

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1918

He who cannot smile ought not to keep a shop.—CHINESE PROVERB.

THE NEW DRAFT LAW

SECRETARY BAKER'S proposal to place all men with dependents in deferred classifications under the new draft law was doubtless prompted by the fact that with the age limit extended from eighteen to forty-five, inclusive, there will be plenty of effectives without dependents to meet all apparent demands.

But there are other matters to consider in the new draft well worthy of attention. Our armies in France are quick on their feet and hard of fist because they are composed of young and vigorous men.

Not that men of forty-five should be kept outside the fighting zone; they would be the first to protest against such a course, but that it would seem the part of wisdom to keep men under thirty-one in organizations separate from those beyond that age, for the sake of efficiency as well as in justice to older men, who would break trying to keep up with their younger and more vigorous comrades.

There is also in this recommendation the consideration that younger men can be brought into first class physical form in much shorter time than can men approaching middle age, and speed of preparation is one of the chief demands of the moment.

THE TIME IS RIPE

PRESIDENT WILSON'S decision to act in Siberia and Russia proper came none too soon. In a few days or a few weeks the opportunity would have passed. The Bolsheviks are on their last legs and Germany has been bending every effort to become the dominating factor, if no longer through the Bolshevik leadership, then through other agencies, and countless Prussian representatives are already at work throughout the empire, trying to turn sentiment away from the allies by lies and to convince the people they would be better under the wing of Germany.

Russians have come to the place where they are demanding a change from present intolerable conditions, and no matter how antagonistic the Bolsheviks may be to intervention, great masses of people in private life are ready to turn to the allies as their only hope. Peasants who believed the stories of the Bolshevik leaders that they could have more land by taking it away from richer neighbors have found that increase of property by mere appropriation is anything but easy or profitable. In some cases, says William Franklin Sands in writing of conditions within Russia, the peasant has attempted to take the land and has come into conflict with other neighbors who also wanted the farm he coveted, and there have been fights and murders as a consequence. Marauding soldiers have made the lives of others miserable. Countless adventurers and criminals are going about looking for victims. The government offers any Russian anything he wants,

providing he can go out and take it, but can give him no protection from the next man who happens along and wants what the first has got. The common people are terrorized, dejected and confused. If the allies can convince them that the expeditionary soldiers are kindly disposed and in earnest, their armed forces doubtless will find themselves in high favor, particularly when they begin to restore order, provide food for the hungry and medicine for the suffering. America has always been held in high esteem by the Russians. Our great effort now must be to persuade the people of that stricken country that what the Bolshevik have told them of us are so many German-made lies and then demonstrate by our deeds the friendly spirit we entertain.

Russia is capable of great things, but she is like a man in the critical stages of fever—too weak to throw off the disease that holds him and greatly in need of the ministrations of a physician. America, in this case, must be the doctor. The time is here and the opportunity is ripe for a great stroke of statesmanship in freeing the former domain of the Czar from the slimy clutch of the Prussian beast.

"Conservation of clothes must be the next move," says a textile magazine correspondent. But we're already doing it in Harrisburg. Some of our girls are conserving below, above and on both sides, to say nothing of the arms.

LABOR AND TEMPERANCE

THE oft-repeated assertion that labor is opposed to national prohibition is refuted by the members of Lodge No. 574, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who, in a series of resolutions adopted recently, roundly condemn those at Washington who have been trying to line them up with booze.

The railroad brotherhoods are high type labor organizations. They have been recognized as such for many years. The members of lodge No. 574 say they are patriotic citizens. The proof of this needs no further demonstration than the number of railroad men who have gone from Harrisburg to France, a very large number of them as volunteers and many beyond draft age. They feel that they have been misrepresented by both union officials and government agents at Washington who have held that labor in general is opposed to prohibition and would resent interference with the sale of intoxicants.

The resolutions, in part as follows, clearly set forth the position of the lodge with respect to "dry" regulations by Congress:

Resolved, That we, Lodge 574, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, do hereby express our sincere sympathy for the efficient service of President Samuel Gompers along labor lines and his leadership in the present national crisis, yet we emphatically condemn his mistaken judgment in his so-called "testimony" before the Agricultural Committee of the United States senate as untrue to the real attitude of labor towards the whole towards the use of intoxicants. While he probably expressed the sentiments of the 60,000 brewery workers, he did not express the sentiments of the 400,000 men engaged in the transportation service alone, all of whom are forcibly conscripted by law to frequent places where liquors are sold.

Resolved, That we are amazed and indignant highly at the mistaken judgment of Senator General Burleson, and wonder whether he would accept for failure in the performance of his duty on the part of any employee the excuse that he was "an old-time drinker." We believe in his right of "personal liberty" to take a drink.

Resolved, That we rejoice in our American citizenship, and we pledge ourselves to live up to our motto, "integrity, sobriety and industry," and further pledge our all, both physically and financially, to our Government for the successful prosecution of the war to the end that liberty shall not die.

Resolved, That we urge the United States Senate and the House of Representatives speedily to unite in passing a law acting nationwide prohibition during the war.

Labor is no untutored child, that its opinions must be pronounced ready-made for it by this or that union leader or party politician. Laboring men have learned to speak for themselves. They are very willing to be led by President Gompers or anybody else, so long as the leading is done in conformity with the wishes of the majority, but they bitterly resent being lined up as advocates of the bar room and its associated evils. There are just as many good thinking labor union men as there are in any other walk of life and the members of lodge No. 574 have voiced the sentiments of vast numbers of such by asserting their independence of opinion and action.

The ultimatum of Lenin is about as frightful as a political threat by William Jennings Bryan.

NO TIME FOR PEACE

A GAIN the word comes from Europe that Germany is about to launch a new peace offensive. If so, Lloyd George has replied for the Allies before the peace movement could get under way.

"No quarter" must be the allied watchword now. This is no time for peace. It is a time to concentrate on giving the Hun the beating he so richly deserves. We cannot honorably enter into peace negotiations with the present German government any more than a judge in court could discuss with the murderer upon whom he is to pass sentence the terms of his punishment.

Germany has become an outlaw. She has chosen the path of crime, rapine and murder. Falsehoods, blood, loot, the lives of babies and the honor of women have been her stock in trade. The present German government has decided to live by the sword and it must die by the sword. We shall talk peace with Germany when her armies are shattered and the allies are speaking in the terms of force upon which the

Kaiser has staked the fate of his empire and his own worthless neck. Nor are the German people to be held blameless. Countless of them are held under the thumb of the ruling class, it is true, fearsome to voice the hate they hold in their hearts for the present system, but countless others have bartered peace for the hope of participating in the booty that German armies were to wrest from helpless peoples. These must be punished. They must be made to feel the strong arm of the police powers of the nations. They must be made to understand that no one people is strong enough to rule the world and that the international criminal must serve sentence for his crimes even as the individual offender against the laws of society is forced to do.

"Liquor consumption is falling off, according to the report of the Auditor General's Department, which may or may not be traceable to the fact that the size of the glass has gone down as the size of the price has gone up.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Sets of nominating petitions for the Supreme Court were taken out at the dozen other men, including G. H. Bechtel, of Pottsville, and A. V. Dively, of Altoona.

The activity of Judge John W. Kephart, of the Superior Court, in visiting various sections, has aroused considerable interest here and it is expected that it will disturb the midsummer calm. President Judge George Kunkel, of this city, who has been a dozen times a candidate, has declined to indicate what he is going to do.

Every indication is that the wind-up of the period for filing papers will be very interesting.

—William S. Aaron, of Altoona, one of the candidates for Republican nomination for Congress at Large in the coming election, has filed his withdrawal as a candidate at the State Department.

—Formal retirement this week of J. Denny O'Neil as the nominee of the Roosevelt Progressive party for Governor of Pennsylvania clears the way for a list of candidates named by scattering voters who did not receive Republican nominations, with a single exception. Mr. O'Neil became a candidate of the Roosevelt Progressive party for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1912 cast his ballots for him just as Fred E. Lewis became the candidate of the same party, as far as it amounts to anything, for Secretary of Internal Affairs. Both have withdrawn and Mr. O'Neil is now a candidate for the United States senate as urged by Senator Edley. Senator Edley, who won nomination of the Roosevelt Progressives for Lieutenant Governor, will retain it, so that he is Republican in name, but Roosevelt Progressive in name, as are Congressional Candidates Anderson H. Walters and Thomas S. Crago, M. R. Spang, of the Republican Party, and Senator William C. Sprong, of Washington as well as Republican nomination for Governor, James F. Woodward, and the recent nomination for Secretary of Internal Affairs. None of the Democratic or Prohibition candidates is on any other party's ticket. The Progressive party names will disappear after this fall's election.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the "gunshoe" candidates for Supreme Court Justice and that it will be hard to tell who will be aspirants until the members are named on September 26. President Judge George Kunkel, of the Dauphin courts, who was here this week on a trip from his summer home, declined to say what he is going to do. Judge John W. Kephart and O. H. Bechtel have been getting busy in this district.

Mayor George M. Bally, of Uniontown, has gone to the people with the troubles he has been having with the councilmen of the City of Uniontown. In a statement he says that the councilmen are placing the blame of non-appointment of a woman policeman on him, while he was absent. Mayor Bally, after admitting that he had failed to provide for such an officer in the budget when he was told by the city solicitor that the matter could be adjusted any time, stated: "For the benefit of all the Uniontown people, it is my belief that the mayor of this city is a figurehead. He cannot select or appoint a policeman or even a janitor for the city. Let the councilmen place the blame on him, while he was absent. Mayor Bally, after admitting that he had failed to provide for such an officer in the budget when he was told by the city solicitor that the matter could be adjusted any time, stated: "For the benefit of all the Uniontown people, it is my belief that the mayor of this city is a figurehead. 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