

The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 6, 1917.



THE TOBACCO FUND.

THE WEST VIRGINIAN'S fund for the purchase of American tobacco for the soldiers of the United States in France is beginning to attract the attention it merits, and there is prospect that many of the little packages that go across will have Fairmont names and addresses on the post cards which are enclosed in each.

Practically the only way in which the men in France can get tobacco they can smoke is through the courtesy of their friends at home. The French tobacco is all right for those who are used to it. It is absolutely impossible to the American taste. But American tobacco, or even English tobacco, is out of the question in France for any except the rich, and even then it is scarce. Tobacco revenues are an important item in the French financial scheme and tobacco from other countries is kept out of the country by prohibitive duties.

And that, as the French would put it, is the raison d'etre of the tobacco fund. The French have agreed to admit gift tobacco free except for one charge, and the American Tobacco company, which is working in conjunction with a number of American newspapers, among them The West Virginian, has agreed to shoulder that. Every quarter contributed to this fund places 45 cents worth of American tobacco right into the hands of some American soldier. It seems to us, everything considered, and when it is remembered that a great hardship it would be for most of the men to be cut off from the kind of tobacco that they have been accustomed to, that is a very fine arrangement and one which merits popular support.

LONGWORTH ON THE JOB.

A SAVING of \$60,000,000, or more, that was about to be wasted on a single nitrate plant, can justly be credited to Representative Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, whose study of the subject and aggressive fight have resulted in abandonment of the project. The United States will get its nitrate for munition or fertilizer purposes, but at only a small fraction of the expense incident to the plan forced through Congress by the Democratic administration.

As everyone will remember, Congress at its last session passed a bill which carried an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for a plant to produce nitrates by water power—the electric process. It was understood that the plant was to be erected at Mussel Shoals in Northern Alabama. For many years there has been demand for a government appropriation for work at Mussel Shoals, but the project was repeatedly turned down. The original effort was for \$80,000,000 to promote navigation and develop water power. When that failed there was a demand for an appropriation to erect a plant to manufacture fertilizers. That was rejected and when we were on the eve of war the promoters of the project secured an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for a plant for production of nitrates for munitions.

When that scheme was before the House, Representative Longworth made a most vigorous fight against it, discussing the subject at length and showing the extravagance and folly of the plan. He pointed out that if the United States relied for its nitrates upon one power plant, depending upon a stream, it would be a case of "betting our national existence upon the continued existence of that

one dam." But his efforts were not merely negative. He proposed that the government establish numerous plants, widely separated, so that there would be no danger, whatever might happen, of our being cut off from a nitrate supply.

Due to the energetic presentation of the subject by Mr. Longworth, assisted by others, the War department asked the President of the National Academy of Science in cooperation with the American Chemical society, to conduct an investigation, which disclosed that the erection of a water power plant sufficient to supply the government's wartime needs for nitrates would cost many times the \$20,000,000 appropriated. The \$20,000,000 would have been but an entering wedge. The investigators recommended a plan along the lines advocated by Mr. Longworth, with an expenditure of less than \$4,000,000 out of the \$20,000,000, to start the work in small plants under a process developed by the General Chemical company. The War department has adopted that plan and the government will secure nitrate plants suited to its needs, without great expense and without rendering production dependent upon the safety of one dam.

All the facts in the matter were reviewed recently in the House of representatives, at which time Representative W. R. Green, of Iowa, accorded to Mr. Longworth chief credit for the successful fight made against the Mussel Shoals project.

AN AMERICAN WEAPON.

MANY Americans will be puzzled by a report from the American training headquarters in France under a Wednesday's date line which says that after General Pershing had watched a body of American troops storm three supposititious enemy trenches after the manner taught them by their French instructors he felt called upon to say to the men:

"You must not forget that the rifle is distinctly an American weapon. I want to see it employed. There surely will be plenty of opportunity for its use, and if you are unfamiliar with the weapon you will lose those opportunities. Bayonets and bombs are all right and very valuable, but rifle fire still has a place in modern war."

Here in this country where great stress has always been put upon marksmanship, we drop into the belief that the primary purpose of the long range military rifle is purposeful and accurate shooting, but European drill masters do not pay much attention to such tactics. Some of the infantry over there fire from the hip and without any pretense at aiming beyond having the weapon pointed in the general direction of the foe. The Boers who fought with the tactics of American Indians and shot like our plainmen of the pioneer days did a whole lot to reform the British method with the rifle, but probably not enough to make the instruction stick in the face of trench fighting and the appallingly wasteful German massed attack.

General Pershing is reported to have said in his address of Wednesday that he had heard of soldiers in this war who had chased Germans 100 yards and more for an opportunity to bomb or bayonet them. If the neglect of musketry has reached that stage the advent of the American army on the battle line is apt to create more of a sensation in Germany than anything that has happened since the war began except the tanks. The American soldier has an aversion for shooting even an enemy in the back, so the fleeing German will continue to have a pretty good chance, but the charging enemy is certain to be given an opportunity to judge the difference between musketry fire in the hands of thoroughly well trained men and the haphazard kind he has been getting. One thing is certain, the bomb as an offensive weapon for infantry will decline in popularity. Bomb throwers make such bully targets for sharpshooters.

Our idea of the ultimate in futility is a discursive individual like LaFollette trying to justify his record for the past three years in a three hour speech.

New York draft boards are reported to be memorializing the government in favor of suspending the liability to military service of married men until all the single men have been called. That would sound good if it were not for the thousands of slacker marriages. These lads gummed up the whole draft scheme, and it is rather late in the day to think of changing.

Pittsburgh papers are telling of the clever ways which have been invented for evading the retail price for coal in that town. And in every instance the man who pays the extra price is a willing victim to the fraud. That is exactly what we predicted would be the case. The situation is now up to the government. Morally the buyer who connives at a transaction of this kind is equally as guilty as the seller. How it would work out in law is problematical. The authorities could, if they wanted to, however, make coal obtained upon such terms cost so much in attorney's fees, court costs and time lost as to discourage the practice.

From St. Clairsville comes a dispatch to the effect that coal mines along the Ohio river that have not used water transportation for years have returned to that plan because of the car shortage. The country at large, and the coal operators themselves, would be a whole lot better off if this view of the transportation problem had been taken quite generally months ago.

Literal minded people who are forever doing things to astonish people are familiar to all, but it is something of a shock to learn that there are thousands of them in the country. It is a fact that there are. The mail that is pouring into the new army camps every day proves it. In order to straighten out the mail tangle at the camps the post office people sent out form addresses which began "John Smith, Company," etc. Now thousands of letters that should be addressed to some individual with a ten syllable name, or who, maybe, rejoices in the cognomen of Jones, are going to John Smith, whose address now is the dead letter office. Yet there are people in the country who cannot understand why any one should have doubts that the public will find the new revenue act easy to understand.

A new revolt has started in Mexico. And it is being conducted according to Hoyle, too, for the seat of the trouble is close to the American line. That is to say, as far from the center of Mexican authority and as close to rich pickings as possible.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)



WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 6.—There are a lot of people who have the illusion that war has put politics out of business, but they are not politicians. They belong to the other fifty-six varieties of American mankind. Nothing has ever happened yet, not even the world gone crazy, that has been able to erase from a politician's mind the lulling thoughts and crafty schemes of politics. The war has merely put the dimmer on the conversation, because it is now the most important business of everybody and must be attended to first. The game of politics goes on just the same, but it is not so vocal and boisterous as in normal times. It's war politics, and that means a mixture of the regular brand with business, getting commissions and contracts, locating cantonments and a million and one other things which go in this get-rich-quick ration of pulling, hauling and perspiring patriots. In times like these there are untold and heretofore unheard of opportunities for men to acquire great riches and political honors at one and the same time.

But this week there was a flareup of the politics of the sort that we all know and, some of us, more or less love. Secretary of War Baker was heralded as looking ahead at that Democratic presidential nomination of 1920. He promptly, and as was to be expected, denied with self-effacing brevity that he had any "present or prospective interest in the subject." Josephus Daniels would have done the same thing in a like circumstance, and likely will do it later on, when his own comes to be written up as working toward the presidential goal. Likewise, William Gibbs McAdoo, the President's anguished son-in-law. For their turn is bound to come. In inner circles where political planning goes along quietly with the noisier planning for war, and where the star chamber gossip of politics proceeds unendingly, the putative presidential ambitions of these three, and a number of others, are morsels of chatter masticated with enthusiasm. In these patter parties, they refer to William Gibbs McAdoo as the "Crown Prince." In the Cabinet array of probabilities, Franklin K. Lane is looked upon as a head taller than his colleagues.

More definite is the pitter-patter about Old Champ Clark—and here among Washington Democrats, for the most part, the Old is used with affection—and what he is up to for the future—his own future. Speaker Clark is going to be a candidate for the nomination if he is still here hale and hearty when the time comes to get out and go after it. There isn't the faintest sign that he will not be here and fit for the fray when the bell taps, and Washington reads in him or from him innumerable signs that the Speaker knows what he wants and that he is working to that end. What he wants, need it be said, is what he practically had on 30 ballots at the Baltimore convention, but didn't get. Whoever are candidates, the consensus of opinion right now is that Champ Clark will certainly be one of them.

Of course, war conditions made forecasting mighty uncertain, and the best laid, spiked down and clamped plans of politics are liable to be sapped and blown up like the German trenches at Marines. Those who indulge themselves in the pastime know it, but that doesn't prevent them continuing their speculations, nor shrewd, ambitious men planning for their future. It's a long-standing habit—and so it goes on. The amazing thing about it is that one hears little in the talk of the possibility—indeed, the probability—of this unusual war producing unusual political results. Wars have made presidents many a time before, and war may repeat its president-making history. The country knows little of a Pershing, but it may know a Pershing very well a year hence. His name may be Brown or one or ohmsen, and he may be just an inconspicuous cog in the great war machine just now, but whoever heard of arkson and Grant when the war drum began to roll?

There is another way to look at the influence of this war upon our future presidential stardom and that is to view it in the light of the past. The survivors of the Union army when they marched home to victorious tunes proceeded to make Presidents. Up till Roosevelt's time (and he was a war-hero President—Grover Cleveland was the only President who was not a soldier of the Civil war after Lincoln. The Grand Army of the Republic made President for forty years. Some of the politicians in Washington are recalling that, and forsooth another mighty organization of soldier comrades issuing forth from this greatest of all marching bands, the Grand Army of the Republic, but more many in numbers, empowered by his life in the trenches to wield a prodigious influence over the government in peace times—over parties in presidential campaigns.

It may be asked if the presidential politics wash flows on here quietly at all times, but flows persistently and irresistibly all the same, is all of the Democratic brand. It is not, but in view of the Democratic ascendancy here, it is mostly so. The class of Republicans to be found here do not indulge in extravagant, for they generally land up against a fact which causes them to stare in open-mouthed wonder. It is a disgraceful fact to this particular class of the G. O. P. For what they see starkly in them in a vociferating gentleman with eyeglasses and in-gone, gleaming teeth. It sends them to bed with chills.

Yes, it is a fact that when the Republican end of it is gossiped about, there will invariably be found at least one "killer in the group of snags and roared gentlemen that love the memory of Good Old Bill Taft because he was good to them, and so easy about it, will say something to this effect: "Well, where's your man you can win with—name him?" The cynics stare in dazed amazement, they might stop to guess, they can't think of the man. Then the pessimistic J. E. adds with crucial satisfaction: "No course, you can't. You haven't got him in the party—he hasn't developed it, you have. You fellows will have to take T. R.—the biggest man in the U. S. A. and a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE BOND STOOD.
FAIRMONT, Oct. 6.—[Editor: The West Virginian]—In an editorial published in your paper on Tuesday of this week, you attacked Adjutant General Bond for the effort he was making to prevent the First West Virginia regiment from being disbanded. In this editorial you ridiculed his efforts and said that the Second West Virginia Regiment had always been "the pet of the Bond administration." Feeling certain as I do that this is untrue, I feel it my duty to reply to this attack on General Bond.

Instead of being unfriendly to the First West Virginia regiment, General Bond has done all in his power the past two years to keep the regiment from being disbanded. Had he followed the advice of the officers and men of the First and had he considered the wishes of the officers and men of the First and did not disband the regiment, instead he made every effort to persuade the War department to allow the State of West Virginia credit for two regiments. As long as General Bond had any authority the First regiment was not disbanded, but as soon as he had no voice in the matter, the regiment was scattered to the Four Winds of Heaven. That shows, I think, whether General Bond was friendly or not to the First West Virginia regiment. General Bond has also been criticized by the West Virginian for not calling the First regiment for service on the Mexican border. The Colonel of the Second West Virginia was the Senior Colonel and his regiment was entitled to the preference. Only one regiment could be called and General Bond simply followed military law in calling the Senior regiment.

The staff of the Adjutant General of this State and can testify that General Bond has worked hard to bring the National Guard of West Virginia up to a high state of efficiency. Therefore I think it uncalled for and unjust for a newspaper of this State to criticize him unfairly.

Yours very truly,
ROLLO J. CONLEY.

What People Say And Some Side Remarks

REMARKS AS WELL.

A newspaper printed by American soldiers now in France is called Soixante Trois, which means sixty-three, the number of the Red Cross section which publishes it. It is mimeographed and contains this item in regard to aerial warfare written by one of the boys:

"The airplanes are most bothersome at nights. Have you ever been in Jersey and seen the mosquitoes? Well, that's the way they are here, only worse. They drop their bombs everywhere. In the summer, in your boots, your beds and even in your boots when you take them off at night. The boys in the trenches are safe compared with us. They don't have to drive along roads with shells bursting every inch. Many is the time I've lit a cigarette and held the match for the wind of a passing shell to put out."

Officers or men at Camp Mills whose nervous systems would easily be disrupted by warfare are to be weeded out and it is likely that the same course will be followed at all camps. A "high officer" is quoted as saying: "Such men must be eliminated because of the effect it has on their comrades. Shell shock should not be confused with nervous breakdown but men susceptible to disorganization of their nervous system are the more liable to shell shock."

Earl Anthony, who says he is a minister, is one of the "conscientious objectors" at Camp Grant at Rockford, Ill. He says: "I talked it over with God and God told me not to do it. I would not double cross God."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

USE ORRINE DRINK HABIT GOES

Don't wait for the drink habit to get too strong to hold upon your husband, son or father, for it can be broken up quickly if Orrine is given him. This scientific treatment can be given in the home secretly and without loss of time from work.

You have nothing to risk and everything to gain, as Orrine is sold under this guarantee. If, after a trial you fail to get any benefit from its use, your money will be refunded.

Orrine is prepared in two forms: No. 1, secret treatment; Orrine No. 2, the voluntary treatment. Costs only \$1.00 a box. Ask for booklet. Crane's Drug Store.

LOOK AT CHILD'S TONGUE IF SICK CROSS, FEVERISH

WHEN CONSTIPATED OR BILIOUS GIVE "CALIFORNIA SYRUP OF FIGS."

Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, it is a sure sign that your little one's stomach, liver and bowels need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once.

When peevish, cross, listless, pale, doesn't sleep, doesn't eat or act naturally, or is feverish, stomach sour, and breath bad; has stomach ache, sore throat, diarrhoea, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul, constipated waste, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of its little bowels without griping, and you have a well, playful child again.

You needn't coax sick children to take this harmless "fruit laxative." They love its delicious taste, and it always makes them feel splendid.

Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. To be sure that you get the genuine, ask to see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

Scott's

Bracelet
Watches look well and keep good time

The HALLMARK Store

RUFF STUFF

Have you bought that Liberty bond?
Better do it before you lose all your money on the big baseball doings.
"First war baby in this city!"—Headline.
Whereupon he read the story and discovered that the bright headwriter was much more to blame than the

But such is life in those stirring times—and some newspaper offices.
It beats the dickens how the circulation of some newspapers does grow.
But when they swear to it what are you going to do?
Just when every one had agreed to cut down on meat what looks like competition in the meat business

here"—Chicago dispatch.
What, in this weather?
But then it does not take much to make a baseball caldron boil.
Today Battling Bob apologizes, if the schedule is carried out.
He'll never be the same Bob after that.
That's what happens to fellows who start things without stopping to in-

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