

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME

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Next to being right in this world, the best of all things is to be clearly and definitely wrong, because you will come out somewhere.—Huxley.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1918

GOOD WORK

THE Harrisburg Y. M. C. A. is doing the community an excellent service in extending free membership for three months to all returning soldiers. The men in uniform have learned to look upon the red triangle of the "Y hut" as a sign of home—a symbol of rest, good cheer, generous hospitality, warmth, baths, amusements and comradeship.

While Lewis S. Sadler, the Carlisle banker and business man, is maintaining a silence that is characteristic regarding rumors of his probable appointment as State Highway Commissioner by the Governor-elect, there appears to be good ground for believing that he will accept this important post in the new administration.

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

NOT for nothing has the Pennsylvania been called the "standard railroad of America"—which means of the world. Secretary McAdoo, telling the President that the Philadelphia division has broken all records for car movement, is amazed at the achievement.

WOEFUL INEFFICIENCY

THE Red Cross has undertaken to prevent distress as a result of the outrageous delay in soldiers' allotments and government allowances to dependents. Much actual hardship, no doubt, will be saved through the activity of this agency; but the Red Cross will fail to reach many worthy cases because of the unwillingness of hundreds who will suffer in silence rather than admit their need.

Department's neglect may be realized and steps taken to remedy it. There have been failures and failures at Washington since the war started, but none that has come home to the people with such force as this. There is no excuse for it. The money is at hand, the records are complete and only an inefficient working force is to blame.

If there is any suffering in Harrisburg among the families of soldiers, it should be immediately brought to public attention in some way that there may be prompt relief. Of course, such families will not want their necessities blazoned in the public eye, but this will not be necessary.

A LIGHT BREAKS

RESIDENT WILSON is believed to have seen a new light since he arrived in France regarding the attitude which he should assume toward the German autocracy. If he left our shores with any idea of an exaggerated sympathy for the German people, he is likely to change his viewpoint since learning from the inside of the Hun to the ideals for which the American soldier and sailor have fought.

This paragraph from his first speech in Paris shows that the President is going to demand, with the allied governments, a peace that will mean justice for all the world: I am sure that I shall look upon the ruin wrought by the armies of the Central empires with the same repulsion and deep indignation that they stir in the hearts of men of France and Belgium, and I appreciate, as you do, the necessity of such action in the final settlement of the issues of the war as will not only rebuke such acts of terror and spoliation, but also make it clear where aware that they can not be ventured upon without the certainty of just punishment.

The American people are of one mind respecting the punishment due Germany. They believe that any failure to rid the world of the Kaiser and his group of cut-throats and thieves will simply encourage some other "superman" to attempt the same thing at another time. There is no evidence of a change of heart on the part of the German people. They are being told, and manifestly believe, that their armies are returning unconquered; that these simply retired from France and Belgium; that they prevented an invasion of Germany by the Allied armies, and that Hindenburg and the other bullies are the greatest soldiers the world has ever produced and the finest humanitarians because they saved the German towns from being ravaged and the German women and children from being outraged.

Also, Erzberger is continuing his whining for better peace terms, the raising of the blockade, the liberation of prisoners and consideration in other directions. Any weakening in the peace terms will simply encourage the German barbarians to plan future raids on an unsuspecting world. Any failure to punish in the peace terms those responsible for the crime of the ages is bound to react upon the whole world and disgust the men who have fought while thousands of their comrades died for decency and freedom.

Colonel George Harvey, in his weekly comment, declares that "day by day German camouflage becomes more obvious. Our troops in the Rhineland find no marks of famine or dire distress. Meat markets and groceries are well stocked, and the people are well fed and prosperous. The plaintive bleatings for pity and mercy and therefore for a relaxation of the armistice terms, because of their lamentable plight, were nothing but pretense. More and more it appears probable that the Germans surrendered not because they were at the end of their resources, but because they thought that by shrewd camouflaging they could obtain better terms than would be possible if they fought to a finish, and also that they planned and are still trying to work out a trick that would, if successful, win for them in peace what they failed to win in war."

Whatever the German purpose, it is plainly evident that shrewdness and a stern sense of justice must govern the peace terms that the scotched snake of Berlin may not revive.

With suspicious frequency there comes bounding over the billows the command "Hold yourself in readiness to join me in France." And every member of the boards and commissions still holding down their jobs look hopefully toward the East. But the injunction to defend themselves in readiness was hardly necessary, as most of them have had their suits packed and their hats in hand waiting for a rush to the first boat.

There is very general interest throughout the State in the completion of the Capitol Park improvement. It is generally recognized that Harrisburg has done its part and will continue to do so in making the setting for the Capitol what it should be. With the comprehensive plans that have been agreed upon for the environment of the State buildings will be in harmony with the importance and dignity of the Commonwealth.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committee

More nomination papers were filed this year at the state capitol than in any recent year, because of the unusual circumstances attending the supreme court elections. In the year ending with November fifty-four were filed, while the largest number recently was in 1916, when thirty-eight were filed. The number of nominating petitions filed in the two-year period ending December 1 was 1,664, against 2,594 in the previous two-year period.

In the last two years 185 pre-emptions of party names have been filed against 145 in the previous two years, and the records also show 144 expense accounts filed in two years, against 325 in the previous two years.

The Dauphin county court set aside three petitions for nomination in the election of 1918. Nine were set aside in the previous two years.

The Philadelphia Record today gives considerable attention to the legislative situation and says that with every one among the Republicans agreed upon Robert S. Spangenberg, of York, for speaker, there is a rush for chairmanships. Senators Daik and Salus, of Philadelphia, and Baldwin, of York, are mentioned for the Senate appropriate chairmanships, and Representative McCall, of Allegheny; Cox, Philadelphia; Sinclair, Fayette, and Ramsey, Delaware; and the Honorable J. B. K. Scott, of course, is a candidate for chairman of judiciary special, which he has headed in tumultuous years.

Reading legislators will sponsor a bill for a central tax receiving station.

Senator-elect Max G. Leslie, of Pittsburgh, is out against a constitutional convention.

The Philadelphia Bulletin strongly praises the selection of Lewis S. Sadler to be state highway commissioner.

Wilkes-Barre school directors are at a row over the closing of schools because of influenza. There is a clash of authority between the city and school administrations which may be reflected in legislation.

At Scranton yesterday President Judge Edward J. Redfield granted the grand jury to investigate charges that the registration lists of voters in Carbondale were padded in the interest of Congressman John R. Farr and other candidates in the November election. The court also directed the jury to probe into the charges made against six election boards and Representative William Phillips, candidate against David Davis, in the fifth legislative district. Charges against them are that they engineered fraud in the primaries in the interest of Professor David Phillips, candidate against David Davis, in the Republican nomination for senator. The last grand jury failed to return any indictment in these cases.

The report of the grand jury to Berks Quarter Sessions Court recommends the removal of the county jail from the city park in Reading. Outdoor exercise for prisoners in coal companies have started to fight the new coal land assessments in Hazleton. An increase was made.

The Philadelphia Press calls the Mayor-elect, Wm. H. Harrison, and Senator Sproul's introduction to national politics, and says: "The occasion inevitably recalled the dinner given to Governor Brumbaugh just after his election when Representative William S. Yare was the host. That dinner gave notice that the Yares had captured him. He was then being booked as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor."

Mr. Redfield continues his emulation of Secretary Baker as the brakeman of the Administration. He is palpitating with zeal to apply the brakes to American commerce, so that we shall not get ahead of other nations in after-the-war trade expansion. There isn't a bit of danger, Mr. Redfield, in the appalling horrors which your vision scans. Let American commerce have the freest course and the fullest advantage, and it will not be over-expanded. All the suffrage leader is saved to have we have not heard British or French economists expressing any such apprehensions concerning their fiscal and commercial future as our Secretary of Commerce seems to be cherishing in his altruistic soul. A fair field and no favor is all they ask and is all they need. That is all that we ask for, too; and we do not think that the American people will permit even the super-sage Mr. Redfield to deny it to them.

A Woman Won the War

A woman, no less a personage than Miss Christabel Pankhurst, is credited with the idea of unified command, which, under General Foch, proved the foundation of Allied success against the armies of the Hun. Premier Lloyd George, among the first to appreciate the value of the suggestion offered by the suffrage leader, is said to have promised that Miss Pankhurst will be given official recognition at the proper time. This is not the first time an idea born in the brain of woman has gotten men out of a bad tangle.—El Paso Times.

Calling the Red Cross Roll

(From the New York Sun) There are now about 22,000,000 members of the American Red Cross, and this week the society confidently expects to enroll a much larger number for the year 1919.

There should be no question of the success of its plan. It is a bold one, in peace or in war, wherever and whenever disaster beyond the power of routine machinery to relieve occurs, the Red Cross is the proper medium for distribution of relief.

The Universal Shipyard at Houston, Texas, has a woman oakum spinner who works nine hours every day.

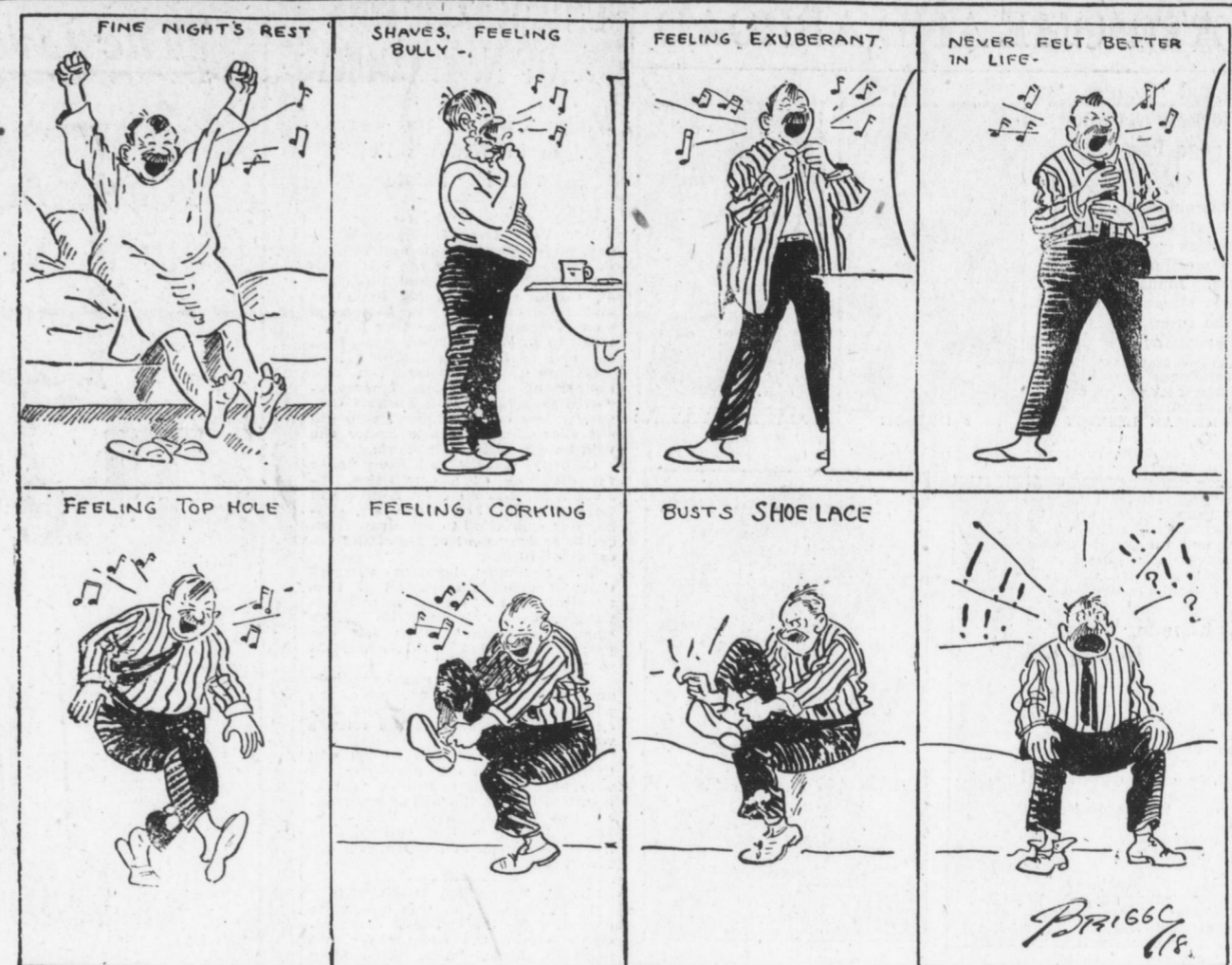
In the last two months there have been 65 strikes in Canada, entailing the loss of 145,790 working days.

Mole skins bring from 16 to 18 cents each in Aberdeenshire and 10 to 12 in Scotland, and women are being trained as mole catchers.

Metal trades employers say women are more conscientious and produce a better quality of work than men workers.

The New York Board of Education has authorized an addition for elementary teachers of \$60 and \$100 a year.

MOVIE OF A MAN AND A BUSTED SHOE LACE



Shirt-Tail Sagacity

[N. A. Review's War Weekly.] It seems that it was in what he describes as "a shirt-tail"—or was it pajamas?—interview with Washington correspondents, that Secretary Redfield came out strong in favor of our holding aloof in foreign commerce until everybody, including Germany, had a good lead on us before we entered the race for business with the outside world.

At a few weeks ago Governor-elect Sproul publicly made what amounted to the statement that W. Harry Baker, of Harrisburg, could have any of the big appointments he wanted under the forthcoming state administration—perhaps an unprecedented tribute to a man who had come up through the ranks in Pennsylvania politics.

"Few of the general public could have known the man to whom Senator Sproul referred when they read his remarks about him in the statement of the Governor-elect gave out, for during his whole career, Baker has never held elective office. Even in the present instance he followed his usual course and declined appointment, saying that he could be more useful where he is now, as secretary of the Senate.

"Yet wherever politics is known in the State, Harry Baker is known. For some years he has been secretary of the Republican State Committee. He is a member of the inner circle of the State organization and his advice is sought on all important matters under consideration.

Hays Wanted Baker "As an administrator of the business of the State Committee, which includes the actual direction of its election campaigns, he has won a high opinion for his sagacity and ability. When National Chairman Will H. Hays came to Philadelphia for the State Committee organization meeting after the recent primaries, Mr. Miller, the Senate Librarian, and the official clerks began to lean on him more and more.

"One of his earliest friends was the then young Senator from Delaware, William C. Springer. Baker was the youngest of the pages when Senator Sproul was sworn in, and the new Governor was shown where he had been assigned to sit at his first session by the man who by the turn of years was the guiding hand in a Republican campaign. But the State organization knew it. So Baker did not go.

"The great thing about Baker is his square-dealing. It has probably put him where he is, for there are other able men in the field of politics who do not get as far. They lack that prime requisite in leadership, the ability to command the confidence of the men they are working with. In this regard, Baker enjoys unusual distinction. No one

can bear testimony to that with more authority than the political writers of the newspapers, who run up against square dealing and dealing that is not square, twenty times a day.

"Among the political reporters there is one way of ending all argument on a disputed fact. 'Harry Baker says so,' is the phrase that does it. He has a hankering after truth and he even carries the virtue so far that he will admit without hesitation the authenticity of a story upon which he is questioned, even when it is damaging to the cause he is for the moment engaged in. Where the average politician would squirm and try to evade, Baker comes out straight with the truth.

"Naturally, he does not reserve this habit only for use with newspaper men. He has the same reputation among his political associates. In fact, it is said that he often is discreetly frank with the leaders when they ask his opinion with the view of getting the answer they want, not his real opinion. They say that Baker can tell things to Senator Penrose that few others would care about mentioning.

"Baker was born in what is now known as the downtown section of Harrisburg. His father, James Baker, who is one of the most respected residents of Harrisburg, for years was in charge of work at the Central Iron and Steel Company.

"Baker was named a page to the State Senate. In those days it was the ambition of every Harrisburg boy to 'get on the Hill.' But not every boy who got there made good, Baker did.

"It was only a short period of years until he was assistant to Hermann P. Miller, the Senate Librarian, and the official clerks began to lean on him more and more. "One of his earliest friends was the then young Senator from Delaware, William C. Springer. Baker was the youngest of the pages when Senator Sproul was sworn in, and the new Governor was shown where he had been assigned to sit at his first session by the man who by the turn of years was the guiding hand in a Republican campaign. But the State organization knew it. So Baker did not go.

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W. Harry Baker, Subject of Fine Newspaper Tribute

THE Philadelphia Press publishes the following fine tribute to W. Harry Baker, secretary of the Senate, and one of the best-known citizens of Harrisburg: "A few weeks ago Governor-elect Sproul publicly made what amounted to the statement that W. Harry Baker, of Harrisburg, could have any of the big appointments he wanted under the forthcoming state administration—perhaps an unprecedented tribute to a man who had come up through the ranks in Pennsylvania politics."

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Sound Sense From Knox

[Col. Harvey's "War Weekly."] The League of Free Nations in its actions condemning the Knox Senate resolution concerning the Paris peace conference, seems to misapprehend just what the Knox resolution really is. The League describes it as an "arbitrary settlement which would be short-lived in its effect and would vastly increase the growing danger to world safety."

This is inaccurate in about as many ways as it will could be. The Knox proposition is not a "settlement of the League of Nations question, still less is it an "arbitrary" settlement of that name. Furthermore it would not "vastly increase the growing danger to world safety," for the reason that there isn't any growing danger to world safety. On the contrary, whatever, if any, danger to world safety there may be is diminishing with headlong increase every passing day. The growing season for world danger was coincident to, and an integral part of, the past fifty years' growth of the German empire. Thanks to the League of Nations, the strongest battalions, the German empire is smashed. Its power for international villainy is ended. And with the downfall of Germany went, for a long time to come, the danger to world safety which the worthy people of the League of Free Nations see so obviously increased by Senator Knox's very clear-headed and far-seeing resolution.

By that resolution the peace conference would occupy itself, so far as the United States is concerned, with the objects for which the United States has been fighting, and with these objects only. These objects Senator Knox clearly and accurately defines. "They were to vindicate the ancient rights of navigation as established by international law, and in order to remove forever the German menace to our peace." The Senator then recites the fact that "conferences are about to take place and the purpose of these conferences is to guarantee the attainment of these war aims and thus to pass to the state of formal peace." The resolution then provides for the safe conduct of these conferences, and with a definite understanding that, "the same necessity again arising, there shall be the same accord and cooperation with our chief co-belligerents in the defense of civilization."

Mr. Knox's resolution is not, as the League of Free Nations asserts, a "settlement" of the League of Nations question, still less is it a "settlement" of the "freedom of the seas" idea, whatever that remarkable idea may be. It is a "settlement" of nothing. It merely puts the United States Senate on record as favoring relegation of the be-fogged Fourteen Commandments to their proper place for consideration, after formal peace has been made, and their own merits and in their own appropriate time and order.

The live stock show held by the Argentine Rural Society was eminently successful, and the price of \$42,500, American currency, paid for the champion short-horn bull is said to be the highest ever for such an animal. Dr. H. M. Brown, of the State of Ohio, was the judge of this year.

A wave of popularity for things western is sweeping over the whole of China, and with the cessation of war there may be expected to be huge demands for all sorts of foreign machinery, building materials and equipment.

An American firm is about to erect a factory in Brazil for the manufacture of caustic soda and other chemicals. The company has already purchased 720,000 square meters of land near the city of Santos, state of Sao Paulo.

Reports of the grinding of sugar cane in Tucuman Province, Argentina, up to September 30, 1918, show a total of 1,636,394 metric tons of cane milled and 83,763 metric tons of sugar produced.

The aggregate value of declared exports from London to the United States during the ten months ended October, 1918, totaled \$50,022,252, compared with \$133,740,788 in the same period in 1917, thus showing a decrease of 63 per cent.

Switzerland is at present engaged in the electrification of a portion of the railway connecting the country with Italy through the St. Gothard tunnel.

Always Something Lacking She—What do you consider the things that make life worth living? He—The things we don't possess.—Edinburgh Scotman.

Thankful Awful, Bore (making conversation)—I passed your house to-day. She (pointedly)—Oh, thank you ever so much.—Edinburgh Scotman.

Evening Chat

Apparently some of the men connected with the state's draft system intend to maintain the relation they have occupied toward each other and toward the state and nation as steps to organize organizations of county draft board members are under way. Allegheny county the members of the draft boards have had an organization for a year and recently plans have been perfected to make it a permanent affair and to have occasional meetings, while the Philadelphia boards have gone together and are about to secure a charter from the courts for an association. In Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, each of which has a system which will be a permanent feature of the government. The Murdock manner of handling the draft in Pennsylvania has been highly praised not only by the men in the system in this state, but at Washington.

Just who makes up the Pennsylvania State Illustrations Commission is a question which is interesting a good many people at the State Capitol these days. This commission has been getting mail. The mail is sent from camps where men from Pennsylvania have been taken care of by the government. A little educational attention, in spite of the excellence of the school system it would seem that there are sons of the Keystone State who are officers in charge of the camp have been writing here to see that they are taken care of. The letters, as usual, have gone roaming around the bulletin boards of the State Board of Public Charities. That branch promptly called up the State Board of Education.

Some of the hearings which are being held in complaints before the Public Service Commission are actually being gone through with while complaints are being made and created in rates or fares of the same companies are on dockets. This is due to the rapid advance in rates which is too fast for almost the complainants. As for the officers in charge of the camp have been writing here to see that they are taken care of. The letters, as usual, have gone roaming around the bulletin boards of the State Board of Public Charities. That branch promptly called up the State Board of Education.

An interesting interview with Edgar B. Tait, the federal labor director for Pennsylvania, is published in the Philadelphia Press. Mr. Felton, who is well remembered by many here as the president of the Pennsylvania Tractor Company, right after the consolidation of the two old lines, has been giving his time to Uncle Sam since the war began.

"Although my salary is a dollar a year," he said with a smile, "I spent twenty-five cents out of this amount to make my own way to the government. I have four sons in the military and naval service of their country, and I am contented to give my services as they do theirs. There'll be no more rising jobs at the government salaried. But no one need worry about a job. I will not quit until every man and I come to us for a job gets one, who makes no empty promises. A lot of workers will retain their men's jobs, for these are women's jobs, after all. It does not take a two-listed man to jump a department store counter. Our men will be given employment, not as an act of charity, but to make them independent producers."

Quite a gallery of noted attorneys appeared at the Capitol yesterday in Public Service arguments. Among them were ex-Lieutenant Governor Walter Lyon, of Pittsburgh, who never seemed to change; W. S. Kirkpatrick, of Easton, who was Attorney General under Beaver, and is as busy as ever; George R. Booth, of Allentown; Owen J. Roberts, prominent Philadelphia attorney; and George C. Peffer, chairman of the State Council of National Defense.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE —J. G. Rosengarden, the oldest trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, has resigned after long service.

T. T. Richards, active in Lackawanna affairs, is coming home from France after extended service.

Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, prominent in army affairs, is to speak at Philadelphia on the value of exercise in the home.

Representative Harry Zanders, of Carbon county, has been presented by a friend in the army with a piece of a large German military bullet.

Ballou B. Frank Ruth, Reading councilman, well known here, is urging a new union station for his city.

General Tasker H. Bliss, one of the peace conference was born in Leburg, and graduated from the Academy in 1869.

George W. Elkins, Philadelphia financier, is seriously ill.

DO YOU KNOW

—That Harrisburg preserves are on the menu of the men over-seas?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG —The first Harrisburg printing office was in South Second street, near Mulberry, and the type came from Philadelphia.

A Kentuckian's Valuable Load L. F. Barnes, of Neave, took a truckload, consisting of 300 turkeys, for which he was paid \$1,275; 1,000 rabbits, \$200; two beef heads, \$13, and one horsehide, \$7; total value, \$1,495, at Cincinnati last week.—Pendleton Ledger.