

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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SAYING THINGS AND DOING THINGS

The best way to measure the strength of political parties in campaigns is by their issues.

Issues should likewise be and as a rule are the producers of votes. That the vote in future campaigns will be influenced to greater degree, by clear-cut issues and less by claims or the influence of astute politicians is one of the beneficial consequences of the war.

In the political skirmishes which have so far preceded the fall campaigns, especially for office in the United States senate and house of representatives, no difficulty was encountered on the part of the Democrats to state their issues in precise, strictly confined and clear cut terms.

Can as much be said for Republicans? "Win the war" is a national task not a political issue. It is the most important business which we as a nation are now engaged. It must and does take precedence before anything else, but as already stated—this is not a political issue.

The manner of performing this task, however, the conducting and managing of this foremost business of ours—is an issue partisan critics seek to raise.

Tremendous though this task it, it can rightfully be claimed that the present administration has more than come up to expectations. Innumerable obstacles encountered in the gigantic development of this business of "winning the war" have been overcome in the past, are daily being surmounted and will not block the achievement of ultimate victory.

It is not claimed that this is a "Democratic war"—though it is a "war for democracy." However, it is a Democratic administration which being in office and power, is managing the business and managing it well.

Party lines have been obliterated for the sake of efficiency wherever necessary or advisable. Politics has been adjourned in word and fact, notwithstanding claims to the contrary by Republican officials and publications.

Ever foremost in mind was "to do things" not merely "to say them," which tended to produce result.

Can as much be said for the Republicans?

The following from the Indianapolis Star, a Republican newspaper and the state organ of that political party in Indiana well describes the activities of Republican leaders not only in that state but similar conditions as they exist in other parts of the country.

"If the Republican party in Indiana is to abandon its attitude of unflinching and effective prosecution of the war to a complete and overwhelming victory in favor of a timid and trimming policy toward the German vote, then it deserves to lose the election and it probably will. There is no difference between a Democratic copperhead in 1864 and a Republican copperhead in 1918. 'Win the war now' should be every man's motto. The only criticism that is good for anything is one that will show us how to win it quicker and make its results more permanent and sure."

The political issue is: Help win the war by supporting the president by giving him as counselors and advisors, the men he desires—prefers; the men in whose judgment he has confidence, men who will help by co-ordination and if need be co-ordination of effort and ability. That men of his own party are more apt to do this is sound logic.

THE SUPREME COMMANDER

As the struggle develops in France it is found that the forecast of America's growing importance in the war is more than confirmed, says the Washington Post.

The fate of Europe hangs upon America. This fact is admitted by every allied statesman and soldier. It has not been admitted by Germany but as the western front moves back toward Berlin no admission from Germany will be necessary. Upon American steadfastness, amplitude of preparation, and clear sighted vision depend the outcome of the war and the adjustments which will make peace satisfactory and permanent. It is impossible for America to shift the responsibility that is daily becoming more apparent.

The war maneuvers of the allies are supposed to be originated and directed by the supreme war council of Versailles, acting through General

Foch, supreme commander of the allied armies. The war council is doing good work, despite limitations which cannot be removed. General Foch is universal praised for his brilliant strategy, and no one dreams of suggesting that his authority be curtailed. On the contrary, the Americans as well as British are glad to obey orders emanating from this master military mind.

But the war does not consist only in military plans and their execution. Influences of immense importance are at work outside of the scope of authority of the allied war council and General Foch. Political, economic, racial, financial, geographical, and psychological factors, to name only a few, are quite beyond the purview of General Foch, whose duty is principally to maneuver the allied armies on the western front. Yet these factors are thrust daily before the attention of President Wilson, and he cannot ignore any of them in formulating the plans which the United States is adopting for the purpose of winning the war. If there were an inter-allied political council of supreme powers, President Wilson's duties might be lightened considerably; but there is no such council, and perhaps it is impracticable to organize one.

The United States must contribute the power that is to be the final stroke in this war. This nation cannot delegate that duty, nor could a supreme council contribute much of value to the nation's plans. President Wilson, to all intents and purposes, is the United States government in this war. It is he who stands on the bridge, day and night, directing the ship of state. He must give the word if the course is altered in the slightest degree. Congress supplies the motive power by opening the nation's purse and delivering the sword to the president's hand; but the conduct of affairs remains with him and cannot be referred to others.

The president of the United States has a right to command the loyal support of every citizen. Any American who withholds from Woodrow Wilson the wholehearted support that is necessary in war is withholding it from the United States government and from the flag. It is impossible and unnecessary to separate Woodrow Wilson the man from Woodrow Wilson the president. Toward the man, burdened with the nation's and the world's problems, there is due a warm personal sympathy and cordial good will. Toward the president, the executive arm of the nation, there is due that loyalty that asks no questions and stops at nothing in the quick execution of any task assigned.

The increasing importance of the United States as a fighting factor means the increasing responsibility of President Wilson in directing the national policy. Every citizen should bear this in mind when about to indulge in complaint against some minor or fault in preparation or operation of the national war strength. In the long run the conduct of the war on the allied side must be dictated by Woodrow Wilson, and by no other person. All the allied nations recognize this, and are more than willing to co-operate according to the final judgment of the United States as this judgment emanates from its chief magistrate. It would be worse than foolish, when allied nations were loyally co-operating with the president, for American themselves to indulge in unnecessary or hypercritical debates on the wisdom or policy of measures adopted by the

president or commander-in-chief. It should also be remembered that military and political policies in war times are rarely disclosed in full until after they have been executed; and therefore criticism of these measures while they are developing is usually based on insufficient or wholly erroneous information.

AS VIEWED FROM BRIDGEPORT

Bruce Wilcox, editor of the News-Blade at Bridgeport, is a former Alliance citizen and watches proceedings here with much interest. He had the following interesting little item in his issue of August 9, under the head "War at Alliance:"

"What has been incidental patrol encounters between the newspapers at Alliance seems to be developing into a general engagement. General Ben has expressed his willingness and ability to harass General Lloyd's rear with his boot, and General Lloyd calls General Ben a viper and things of that viper, while it might have what could be called a punch, could have much of a kick; but, anyway, the language they use is figurative as well as forcible. Mr. Sallows has built up a reputation with his 'Peep Sights' column which is all good stuff but which would be better if he did not keep his eye skinned at the peep hole so much looking for his adversary; and Mr. Thomas is a mighty good fellow, too, but has taken on a little too much politics for the good of his newspaper. When they get older they will come out of it and distinguish themselves in the newspaper field instead of the local arena."

NEBRASKA FOOLS THE KAISER.

Newspapers of the United States for some weeks have been publishing in installments a story written by Arthur N. Davis, D. D. S., who was personal dentist for Kaiser Wilhelm in Germany for fourteen years. The story is intensely interesting, for it shows the attitude of the Kaiser toward America.

But in looking at America the Kaiser has greatly fooled himself, as he is learning to his sorrow in many ways. Mr. Davis, in relating a conversation with the Kaiser in 1917, quoted the latter as saying: "Now, the allies will never succeed in starving us. With Rumania in our pockets and Serbia already ours, their wonderful agricultural possibilities will supply our food needs and foil our enemies' efforts to starve us. Indeed, they had better look out for themselves. Don't forget we have a monopoly on the potash mines of the world. Without proper fertilization American crops will go on decreasing and decreasing and they won't get any potash until we get ready to let them have it."

But Kaiser Bill, the Hun, reckoned without western Nebraska, for today the potash districts adjacent to Alliance is daily producing hundreds of tons of potash salts, better than any ever shipped from Germany, and both large and small plants are building rapidly to increase this output so that after the war—Bill, the Hun, can keep his potash to fertilize the fields drenched with the blood of the millions of men killed in his futile effort to realize a hopeless ambition—that of becoming ruler of the world.

Want to buy a cow or a horse? Advertise for it in The Herald's want ad columns and get just what you are after.

MR. STOCKMAN: I WANT YOUR OPINION AND ADVICE

WHAT ABOUT CATTLE BRANDS?

I want to first give a bit of information about present methods and then ask your opinion and advice on a very important matter. About 4,300 Nebraska ranchmen have their brands recorded in the office of the secretary of state at Lincoln, as provided for by law.

This gives them the exclusive, legal right to the use of their brands in this state, but does not give them the benefit of brand inspection at the live stock markets.

In order for Nebraska stockmen to be protected by brand inspection at the markets, it is necessary for them, in addition to having their brands properly recorded, to join the Nebraska Stock Growers' association, paying the required dues and fees. Less than one-eighth of those having their brands recorded in the office of the secretary of state are members of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association. This is unfortunate, as the principal benefit in the ranch country to those having legal brands is protection, by brand inspection at the open markets, against loss by theft and strays.

Here is the method for Nebraska: Brand inspectors are provided for the markets to which Nebraska cattle are shipped, more at Omaha than at any other market, as more cattle from this state are shipped there than anywhere else. These inspectors are provided with a list of the members of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association and their brands. Each shipment of branded cattle that comes in is inspected, whether from members of the association or not. No further attention is paid to cattle, the brands of which do not belong to association members, they are simply passed up whether they belong to the man shipping them or not; but when a steer or cow belonging to a member of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association is found in a shipment to which it does not belong, it is cut out, weighed separately, and the proceeds sent to the owner.

Every year the money returned to members of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association for "strays" caught thru brand inspection amounts to many thousands of dollars and has even run into the hundreds of thousands within a year. I have made a computation based on the chief brand inspector's annual reports and find that on an average the amount returned to members of the association thru brand inspection is approximately fifteen times the cost of membership. It is unfortunate, as the Nebraska law now stands, that all ranchmen in this state are not members of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association.

Colorado has a different method of securing brand inspection. There the state provides the inspection at the markets to which their cattle are shipped. Brand registration by the proper state official carries with it the protection of brand inspection at the open markets, besides local supervision at points within the state from which cattle are shipped.

Colorado ranchmen are enthusiastic over their brand law and its practical working benefits. They claim that it is practically impossible for stolen cattle to be shipped out of the state or for any loss to occur thru strays.

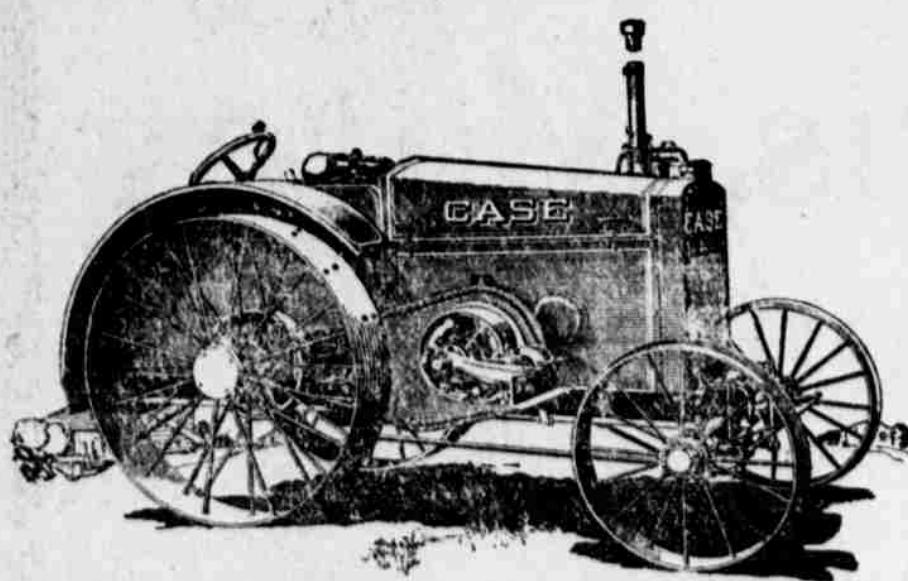
For some time past I have been thinking of proposing the Colorado plan, or something similar, to Nebraska stockmen. For a number of years I have worked for an increase in the membership of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association, and with some success, but still a large majority of ranchmen having brands recorded in this state are not members of the association, and consequently do not receive the benefit of brand inspection.

I want every Nebraska stockman, who is interested enough to do so, to write me at his earliest convenience what he thinks about this proposition. Do you favor a change in the Nebraska laws so that the state will provide brand inspection and thus furnish protection to all who have their brands recorded at the state capitol? Would you like further information regarding the Colorado brand law?

If there is sufficient interest manifested, I will publish a synopsis of the law or possibly the law complete. If anything is done in this matter at the next session of the legislature, it is time now to post up and begin getting action. "What is everybody's business is nobody's business," it is said; but I have started the ball rolling and will wait a little to see if Nebraska ranchmen want to keep it going.

I have made the first move in this matter; it's up to you now, Mr. Stockman. If you are interested, kindly let me hear from you without delay.

JOHN W. THOMAS
Deputy State Land Commissioner, Lincoln, Nebraska.



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