

The West Virginian
 "THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME"
 Established 1863

Published daily, except Sunday by the
 Farmington Printing and Publishing
 Company

Member Associated Press.

PUBLICATION OFFICE
 Monroe Street.

TELEPHONES
 Bell, 52-R Consolidated 97

Entered at the Postoffice at Fairmont,
 West Virginia, as second-class mat-
 ter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Delivered by Carrier
 Daily, one month, payable month-
 ly \$.45
 By Mail
 Daily, one month 40
 Daily, four months 1.00
 Daily, six months 1.50
 Daily, one year 3.00
 All subscriptions payable in advance.
 When asking for change in address
 give old as well as new address.

GIVING BUSINESS A CHANCE.

That the Democratic Congress has made up its mind to give business a rest, from the nagging that has almost brought about an industrial panic in this country is indicated by the tone of President Wilson's message to Congress. On this subject he says:

"Our program of legislation with regard to the regulation of business is now virtually complete. It has been put forth, as we intended, as a whole, and leaves no conjecture as to what is to follow. The road at last lies clear and firm before business. It is a road which it can travel without fear or embarrassment. It is the road to ungrudging, unclouded success. In it every honest man, every man who believes that the public interest is part of his own interest, may walk with perfect confidence."

He gives out the word that the program is complete and that business can now go along without further molestation from Congress. This is indeed a great relief, but we fear that too much damage has already been done to business for it to make an immediate recovery.

The tariff legislation was the worst disturber, but its bad effects have been temporarily arrested by the European war. The closing of the factories of Europe, together with the general suspension of business there on account of the war, and the extraordinary large orders for war supplies that are coming to this country are factors which are causing the resumption of work at many industrial plants, but capital, always timid and cautious, will not undertake the building of new factories nor the betterment of old ones until some assurance is given that it will be afforded a reasonable amount of protection on its product after the war is over, which may be in a few months and which may possibly not be for several years. The element of uncertainty as to the time of the ending of the war will cause investors to go slowly in starting any new business that would be affected by the termination of the war. If Congress would restore the tariff now to American products of course it would not produce the desired revenue as long as imports are practically shut off by the war, but it would act as a double assurance to American manufacturers, who would feel, that in addition to the unusual stimulus of their business by orders for war supplies, their position in the industrial world would be safe after the war ends. With this double assurance the country would experience the greatest industrial boom that the world has ever known and such would have been the effect of electing a Republican Congress at the late election. Many Democratic leaders, and Norman E. Mack, the Buffalo editor and publisher, and erstwhile chairman of the National Democratic executive committee, is one of them, advocate a revision of the tariff upward, but it is possibly too much to be expected that a Democratic Congress which made the tariff blunder will be wise enough to follow the advice of Mr. Mack and other far-seeing leaders.

What's the use? The use of the Preston News and the Kingwood Argus printing any papers at all? Why not just have the State Journal sent out to their subscribers and be done with it?—Parkersburg State Journal.

A good suggestion. The way the State Journal was quoted in the Preston county papers last week is enough to make all the other editors of the state green-eyed with jealousy.

"FESSED UP" The Parkersburg Sentinel is one lozenge" on us. The old codger has at last been located. When it comes to the process of deduction one editor is worth several Sherlock Holmes.

You may not always agree with Luke McLuke, but you must admit that he is a philosopher. He possibly has as many readers as any newspaper writer of the present time. Everywhere the Cincinnati Enquirer circulates, and that is over a wide area of the middle west, Luke McLuke is a favorite, and his paragraphs are being copied by hundreds of daily and weekly newspapers all over the country.

You should not go to sleep any night until you see how Kin Hubbard, or Abe Martin unmasks some sham or hypocrisy.

A METROPOLITAN TREAT. William F. Kirk, who now writes the articles under the title of "The Manicure Lady," "Our Swede Servant" and "Little Bobbie's Pa" for the West Virginian every day, was discovered some years ago while working on a Milwaukee paper, by William Randolph Hearst, who has assembled the highest paid staff of writers on the American continent, and brought to New York and these articles have for years been daily features of Mr. Hearst's great newspapers. The readers of the West Virginian are being given a daily metropolitan treat full of wholesome humor in the William F. Kirk articles.

If you feel a little blue or despondent you will find much that is grotesque and funny in the column with the caption, "Just Smiles."

And there's "Ophelia." She gives good advice on her state.

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Nothing would add more to the gaiety of indoor sports during the long winter evenings.

Don't cry over spilt milk; possibly it has already been watered.

Strike my drowsy heart with thy spell of youth!

Let my joy in life blaze up in fire
 Let the shafts of awakening fly piercing
 the heart of night and athrill
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I have come to raise thy trumpet from the dust.

Sleep is no more for me—my walk shall be through showers of arrows.
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 One piece remained undischarged.
 "Why don't you fire?" demanded the captain.
 "I don't know if it's loaded," replied the gunner.
 A gleam of joy lit up the stern features of the commander.
 "Then victory is ours!" he shouted.
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