

The Plattsmouth Journal

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY AT PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA.
Entered at Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Neb., as second-class mail matter.

R. A. BATES, Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

The "dry" law is in force.

Extravagance is more costly than living.

If you have an iron will, be sure you don't let it get rusty.

One man "roots" while the other stands around and "squeals."

Cobwebs are useful in advertising a store that does not advertise.

The last few days, however, has been "wet" enough for anybody.

If it isn't one thing it is another, to disgust the people—and now it is wet weather.

It is not the airship so much as it is the heirship that keeps a great many people worrying.

People who lay aside their flannels too soon are apt to be compelled to wear a woolen overcoat.

"April showers bring forth May flowers," is an old quotation, and May first brings forth June thirst.

The only thing that prevents some women following all the latest fashions in dress is their vaccination scar.

Mexico is about the only nation on earth where a thief has a better chance of being a success than an honest man.

In order to become a great financial success depends chiefly upon pluck, but you must first find the victim to be plucked.

The farmers haven't been able to get in much work the past week, and it has become a worrying proposition. The planting will be late.

When a man is driven into bankruptcy his failure is generally attributed to women and booze, but not so when he goes into the chicken business.

Women are admonished to treat able-bodied men with great consideration, because with war and appendicitis combined, good men are becoming mighty scarce.

Mothers' day, one week from next Sunday. This is the day of all days in which we pay tribute to our dear mothers, whether dead or living. The dearest friend we ever possessed.

Tom and Jerry will not figure in holiday celebrations to any great extent in Nebraska in the future. They are pretty good fellows, but they, too, have gone glimmering with the past. In the language of Tom Moore: "Fare thee well, and if forever; again I say, then fare thee well!"

The people of this country are not going to starve, so long as there is plenty in this land, even if it is hosed up by robbing speculators. When it comes to the starving point the people become reckless, and there is not a big enough army to keep them from getting it, even if the food does come from those who have it hosed up for higher prices.

Some people will blame an officer for doing his duty. This is entirely wrong. An officer is sworn to see that the laws of the land are enforced, and if he fails to do this, when he knows the laws have not been preserved, he can be removed. It is not always a pleasant duty for the officer, and while in many instances he regrets to have to do things he does not care to do, yet must do, no reasonable person is going to get boisterous when the officer does his duty, no matter who "gets hit."

WAKE UP, AMERICANS!

It is real war—grim, deadly, terrible—that is upon us.

It is imperiling not only Europe but America.

It is not only threatening our ideals and the institutions we cherish as they exist abroad—it is challenging their right to live here on American soil.

It is here, at our door. Its hot breath is on our cheek.

Secretary Lane, as spokesman for the government, told the plain, hard, unpalatable truth to the American people at Washington yesterday. Speaking to the governors of many states he announced that the submarine destruction is not only threatening the existence of England and France but is alarming the United States.

He said: "We do not know when on the other side we shall fight it on this side of the Atlantic."

He said: "We do not know when this war will end. Personally I believe it will last several years. Germany has put up the greatest fight of history."

If there are American citizens who still believe that this is not our war, that we have no stake in it, that we can afford to be indifferent to the outcome, they cannot too soon undeceive themselves.

The democratic cause in Europe is in imminent and frightful danger. But for the assistance of the United States it will almost certainly be lost. And it is only by organizing for a mighty effort, as a united and determined people hesitating at no sacrifice, that we can depend upon our own power to stem the rising tide of autocracy.

If we leave England and France to go down to defeat before we can save them it will be our turn next—and the war, as Secretary Lane warns us, will be transferred to this side of the Atlantic. With England and France beaten, not for another month would Russia and Italy be able to stand up and continue the fight. And with the original enemies of the Central Powers crushed and helpless, except for Japan, who can say what other invaders than Germany we might be called upon to resist!

The American people for many months have been lulled with false assurances and false hopes. They have been made to believe that Germany's cause was hopeless, that the triumph of the allies was certain. The tremendous danger of the submarine campaign has been hidden and minimized. The drive on the west front has been pictured as a sweeping triumph, pushing the German hosts in confusion before it. Russia, after the revolution, has been advertised as a mightier power than before. Now at last the truth is dawning upon us. We see the submarine making a mockery of British sea power. We see the allied drive slowing down and stopping after tremendous efforts and enormous losses, with the Hindenburg line intact. We see in Russia revolution confronted by revolution, weakness everywhere, disorganization and disintegration threatened.

The allies are not winning the war. They are losing it—We are losing it. The entente powers have not the strength and resources remaining to organize for a fresh and greater effort. The reserve power that alone can change defeat to victory is here in the United States. The future of this war—our own future included—rests here, with us.

To stop now to question whether the war is a "popular" one or not is madness. It is to sit stubbornly in a burning building and debate the millenium. This war, Mr. American Citizen, our part in it, should be just as "popular" with you as the fireman who dashes through and into the

flames to save your wife and child from certain and awful death. It is up to you to help that fireman, even though it be the certain loss of your own life! The government at Washington is the fireman. Surely Secretary Lane is not unreasonable in warning you against discontent—in urging that you do not criticize, attack and weaken it in this supreme hour of our national life! Back of it you should put every ounce of your strength, every fibre of your body, every impulse of your life.

This is no time for doubting and questioning. It is no time for looking backward, or for division. But neither is it a time for hysteria. It is a time to play a man's part in a world in flames. The way to do that is to be reasonable as well as devoted, to steady patriotism with poise, to give ourselves with cool heads and steady nerves each to that work he can do best to add to the might and unity of the republic.—World-Herald.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP.

Current events are disclosing what it means for a state to cultivate the friendship and confidence of other powers and other peoples.

It is not alone its own power and resources that the United States government is able to throw into the scales against Prussian plutocracy, but its participation in the war of democracy and against absolutism is enlisting the enthusiastic co-operation of millions living in other lands under other governments.

Events are beginning to prove that the biggest work accomplished by the administration of Woodrow Wilson has been the winning of the confidence of the world in the good intentions of the American government. He has taught formerly suspicious peoples that this government entertains no ambitions for conquest, for expansion of territory or for the exploitation of any country or people.

That is why Cuba has come forward with its offer to join us in the war. That is why Brazil, Argentina and other powerful Latin republics have either followed or are preparing to follow our example. And far-away China has chosen to cast her lot with us. Not even the allies had been able to lure China into a relinquishment of neutrality. Every device known to diplomacy and intrigue had been tried to win support from China, but as soon as the United States took a stand and as soon as Russian autocracy had received its death blow, China broke off diplomatic relations with the author of the campaign of frightfulness and is threatening to follow this country into the war.

In diplomatic circles it is no secret that it is the open and candid course this government has pursued toward all other governments and peoples that has won their co-operation at a critical period in the world's history.—Lincoln Star.

Our merchants will have to carry larger stocks of goods than ever before, and sell as cheap as the same can be bought in Omaha. They can do it, and there is no use to stand back on prices. The way to do is to have bargain days, the same as other cities, and offer prices and goods that are bound to draw trade for many miles. The people are going to buy where they can get what they want at the right prices. There is no use denying this fact.

The Railway Age Gazette sees the end of the holdup game in the decision of a jury at Belleville, Ill., denying damages to a fellow whose automobile collided with a railroad train. It is time that juries refused to give damages to automobile drivers who travel neither on track or schedule, for collisions with trains that must keep to both.—Lincoln Star.

The boys seem to be answering the call for enlistments mighty well all over the country. There is no discount on the patriotism of Young America, when their country is in danger.

TEN BOYS AND GIRLS WANTED

To sell American Flag Pins. See Mr. Olson at the Olson Photo Co. office.

YOUNG AMERICA.

Young America, it's up to you!

You do not have to shoulder a rifle and march to the front to prove your loyalty to your country and your flag. You do not have to join the navy to prove that you are proud of the land of your birth.

"They also serve who only stand and wait," said Tennyson. That is all right—when it is all right.

But right now you have a glorious opportunity to prove your loyalty and your devotion, and that, too, without severing home ties, without barring your breast to the shot of the enemy, without undergoing the horrors of trench warfare. The service you can render is just as brave, just as necessary, as fighting at the front. As a matter of fact, you can do your country more good right here at home than you could possibly do at the front, either as a soldier or a sailor. And you do not have to be a certain age, nor do you have to meet certain physical requirements, to be fit for needed service. There may not be quite so much glory in the service you can render as there is in charging a trench or sinking an enemy ship, but there is just as much satisfaction and just as much reward due you if you do the duty that lies to you right here.

Young America, get into the fields and the gardens! Grab a hoe and produce for the country while your elder brothers are fighting for your country. Let not one square foot of fertile soil escape your charge. Shoot on sight the first weed that threatens to rob the fertility of your native soil and prevent the production of foodstuffs that your brothers in the field must have, and which must be supplied to those who are left behind. Charge every enemy of procreation and idleness and put them to rout. Get your range finders trained on every skulking enemy of thriftlessness and turn loose the big guns of energy and toil thereon.

Wars are not fought today as they were fought a half-century ago. They are won by organization, by preparation and by specialization. The producer is just as necessary as the fighter. Food is as necessary as smokeless powder and lyddite bombs.

Young America, if you will do your patriotic duty in this emergency, never fear that you will not receive credit equal to that of the older boys who have gone to the front. If by your exertions the country is able to abundantly supply its armies in the field, its allies at the front and its own people left at home, without stinting anyone or permitting the pangs of hunger, your work is just as glorious and just as much entitled to honorable mention as the bravest deed of the bravest soldier.

One boy with hoe, if he is as patriotic as the boy with the rifle, can serve his country to the fullest measure of devotion.

Young America, don't be a "slack-er!" Do your bit, wherever the opportunity lies. Every mouthful you eat in idleness is a drain upon the resources of the country. Every ounce of foodstuff you contribute to the general store is an added strength to the republic.

Not all of us can go to the front. But every one of us who have to stay at home can do our bit. We can economize in foodstuffs for our own use. We can prevent waste. We can till a bit of soil, no matter how small the plot may be, and thus help to increase the country's stores and add to the strength of the armies in the field.

The schoolboys and the schoolgirls of America can help immeasurably to win this war for the preservation of democracy, for the preservation of free public schools, free speech, free press and equal opportunity. A grave responsibility is yours, Young America, in this great crisis. If you are the sons of your fathers, if the blood of revolutionary sires hasn't faded and become thin in your veins, you will not shirk one iota of that responsibility, but will meet it manfully.

And we have every confidence in you, Young America! Your kind never failed us before. We know you will not fail now.

A hoe in the fields and a rifle at

the front—that's the combination that will win this war for humanity.—Bill Maupin's York Democrat.

A NEW WORLD FOOD CRISIS.

Mr. Lloyd George's Guildhall appeal for food economy and increased production was as applicable to the United States as to Britain. For France also his are weight words. Italy is no more fortunate.

According to Arthur Richmond Marsh, who today acquaints World readers with the gravity of the crisis, we face world famine. Even if the war were now to end, there would not be enough to eat, reckoned with their old wasteful standards, in the lands that have been centers of civilization.

In America we meet the consequences of the drift away from the farm, suddenly heightened by the war, the sinking of food ships, derangement of the fertilizer supply, the withdrawal of millions of men from production. We had natural resources to feed the neutral and entente world, but labor lacked. On top of all came weather conditions which have left our winter wheat prospects below the ten-year average.

What can be done in a case so grave? First, realize it. Plant corn, potatoes, beans—the latter, Dr. Marsh reminds us, an invaluable hearty food. Plant late, after the gathering of early crops. Till city and suburban and village gardens everywhere, under the direction of garden committees.

But to lessen the shock of a condition "the like of which has not been seen on the North American continent since its earliest colonization by the white race," the first, the obvious, the inescapable duty to our allies and ourselves is to stop wasting food.—New York World.

TWO SIDES TO SHIP LOSSES.

A Washington dispatch says that Germany's loss of ships is greater than that of England and approximates 2,259,000 tons, so that Germany will emerge from the war with a net loss of over 50 per cent of her merchant shipping. Should Argentine and other South American countries who have not as yet severed relations decide to seize German vessels, the loss would be increased by 676,000 tons. German ships lost by mines or torpedoes total 152 vessels, a tonnage of 452,000; detained or captured by the enemy, 267, with tonnage of 807,000; in the United States or neutral harbors, 621, with tonnage of 2,341,000, in other words, 7.1 per cent have been destroyed; 14.1 per cent are held by the enemy; 43 per cent are in the ports of the United States and neutral countries, and 35.8 per cent are still at home.

It will be seen that there are two sides to this shipping business. The loss of shipping has not all been on the side of the allies as some men seem to think. The loss, however, has been so great that ocean transportation will be crippled for some years to come. When General Goethels gets his thousand wooden ships on the sea, some of which he expects to be sailing from our ports in about six months, that will add 3,000,000 tons to our shipping, and it will take the U-boats some time to sink them. Meantime a great many more can be built. Recent reports from Japan are to the effect that an enormous number of ships are in course of construction there.—World-Herald.

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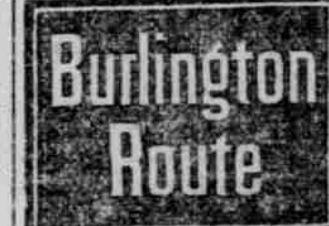
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