

The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, Publisher

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Cheerfulness and content are great beautifiers and are famous preservers of youthful looks.—Dickens.

Cheerfulness makes merry.

Then be cheerful at Christmas time.

There will be plenty of Christmas trees.

The advertisers got the bulk of the business.

Lincoln will be filled with office-seekers next week.

Before you start to stick the other fellow look out for yourself.

He who has the soul of a poet always responds when the heart strings are touched.

All roads lead to Plattsmouth this week, and our merchants enjoyed a good business.

So long as stolen fruits taste so good there will be plenty who will take the chance.

Only two more days till Christmas, and the kids look up at the show windows with eager eyes.

The marriage bells as well as the Christmas bells have begun to peal forth their beautiful chimes.

It is estimated that there are six applicants for every position within the gift of Governor Neville.

The city schools close today for the holidays, and do not take up again until the 8th of January. Who loses by this procedure?

Tomorrow (Saturday) will be the last issue of the Evening Journal until Tuesday. Remember, there will be no paper issued on Christmas day.

The high prices of hen fruit may have something to do with the fact that actors are not having as many eggs come their way as they did formerly.

"Billy" Sunday didn't seem to get in his work to any great extent in Boston, as Boston went "wet" by a bigger majority than it did a year ago, nearly doubling it.

The legislature would not be much out of the way by passing a law compelling hotel proprietors to place oil stoves in rooms that are as cold as refrigerators. And then coal oil stoves are cheap.

Henry Ford, who headed the Copenhagen peace conference, says that Germany's peace proposal should be applauded around the world. From that it is quite evident that Henry is still quite strong for peace.

The Nebraska supreme court has decided in favor of the court commission to help said court do its work. Possibly, if we had younger men in that court, they would be able to do the work without an assistant commission, at much expense.

"Safety First" will apply to Christmas trees as well as anything else. The trees are generally lighted with many candles, and we have known trees to catch fire through carelessness and with disastrous effects. It is just as well to be a little careful in your management and handle these candles, if you will have them, so that the trees do not catch fire.

Christmas color—any color so it's red.

We will have a white Christmas, all right. Good!

Five Sundays in this month is not bad for the church people.

There's still time to get action on your pocket book before Christmas.

The ice harvest is a very hard proposition and it is very hard to warm up to it.

We hope Mayor Jim Dahlman will get an automobile in his stocking Christmas morning.

Wouldn't she be disappointed if her best fellow should get his presents mixed, and his girl receive the present intended for his sister?

Old Sol has finished his trip south, and is now on his way back to warm all of us up in the north. And the days will be getting longer.

A man never feels quite so conspicuous as he does on a cold winter's day when walking down street with a girl wearing white shoes.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that the average wife will give an agent an order for anything that she wouldn't think of buying at a home store.

Congress will adjourn during the holidays. When it came to voting for or against the proposition, most of the members voted for it, and will eat turkey with home folks.

The one you buy seems to be all right until a fellow comes along selling a different kind. After listening to him you realize that yours is a little worse than none at all.

You can bet your bottom dollar that neither the "best fellow" or the "best girl" is not going to be forgotten on Christmas. If they are there will be nothing doing hereafter at the old stand.

The little tots should all be remembered. Remember you were once a child yourself. Poor parents may be unable to buy presents for their children and these, by all means, should not be forgotten.

Because Canada has not taken advantage of our Canadian reciprocity act, Congressman Sloan, of the Fourth Nebraska district, has introduced a bill providing for its repeal. If all the laws that were not observed were repealed it would be better for all concerned.

John Bull seems to be handling that peace proposal as though it were loaded with dynamite. Old John can do a heap of plotting, but he is very careful of his hide on the battle field. He does a lot of fighting with his mouth, while Russia and France do the fighting at the front.

The editor of the Journal is under many obligations to his old friend and former co-laborer on the Journal, for a copy each of the Sunday Fort Worth (Texas) Daily Record and the Daily Star Telegram, both of which are mammoth editions, and show up Fort Worth's business interests in great shape. Mr. Grimes holds the position of special auditor of the Rock Island company and has been an employe of that company since he left Plattsmouth five years ago. Charley is competent for most any position, and it is always a pleasure to the Journal force to know that he is faring well. He has hosts of friends in Plattsmouth who are always pleased to hear from him.

NOT GOVERNMENT BUT SELF.

A timely intimation comes from Washington that, while government will enforce law, the principal remedy for extortionate food prices lies in the hands of the people themselves.

The country is full of unrecognized statesmen, and luxurious women in the habit of telephoning their meat and grocery orders who want an act of congress. There are propagandists of various kinds, such as the socialists, who want the mayors of cities to seize all food, and the Kaiser societies, which want an embargo. Laziness and improvements fall in with all its weapons, government, except in the presence of demonstrated lawbreaking, does not possess a title of the power that might be exercised by consumers always alert and intelligent.

Long before the dismal science of political economy was taught, there were adages offering a more certain guide to the average family. Most of these have been forgotten, or, if remembered, are sneeringly received as too trite for respect. Nevertheless, there was profound wisdom in not sending a boy to mill, in the theory that self-service was good service, in the contention that convenience and ease are hard masters and in the dictum that pride lays heavier taxes than kings or parliaments.—New York World.

MAKING IT TOUGH FOR FATHER.

The Merry Yuletide is almost upon us, with all its delightful expectations, sometime realizations and inevitable bills.

Christmas means a great deal this year, especially to father. For the first time in his life, no matter how old he may be, he has come to realize just how high prices can go without disappearing. It is true that he has more wampum than usual, but the gent who brought it in thoughtlessly left the door open.

Added to his sundry and divers other cares, father now has to dodge the "fund" collectors, which is no slouch of a job, since most of the said funds are worthy enough, and hard to refuse.

When father wants to buy a Christmas present this year he has to go up an alley and enter the store by way of the basement. Anybody pushing his hands into his pockets is held liable to an assessment for a fund. The jingle of a bunch of keys is considered prima facie evidence of the possession of superfluous wealth. The man who owns a check book has to bivouac on his arms.

This will be just as Merry a Christmas as ever, we trust, and it is only to be hoped that there will be enough Santa Clauses to go 'round.

But first, last and forever, remember the only original Good Fellow movement—for that is the kindest and most appreciated giving of them all.—World Herald.

This is the last issue before Christmas.

A circus traveling on motor trucks is the next thing in order.

Santa Claus can't squirm through many chimneys—poverty blocks the way.

Many people are cutting ice these days, while the cutting and ice both are good.

And the Journal takes pleasure in wishing all its readers a very "Merry Christmas."

Tomorrow night the children will hang up their stockings, just like us old bucks used to do.

Many young people will try to join hands and get as nearly under the mistletoe as possible these Christmas times.

The greatest coach of the present hour is he who gets the furnace and the thermometer to do good team work.

Be selfish, all the rest of the year, but for one day, at least, divy your luck—it may run longer because of a little kindness. Especially on His Day.

PEACE IN 1917.

It must not be taken for granted that because the peace proposals of the central powers have met with truculent responses they have therefore fallen on barren ground.

What has been said by Lloyd-George, by the Russian duma and by members of the French government is about what was to be expected. The nature of these preliminary and tentative replies, indeed, was very generally forecasted as soon as it was made known that the German government was inviting a peace conference.

For governments have domestic conditions as well as their foreign relations to consider in times of great danger and widespread suering. They must deal with their own peoples as well as with the enemy governments. No government can hope to be strong, in war or peace, unless it has the support and confidence of the people it represents. This is true in despotisms almost to the same extent as in democracies.

In order to satisfy home sentiment—that is to say, in order to safeguard itself—the German government, in proposing to the enemy nations that a peace conference be held, was obliged to talk boldly and bravely of victories won and advances gained, and obliged likewise to impose upon the enemy the blame for the instigation of the war and for its prolonged continuance.

Palpably none of the enemy governments, however anxious it might be for peace, could afford to consent to a peace conference without disclaiming emphatically that Germany was the victor, without declaring that Germany and its allies were responsible for the war, and without making such a show of strength and confidence in ultimate victory as would justify the enormous expenditures of blood and treasure and the solemn assurances that have been made to the people.

It was only natural that, at this stage of the proceedings, angry words should be banded back and forth. What is encouraging to note is that, from no source as yet, has the suggestion of peace conference been summarily and wholly rejected.

The war must end sometime. There is no monarch or cabinet of people in Europe but recognize that, and neither great coalition of powers, it is not extravagant to conjecture, fails to realize that there is nowhere in sight the enormous strength necessary to bring the war to a crushing conclusion by military force. The German allies might expect to gain further advantages in the east—the taking of Odessa, the driving of Sarraïl's army from Saloniki, possibly even the long-dreamed of Ottoman inundation of Egypt. But if they all were realized, even in overflowing measure, they would not, combined, be conclusive. Not so could Russia or France or Britain be compelled to sue for peace and accept a victor's terms. Neither, on the other hand, could the entente allies, even though they should succeed in pressing the German armies back from France and Belgium—back to the Rhine—after long months of frightful sacrifice, expect by virtue of such a victory to be able to dictate peace terms to a cowed and beaten enemy. For the enemy would be neither beaten nor cowed, but would still be in undisputed possession of its own territory and of rich and extensive captured territories on the eastern front soon to blossom with another harvest.

Since the war must sometime end—if the end must be reached by diplomatic rather than military means—why not now? Why not, at least, soon? This is the basis—we believe the sound and substantial basis—of the hope for peace in 1917.—World-Herald.

A correspondence school brakeman lost his foot on the first day of service on an eastern train, and the company had to pay him \$2,000. Earning big money at the start.

Old Santa is on his way, and is due here tomorrow night, just a few minutes before 12 o'clock.

THE CALL FOR PEACE.

It makes very little difference whether President Wilson's message to the warring powers is called a peace note or some other kind of a note. By whatever name it is powerfully calculated to promote peace because its effect must be either to remove misunderstandings that stand in the way of peace or to strip the mask of hypocrisy from the faces of those pretending to be fighting for things they are not really fighting for and pretending to be for peace on fair and just terms when in fact fair and just terms fall far below the measure of their desire.

It was high time, in this most astounding of all wars, that someone, in the name of humanity and civilization, call a halt.

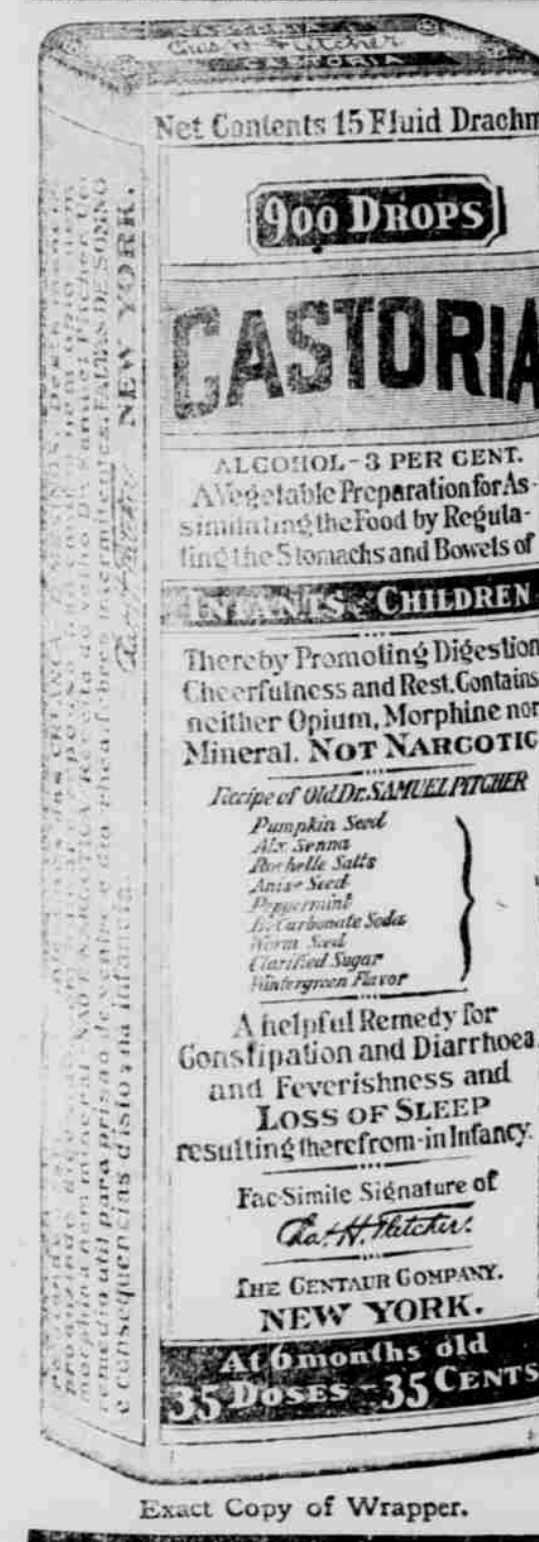
It was high time that someone, in position to speak with a voice that would be heard above the tumult, should challenge the combatants to define precisely what they are fighting for and to name definitely the terms on which peace would be acceptable.

President Wilson, of all men and officials in the world, was best qualified to perform this exalted service. For long months millions of his admirers, millions of his countrymen whose destinies have been entrusted to his hands, have been eagerly waiting for him to act. He has patiently bided his time until, in his judgment, the occasion should be ripe. Now that the hour is at hand he strikes boldly and incisively.

There is no escaping the force and logic of President Wilson's presentation of the case. That power, or that combination of powers, that should have the hardihood not to heed his solemn summons would stand indicted before the bar of judgment of both man and God. He speaks because he has a right to speak. The life and safety of his own country is profoundly affected. Not only do we feel the present burdens of the war, not only do we share its perils as one of the heritors of that civilization at whose foundations it is striking, but we are ourselves in constantly increasing danger of being drawn into it, against our wish and interest, in defense of rights that we cannot surrender and that maddened and desperate combatants will not respect. And should the United States become involved the last ship would be in the middle of the table. Civilization would have pawned its last precious chattel with the god of war—a god angry, inflamed, irresponsible and iniquitous—a god that exacts usurious interest. Even should the United States, by some miracle, escape the bloody plunge, yet it is in peril of frightful loss that for generations would be a continuing loss. For if, as the president so well says, the war is to be prolonged until "resentments must be kindled that can never cool," until "despairs are engendered from which there can be no recovery," then "hopes of peace and of the will of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle." War would become chronic—war resting on man and incurable hatred. Into such warfare all the world would soon be drawn. And in such warfare the civilization that mankind has been laboriously building through the centuries would surely perish.

Therefore President Wilson, now while there is yet time, calls for a show-down. Diplomatically polite as is his language, he seriously demands a frank statement of real purposes, so that those purposes may be compared and out of the comparison come adjustment and peace.

The German government and its allies, even before the president spoke, had already indicated its willingness to enter into a peace conference where, with the world to witness, it would state its terms of peace, listen to the terms of its allies, and attempt to reach a reconciliation. The answers of the enemy governments to this invitation are perhaps already on the way. Whatever may be their nature it is safe to assume that they cannot stand as a barrier to just such a conference. There will be other notes, and other answers, and each in turn will bring the combatants a step nearer the goal for which, as Wood-



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row Wilson says, "all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing." And the reason is that the German invitation, followed by President Wilson's challenging message, will serve to crystallize public opinion not only in neutral countries but in the warring countries themselves—and that opinion will but interpret the "intense and increasing longing" that is tugging at the heartstrings of all humanity. It is a longing that springs from that spirit of love which is the spirit of God, and so is championed by righteousness. Before its resistless on sweep all monarchs and potentates and cabinets that stand in the way are doomed to fall.

The call for peace is reverberating around the world. In its majestic and awe-compelling echoes the puny thunders of the cannon are lost. Foolish and damned will be those leaders, in whatever countries they may be found, who refuse to bow their stubborn heads—World-Herald.

So many a darned stocking will tangle in piteous emptiness Christmas morning and more than one s'um mother will seek to explain to a baby how it happens there aren't gifts enough in the world to go 'round.

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