

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1919 Occupation is the scythe of time.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

HERE are increasing signs of the approach of a presidential election year. The other day a party of business men in Philadelphia hailed William Howard Taft as the "next occupant of the White House" and yesterday the New York Sun printed a letter from Ducktown, Tenn., telling of the organization of a General Leonard Wood Republican club in that town.

Newspaper cartoonists like to make fun of the daily gatherings in the village grocery, where the future of nations is settled every evening before the shutters go up at 9 o'clock, but the man in search of public sentiment gathers his evidence in just such places.

Ducktown is one of thousands of villages where men's minds are turning now toward the presidential contest, and we opine that if Ducktown can muster 350 members for a General Wood Republican club there is considerable feeling for that distinguished soldier throughout the country.

Make no mistake about it, if you want to sound out public sentiment go into the places of common resort where the ordinary run of American citizens discuss the issues and thresh out their differences.

COURT-MARTIAL REVISION

SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER has at last reached the conclusion that there really might have been some injustice done in the sentencing of court martial. This admission is widely at variance with the secretary's broad denial at the outset that such conditions existed.

HURLEY ADOPTS PLAN

CHAIRMAN HURLEY, of the Shipping Board, speaking before the National Marine League in New York, has outlined the plan that he will support for the future operation of our war fleet of merchant ships.

the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and formerly manager of the Pacific Mail. Mr. Hurley announces that he is flatly opposed to Government ownership and operation. He is also against Government ownership and private operation, and looks with disfavor upon ownership by a single private corporation with the Government guaranteeing a certain return on the stock.

Each purchaser should be obliged to take out a Federal charter, which should limit the amount of stock to be issued, prevent its sale to an alien and provide that one member of the board of directors shall be named by the Government.

LET THE COURTS DECIDE

THE County Commissioners, having employed an expert to reassess the coal lands in Dauphin county and that expert having placed the assessments at a figure which the coal companies say is too high, it remains apparently to thresh the matter out to a proper conclusion in the courts.

The case is one for expert testimony. Neither the County Commissioners nor any assessor is possessed of technical knowledge sufficient to pass judgment intelligently upon the claims of the coal company engineers of their own knowledge.

A WIDER FIELD

COLONEL HENRY WATTERSON no doubt will regret his retirement as editor emeritus of the Louisville Courier-Journal. One cannot sever a connection of more than a half century and not feel a pang of sorrow in the parting.

THE WILD YEASTS OF THE AIR

Deciding that a beverage containing as much as 1.4 per cent alcohol is to be regarded as intoxicating, the United States General of the army apparently deals a blow at the sale even of many so-called "soft drinks" in the forbidden areas about military posts.

THE WORD "MAGNET"

The word "magnet" is derived from the name of the city of Magnesia, in Asia Minor, where the properties of lodestone are said to have been discovered.

Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The legislature of Pennsylvania last night voted without discussion to take a recess next week. The resolution adopted called for adjournment of the Senate to-day and the House to-morrow until Easter Monday, April 21.

Senator William E. Crow presented the resolution in the Senate after consultation with colleagues and it was adopted without discussion. This was about 9:30 and at that time resentment against the plan to amend the constitution was being expressed.

TWO YEARS OF WAR

Two years ago to-day (April 6), at 3:12 in the morning, the House of Representatives, following the Senate's lead, resolved in favor of war with Germany, and a formal declaration was issued in the afternoon.

Now two years from that momentous day when the haughty Imperial mind was beset with the notion that the United States could not fight, that we could send no substantial reinforcements to the armies of the Allies, the great, and it may be the decisive, part of America, in the overthrow of Germany, is being written by the pen of history.

The Quick and the Dead

Evening rose from a bed of rain, And out of the West day dawned again; With outstretched fingers of falling dew, She touched the tree-tops and made them bright; And under the leaves, a-spark with dew.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"No beer, no work," will probably subtitle the near-beer and near-work Boston Herald.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

A dozen naval yarns published by the Scribners under the title "Anchors Aweigh," have been pronounced by no less an authority than Secretary Daniels, to be classic interpretations of a naval life as they are by a woman, at that: Harriet Welles' life as wife of a Rear-Admiral in our fleet.

AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'?



THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND

Compared with the force commanded by Admiral Jellicoe in the North Sea, the forces commanded by Alexander, or Caesar, or Napoleon, or Nelson were puny, and even those of Togo and Rojensky were unimportant. Compared with this force the aggregate land forces of both the Allies and the Teutons were inconsiderable.

OUR SOLDIER DEAD

"In Flanders fields, where poppies blow, In rows where beautiful roses grow, There let them rest—forever sleep, While we eternal vigil keep, With our hearts' love—with our hands, we will guard them well, For all our fallen—'Over There.' The earth is sacred where they fell—Forever on it lies the spirit of our dead, And men unborn shall come and pause To say a prayer, or bow the head, So let these graves to hold their dead.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

—Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who is speaking in the League of Nations, used to be a professor in the University of Pennsylvania.

DO YOU KNOW

—That Harrisburg steel was used for material to manufacture army trucks? HISTORIC HARRISBURG French traders one time tried to buy the historic ford here from Indians, but they refused to sell.

Evening Chat

Few more interesting "close-up" talks on the experiences of men from Harrisburg in the great war have been given than by Captains John T. Bretz, who commanded Company D, when it left Harrisburg for Camp Hancock, at the gathering of members of the Harrisburg Reserves, Milliamen and Veterans of Foreign Wars at the courthouse Saturday night. The captain left out a lot he might have told in which he figured, but modestly mentioned himself only twice, once when he admitted that he had insisted on rationing for his men and the other time when he mentioned that he had been in charge of "a hard boiled" railroad unit at Bordeaux and found that he had to inculcate discipline. The captain's recital was simple and direct and was heard from officers and men by the men fortunate enough to attend the meeting. He told just how men from York, Chambersburg, Carlisle and Harrisburg endured their army surrenders, and how they heard him tell that story was Captain Henry M. Stine, who recruited the Chambersburg company, but had relinquished command because of army surrenders. It was a dramatic moment, when he told how the company commanded by the Harrisburg man, lost men by shell fire and how they had to struggle through a trench. Captain Bretz's talk was the first he had given and he possesses a style of simple, direct narrative that goes straight to the heart.

The plan for a big welcome to the returning soldiers has met with the greatest support from officers and men who have returned from overseas. The plan is to have a parade on the other side also commend the plan. "We can't have it as big as that Fourth of July celebration, but we are going to make it the same kind of a real affair," said William Jennings.

Congressman J. Hampton Moore, the greatest authority on inland waterways in the United States, sincerely and enthusiastically of the belief that money can be procured from Congress for the deepening of the Susquehanna River. Moore is energetic and persistent enough. He is likewise of the opinion that the project can be developed more cheaply and will be successful from a business standpoint. He believes the amount saved in coal freight rates in one year would amount to \$10,000,000 and he believes that the project will be so successful that it will pay for itself in one year.

Speaking of Columbia—that is the bridge of Frank B. Muser, president of the Harrisburg Railways Company, and John S. Muser, president of the Dauphin Electrical Supplies Company. Mr. Muser was down to attend the deeper Susquehanna conference held in their old home town a few days ago. The Harrisburg party, two of which were Frank and John, had a band and members of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association. The Columbia people, being very hospitable to the Harrisburg party, had gone away and made good, chose John Muser to be chief marshal of the parade and put him out in front.

"That's always the way," grumbled his brother Frank from a humble place in the rear ranks. "John always sets the honors and I get all the knocks. Now I used to play cornet in this very band and you might have made me chief marshal, me being a former member of the band." "May be," observed Preston Crowell, who was standing near, "may be, Frank, that's the reason they didn't ask you."

If you want to get a rise out of Frank Couslyman, manager for the "Company," just ask him how you get to Columbia by way of the Spooktown road. Frank was born in Marietta and modestly admitted to friends with whom he was motoring to Columbia the other evening that he could find his way to that town with his eyes tied shut. "Well," asked "Jim" McCullough, "how was driving 'em that being the case, may be you'll give us some light on how to get to Columbia quickly and comfortably?" "Frank didn't seem to be glad to do it and he said that they 'go by way of the Spooktown road.' They followed his directions and got lost.

Finally in Columbia they explained their lateness at a meeting by telling their hosts that they "got lost on the Spooktown road."