

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."  
 Established 1858. Member Associated Press.  
 PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY  
 by the Fairmont Printing and Publishing Company.  
 W. J. WIEGEL, General Manager.  
 JAMES C. HERBERT, Editor.  
 A. RAY MAPLE, Advertising Manager.  
 C. V. REDIC, Circulation Manager.  
 MONROE BOYER, Superintendent.  
 Publication Office, Monroe Street.

TELEPHONES  
 BELL 1105-1106 CONSOLIDATED  
 All departments reached by exchange.  
 Circulation Dept. 250  
 Advertising Dept. 250  
 Editorial Rooms 47

Foreign Advertising Representative, ROBERT E. WARD, Brunswick Bldg., New York. 123 W. Madison Street, Chicago.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
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 One Year \$5.00 Three Months \$1.50  
 Six Months \$3.00 One Month .60c

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 One Month .76c One Week .18c  
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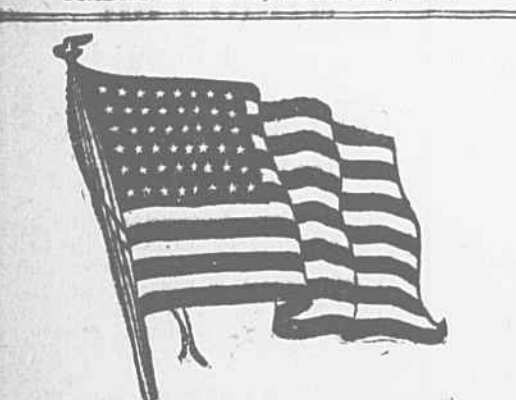
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 When asking for change in address give old as well as new address.

Entered at the Postoffice at Fairmont, West Virginia, as second class matter.

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FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 3, 1917.



## PUBLIC BATHING FACILITIES.

THESE hot evenings hundreds take to the river. It affords them much relief from the grueling effects of the heat of the day, it enables them to woe sleep and fortifies them against the drain upon their vitality which the day to come will make.

A large percentage of the bathers are women and girls who bathe under the utmost difficulty, undressing and dressing, many of them, in dressing rooms improvised of sheets brought from home.

It is altogether probable that thousands would bathe where hundreds do now if the municipality provided some accommodations where, under suitable police supervision, people could change from their street clothes to bathing suits and back again. At the beginning no expensive plant would be required. Indeed it would be best to start in a modest way and permit the matter to develop along the line of least resistance until some clear idea is obtained as to just what this city needs in the way of public bathing accommodations.

Many American cities have recognized that this is a matter in which the city government is properly interested, and some of them spend a great deal of money each year in providing bathing facilities, life guards, swimming instructors, and even the bathing suits. In the pool which lies right in the middle of the city we have an expanse of water that could not be excelled for the purpose and something ought to be done with it.

Not so very long ago the folks at City hall were full of ideas for making the river contribute to the fame of Fairmont. They have all been busy with a variety of important matters this year and the river project has been permitted to drop out of sight. A good way to revive it is to make a modest start at providing a bathing beach and public dressing places.

## RUSSIA OUT OF IT.

GENERAL MAURICE'S admission that the Entente allies no longer count upon Russia for any material military assistance merely confirms what laymen have been suspecting for some time. As director of the military operations of the British empire General Maurice's opportunities for knowing exactly what is going on are unexcelled, and what he said yesterday to the representative of the Associated Press was obviously for the purpose of breaking the news, which is so unwelcome to the nations lined up against the Central powers, to the world.

It means that Kerensky with all his fire, his magnetism and his energy will be lucky if he can preserve Russia from the dangers that lurk within, and that he will have little time for thought of the foe beyond the border. It is a pity.

## RUFF STUFF

The Russian anti suffs never will be able to pull that old gag, so popular in this country, that the girls won't be entitled to vote until they are ready to fight for their country.

Come to think of it the Anti Suffs are rapidly becoming a rather funny bunch of back numbers, any way you take them.

They ought to organize a protective order of some kind.

And take steps to preserve the record of their devotion to things as they aint from the carking tooth of time.

Sheriff Glover is different from the fisherman who tells about the big one that got away.

He has a grip full of evidence to prove it.

especially for the young men of the United States who are now called upon to face a war which may last a long time and require the Republic to exert itself to the utmost, but we may all yet learn to accept the view of The New Republic that the revolution in Russia is to date the "biggest net gain" made during the war. Certainly the wiping out of the huge reactionary structure which took the place of a government for the Russians is a tremendous advance for democracy.

But history teaches that revolutions come slowly, and that they are just as slow in accomplishing the work they are intended to do. Many people who were reasonably well informed about the affairs of Russia hoped that a period of alternating anarchy and despotism might be unnecessary in this rising of the people, and perhaps there will not be a great deal of blood letting and human suffering, but no one can tell how long it will be before conditions settle down. Just how unsettled things are; how completely at sea the government is, the report that a project to raise a whole army of women has seized upon the imagination of the public shows.

One cannot avoid a feeling that a people which enthusiastically embarks upon a project like that are more than a little light in their heads. It savors of transplanting the mass psychology of the crusade period to this prosaic twentieth century.

## SHOWS CREEL UP.

WEDNESDAY night Secretary of the Navy Daniels gave out the report of Admiral Gleaves who was in charge of the naval convoy which escorted General Pershing's command to France. It shows that the transports were attacked by at least four submarines, and that at least one of the German boats apparently was sunk.

Thus the matter of fact report of the Admiral in charge of the operation is his immediate superior, who forwarded it to the Navy department, turns out to be even more thrilling than the report which Censor George Creel wrote for publication in the newspapers of July 4. By many newspapers it will be regarded as a vindication of the Creel version.

To a certain extent this is true, but it certainly is not a vindication of Creel. Rather it damns him all the more. If he had the horse sense a man in his position ought to have, or if he had had the right kind of newspaper training, he would have known that the proper thing to do would be to give the report itself to the public and not attempt to "elaborate" it, which is what he did by his own admission.

The official report from which all the military information that might have been of use to the foe could have been deleted, would have inspired confidence at the start, whereas the Creel rewrite, while substantially correct in its general outlines, bred distrust and has been under fire in the Senate and in the newspapers to an extent which must have been embarrassing to the President.

So far as is known the corn was not nipped by last night's abrupt cold wave.

One of the significant signs of the time, is that the newspapers contain almost as many reports of U-boats destroyed as of ships destroyed by U-boats.

Some queer things are cropping to the surface as the result of the work of the draft boards. In Charleston, this state, for instance, seven out of every eight men have been rejected because of physical disqualification, while out in Chicago in a district where 60 registrants were examined yesterday all but five of them were found to be fit—but all but seven of the 55 asked exemption. In Pittsburgh the large number of exemptions which has forced all the boards to call additional men are due almost entirely to the presence of a large alien population. These things make trouble for the time being, but they will be worked out equitably in the end. The draft is being conducted in the full light of day and there is not much chance for injustice to be done.

General Korniloff, the new generalissimo of the Russian armies, had a very humble origin, and at least one of the biographies of him printed in this country at the time he began to attract attention outside of Russia had it that he was born in a log cabin. That is interesting. There was a time when birth in a log cabin was almost essential to the attainment of greatness in this country. And it was long after log cabins were common at that.

Judging by dispatches from Paris and Berlin all hands are satisfied with the progress of the battle in Flanders. Well, both sides were satisfied with the progress of the fight at Verdun up until the end, but the Germans do not take a great deal of pride in what they accomplished there now.

There is one thing about the surprising number of men who do not come up to the army standard of physical fitness. It is bound to result in sweeping the lads who married to evade military service into the net.

## SHORT AND SNAPPY.

Lonely farms bothered with tramps have no further trouble after they hang out a sign, "harvest hands wanted."—Clarksville Exponent.

"Senators Begin Trial of Liquor," says a headline in the Huntington Advertiser. A good many of them began that a long time ago, and are still trying it.—Parkersburg Sentinel.

German advance in Galicia reported stopped at Srokkikroulet. Now, wouldn't that stop you?—Charleston Leader.

Billy Sunday's New York tabernacle to be a dance pavilion—news item. The devil.—Wheeling Register.

evidence probably would be willing to admit.

The man who shipped a barrel of hard cider to Ciatwaha when a hog was ordered will learn something to his advantage if he will just let the thirsty public know this postoffice address.

"Russians out of it, says Gen. Maurice"—Headline.

Probably getting ready to do their fighting at home.

Pershing does not know his job as well as he should.

As a soup sampler he gets by, but apparently he forgot yesterday to tweak the ears of some of the privates.

That's what Napoleon always did when he wanted to make dope for the campaign biography writers.

Speaking of benches on the court house lawn, one point in their favor has not been mentioned.

They might induce the loafers to move in off the streets, so the people

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



## Editorial Comment on Current Subjects

### THE CENSORSHIP PROBLEM.

From the Baltimore Sun.  
 A special dispatch to the New York Times from Washington reports that Mr. Creel, chairman of the so-called Committee of Public Information, has recommended to President Wilson that the effort to conduct a voluntary press censorship be abandoned, leaving to the newspapers and press associations the responsibility of determining what war news they should or should not print.

While The Sun did not consider entirely wise the drastic provisions for legal censorship contained in the bill which was defeated in Congress, it would be a grave mistake, it seems to us, to abandon voluntary censorship, or to leave the question of what constitutes safe or unsafe war matter to the discretion of individual newspapers. Such a system, or lack of system, would handicap patriotic and conscientious papers, and would put them in the publication of news at a disadvantage with unscrupulous competitors.

The conflicts of authority in Washington between Mr. Creel's bureau and other government agencies and the uncertainties to which differences of opinion on current events have given rise seem strongly to suggest that this is an opportune time, not to give up censorship, but to inaugurate a better, more intelligent and more workable system. We do not believe we would get satisfactory results by putting censorship in the hands of a board of military and naval martinetts. That might do in Germany, but it does not suit the temper and spirit of the American people. Such a board would be likely to make the same errors that were made in Great Britain in the earlier part of the war, because it would naturally look at everything from the professional and not from the popular standpoint. In a democratic country the government must depend for its strength upon popular approval, and in censorship, as in other things, we must look through the people's eyes as well as through military spectacles.

The solution of the difficulty, it occurs to us, is to be found in organizing a publicity bureau through the newspapers themselves. Let them be represented in Washington through a leading journalist of their own selection, as members of the Council of National Defense, and let the man so chosen keep in close touch with the President and military and naval authorities, and be empowered, after consultation with department heads, to determine what should be suppressed and what should be published. All the leading newspapers would feel themselves in honor bound to respect such an agreement, and there would be little disposition to criticize regulations prescribed by an acknowledged and sympathetic authority in newspaper work. A man of broad mental gauge, long experience and familiarity with conditions abroad, as well as in this country, is required for the work, and if the President will look for him we think he can be found.

"War Economy" shoe sale at Shurtleff & Welton's. Adv.

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## BRUCE PRAISES THE WORK OF THE Y.M.C.A.

### Great British Writer Urges That America Help Along That Line.

LONDON, Aug. 3.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Viscount Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States, has written a letter to E. C. Carter, secretary for France and England of the Young Men's Christian Association, commending the work of that organization among the soldiers of the Entente Allies and suggesting that the American association will be able to render the greatest possible service to the American expeditionary forces.

Arrangements for the work of the American organization are well under way both in France and in England, but definite and positive plans will not be completed until more is known of the strength of the American forces, where they will be located and when they will arrive. Meanwhile, the Young Men's Christian Association is doing everything possible to provide for comfort and entertainment of those American sailors and soldiers who already are in Europe.

"I can truly say," Viscount Bryce writes in his letter, "that I have heard from every quarter, including many naval and military authorities, the warmest acknowledgment of the excellent work done by the Young Men's Christian Association during these three terrible years of war, for the British, Canadian and Australian soldiers both in camp here and at home and among the troops on the various fighting fronts. Many plans have been devised, many methods successfully employed, to provide for their benefit, comforts, recreation, literature of the right sort and many other wholesome influences.

"I believe that the American Association, which will have the advantage of our experience, which will be worked with true American energy, and which may command even larger funds than we had, my render the greatest possible services in France

to those American soldiers who British and France rejoice to welcome as their allies in this fight for freedom and right."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fairmont, W. Va., August 1, 1917.  
 Editor The West Virginian—As a correction to an article appearing in a recent issue of your paper, pertaining to the local carpenters' organization taking part in recent proceedings against the Mayor of our city, I am instructed by the organization to say that the alleged statement is far from our mission. Further, we are not responsible for the individual opinions of our membership.

Local No. 428 Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners.  
 JAS. R. PHELPS,  
 Recording Secretary.

## Coffee Strongest U. S. Navy Drink

BASE AMERICAN FLOTILLAS IN BRITISH WATERS, Aug. 3.—Black coffee is the popular drink with the men over here in Uncle Sam's teetotal navy. Steaming hot coffee is always on tap on board the destroyers when they are out looking for submarines. The men say it not only keeps them awake but serves also as a stimulant and protector against the rigorous climatic conditions under which they labor. They have not yet carried on board ship the afternoon tea habit which they have formed ashore and found such a satisfactory substitute for the use of alcoholic drinks.

The vast majority of the men say they do not miss the absence of intoxicating drink on board their ships. Those who want it can get it ashore from midday until eight in the evening but for the vast majority the liquor saloons have very little charm. The record of the men as a whole in this respect, say their officers, has been one of the gratifying features of their stay here.

The patrols, therefore, have very little to do but walk up and down the main street of the village in search of the trouble that seldom comes.



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Whole companies, battalions, regiments of stylish summer shoes at radically reduced prices. Smart folks need no second calling when a Shurtleff & Welton Annual Clearance Sale is announced. Especially this year when "War Economy" not only helps the individual—but the entire nation as well.

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Special Lots for Men  
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 Now \$2.40  
 Hundreds of pairs high and low shoes \$4 to \$6 grade  
 Now \$3.40  
 Broken lines of Hanan Shoes and Oxfords  
 Now \$5.20

Special Lots for Women  
 Several hundred pairs \$2.50 to \$4.50 grade  
 Now \$1.90  
 A great lot of shoes and low cuts \$3.50 to \$5 grade  
 Now \$2.40  
 Fancy Footwear, shoes and pumps, \$5 to \$7.50 grade  
 Now \$3.90

Special Lot for Children  
 Shoes, Oxfords and straps, all sizes, \$1.75 to \$3.50 grade  
 Now \$1.30

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