

# MEMORIAL DAY SERMON

Continued from 1st page.

In the industrial and commercial spheres there is an equally serious lack of devotion to the common good, and that lack is about equally distributed through all classes of the population. We hear it said constantly that some of our greatest financiers are nothing more than adroit pirates and highwaymen. Certainly they are no better. But, there are many petty business men who would duplicate the outrages of these unscrupulous financiers if they were able. On a small scale they are equally dishonest. And there are thousands of tradesmen and laborers who would be dishonest business men or unscrupulous capitalists if they had the capital and ability to rise into those classes. Much as I favor labor unions, and I favor them greatly, I cannot avoid noting that strongly organized classes of workers are as unscrupulous as the unorganized and helpless classes of workers as the worst employers often are.

This Memorial season, when our minds naturally turn to the great issues of our national life, is not the time for the hurrying of slander, but it is the time for all of us gravely to remember, or to learn, that our nation is sick—sick with the disease of disregard of the common good.

I will yield to no man as a lover of America or as a believer in our huge Republic. But I should tremble with genuine fear to see our nation drawn into war with any first-class power. I do not think the United States today could face any foe on earth with a united front. Our sense of Americanism is not sufficiently developed. We are not a united nation conscious of a great national life and a glorious destiny. Too many of our classes, both racial and economic, are concerned only with what they can get out of America and not with what they can give to America. Our sense of devotion to the common good is only in an embryo state.

William Jennings Bryan says, "If a foreign foe should menace our nation a million men would spring to arms over night." This is good rhetoric, but it is not true. A million men could do nothing of the sort. Unless indications are wrong, if our nation were menaced by a foreign foe, a million men would indeed spring into action over night, but they would spring into action to secure government contracts that they might grow fat on the spoils thereof, and a few months would show that we have millions upon millions of "slackers" in this country of the same kind that have disgraced Great Britain in the eyes of the world.

Now, do not get excited, nor start to pummel me just yet! I am simply drawing deductions from certain facts with which the American people ought to be acquainted before Memorial Day comes around.

According to that careful scholar, "Ghirard," of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, during the Revolutionary War when the American colonies wrested their independence from Great Britain several times more American men remained at home than enlisted for the war. Our states were then too feeble to compel enlistments, and the Continental Congress planned an army of 80,000 Continental soldiers, the greatest number of such that could be gotten into the field at any one time was 34,000, less than one half the number planned. During the entire eight years of the Revolution there were never more than 68,000 Americans, including the rif-raff State militia, under arms at any one time. Yet, the first census of the United States, taken in 1790, shows that there was then a population of about four millions in the country.

When Grant began his great campaign against Lee there were 1,000,000 men under his command. Before that time the appeal for volunteers had been supplemented by conscription. Yet there were 4,000,000 men in the North who were eligible for military service that had not volunteered. This means that in the North only one man in five capable of bearing arms was willing to go to the front during the Civil war.

There are 20,000,000 adult males of fighting age in the United States today. Our nation could put 4,250,000 men in the field as easily as Lincoln could place 1,000,000 under Grant. Would 4,250,000 men volunteer if our nation were plunged into war? Not much, they would! Unless they are more patriotic than their fathers were—and I do not think they are. If our nation were involved in war and our men should volunteer as freely as their great-grandfathers did during the Revolution, we could muster just 1,750,000 of our 20,000,000 without conscription! Now, from whence would come "a million men over night?" Pummel me, if you will; but facts are facts.

Another consideration: when a na-

tion depends upon the volunteer system, in the event of a great emergency it is generally the best and most unselfish men who volunteer. If conscription is used and the privilege is given to those drafted to pay others to go in their stead, it is usually the most courageous and conscientious who actually reach the front.

The reason the South has been so impoverished since the Civil War is not primarily because of the immense amount of property destroyed, but because so large a proportion of the most conscientious and public-spirited men of the South were killed. The killing off these men was one of the greatest disasters that ever overtook the United States. Comrades! the men who faced you on the firing-line were not renegades. They were mistaken but they were the best men of that sunny Southland. Because they fought so tenaciously, the South of our nation has been lagging ever since.

Nor did the North fare much better. There is scarcely a community in the North where cowardly and unscrupulous men, who had neither the courage nor the public spirit to fight, did not spring into prominence while the boys in blue were away fighting for the Union and the freedom of the slaves. There are hundreds of wealthy and influential families all over the North who are children of the family crooks who stayed at home during the Civil War and established themselves in business while their competitors were fighting, or bought up at reduced prices, and in many instances secured by paying the taxes, the homes and land of those who were willing to bear the brunt of those four awful years of conflict.

Of course not all who stayed at home took such advantages. Some stayed because they were not physically able to fight. Others stayed because they had duties they dared not leave. Many who stayed were loyal to the nation and were friends of the soldiers and their needy families. Nevertheless competent investigation has established the fact that a large proportion of the men who have become the arch-grafters in American politics and the unscrupulous financiers and heartless captains of industry in American economic life, are the crooks or the sons of crooks who seized personal advantages from the common good during the Civil War. One of the reasons the United States has had such terrific social problems on its hands since the Civil War is the manner in which the nation secured its soldiers for that war.

I do not say that the system of universal military service is good. It has its defects, no doubt. But, I want you to see that the volunteer system, aided by conscription in emergencies has its defects also.

Out of the European war has come one great lesson for all of the nations of the earth to learn. It is this: The old system of capitalistic individualism has collapsed. In the language of the street, "It has gone dead broke!"

It has been the policy of the powerful classes in Great Britain to seize all they could from the common good. That mighty empire has been staggering on its feet ever since the war began. Strikes, lockouts, slackers, rebellions! The British navy has done well. The actual achievements of the British troops have all been negative where they have not been positively disastrous. Col. Winston Churchill announced to parliament the other day, "There are 200,000 officers' valets and 60,000 grooms in the British army that are doing no fighting." That means that there are more than one-fourth as many men in the British army than there were under Grant in the Civil War who are doing nothing but trucking to the elite. Great Britain could not stand single-handed against Germany for three months. Why? CAPITALISTIC INDIVIDUALISM BREEDS NO PATRIOTISM!

The system of Germany is a non-architectural socialism. Its internal policies are not based upon the principal of grab. It has regard for the common good within its own borders. This system has bred patriotism.

What is the conclusion? The internal political and economic system of a nation that would breed patriotism must conserve the common good. The spirit of that nation must be a spirit of devotion to the common welfare. Such a system, democratic in form, would be near perfection. It would breed patriotism, but, being democratic in form, would be a menace to other nations as that of Germany is.

The system of the United States today is capitalistic individualism of an extreme type. The policy of our economic life is the policy of grab. We are not a united nation. The spirit of Americanism is not aroused. It seems that it cannot be aroused. We have little patriotism. Within the past few weeks, the State militia of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona have refused to respond to the call for service on the Mexican border. They are not going to shed their blood to protect the oil wells and

mines of a few American millionaires, who care nothing for the United States or its people as a whole, they say. Who can blame them? Our country is disorganized. The sense of devotion for the common good that would permit pranzation is lacking. Yet, our legislators are busy harvesting pork and our voters are supinely sending that type of officers into power with each recurring election.

What is to be done? Three things. Admit we are all tarred with the same stick. Here in Somerset County just last week the decent voters tinkered around in their gardens and allowed the liquor men, and the president of the Meyersdale Chautauqua Association, to work like beavers and nominate their candidates for the Assembly. Soon the officers of the Chautauqua will be asking the churches and the Sunday schools to support the Chautauqua because it is a semi-religious institution. Yet, the public opinion of our town and of our churches upholds such procedure. We are little better than a bunch of slaves!

2. Pray that Almighty God will keep our nation out of war at least until unity and patriotism have been bred within our national borders. Single-handed we could not stand against Germany six weeks. Yet, most of those who are objecting to preparedness, are objecting to it not primarily because they do not believe in it, but because they are so selfish they do not wish to help to pay the price.

3. Within every community in our nation we must begin instantly and carry on patiently a more conscientious campaign than we ever have carried on for the development of devotion to the common good. There is no other way out. Our selfishness must be curbed! The policy of grab must cease! Public opinion must smite and ballot must slay every man who snatches personal advantage out of the common good!

With these things upon my heart, I should have been a traitor had I delivered a line of spread-eagle bombast this evening.

"But" someone may say, "I thought this was to be a Memorial

service for the old soldiers." It is my friends; it is a memorial service of the highest type. The veterans who sit before me to-night, and their departed comrades whose memory we revere, in '61 to '65 displayed the spirit all of us need to-day. No matter how many mistakes they have made since, no matter how much of the poison of selfishness may have come into their souls, at that time they did place their lives upon the altar for the common good. They did offer themselves a sacrifice for many. They were not the slackers of their day.

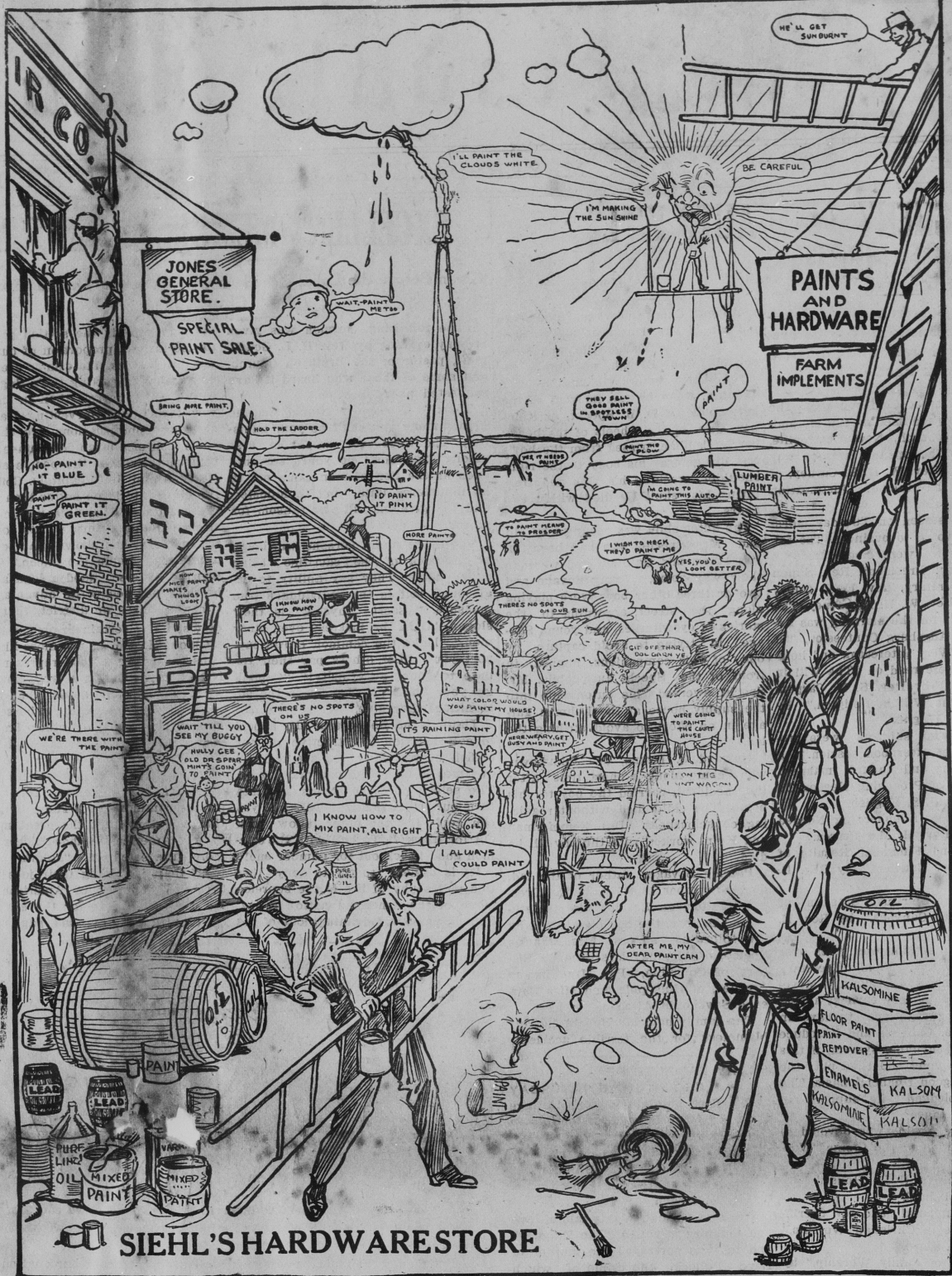
I am proud, I've always been proud, I am more proud to-night than I have ever been before, that I am the son of a veteran, a volunteer of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry.

I am going to watch that thin blue line march to the cemetery this year, upon its mission of love, with more reverence than I ever have before. I am going to remember the veterans who have been laid beneath the sod with more admiration and respect and love than ever before. I am going to pray with more fervor than ever before that the spirit of devotion for the common good, at the cost of personal sacrifice, that was shot into their souls may be shot into my soul and into the souls of my fellow-countrymen in this day. For I know that the spirit which they manifested in their days of vigor, when the appeal of self-interest was strong, is the spirit that alone is lacking to make our Republic the best and noblest nation upon which God's sun ever shone.

Listen to my text again: "Whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you shall be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Fourteen counties report the condition of wheat equal to or above the average for this time of the year and the general average is 96 per cent. against 90 per cent. a year ago at this time.

The Ringling Circus one of the largest on the road, will show in Johnstown on Monday, June 12th.



## UNION VALLEY.

May 24—All are expecting a large crop according to the blossoms.

Henry Shockey and family were callers at the home of P. W. White on Sunday.

Conrad Keefe and family spent Sunday with Simon Keefe's family.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. P. W. White, a daughter.

H. F. Habel congratulated the fire company on the work done at the fire on his tenant house and said "Boys I have often watched the Meyersdale fire ladders—but you Valley boys beat all I ever saw." Thanks for your congratulations, Harry.

Miss Marion Brown of Meyersdale spent from Saturday evening to Monday morning with her sister, Mrs. H. F. Habel.

George Felker, who has been working for H. F. Habel, spent Saturday and Sunday in Meyersdale.

Jacob Sturtz' house caught fire on Saturday about 9 a. m. doing some small damage to house and household goods.

Andrew Horschner, Sr. and Jr. and Wm. Crosby were Sunday visitors at H. F. Habel's coming in the former's eight-cylinder car. Andy says "The greater the power, the faster he can go."

Mrs. W. H. Habel spent Sunday with her son and family.

Rather late hours Elmer Ohler and Adam Lottig are keeping down the Valley. Boys, don't store your sleigh bells; you may need them before the snow comes again.

Our side roads should be put in better condition now since the state has taken the plank road over.

Simon Brown has moved his traction engine from his saw mill to work it on the road for the state.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Habel spent a few days in Somerset during Mr. Habel's vacation.

Wm. Canon sold two fine colts to Section Foreman H. B. Bauman.

GOLDEN LOAF FLOUR .675 per bbl. and every sack guaranteed AT HABEL & PHILLIPS.

CARLOAD OF CHIC AND SCRATCH FEED— AT HABEL & PHILLIPS. Get our prices on job work.

## ROCKWOOD

The G. A. R. Post announced the following speakers for Memorial Day: Rev. W. A. McClellan speaker at the I. O. O. F. cemetery in the morning, and Prof. F. R. Coder to make an address at the New Centerville cemetery in the afternoon.

Simon Parker of Unamis is spending several days here visiting relatives and friends.

The barn of Charles Shaffer in Millford township was struck by lightning Thursday evening during a heavy rain and thunder storm and burned to the ground, destroying all the contents. The loss is estimated at \$2,000 with only \$300 insurance.

Rev. A. L. Broing of Altoona will occupy the pulpit of the United Brethren Church on Sunday evening.

Miss Elizabeth Dull, a graduate from the Memorial Hospital; Johnstown arrived in Rockwood where she will recuperate from a recent attack of diphtheria.

Mr. and Mrs. James Peter's of Rockwood accompanied by their sons James and Fred, have started from Rockwood in a Reo touring car for Newport News, Virginia, where a daughter lives.

## MANANCE AND VICINITY.

Farmers are about done with their spring planting.

S. W. Keefe was kept busy planting for his neighbors with his new H. F. Habel, P. W. White and S. Keefe were Meyersdale visitors Saturday.

The Memorial services held at Mt. Lebanon on Sunday were largely attended.

H. A. Keefe of Akron, Ohio, is visiting his parents for a few days.

Boys get ready for a few weddings in the near future.

P. W. White wears his hat on one side. It's a girl and Pearl says he will soon have lots of farmers.

Mrs. Jack Keefe who has been visited her son, Louis, near Berlin, has returned home.

George Felker is employed with H. F. Habel at present building fences and cleaning up the farm.

B. F. Keefe last week in Meyersdale purchased two fine Jersey cows. Get our prices on job work.