

The West Virginian THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME. PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY by the Fairmont Printing and Publishing Company. W. J. WIEGEL, General Manager. JAMES C. HERBERT, Editor. A. RAY MAPEL, Advertising Manager. CHARLES V. REDIC, Circulation Manager. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. TELEPHONES—1105, 1106, 1107. All departments reached through private exchange. Foreign Advertising Representative, ROBERT E. WARD, 221 Fifth Avenue, New York, 5 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago.

partition plant of the country see this and to prepare the public for its coming.

ELECTION RETURNS. THERE has been considerable criticism of the double election board on the head of the delay in ascertaining exactly what happened at the recent primary election. A lot of this comes from sources that are opposed to the primary system in any form and it therefore loses much weight. On the other hand there are competent observers who are of the opinion that the trouble is not with the double board but with the men on the boards.

The Charleston Mail, which is usually level headed and is so located that in a matter of this kind it is better able to form correct judgments than most newspapers of West Virginia, is of the opinion that all of the votes of all of the precincts in the state were counted before eight o'clock, but that the system of transmitting the results is faulty and will have to be changed. It is the belief of The Mail that no dependence should be placed in the mails and that the boards should be required to get the returns to the county clerks by telephone or telegraph.

There would be more point to this suggestion if it were not for the fact that congestion on both the telegraph and telephone lines was the greatest single obstacle to the early compilation of the results of the recent election. What ought to be done probably is to require one member of each election board personally to carry the returns to the county clerk, starting immediately after the count is completed and traveling with all possible dispatch. That is required at the general elections at least, in some of the states. Another thing that ought to be done is to have the party organizations undertake to school the election officers in the requirements of their office. It is reported that in some cases the election officers were so unfamiliar with the requirements of the law that they put all three of the returns in the ballot box and sent that in a leisurely manner to the court house. In such cases the uncertain memories of the members of the board was the only source of information that any one had as to what had happened until days after the polls closed the ballot boxes reached the county seat and were opened.

There is not the slightest excuse for such a state of affairs. It is not a thing that can be remedied by legislation. But it is a conclusive evidence of poor party organization.

GERMANY AND PETROGRAD.

FROM a military standpoint there probably is no obstacle to prevent the Germans from taking possession of Petrograd, but if they do take it they will merely add to their economic and political burdens. As long as they stay away from the former capital of the Russian empire they cannot be held directly responsible for feeding the people and maintaining order. If they go in these matters and many others will be added to an already complicated and dangerous situation.

What they will do about it is impossible to guess at this distance. Their difficulties in the east are growing greater with every hour and they may be in such desperate straits that they are no longer masters of the situation and are being driven to acts they otherwise would not think of committing. However, it will not make much difference in the ultimate result of the war whether they occupy Petrograd or stay away and let the people in that unhappy city carry on an unequal struggle with fate during the coming winter. Before they can have peace they will have to get clear out of Russia and agree to stay out.

Ohio's primary election yesterday was a repetition of the experience of Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and in some instances, according to last night's dispatches, the vote fell as low as ten per cent of the normal turn out. The tribe of politicians ought to see in this uniformly light vote the kind of work that is ahead and prepare for it. In a year like this every man has a chance to be elected who has the gift of originality and the nerve to toss all the old methods aside and go after the prize in a way that will catch and hold the attention of the voters.

The British government has recognized the Czechoslovaks as an allied nation. That is going to be a hard legal nut for the statesmen of the Central powers when they begin to make plans to save at the peace conference some of the territory their armies have overrun.

The persistent way in which the Allied armies are now pounding away is the best reason yet advanced for assuming that General Foch believes the time has come to make the big drive, and it will not be at all surprising if within the next few days the present action flares up into either one of the greatest battles of the war or a general retreat of the Germans to the Hindenburg line. If the Germans stand and fight the battle is quite likely to prove the decisive military engagement of the war. If they turn tail and succeed in getting back in fairly good order into the intrenchments they left last March there may be another deadlock which will last throughout the winter. But the probabilities are that they would not be able to stop when they came to the Hindenburg line, but would have to continue to some other line further back. What such an outcome of the great 1918 offensive would have upon the German public mind not hard to guess. In the past the Junkers have been able to appease popular wrath by tossing a chancellor or a cabinet minister of less important rank to the lions. This time they probably would have to sacrifice some of their military chiefs and the military chiefs might not take the affair meekly.

Paris dispatches say that Austrian divisions have begun to arrive on the west front. The mills of the gods are beginning to grind a new grist. Perhaps before it is over the Prussian scorn for the military inefficiency of the Austrians will undergo a great change. Also the moving of Austrian forces to the West front probably marks the abandonment of all thought of resuming an Austro-German offensive in Italy.

EXPORT DIRECTOR.



Henry B. Van Sinderen, of New York, formerly associated with the American Trading Co., has been appointed director of the bureau of exports of the War Trade Board.

Editorial Comment on Current Subjects

OPponents AND SUPPORTERS.

From the New York Times. Mr. George Huddleston is the Representative in Congress of the Ninth Alabama, the Birmingham, district. He is a candidate for re-election. Two other Democrats, one of them a clergyman, want his place. In a telegram replying to an inquiry by Mr. Frank P. Glass, of Birmingham, Mr. Wilson says:

I do not feel at liberty to make any discrimination between candidates equally loyal, but I think I am justified in saying that Mr. Huddleston's record proved him in every way an opponent of the Administration.

One is more than a little perplexed to find the clue and key to Mr. Wilson's selections, endorsements, and repudiations of candidates. In the Sixty-fourth Congress Mr. Huddleston and every other Alabama Representative voted against the Kahn and the Brandegee amendments to increase the army, against a volunteer army under Federal control, against an increase of the navy. One member, Mr. Abercrombie, didn't vote on the Kahn amendment. Mr. Burnett didn't vote on the provision for a volunteer reserve army. Mr. Huddleston voted with the rest of the Alabama delegation on these four matters. His divergence was his vote, on March 1, 1917, for the so-called Cooper amendment forbidding American ships to carry arms or ammunition in their cargoes.

It was a shameful pacifist and German proposal. Mr. Huddleston deserves to be beaten for having favored it. But this cannot be the reason of Mr. Wilson's declaration as to Mr. Huddleston, for did not Mr. Wilson support, and vainly, the renomination of Mr. Gray, of Indiana, who likewise voted for the Cooper amendment? In the Sixty-fifth Congress Mr. Huddleston voted against the raising of an army by conscription, but so did four other Alabama Representatives, including Mr. Dent, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. Mr. Burnett and Mr. Almon voted against the declaration of war. Mr. Huddleston voted for it. The test of opposition to or support of the administration is elusive.

To leave Alabama for Michigan, what was the peculiar record of loyalty, what the remarkable patriotism and support of patriotic measures shown by Mr. Henry Ford that caused Mr. Wilson to select him as the Democratic candidate for United States Senator? Doubtless the reasons of all these selections and rejections are clear to Mr. Wilson, but they baffle the public.

AUG. 13, 1918. COURTNEYS' STORE NEWS | Reliable Advertising

Dainty Underwear At Real Thrift Prices! The Values Challenge The Attention of The Most Thrifty Shoppers-Marked at Prices That Bar The Path Of Rising Costs!

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At a time when things in the merchandise world are in a state of constant change, with prices and qualities shifting suddenly, patrons are increasing their faith and trust in this store.

They know that it is doing everything in its power to protect them with qualities that are trustworthy and with prices that are the lowest for such qualities.

Thus our customers feel secure in whatever they buy here, having our assurance that at all times they pay the LOWEST PRICES for the most desirable goods.

Specimens of Fascinating New Fall Blouses

at prices that are incentive to thrift—here you will find the best that's made down to the cheapest that's good.

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Here are many real plums for the thrifty. Fine, soft, sheer and firm garments that are simply unmatched anywhere at their prices. Their excellent workmanship and the high character of the fabrics will appeal to the most critical woman.

We say to you frankly that such underthings did not come to us by chance, but through careful buying. Here and there throughout the large showing, you can find numbers that speak loudly of Extra Values and which represent special purchases. Crowded to overflowing with a stock many times larger than any other we ever attempted, we invite your inspection and comparison. We advise the inspection NOW.

- Camisoles .95c to \$2.10 Gowns \$1.00 to \$3.50
Teddies .50c to \$5.00 Pajamas \$1.85 to \$3.25
Underskirts \$1.75 to \$3.50 Vests .63c to \$2.50
Glove Silk Bloomers .25 to \$3.25

True Values Courtneys' 108-110 Main St.



By writing we stand, by dividing we fall. Then join in hands, brave Americans all.

BIG CITY PAPERS AND COAL OUTPUT.

WAY down in the last paragraph of a long editorial commenting upon the President's coal production proclamation the Baltimore Sun mentions the fact that the coal problem is not merely one of production, but is also a matter of transportation and distribution. And The Sun thinks the Fuel administration and the operators "will have to ask some sort of a working agreement with the Railroad administration to enable them to do what the President requests."

That will cause a wry smile wherever it is read by a Fuel administration man or a coal operator. The coal operators have been trying to get the railroads to wake up to the importance of taking care of the coal traffic ever since the United States entered the war. As a matter of fact, a systematic effort to secure a square deal for coal began a year and a half before that, but never has all this pleading, threatening and sitting up nights with the problems produced anything more substantial than promises which the railroads broke as soon as it suited their convenience to do it.

If The Sun wants to know just how the inadequate transportation facilities react upon the production of coal, let it take the record of the Fairmont region for last week when, because there was a blockade of loaded coal cars to the east there were practically no empties at the mines. For most of the week the car supply hovered around the 700 mark and on no day did it rise above 1,000. That meant thousands of tons of potential production lost, thousands of non-productive hours for the miners. Yet on Monday of this week when there were plenty of cars the production was 1,415 cars, only 900 of which, however, could go east where the most of the plants producing munitions are located because of restrictions on shipping imposed by the Baltimore and Ohio.

In the past year weeks like that have happened so often that only the statisticians at the offices of the coal operators' associations have any adequate record of it. Idleness due to lack of empties has become a commonplace in the coal regions and the operators are beginning to ask themselves whether it pays to keep up the continual kicking for better treatment. Under the circumstances it strikes this newspaper that the consumer and the newspapers in the big cities whose writers are so eloquent when they talk about the importance of full production of coal ought to do a little of the asking for "some sort of a working agreement with the Railroad administration" regarding the transportation and distribution of coal.

Papers like The Sun helped to pound the ship building muddle into shape and they ought to help with the coal transportation muddle, which is now, as they well know, just as important as the building of ships was last winter. The Railroad administration without any important addition to its rolling stock or its motive power, and absolutely no improvement in tracks, yards and terminal facilities is trying to carry the whole load without giving preferential treatment to anything but war shipments—and war shipments probably constitute a volume as large as the whole transportation effort in any of the years just previous to the breaking out of the great war.

The undertaking is a manifest absurdity. The danger of it would be apparent to any railroad man able to pull himself out of the rut. The Railroad administration seems utterly unable to do that. It is pinning its faith on operating reforms and the cutting of red tape. What is needed in some major surgery, and it is the duty of the big city newspapers to make the men who are operating the trans-

ported reactionary, so to speak, that he hopes to world will never catch up with the Bolsheviki.

Old Kink Ferd of Boolgaria who is at a German health resort, is reported to be seen in tears frequently.

No wonder, a German health resort is no place for a gay old bird like Ferdie even in peace time.

What he pines for is a place like Monte Carlo.

And if it is nix on that sort of thing for him forever unless his friend Nick has a resort or two in the next world.

The Lesser Expense. I hear that you have bought your daughter an automobile. Pretty expensive game, isn't it?

No, it's a matter of economy. I figured that the car will keep her away from bridge parties.

John Ward, a colored man of Goldsboro, N. C., has 13 of his 18 sons in the Ninth and Tenth United States Cavalry, while his 17 daughters are busy with war work.

Well, here is one guy who is so

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE (BY GONDO)



NOW WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING THIS EVENING?

I'M INVITED TO A STAG PARTY, MRS. TRUE.

STAG PARTY, IS IT? WELL YOU'LL DO NO STAGGERING TONIGHT!!

RUFF STUFF

Pittsburgh brewery stock which has been a stock market cripple for a long time has advanced the dividend rate.

Natural enough; there is more water and less stuff that costs money in beer these days.

Board of Affairs is said to be opposed to spending money for a bathing beach and bath houses on the ground that the city cannot afford it.

Well, the city could not afford to spend money on the water plant a while back.

But it is spending it just the same.

The fact that the city government could not see its way clear to equip a bathing place several years ago probably will figure in the expenses of the Health Department when we begin to tinker with the bill for the recent water plant.

Well, here is one guy who is so

Camp Meeting at Park. At the Free Methodist camp meeting in session at Loop Park, the following order of service will be observed: Prayer meeting 6 A. M.; Love Feast 9 A. M.; Bible study, 10:30 A. M.; Children's Meeting, 1:30 P. M.; Preaching, 2:30 P. M.; Ring Meeting, 7 P. M.; preaching, 8:15 P. M. Sunday School at 1:30 P. M.

Home from North. Miss Mary Frances Hartley has returned from the Adirondack mountains, where she has attended a summer camp school since her graduation in June from Smith college, Northampton, Mass. She also visited friends in New York en route home. Miss Hartley will go to Mt. Lake Park, Md., today to join her parents. Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Hartley, who are spending a few weeks there.

In Paris, darkened by night against air raids, rings of magnifying mirrors have been placed about columns and lamp posts, and so guide chauffeurs and pedestrians.

The term "meat" applies to whales, for they are mammals, like cattle and sheep; they suckle their young, and their flesh is meat, not fish. It has no fishy taste and bears some resemblance to beef.

McConkey's team is recognized as one of the best independent baseball teams in the state, having many old time stars in their lineup. Last time they came to Traction park to play they drew a large crowd. In that they have defeated the locals once this season by a close score, the game Sunday should be a better drawing card than the game played at Traction park earlier in the season.

Buy Your Soldier Boy or Friend One of These Davol Army Camp Pillows

There's one thing our brave lads need, and that's plenty of sleep. With one of these Davol Army Camp Pillows the boy in khaki can enjoy sound, restful sleep and real solid comfort when he is through his day's work. The Pillow is extremely light (just eight ounces net), soft and flexible. It rolls up into a very small space and is easily inflated. It is waterproof and very durable. Price \$2.50.

CRANE'S Drug Store



The Boys and Girls Get Theirs at this midsummer clearance. All Oxfords, Pumps, Barefoot Sandals, Play Shoes and White Canvas

All 20% off Regular Prices These lots on bargain tables and reduced from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent.

\$1.00 \$1.80 \$2.40 Better supply the children now. Shurtleff & Welton