The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 14, 1918.

GIVE THEM HOT SHOT.

SINCE the first of the year not much has been heard about the Interstate Commerce commission, but it is still in existence, and it might be glad just about this time to have a little job or two to occupy its time. At all events the coal operators along the Monongahela railway might start something interesting if they were to lodge a formal complaint before that body against the shabby treatment which the Monongahela railway is getting from the connecting roads in the matter of coal car supply.

In the mean time the protest which the Coal club directed should be made to the Director General of the Railroads should be driven home with all the force possible. This is no time for any one to try black hand methods upon the coal industry, and no one knows it better than the experienced railroad men with whom Mr. McAdoo has surrounded himself. The public is just beginning to understand that the main trouble with the fuel supply of the country is attributable to the lack of public spirit upon the part of the railroads of the country under private management, and there will be an immediate and troublesome slump in public confidence in the value of the change to public control if it should develop that under it the roads are going to be able to continue any of the sharp practices which were so common under the old arrangement.

The biggest mistake the coal operators of the country ever made was in trying to coax and coddle the roads into being good. If they had carried their case directly to the public at the time when the railroads began to lay down on the transportation of coal the cartoonists probably never would have started to draw Coal Barons. That mistake should not be repeated under government operation. Mr. McAdoo and President Wilson say they want every interest to get a square deal from the railroads. This newspaper believes that they mean what they say. It is only fair to them therefore that every case like this of the "neglect" of the New York Central to turn open tops over to the Monongahela railway should be put squarely up to them.

SHIPS ON THE BRAIN.

AT Washington they talk about two and even three more years of war, and the government is very wisely preparing in every way for a long drawn out and stubborn contest. But every once in a while something comes out of Germany which suggests the thought that they are near the cracking point inside the Iron Ring. Not, of course, that the morale or confidence of the armies are undergoing any change, but that the civil population has reached a stage where something spectacular is likely to happen at any time.

For instance, yesterday there came from Amsterdam a quotation from the Berlin Tages Zeitung in which a demand is made for the destruction of 400 English towns by German airplanes as a reprisal for the action of the allies in confiscating 400 German ships. The portion of the Berlin paper's savage demand which has come over to us is as follows:

> "If we are in a position to destroy the whole of London it would be more humane to do so than to allow one more German to bleed to death on the battle field. To hesitate or to surrender ourselves to feelings of pity would be unpardonable. More than 400 merchant ships have been stolen from us by Great Britain.
>
> "Our answer should be that for every German ship at least one English town should be reduced to ruins by our airmen.
>
> "Far better were it for us that Great Britain, France and the United States should call us barbarians than that they should bestow upon us their pity when we are beaten.
>
> "Softness and sentimentality are stupid in war times."

There is no significance in such a demand from a Berlin newspaper. The whole world knows that if it were in the power of Germany to destroy London or any other British towns by air attacks it would have been done long ago. The government that deliberately embraced undersea piracy for the explicit purpose of bringing the British to their knees would not stop at anything. The really important thing about this bloodthirsty outburst is the reason assigned for it. The blockade which has been very much more effective since the United States went into the war must be keenly felt by the imprisoned Germans. Starving men dream of great banquets. Famished Germany cannot get ships off its disordered mind.

LET THE MUSEUM ALONE.

IT appears that the room which the County court has attempted to get the Woman's club to accept for a Rest Room, in lieu of the room which the members of the club and all the women of the county want, is already occupied by the museum which was started by the A. Brooks Fleming, Jr., class of the Fairmont High school.

That makes the position of the court in this matter all the more absurd and illogical. The museum is a highly worthy local institution, which from very humble beginnings has become a place of considerable interest and educational value. It is where it is now located by direction of the Circuit court and it ought to be encouraged and fostered in every way possible by every one, and especially by the officers of the county.

This historical museum is the only institution of the kind in the northern part of the state. We have reached a point in the development of the county and the surrounding country when many interesting relics and records connected with the early days will be lost forever if some effort is not made to preserve them in an orderly manner.

This being true, the proper course for the County court to pursue is clear. It should see to it that the room the Museum occupies is fitted up in such a way that it will become the permanent home of the museum and dispossess the barber so that the women may have his room which would so admirably serve for a Rest Room. Few public spirited citizens relish the idea of the county throwing cold water on the budding museum effort and turning a cold shoulder to the womanhood of the county for the sake of $38 per month rent from a tenant who has no business in the Court house at any time.

If the friends of the Museum and the friends of the Rest Room project will just get together they ought not to have much trouble in making the County court see the matter as they see it.

THE COAL CLUB.

IT was suggested at the weekly meeting of the Coal club yesterday by Clarence D. Robinson, who was presiding, that these meetings ought to be more generally attended by the operators of the region, all of whom have the privilege of membership.

It is a point well taken. In the short time the Coal club has been in existence it has been the means of doing a great deal for the mining industry in this region, but the work done has been out of all proportion to the interest that has been taken in the club by the coal operators and the other people connected with coal.

Of course the club will keep on doing what it can, with the faithful 20 or 30 who have been sitting in regularly since the organization, in attendance, but it would be much more sensitive to the real needs of the region, and, incidentally, more influential with the Fuel and Railroad administrations and the other people with whom it does business if the weekly attendance were a hundred and over and included some one from practically every operation which maintains an office in the city.

The people who make it a practice to attend will soon find that the weekly touching of elbows with the other men in the industry has a broadening effect. When the club first began to meet it was hard to get men to talk shop. Outsiders made most of the little talks. That is not the case now, and each succeeding meeting is more important and more interesting.

General Crowder's plans for the second draft are being held up by opposition in the House and Chairman Dent of the House committee on Military Affairs has announced that the measures will not be called up for action until Secretary Baker returns to Washington. Congress frets under the pressure which the executive branch of the government applies from to time, but it will not function unless there is pressure. Why can't the House go ahead and settle this apportionment of the draft? There never was a matter more clearly within its province.

The Teutons are in Odessa. That gives them the key to the granary of Russia, and it is the first step on the road to India. But it is the easiest step. From the Black sea to India by way of the Afghanistan mountain passes is a long way, and a difficult.

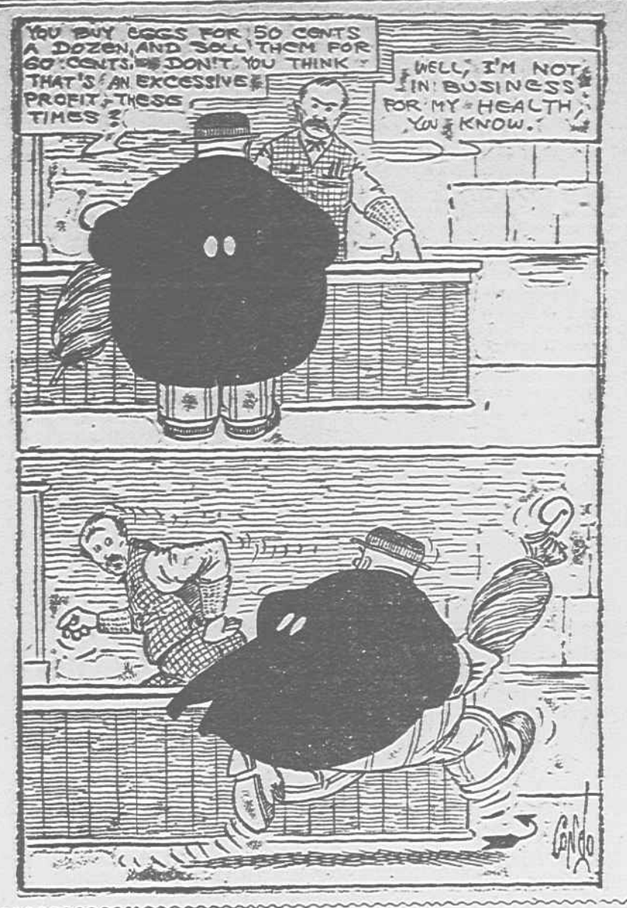
The Senate Military committee has asked the War department to order Major General Leonard Wood before the committee upon his return from the inspection tour which has kept him in France for a number of weeks. It is also announced that the committee would like to hear from other divisional commanders who have been upon similar tours. This is a very good idea, provided it is not carried out to the extent of interfering with the usefulness of the officers by requiring them to be in Washington at a time when they ought to be somewhere else on the Republic's business.

Mrs. Morrow's reminder that at any time when it is deemed proper to do so it will be possible to support the public library by taxation ought to set the citizens to thinking. While the war is on and large amounts of money will have to be devoted to its support nothing worth while can be done for the library, but when the great struggle is over and conditions begin to return to normal the library ought to be taken up and the work which a little band has carried on for many years put upon a solid basis.

Another attempt is being made to get wooden ships built. It may bear fruit and it may not. The failure of the wooden ship idea is an illustration of the value of organization. The construction of steel ships got under way in fair time because all the industries that contribute to the building of a steel ship are up on their toes all the time and have learned the value of cooperation. The wooden ship people are but loosely organized and it is a fact that the officers of the ship building corporation are still at work trying to get them together.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)



WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14.—On the first day of the present month, according to the estimates of the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, the amount of corn on farms was about 1,292,905,000 bushels or 40.9 per cent. of the 1917 crop, against 782,303,000 bushels or 30.5 per cent of the 1916 crop on farms March 1, 1917, and 1,116,559,000 bushels or 37.3 per cent. of the 1915 crop on farms March 1, 1916.

Of the estimate of 1,292,905,000 bushels on farms the first of this March, it is estimated that 7,506,000 bushels are in West Virginia, as against 6,094,000 on farms there March 1, 1917, and 9,324,000 bushels March 1, 1916. The percentage of merchantable quality of corn now on farms in West Virginia is estimated at 61, as against 78 per cent. at the same date last year, and 79 for the year before. The price per bushel for this corn at this time (West Virginia) is $2 the bushel, as against 1.13 March 1, 1917, and 84 cents in 1916.

The country has been divided into ten munition districts to conform with a plan evolved by Col. Guy Tripp, the purpose of which is to decentralize and to get the Ordnance department closer to the manufacture of munitions. West Virginia is in the Pittsburgh district, of which Ralph M. Dravo, a member of the well known steel manufacturing firms of Drave Bros., has been named to take charge as the district chief of the production division of the Ordnance department. The bulk of this production, so far as West Virginia is conecrned, comes from the Wheeling industrial district.

A lumber production of 39,200,000 in the United States in 1917 is the preliminary estimate of the United States Forest Service, based on incomplete reports from the 34,000 mills listed. The estimate is based upon the reported cut of 845 identical saw mills each of which cut five million feet or more lumber in either 1917 or the preceding year. West Virginia's cut showed a decrease of 2 per cent.

The postmastership at Shepherdstown is the first position of that kind in what is officially termed the presidential class to be filled by a competitive examination. Armistead S. Lucas was certified by the Postmaster General to the President as the successful competitor, and the President sent his nomination to the Senate for confirmation several days ago. There were a number of applications who took the examination, representing both of the big political parties. Mr. Lucas was certified as having attained the highest mark. He is in politics a Democrat, a relative of the late Judge Daniel B. Lucis. The most important office to be filled soon by this method is the one at Parkersburg, where a vacancy exists. The position at Bluefield is another one. There are also several other vacancies of that kind in the state.

A general review of coal prices is being made by the Fuel Administration, which announces that it will be completed, and new prices announced for the year before April 1st. This is the date of the year when it is customary in the trade for contracts to be made for coal for the ensuing twelve months. West Virginia coal operators are, of course, very much concerned over it, and quite naturally enough are especially desirous of seeing higher prices permitted them. Their miners are, too, for that matter, for the very obvious reason that the higher prices the operators are allowed to charge for their output the higher wages the miners count on receiving. As prices stand now for West Virginia coal neither operators or miners have any justifiable kick coming to them. Both groups have prospered as they never have done before. There are individual complaints and many of them, but the statement goes that West Virginia's greatest industry and the thousands directly concerned in it, have prospered during war times beyond their fondest and most visionary hopes.

This would be borne out were one permitted to look at the reports from each mining operation in the state which comes to the Federal Trade Commission each month. It would be seen, by a study of these sheets, that, despite the fact that the coal industry of West Virginia is coming pretty close to splitting fifty-fifty with Uncle Sam, under the newly added taxes, the total net profit of the industry is far and away greater than it has ever been in leaner years when taxes were decidedly less than they now are.

In the revision of prices now being made and to be proclaimed this month, a general upward tendency is expected to be noted. This is the expectation of West Virginia operators and there seems to be, from many signs and circumstances, ample justification for their faith. One proposition, of many, that the coal men have laid before the Fuel Administration for the benefit of its price reviewers, is that the fields producing bituminous smokeless coal be grouped to themselves and a special price fixed for them. A price of $3 the owners of such mines as these believe would be just right; fair to them and to the consumer. The operators in other less desirable grades are certain that they have just as strong and as many arguments for equally liberal treatment at the hands of the Federal fixers of coal prices. What is known as the thin vein fields in West Virginia have, by special price revisions made, succeeded in getting prices for their product increased 40 cents, making the price they are now permitted to charge $2.40 excisive of the 45 cents charge for labor stipulated by what is known to the trade as "the Washington wage agreement." Had no change been made in Dr. Garfield's recent order, which was expected to do away with the coal brokers and sales agencies, forcing them to look to the operators for their commissions, these mines expected a further increase by April 1st covering sales commissions.

However, that order has been changed, and it is now proposed to license brokers and sales agencies, but how the government will provide for their commissions hasn't ben told at this writing. The order as to the brokers, it sems certain, turned out to be a disturber of a settled system of business economics which Dr. Garfield and his so-called expert advisers, it appears evident, did not foresee. A great many others were not so blind. The sales system of this industry was the outgrowth of many years experiment and experience, and there was a reason for what it was. Its ramifications were extensive, entangling and intricate. It was no simple affair to sweep out of existence with one stroke of the pen, by a mere order from a government bureau. It was a fixed economic growth well matured, a delicate piece of business machinery, and in no sense a thing to be trifled with. A Bolsheviki-like mandate affecting it would not do otherwise than to result calamitiously. It was withdrawn, fortunately, before the structure collapsed. After consulting with a delegation of coal brokers from the states they represent, Senators Sutherland, Penrose and France, of Maryland, discussed the matter with the officials of the Fuel Administration. The withdrawal of the order and the announcement of a plan to license the brokers, ensued.

Lieut. Raymond E. Hawkins, of Sutton, who has been stationed at the army camp at San Antonio, Texas, is in the city. Lieut. Hawkins is on his way. He called to talk with Congressman Reed at the latter's office.

M. P. Shawkey, George S. Laidley and E. L. Long, of Charleston, are here.

William Ray Champman, of Buckhannon, a student at Harvard, came to Washington seeking a place with the Ordnance department. He is being helped by Senator Sutherland.

Notice has been sent to Mrs. Mary Schutte at Mt Claire by Congressman Reed of the granting of a pension to her at the rate of $12 a month from October, 1916, and $25 a month from October, 1917.

John T. Dickerson, Jr., has been issued a commission as postmaster at Epperly, W. Va.

Senator Sutherland has taken up with the officials at the Pension Bureau the claims of Layton S. Slayton, of Williamson, and Mrs. Mary L. Mayfields, of Sleepy Creek, W. Va.

The transfer from duty with the auxilliary remount service to the ordnance department, petitioned for by G. Burton McIntire, a Morgantown soldier, who is now at Camp Johnson, Jacksonville, Fla., has been urged at the War department to be granted by Congressman Stuart F. Reed.

Albert Snedecker, of Wheeling, who has been in the city for several days, has returned to his home.

The government has not, nor does it now contemplate, making a charge of $3 per car for placing or "spotting" a car on a railroad siding.

This was made plain yesterday by the Inter-State Commerce Commission to Congressman Harry C. Woodyard, who sought information from that authoritative source whether or not such an order had been issued. Mr. Woodyard had reason to believe that it had been from the number of letters in his mail yesterday morning received from shippers from one end of his district to the other. The Commission quickly disabused his mind on that score and enabled him to telegraph shippers that they were in error as to such an order being promulgated. Not only that, but he wired the further information given him by the officials that the issuance of such an order was not now in contemplation, and should there be a prospect of it, ample notice would be given the shippers of the country to be heard. How such a report started in his district, for evidently such a report was current and widely circulated, Congressman Woodyard was unable to state.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MANY UNSEALED SCALES.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., March 13.—[Editor The West Virginian]—I found the following clipping in "The Pittsburg Dispatch" of March 12th and it again brought to my mind the fact that we have a Sealer of Weights and Measures in Marion County who has never caught any merchant with enough on him to be fined in the county but it is known that numerous scales and measures have never been sealed and that any number of scales are being used that are illegal.

Sells Under Weight; Fined

Justice of the Peace A. W. McMillen of Carnegie yesterday fined the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company $25, following a hearing at which it was testified that the Carnegie store of the Company had been selling packages of sugar, coffee, etc., under weight. The information was filed by G. B. Moore, County Sealer of Weights and Measures.

In view of the high cost of living I feel that our weight and measure officials should make a special effort to see that the laws are complied with and to that end will ask that your paper give some of your valuable space in an effort to assure us of at least an effort being made to live up to the laws.

Yours truly,
GEORGE BRANDT.

GIRL'S STATEMENT WILL HELP FAIRMONT

Here is the girl's own story: "For years I had dyspepsia, sour stomach and constipation. I drank hot water and olive oil by the gallon. Nothing helped until I tried buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Adler-i-ka. ONE SPOONFUL helped me INSTANTLY." Because Adler-i-ka flushes the ENTIRE alimentary tract it relieves ANY CASE constipation, sour stomach or gas and prevents appendicitis. It has QUICKEST action of anything we ever sold. Martin's drug store.

A GOOD FRIEND

A good friend stands by you when in need. Fairmont people tell how Doan's Kidney Pills have stood the test. Mrs. L. Fleming, of 113 Walnut avenue, Fairmont, endorsed Doan's four years ago and again confirms the story. Could you ask for more convincing testimony?

Mrs. Fleming gave the following statement on April 4, 1913: "Several years ago I suffered from bladder and kidney trouble. The weakness caused a great deal of suffering and annoyance. In a short time Doan's Kidney Pills completely relieved me of all the trouble and it is a pleasure to recommend them."

On February 15, 1917, Mrs. Fleming said: "Doan's Kidney Pills have always helped me when my kidneys were out of order. I am always glad to recommend Doan's Kidney Pills."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy — get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Fleming had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfgrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

What People Say and Some Side Remarks

Major S. D. Brady who was in Cumberland this week, speaks very highly of the new hotel:

"The Fort Cumberland is a modern hotel in every respect, well located, and a credit to that city."

J. M. Jacobs, president of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, is a firm believer in the claim so often advanced that the prosperity of this entire section of the country. Referring to the promise of the director-general of railroads at yesterday's meeting of the Fairmont Coal Club to make up the "regional car shortage," he said:

"I can feel the effect of this assurance in my contact with traveling men and business men of the region. The outlook is improved and I congratulate the Fairmont Coal Club and other organizations on what has been accomplished.

MONONGAH

Returned to Camp.

Junior Orr, who has been visiting friends and relatives in Monongah for the past ten days, has left for Camp Shelby, Miss., where he will resume his military training. Orr is in the Headquarters company of the 150 Infantry.

Black Diamond Represented.

The Black Diamond Temple Pythian Sisters of Monongah was well represented at the district meeting which was held in Mannington yesterday. Several members of the local lodge made the trip returning on the late cars yesterday eevning.

Papas Dead.

James Papas, a resident, of Monongah, passed away at the Cook hospital in Fairmont yesterday evening after a short illness. He is well Known here and has many local friends who will be grieved to hear of his death. Funeral services will be held tomorrow. Burial will be made in the Maple Grove cemetery.

PERSONALS.

Miss Catherine Gaskins was among the Monongah callers out of town yesterday evening.

Mrs. Thomas Everett was in Fairmont yesterday evening for a short while.

Mrs. Thomas Esketh was among the Monongah Pythian Sisters in Mannington yesterday attending the district Pythian Sisters convention.

Frank Vingle was in Fairmont yesterday attending to business.

Mrs. Clyde Leonard was in Fairmont yesterday as a business caller.

Mrs. Perry D. Burton was among the Monongah callers out of town yesterday evening.

Mrs. Walter Gaskins was in Mannington yesterday afternoon and evening.

Miss Virginia Robinson was an out of town caller yesterday evening.

Eugene Orr was in Fairmont yesterday evening as a social visitor.

DO SOMETHING FOR THAT COUGH

Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey Will Prove Ideal Treatment.

A neglected cough may lead to such dangerous bronchial or lung ailments that proper attention with Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey cannot be begun too promptly.

You can absolutely depend on this remedy as it has proved effective in thousands of cases where a hacking cough, difficult breathing, inflammation or hoarseness were involved. Its balsam and healing ingredients soothe the throat, loosen the phlegm, the antiseptic properties check the cold germs and feverish or grippy feelings are promptly allayed.

Take Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey at once, not only for quick and gratifying relief for all distressing symptoms but to prevent serious after-effects.

Still sold at 25c by all druggists.

Dr. Bell's Pine Tar Honey for Coughs & Colds

Eczema Wash

A touch of D. D. D. to any eczema sore or itching eruption and you'll be able to rest and sleep once more. Think—just a touch! Is it worth trying? Get a trial bottle today. Your money back if the first bottle does not relieve you.

D. D. D.

Mountain City drug store and Hall's drug store.

CHICHESTER S PILLS

THE DIAMOND BRAND.

Ladies! Ask your Druggist for Chi-ches-ter S Diamond Brand Pills in Red and Gold metallic boxes, sealed with Blue Ribbon. Take no other. Buy of your Druggist. Ask for CHI-CHES-TER S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25 years known as Best, Safest, Always Reliable.

SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Doing Things Worth While

The thoughtful young man early sees the necessity of training for some line of life work. Today training is very necessary in order to do anything worth while.

He also early sees the necessity of accumulating money for future needs which are sure to come.

If you are not now saving put your resolution into effect today by opening an account with this bank.

No matter how small the beginning it is welcome.

The Peoples National Bank
CAPITAL $200,000.00

RUFF STUFF

Now that the Grand Jury has adjourned maybe things will liven up a bit.

• • •

Indications are that they will become surprisingly lively for the leisure class if they do.

• • •

Sure is a good thing this high water did not come at the time the ice went out.

• • •

On a flood of the present proportion that thick ice would have put the railroads clear out of business.

• • •

What has become of all those colored brethren who failed to file questionnaires?

• • •

Mr. Charlie certainly will have his hands full if the draft board finds them and starts to crack down.

• • •

There's an election this year and Mr. Charlie will have to be careful of the dusky voter.

• • •

Dark clouds beginning to loom over the Buckhannon basketball meet.

• • •

If it as wet over in the trenches as it has been in West Virginia this week no wonder the boys are worrying the Teuts a lot.

• • •

When a man has his feet wet he is quite likely to have a mean disposition.

Jimreed did not have a single spiteful thing to say about Herb Hoover.

• • •

That is to say, not on the floor of the Senate.

• • •

He may have let loose a few hot ones in the cloak room but that does not count.

Tickets on Sale For Junior Class Play

Tickets are now on sale at the A. G. Martin book store for the play which the Junior class of the High school will present at the Grand Opera House on the evening of March 21. This year the Junior class play is a highly diverting comedy called The Time of His Life.