

The biggest baby ever born in Penn Yan, N. Y., came as a New Year's gift to Mrs. Charles Granston. It weighs eighteen pounds and it is said Food Administrator Hoover has already cast a wary eye at Baby Granston. Story is told of a Pennsylvania woman whose son served in the Spanish War, and whose feats of heroism she was fond of reciting. "Yes, indeed," was one of her boasts, "he fought in the Battle of Manila and was all over the Hallowe'en Islands."

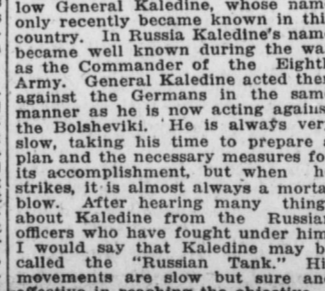
Most patriotic hen on record belongs to Carl Smith, near Findlay, Ohio. Recently she stole a nest, laid sufficient eggs to cover it, and then settled down for a three weeks' repose. Seven chicks were hatched with the thermometer 18 degrees below zero. And she is now starting a new family. The wife of a workingman in the Midlands (England) was describing a quarrel between two other women, and her final comment was as follows: "If 'er' said to 'er' what 'er' said to 'er' 'er'd have killed 'er' or 'er'!"

At a meeting at Seward, Neb., the pastors and teachers of the German Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod in Nebraska adopted resolutions of loyalty to the United States, and recommended the cessation of German language instruction in all parochial schools of the state for the duration of the war. One of the leading parochial schools of the state, located here, will drop German language instruction to-morrow and it is expected that other schools will adopt the same policy.

OUR DAILY LAUGH



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DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg is sending tons of plate to factories for manufacture of army supplies?

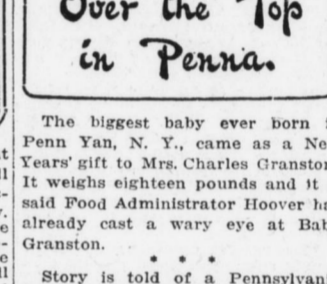
HISTORIC HARRISBURG

The first steamboat run on the Susquehanna was in the thirties and it ran to Sunbury from here after many vicissitudes.

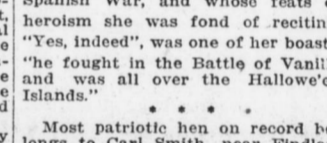
GOLD COMFORT

Anyways, we're glad the railroads are to be run by directors general from the treasury rather than by a brigadier general from the quartermaster's department.

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Evening Chat

People who have been observing the railroads in this section since Uncle Sam took control say that the first sign of a speeding up of freight traffic can be seen and that the increase in coal traffic is commanding to be notable. A few tremendous coal trains have passed through the city, but a larger amount is going by Enola and all accounts they are only the forerunners of a great movement of coal as sidings and lines of the Pennsylvania railroad all through the soft coal country have for weeks been filled with cars of coal. There have also been many cars standing on sidings along the Northern Central between this city and Sunbury, some of it within tantalizing distance of Harrisburg. The Reading's coal traffic over the Susquehanna, which is far larger than many people realize, is commencing to grow and there are long trains of coal from West Virginia and the Connellsville district coming into Harrisburg, split up at Rutherford and sent on to the eastern states. Some of these trains are considerably longer than any other. There are coal trains. It has been customary to cut down trains in winter, but coal is being handled now in as long trains with no reduction. Similarly the empty cars are being rushed back to the coal fields in very big trains. When the new arrangements for handling coal are perfected there will probably be a volume flowing through Harrisburg every twenty-four hours that will make some of the rush periods of 1917 seem like dull days.

An interesting theme for discussion now in view of the Government's taking over of the railroads is just what will be done by the Public Service Commission with complaints against the railroads. There are a couple of dozens of cases pending which if they are decided now will probably be with some directions that will be done about the complaints. This has been indicated by orders which provide that applications for grade crossing abolition may be reviewed within a period after the war or that new construction can be undertaken two or three years hence. But what is interesting may be what will be done about the complaints of violation of the full crew law. Operation is a matter for the Government and there is no telling what the future may be. Federal control probably sets aside state laws.

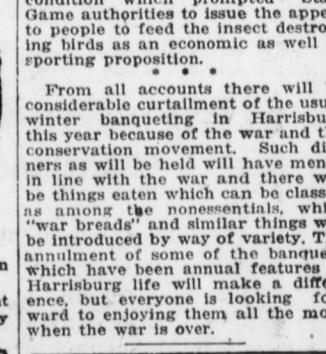
Members of the Harrisburg Reserves will resume their drills at the City Park on Monday night. It is thought when two of the companies will meet and go through the manual of arms. The other companies will meet Tuesday night. It is planned to take up interior guard duty this month, a line of work in which the Reserves will be given plenty of practice. It is believed that they may have to perform if called upon in an emergency. Plans are also being made for indoor practice at the range in the Armory.

Men who have been observing the Susquehanna river say that the ice will probably be as thick as during the winter of 1912 when the mercury did some celebrating by going down to "ten below" in February and trees were probably killed by the cold. Ice was reported that spring as eighteen inches thick and some which was called "two-foot ice" was reported. The weather of the spring was pretty heavy and only the gradual thaw prevented even more serious trouble than occurred during the winter of 1912. In the winter of 1904 when Middletown suffered so severely and the tremendous cakes of ice jammed the Susquehanna so that the ice was piled up in the Pennsylvania had to be dug out.

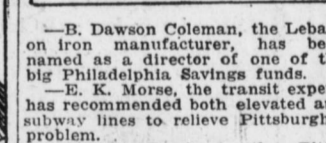
Speaking of those severe winters it is interesting to note that the prolonged cold spell which the country has been enduring the last fortnight is very unusual. In severe winters recently there has been a great deal of short cold waves such as those which sent mercury down to zero last winter, but they never lasted very long. The birds and animals which were very hard on people but they were able to get coal and to keep warm. The intense cold killed much of the winter wheat and some of the frozen and bird life was hard hit generally. The probabilities are that many birds will not be able to survive the winter and that some of the week because the snows have covered the ground and the birds have had to meet terrible cold in an undisturbed condition. It is this condition which prompted State Game authorities to issue the appeal to people to feed the insect destroying birds and an economic as well as sporting proposition.

From all accounts there will be considerable relief of the usual winter banqueting in Harrisburg this year because of the war and the conservation movement. Such dinners as will be held will have menus in line with the war and there will be things eaten which can be classed as among the nonessential. "War time" and similar things will be introduced by way of variety. The annullment of some of the banquets which have been annual for many years will make a difference, but everyone is looking forward to enjoying them all the more when the war is over.

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