

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 2

All silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility.—J. S. MILL.

WAR!

We are at war! The moment we have dreaded, and hoped against, and staved off time and again has arrived. We must gird on our armor and march forth to do battle against the archfiend of the world. It is an augury fraught with ill for Germany that there is no holding back in America. The nation that was supposed to be divided against itself in the event of a break with the Imperial Government of Berlin stands calmly, but solidly and confidently behind the President, ready at his beck and call.

We are entering upon no light task. The awful decision that has just been made was not of our seeking. History holds no such example of national forbearance as ours has been since Germany first outraged civilization by her murderous assault upon Belgium. It is to our credit that we turned the other cheek, not once, but repeatedly, until patience ceased to be a virtue.

There can be but one result. At whatever cost the United States must come out of this contest with credit to our arms and the eagles of victory perched upon our banners. How extensive our part in the hostilities will be only the course of events will develop. Perhaps the war may be a blessing in disguise. If it leaves us with an army and navy of sufficient size to give any foreign power pause for consideration before entering the lists against us at the conclusion of the European conflict, it will have been worth while. If we are called upon to spill our blood and treasure to put down the self-appointed Prussian overlord of the world we shall have fought on the side of humanity, and our sacrifices will not have been in vain.

We enter the war at a peculiarly auspicious moment, notwithstanding our unquestioned lack of preparedness for immediate participation in the conflict. Our National Guardsmen are no longer green militia. They are soldiers of the first line, trained and hardened by border duty.

Our long-talked-of appropriations have been made for the enlargement of the navy and the increase and reorganization of the Regular Army. We are almost ready, even, to accept universal military service. Our industries are on a war basis and developed to a high state of efficiency and immensity of product in the manufacture of munitions and military supplies in general. We have the men, also, and the money, the courage and the will to do. We have "the makings" of the greatest and most effective military machine the world has ever seen—and only the need is required to see it brought into being.

We go into this war with no desire for conquest. The aims of the Allies and our own are the same only as they are directed toward the defeat of militarism as a ruling force in the world. We do not desire to see Germany laid waste. We have no quarrel with the German people. If we have one feeling above another for them it is that of pity. But we do have a quarrel with Prussian militarism and Prussian ruthlessness and it must be settled now and for all time.

It is with these convictions and in this spirit that the American people enter upon a war that has been forced upon them. What lies between them and the end of it they know not. That there may be dark and gloomy days ahead everybody anticipates. That in the end the sun will break forth in renewed splendor upon a reborn and

triumphant America none doubts. The issue is decided in the minds of the people before a blow is struck.

PATRIOTISM

THE "boys" of Post 58, Grand Army of the Republic, have "volunteered" in a body. They hold no delusions as to the part they would have to play if called upon. They know they are too old for first line defense. They realize that they have held their last trench in the face of an enemy's charge, they know they carried their last fortification at the point of the bayonet, lo, these fifty years ago. But they know also that "their country needs them," now, and that is enough. They have offered their services to Governor Brumbaugh to "serve in whatsoever way we can be of use," and the Governor has accepted in that spirit.

This is patriotism. How many of us younger men have done as much?



SHOW YOUR COLORS!

SHOW your colors! Mayor Meals has asked that Harrisburg people demonstrate their patriotism by a display of the national flag. The suggestion is good. It is a simple but a very effective thing to do. Let us prove to any doubters who may be in our midst that Americans, one and all, are back of the President and Congress in the momentous decision they are about to make. They need our moral as well as our material support.

Show your colors!

A FRANK CONFESSION UPON taking possession of the postmastership in the city of New York, Ex-Congressman Patten announced that he was greatly impressed with the idea that the postal service might be conducted more freely and in a more liberal fashion, but added: "I don't know just how it will work out."

In those few words Mr. Patten has sufficiently condemned his own appointment. He was without any experience whatever in postal matters. President Wilson displaced a man who had been thirty years in the postal service and whose work had been entirely satisfactory to the business men of New York. Patten's only claim to the appointment was that he was a Democrat and loyal to Tammany Hall. The first statement he made in connection with his official duties carries with it the admission of the self-evident truth that he did not know how his ideas would work out. It will cost the people of New York and of the nation immense sums of money and great inconvenience to learn by experience how Mr. Patten's ideas will work out.

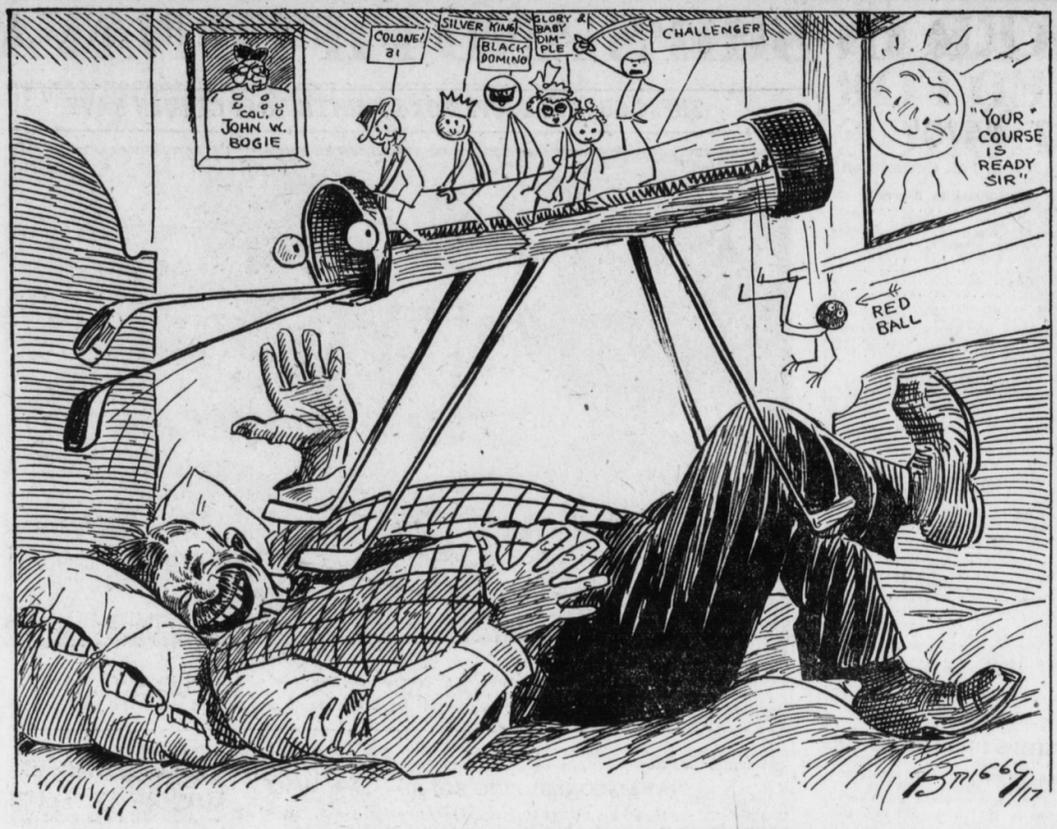
MILLIONS OF dollars will accrue to the State if the higher courts sustain the opinion of Judge Kunkel rendered Saturday in the "cheat" law proceedings brought before him by a number of banking institutions of the State. The opinion very properly leaves some of the questions at issue open for further construction when the State shall attempt to put the statute into operation, but the whole text of Judge Kunkel's well written conclusions leave little doubt as to his views relative to the constitutionality of the measure. In view of the fact that almost invariably the Supreme Court has upheld the Dauphin county judge in his contentions, the State should lose no time in getting a final ruling on this important statute. The money to be derived if the law is held valid is badly needed and this should be an incentive to early action.

HIGHWAY WORK NOW that the interest and attention of all the people are absorbed in the preparation for national defense it is reasonable to expect that there will be little serious thought given to the factional activities in the Legislature. Three months of the session have passed without much having been accomplished in the way of legislation. Perhaps this is not a serious matter so far as the welfare of the Commonwealth is concerned, in view of the fact that there has been a multiplicity of statutes and a redundancy of legislation of every sort in recent years.

Beginning this week the Legislature will doubtless give its earnest attention to those things which require careful consideration. There appears to be no doubt that ample provision will be made for the construction of highways and development of a comprehensive road system in Pennsylvania. Especially is this desirable in the face of hostilities and the demand for quick transportation facilities, not only of the steam and water sort, but also of intercommunicating highways making accessible all parts of the State. It is interesting to observe that the William Penn Highway Association is urging upon those in authority the completion of that splendid road from one end of the State to the other and Governor Brumbaugh is known to have a lively interest in this proposition.

Highway Commissioner Black is a man of foresight and of great good sense. With Chief Engineer Uhler and those associated with him there can be no reasonable doubt of such preparedness in the big department as will make available at once all the resources of the Commonwealth in the building of better highways with the assistance of an adequate appropriation.

THE GOLF GERM AND THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIM



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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Grand Rapids Press. Following prohibition, a rigid anti-cigarette bill is before the legislature and we suspect that before long mere man will not even be allowed to carry matches.

Marion Star. As a rule, no town should be held responsible for the spring poetry any of her citizens may write.

Toledo Blander. The real sensation will come when Sayville wirelessly reports the collapse of the kaiser's ego.

Atlanta Constitution. Answer the spring call by hitting the vegetable trail to the home garden.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. The allies seem to be taking towns so fast that nobody has time to learn to pronounce their names.

Indianapolis Star. Everything is supposed to have some use, but no one has even suggested any useful purpose served by the existence of senatorial courtesies.

The Neutral Brethren, how shall it fare with me When the war is laid aside, If it be proven that I am he For whom a world has died?

If it be proven that all my good, And the greater good I will make, Were purchased me by a multitude Who suffered for my sake?

That I was delivered by mere man-kind Vowed to one sacrifice, And not, as I hold them, battle-blind, But dying with opened eyes?

That they did not ask me to draw the sword When they stood to endure their lot, That they only looked to me for a word, And I answered I knew them not?

If it be found, when the battle clears, Their death has set me free, Then how shall I live with myself through the years Which they have bought for me?

Brethren, how must it fare with me, Or how am I justified, If it be proven that I am he For whom a world has died; If it be proven that I am he Who being questioned denied.

Copyright, 1916, by Rudyard Kipling, reprinted from "Warfare," Doubleday, Page & Company.

Women cab drivers are stated to be a success in Glasgow, Scotland. One firm has about 40 women driving cabs.

Northumberland (England) coal miners have refused to go on strike without a ballot of the members first being taken.

The British Railways' Committee has decided to ask for an increase of \$250 a week in their wages.

Walthamstow (England) Council has decided to give preferential employment to discharged soldiers on the tramways.

The day laborer of 1777 received 7 cents a day and his board, or \$1 if he boarded himself. His hours, too, were from "sun to sun."

Over 800 girl students of Toronto University will do overalls during the summer vacation and work in the munition factories.

The Patriot (John Albion Andrew.) Whether right or wrong in its domestic or its foreign policy, judged by whatever standard, whether of expediency or of principle, the American citizen can recognize no social duty intervening between himself and his country. Intrusted with the precious inheritance of Liberty, endowed with the gift of participation in a Popular Government, the constitution makes him at once the beneficiary and the defender of interests and institutions he cannot innocently endanger; and when he becomes a traitor to his country, he commits equal treason against mankind.

DANGER OF INERIMENT A Seattle man named Irvintz Kobisky has petitioned the courts to have his name shortened and Americanized. Irving Cobb would better hurry and take out a copyright.

Easy Does It, Boys (Gallipoli Tribune.) There may be no luck in leisure, but the man who works steadily and unburied usually accomplishes more than the fellow who fumes and flurries.

Politics in Pennsylvania

Men who attempt factional political fighting in the legislature this week will not be apt to get very far according to the belief of observers at the State Capitol, who say that sentiment against further injection of Republican family fights in Philadelphia into the general assembly has risen to a point where legislators are apt to take some very decided action. Patriotic and emergency measures will be given the right of way in the legislative halls this week and there is a possibility that various Philadelphia bills on the calendars may be allowed to go over.

In the last week there has been a strong disposition among members from up the state to fall in behind Senator Sprull's suggestion that the legislators hustle along their work and either adjourn or take a recess in May. If war is declared there will be a squelching of factionalism in committees, a call upon the governor to send in his appointments and dispose of the course of bills which were born of local quarrels to the junk pile.

Men active in the Republican party who have been concerned over the perennial Philadelphia riot and who are looking forward to the next gubernatorial election with apprehension say that if the Republicans persist in factional fighting in the legislature during a war crisis it will seriously damage the prestige of the party in the state.

Democrats in northwestern Pennsylvania are urging the holding of a special election in the Twenty-eighth district to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Congressman-elect O. D. Bleakley. The Democrats count on taking advantage of the Bleakley incident and the war conditions to win the place and are insisting on a special election to support the President, etc.

Col. John W. Fraizer is out with a suggestion that there be a committee of 100 to clear up the Republican party in Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia veteran would have Senator P. C. Knox serve as chairman and prominent men including some Bull Mooseers, give their help.

Friends of Judge Harry A. Fuller, of Luzerne county, are strongly urging that he be nominated for another term without opposition as was the case when Judge Kunkel ran in this county a short time ago.

Northumberland county is planning to submit the question of a \$400,000 loan for highway improvements. Washington plans to borrow a million.

The promptness with which the United States government followed up the action of the Governor in approving the Dunn bill for the purchase of Trexler for the Bradford arsenal was not lost on the legislators who saw considerable factional squabbling over this measure. The presentation of the bill was made the occasion of a display of local pride that irritated some Philadelphia and they proceeded to tame down a few people. The result was a delay of the bill, although when it struck the Senate it was whizzed through.

Governor Brumbaugh's reversal of position on some legislation which was acted on Friday before he left the city has been puzzling legislators and while there is a disposition to pass up the veto because of the crisis there is no question but that there has been some irritation caused which may crop up later on.

The Philadelphia North American in its column of statements by prominent men on the crisis quotes Attorney General Brown as favoring an "aggressive defense," while Col. H. C. Trexler, the Bradford arsenal, was farmer is the mainstay at a time like this and that he should be helped. Ex-Governor Stuart says defend American rights everywhere.

The Philadelphia Ledger says there is going to be an investigation of some departments of the government that long. The problems of transportation and distribution will be easily solved.

And if through the mercy of our all-wise Providence these crops are not needed in our own country we can help to appease the hunger of millions of old men, women and children in Europe.

The greatest problem in Europe today is the food problem. There is an abundant supply of men, of ammunition and of guns. Uncle Sam can enlist the men, and he can buy the ammunition and the guns. But Uncle Sam can not manufacture potatoes, or beans, or onions, or turnips. The home guard can.

Organize the home guard in the "Plant An Acre" army. Let each daily newspaper plant a dozen acres, let each fraternal lodge, each benevolent society, each woman's club, each trade union, plant an acre. Let there be no central organization with high salaries to supply the families of our crop. Let each club stand on its own bottom, and on guard against impostors and drones.

Let the wives and the Wives and Kiddies of Uncle Sam's Soldiers and Sailors! Do it now! In a few weeks it will be too late. Will you volunteer?

Yours sincerely, M. G. SCOTT, President International Typographical Union

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

"Plant An Acre" Indianapolis Ind., March 30, 1917. To the Editor of the Telegraph: Dear Sir: In the emergency which confronts the government under which we live there are earnest, heartfelt desire on the part of all except a few to be helpful. Many are too old to offer their services to the Army or to the Navy. Many are not qualified either as orators or as writers to appeal to the patriotism of those who are eligible for active service. Even if all were so qualified, the problems which confront the nation will not all be solved through words—spoken or printed. There must be action—and results.

Those responsible for the administration of the affairs of the Army and the Navy will have plenty of suggestions from experts to guide them. Too many cooks are apt to spoil the broth, inexperienced cooks, particularly, are not wanted, and we may as well admit that most of us are inexperienced. But we can be helpful. Let us volunteer to find the way—without waiting to be drafted.

From every large city there will be drawn hundreds, and in some instances thousands of men for the army and navy. Many of these men are the breadwinners for families or dependents who will suffer in more ways than one through their absence. No doubt a patriotic fund will be established, as in Canada, to assist these fathers, mothers, wives and children financially. So far, so good. But the home guard can do more.

Within reasonable distance of every large city—and frequently within its borders—there are hundreds of acres of uncultivated land. Many of the owners of this property will cheerfully and enthusiastically volunteer its use for the "Plant An Acre" for the "Kiddies" suggestion which the writer submits.

The land owners will volunteer. I am sure. Then organize the clubs, big and small, to plant and cultivate an acre of potatoes, beans, onions, turnips, beets—any vegetables which are not quickly perishable.

Secure or rented tracts could be secured or rented cheaply in the vicinity of the military camps which will be established. Tractors are to be an important part of our army equipment and why not put them to practical use while our rookies are learning to operate them? Tear up old Mother Earth, and plant, plant, plant!

Let the boys and the girls, the boy scouts, work one or two hours a day in the garden—their garden—for the harvest shall find its way into the homes of those they have left behind them.

No doubt thousands of men, and women, too, will volunteer for the "Plant An Acre" army. The seeds and necessary implements will be inexpensive, compared with the results which will be obtained. The advice of the experts in the National and State agricultural departments is at our command.

And when the crops are harvested, there will be an abundant stock from which to supply the families of our soldiers and sailors free of charge all through next winter and until the next crops are gathered—if the war lasts that long. The problems of transportation and distribution will be easily solved.

And if through the mercy of our all-wise Providence these crops are not needed in our own country we can help to appease the hunger of millions of old men, women and children in Europe.

The greatest problem in Europe today is the food problem. There is an abundant supply of men, of ammunition and of guns. Uncle Sam can enlist the men, and he can buy the ammunition and the guns. But Uncle Sam can not manufacture potatoes, or beans, or onions, or turnips. The home guard can.

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Yours sincerely, M. G. SCOTT, President International Typographical Union

"Give a Helping Hand" To the Editor of the Telegraph: I am not a big man and can't go to war, but I have written a little poem telling how willing I am to lend a hand. Will you print it? It is as follows: Our country is full of pride and wonder, Let no other nation read asunder, Liberty and Independence, is our standard, Let's give a little helping hand.

The other nations do contrive, Believing in giving credit, On the very soil we stand, Let's give a little helping hand.

Our forefathers strove to succeed, Who fought and bled in time of need, Why should we lose this command, Let's give a little helping hand.

This country needs you men, Each and all, ten by ten, Show you're of a very good brand, So give a little helping hand.

ISADORE R. LEVIN.

Movies at the Almshouse To the Editor of the Telegraph: In reading the editorial in your paper last night—Movies at the Almshouse—I note that you give all credit to the present board of Poor Directors which is all right as far as it goes. But it don't go in the right direction. Believing in giving credit where credit is due and rightfully belongs, I am writing you facts as I know them in the movies at the almshouse. When John Early, the present steward, received his first appointment as steward I was present the day that Maxwell Hite suggested to Mr. Early that movies be given the inmates free of any charges to the county. Mr. Early took the matter up with the Poor Directors then in office, secured the permission asked for and then Maxwell Hite gave the first movie to the inmates in the almshouse, and during the remaining term of Mr. Early, Hite gave a number of free exhibitions. These movies were discontinued with the end of Mr. Early's first term of stewardship. Upon Early being reappointed Maxwell Hite again volunteered to give entertainments to the unfortunate inmates of the County Almshouse, making all arrangements with the film dealers for the free use of the pictures, and he furnishing the picture machine and the necessary accessories at his own cost to the taxpayers or county officials. My reason for writing this letter to you is to place you right so that you will publish the facts in the case in order that those who are truly entitled to the work be given due and proper credit. The writer feels that it is his duty to do so, and very good work for the unfortunate inmates of the county home and not only there, but he has in the past been very ready to aid any charitable movement by furnishing the complete outfit with the cost in many cases, and I think that the credit for movies at the almshouse and other institutions should be given chiefly to Maxwell Hite, who does the work on purely charitable basis, and to Mr. Early, who aids in securing the permission from the board of directors. With a hope of your publishing this, I am respectfully,

A TAXPAYER.

What England Learns (Kansas City Star.) England is preparing to call yet another army to the colors. This is the country that went into the war with the volunteer system and with the sign "As Usual" hung in its shop windows. It has learned now, what all the nations have learned, that it must learn, that war is a business that will have no rivals, that it must be waged with undivided attention, with the united effort of all parties and with every resource of men, money, industry and invention that it is fortunate enough to possess.

Evening Chat

The passing of the Commonwealth Hotel as a place of public entertainment has stirred up more comment in places outside of Harrisburg as to how the state's capital is going to house its guests until it builds the proposed Penn-Harris and more reminiscences instead than many events in recent years. The Commonwealth has been so intimately connected with the political and business life of the state that the owners have not been able to get a conversational topic at home. The hotel as we know it to-day is a survival of the Jones House and of the Fleming estate. When the hotel was rebuilt in the early part of the last century it still bore the name of the Washington House, which was given it when the place where it was built was bought to suppress the Whisky Insurrection. It was a comfortable, wide-spreading hostelry such as is to be found in many country towns in the state and had a swinging reputation in the fifties J. R. Jones, who owned the iron works located where the plant of the Harrisburg Gas Company stands, bought the property and built the hotel as we know it. He put up the Market street and the Square side as far down as the ladies' entrance. It was built on the site of the old Jones House in honor of the builder. There was a succession of notable landlords, among them Wells Coverley, who took charge when he was called to the Jones House in honor of the builder. It was during his ownership that the Prince of Wales, Abraham Lincoln and General Scott visited the hotel. The place where he lived up his own hotel where the Johnston building stands. Mr. Jones was a good bit of a speculator and when he got into trouble he placed the hotel in the hands of a trust. It was during his ownership that the Prince of Wales, Abraham Lincoln and General Scott visited the hotel. The place where he lived up his own hotel where the Johnston building stands. 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