

MEYERSDALE COMMERCIAL

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R. M. SWISHER, Editor.

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Gov. Brumbaugh canceled all engagements for holiday week at the executive mansion because of the death of his father. The governor had planned several dinners and a reception in honor of ex-President Taft who will address the State Education association during its annual convention. The funeral of the governor's father was held Wednesday at Marklesburg.

The governor received the following telegram from Maj. Gen. Clement, commanding Pennsylvania guardsmen at El Paso, in reply to his greeting to the men of the Seventh division:

"Speaking for all the officers and men of the Pennsylvania division I sincerely thank you for your warm Christmas greeting which everyone of us reciprocates. All have done their part to the best of each individual ability and we rejoice that the time has come that we may be returned to our home stations. We wish you and yours and all in authority in Pennsylvania a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Signed.) "Clement."

Pennsylvania Democracy has lost one of its notable figures through the death of Jeremiah S. Black, of York. He had been in comparative retirement since the great Bryan fight of 1908, but he never ceased to be a force in party affairs. He was a man of rare gifts and in him were preserved some of the best qualities of his illustrious grandfather. That he should have been called while yet in his very prime is an added factor in the regret that must everywhere be felt in Pennsylvania for the loss which the state has sustained.

If half what the state insurance department alleges is true there are a number of insurance company swindlers who should shortly be taking a ride at the commonwealth's expense in the general direction of the penitentiary. The curious fact in connection with the present insurance mix-up is that the same crowd should have been permitted to wreck so many companies. A bad bunch might get away with one concern even though the state examiners were on the job. But how it is possible for a set of men to wreck one company, tell the state insurance department about it, and partment about it, and get away with exactly the same procedure in another company is a mystery.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS

Miss Beatrice Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Truxal of this City was married to Mr. Alexander C. Powell Jr., of Waterview, Virginia in Baltimore City Saturday December 23rd. The marriage ceremony was performed by Dr. Peck, Pastor of the First Methodist Church of that city and was witnessed by only the parents of the couple. Immediately after the ceremony they departed for the home of the bride where they will spend the Christmas holidays.

The next number of the Lyceum Cours will be given in the Lutheran Church on Thurs. Eve. Jan. fourth. The Lecture will be given by Dr. Hopkins of Chicago, his subject being "The Golden Fleece." No admission will be charged, but a silver offering will be lifted.

The lecture is held in connection with the union services during the Week of Prayer and the management has kindly consented to have it without admission. Dr. Hopkins is one of Chicago's greatest preachers. Everybody is invited and urged to be present.

OUR SECRETARIES OF WAR.

Only a Few of Them Had Any Practical Military Experience.

The first secretary of war of the United States was Henry Knox, who was born in Boston July 26, 1750, of Scotch Irish parentage. Knox was the chief commander of the artillery throughout the Revolution and was secretary of war both before and after Washington assumed the presidency, being one of the few soldiers appointed to that position.

His successor, Timothy Pickens, had also seen active service, and James McHenry, the third to hold the post, had been a surgeon in the Revolution. Samuel Dexter, the next in line, was a lawyer, but Henry Dearborn, Jefferson's secretary of war, had had much military experience. William Eustis, appointed by Madison, was a physician and gave way to a military man, John Armstrong. James Monroe and William H. Crawford were lawyers, and since their time most presidents have apparently considered a legal education the best qualification for a head of the war department.

U. S. Grant, who held the war portfolio for a brief period in 1867, and William T. Sherman, whose tenure of office was equally short, were the only distinguished military men to hold the post in the last half century.—St.

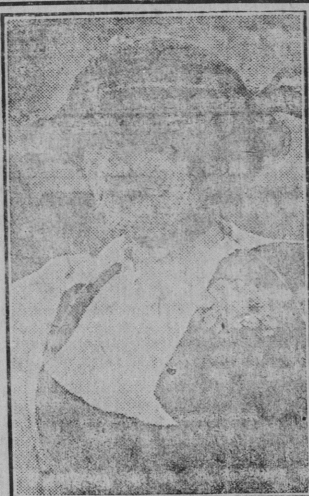
HER COSTLY LINGERIE
CRITICISED BY FRENCH

Photo by American Press Association.

MARY GARDEN,
American Opera Singer.

Mary Garden is on her way to the United States after an embarrassing experience in Paris. She shipped \$5,000 worth of beautiful lingerie. Whereupon the Paris papers denounced her for thinking so much of the adornment of her body while France was undergoing the horrors and sufferings of war.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF
THE WAR

The Rumanian army is safe, according to news received in Paris. A paper says the survivors are beyond the Sereth river at Jassy and in Besarabia, where they are being regrouped and refitted in view of further operations. The entire Rumanian front is stated to be held by the Russians.

After the Bucharest-Ploesti line was lost, the story says, the Russians sent divisions and forces of cavalry to support the retreat of the Rumanian army. King Ferdinand fell back as rapidly as possible, assured of the possibility of reforming behind the shelter of the Russians, and continued the withdrawal without halting until the Sereth was crossed. The Russians offered strong resistance to the Germans in the region of Buzeu so as to permit engineers to construct a defensive front between Rimnik Sarat and the Danube marches, on which front, it is stated, the Russians intend to stop the advance of the invaders.

The Rumanian petroleum wells in the district occupied by the German troops have been found so little damaged, the reports state, that oil already is being produced as fast as it can be transported, with the aid of Rumanians who have remained on the ground and are willing to work.

Army headquarters in Berlin announced on Tuesday the capture of more than 1,000 Russians and Rumanians on the Rumanian front. The Russians and Rumanians in Dobruja are continuing their retreat and are approaching the lower Danube.

While winter weather is causing military operations on most of the fighting fronts to lack features of interest, considerable activity in developing in sectors far enough south to admit of energetic campaigning.

On the Tigris, the British, after a long period of quiet, have recently pushed forward to Kut-el-Amara on the south and are continuing to attack the Turkish forces in that region, evidently in the hope of resuming their long-delayed march toward Bagdad.

Now another field of activity is demanding attention, with a late announcement from London that British forces have captured El Arish, in Egypt, on the Mediterranean, ninety miles east of the Suez canal.

Little has been heard from the Egyptian operations for some time, but the British are known to have been making somewhat elaborate preparations to protect the canal region from further incursions such as that of last summer and their defensive lines have been pushed far out on the Sinai peninsula. Apparently there has been a recent effort still further to extend the defensive zone, of which the capture of El Arish constitutes an important development.

The taking of El Arish establishes the British front at this point well toward the border of Palestine and marks the furthest eastward penetration by British forces in this area since the Turkish raids began.

El Arish has been the object previously of attacks by British aviators and warships, and last May a combined naval and air raid on the place was reported to have destroyed the fortifications.

On the Franco-Belgian front the artillery is the only arm of the service that is displaying activity of moment, and even the bombardments, such as those reported in the Somme and Verdun regions, are not of pronounced intensity.

The admiralty in London announces that two destroyers were sunk in a collision in the North sea Dec. 21 during very bad weather. Six officers and forty-nine men were lost.

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WESTMINSTER DEAN

The dean of Westminster, the Right Rev. Herbert Edward Ryle, preaching in the Abbey on Christmas said:

"It is our resolve, God helping us, to overthrow military brigandage in Europe, to rescue the liberties and homes of the desolated countries, to obtain for these people reparation for their wrongs and for humanity lasting securities against a recurrence of aggressive violence and crime.

"It is true that the president of the United States, after two years of study of the question and innumerable notes, seems to believe that the object of the two groups of belligerents is the same. He knows that Germany refused arbitration, declined a conference and rejected every overture to prevent war. He knows that his own countrymen have poured money like water to assist the destitute and outraged remnants of the little Belgian people whose treaty rights were violated and whose frontiers were invaded before war was declared. He knows of the infractions of The Hague conventions, which the American people have studiously promoted.

"He knows all the details of the organized atrocities reported upon strict inquiries. He knows of the sinking of unarmed passenger ships, like the Lusitania and Arabia, without notice or warning. He knows of the murder of Capt. Fryatt, of the nocturnal deportations of Belgians and French into slavery. He knows of German connivance at Armenian massacres. And yet he is of the opinion that the nations who are leagued to disarm this evil demon of national militarism have the same aim in view as the perpetrators of these historic crimes.

"President Wilson has either in a fit of mental aberration sent the wrong note, or he has entirely misapprehended the European situation.

"These things are black and vile. The very thought of them on Christmas day makes one shudder. Does anyone suppose that peace would be honorable which regarded the assailants and the defenders of humanity as having in view the same ends? What kind of unity of aim do you expect between wolves and sheep dogs over the fleeces of torn lambs?

"Peace on the basis of such a hypothesis would be only an armistice giving an exhausted foe a much needed interval for recuperation before renewing his instable passion for the hegemony of the world and the destruction of his rivals with a savage war."

Hunt Tent Caterpillars Now.

During the winter or dormant season is an extremely good time to do effective work in checking next summer's ravages from the tent caterpillar by collecting the egg masses in the trees and destroying them.

The egg masses are about three-eighths of an inch in diameter and half an inch long, and are brown, about the color of the apple and wild cherry twigs upon which they will be found most frequently. When the moth lays the eggs she glues them together and covers them over with a brown, viscid, frothy liquid which hardens and protects them from the weather. The whole mass has the appearance of a swollen place in the twig.

Each of these egg masses contains from 300 to 400 eggs, and if they are allowed to hatch it will not be long before they will have stripped the branch of all its foliage, thereby ruining the crop on the infested branches.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture suggests to farmers and fruit growers that they enlist the services of the children in collecting these egg masses during the winter. Fruit growers can well afford to pay the children a cent a piece for the egg masses and have them burned. It will give the children an interest in the work and will mean the saving of an immense amount of fruit next season.

Read every ad. in this issue.

KEYSTONE PARAGRAPHS

Warrants charging manslaughter have been issued against four men following the death of Charles Otto, sixteen-year-old trapper boy, in the Eclipse mine at Roscoe, who, it is claimed, was hazed to death. Although Otto died last week, death being due to meningitis, it is claimed the treatment which the boy was forced to endure at the hands of four men employed in the mine brought about the fatal ailment.

John Orb, aged forty-five, of Homestead, was fined \$1 and costs by Burgess Joseph S. Stewart of Homestead because he selected a snow-covered street of the borough as a place of prayer at an early morning hour. Chief of Police L. T. Simmons encountered the man on his knees in prayer and the latter raised a disturbance when Simmons asked him to seek another place of worship.

The Eighteenth Pennsylvania regiment, which is made up of Pittsburghers, arrived home on Christmas day from its six months' sojourn in Texas. All the men were in fine condition and presented a fine martial appearance as they marched through the downtown streets to their armory. Thousands of persons crowded the thoroughfares to welcome the soldiers.

Over 4,000 Boy Scouts in Allegheny county are busy feeding the winter birds which are facing starvation because of the recent snow, according to John M. Phillips, scout commissioner of Allegheny county. Suet is being tied to park trees for chickadees and woodpeckers, and ears of popcorn are tied up for red birds and other grain eating birds.

Upward of 500 citizens searched the countryside near Braddock in a hunt for two negroes who shot and probably fatally wounded Policeman Raymond Queen of the Braddock police department. The patrolman was shot while trying to arrest the two negroes who were said to have held up and robbed a foreigner a few minutes previously.

P. M. Hayes, aged fifty-three, was stabbed to death during a fight at his boarding house in Pittsburgh. A man, believed to be an Italian, called at the house and asked for Hayes. The fight soon started and Hayes and the caller were seen stabbing at each other. Hayes soon fell to the floor and the caller escaped.

"We find in favor of the plaintiff in the sum of \$170,000," was the verdict read in common pleas court in Pittsburgh when the sealed verdict was opened by Judge John A. Evans in the case of Miss Nettie M. Richardson against Henry Deniston for breach of promise to marry.

The University of Pennsylvania football squad left Philadelphia late last week for Pasadena, Cal., where the team will meet the University of Oregon eleven on New Year's day. There are twenty-eight persons in the party, of whom twenty-two are players.

The state highway department last week shipped forty tons of automobile and motorcycle license tags by parcel post. The tags are the first of the 1917 series to be shipped. In the lot were 35,000 automobile tags and 8,000 for motorcycles.

Governor Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania announced that he has not asked Banking Commissioner Smith to resign nor has the commissioner offered his resignation. This followed a conference between Smith and the governor.

The Pennsylvania department of forestry announced that 2,000,000 forest tree seedlings will be available for free distribution next spring. The trees are two and three years old and can be obtained upon promise of planting.

The merger of the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburgh under the title of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad company has been approved by the Pennsylvania public service commission.

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