

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

My business is not to make myself, but to make the absolute best of what God made.—Robert Brown- ing.

The long ballot should be done away with.

A Plattsmouth man says he has been in it so often he turns faint when a waiter brings on the soup.

Clean men should be elected to office, and no other kind should apply.

If the flattery is headed your way it sounds like merited praise, does it not?

War prices are all right if you get them, and tough if you have to pay them.

Nations may do as they please, but the average married man should declare neutrality.

President Wilson won't find so much opposition to his policy of "watchful waiting" at this stage of the game.

list, or a burden of national debt. And the bulk of the loss is to the privates and their posterity, whose pay is such a paltry pittance, whose fate in victory or defeat is likely the lot of the loser; poor losers who asked so little and got less.

It is thought at Washington that there will be no adjournment of congress. With the war in Europe the times seem too critical to allow of an adjournment for some time yet, at least. President Wilson needs a rest, but he says he will not even take a vacation of a week's duration.

The democratic vote on secretary of state showed very conclusively that the democrats of the state were not stuck on Charley Pool, and that Shields would have been nominated had he come out sooner. The people do not believe in these chronic office seekers.

"War prices" when there is no occasion for it will not work with President Wilson a little bit. He sees fraud and graft of the very worst kind, and the investigation already started, has been the means of some few reductions on certain foodstuffs already perceptible. Here is where President Wilson spends but little time in "watchful waiting."

A special from Chicago under date of August 22, announces the death of Darius Miller, president of the C. B. & Q. railroad, which occurred at Glacier Park, Montana, Sunday, after undergoing an operation for appendicitis. He had been touring the park with his wife in apparently good health until last Wednesday, when he was taken ill. Thus has been removed one of the most noted and efficient railroad officials in the west, loved and respected by all the employees of the Burlington system, from the highest to the lowest position, and his sudden death came as a great shock to those who knew him best. His funeral will occur in Chicago Wednesday or Thursday.

THE PRIVATES.

Perhaps the most pitiful part of this man-made hell called war is the one which attracts the least attention in history; even in song and story it is neglected for those who bring the wisardry of words or the miracles of music to war, are apt to use them to embellish and glorify. And the glory is for war lords and field marshals and the rest who linger on or near the seats of the mighty. For the privates are the hardships and horrors, the foul food and burning thirst, the gaping wounds and sudden death, and the sad burden of families left in want made worse by the awful devastation of it all is that they have no quarrel with those that seek to murder. The Belgian miner had no quarrel with the sausage maker from Stuttgart; the happy, healthy youngster of the Tyrol no feud with the Cossock lad from the Don; the French peasant, laboring in his vineyard, no hatred of the students of Hiedelberg. Yet now they must meet in death grapple, all these and many others from the pleasant, helpful paths of peace, and the world outside the hateful zone of hostilities may but dimly grasp their awful sacrifice. To every man, of course, "death cometh soon or late," but that is a weak excuse for wholesale slaughter. And viewed from the same serenity of this land at peace, death seems more unutterably sad when needless, and when victims go out with murder in their hearts. Sad, too, that so many should die before their time; in the flower of youth of the future prime of useful manhood. Nor is even death in awful form the full sacrifice the privates pay; what posterity loses one can but vaguely estimate. Among the bright young minds snuffed out so suddenly may be the embryo of a later Edison, a greater Koch, a brighter Kipling; the waste of war may not be reckoned solely by the casually.

Vacation has almost run its course, and the bevy of girls and boys will be wending their way up High School Hill a week from next Monday morning, many of them glad the time has arrived to pursue their studies, while others are sorry that the time for going to school has arrived, but not so sorry as they will be when they grow up to be men and women that they did not go to school every moment offered them.

It is generally believed in political circles that the European war will help the democrats, as war nearly always helps the party in power. And then President Wilson's "watchful waiting" policy, which became something of a liability in the Mexican row, is now an asset, and his impassioned plea to Americans not to take sides in the European war appeals strongly to common sense. Opening of the seas to commerce is boosting grain and live stock prices, and high prices will satisfy the farmers who were knocking on the new tariff. If the United States can keep out of the big muss the democrats have little cause for worry.

The American lawyer who is trying to induce Teddy Roosevelt to help the French army may fail in his purpose. Teddy may eventually conclude to stop the war entirely.

We all love peace when it isn't to be had at any price.

One week from Monday is Labor Day—September 7.

Some women cannot drive a bargain any better than they can drive a nail.

Primary results make the three constitutional amendments almost certainties.

Carranza should remember that he may want to plan some bonds some time himself.

Brand Whitlock is the only foreign ministr left standing on the burning deck in Brussels.

The censors have no power over the stories of the American refugees after they reach home.

The suggestion that it be called "The War of Seven Nations" might be temporarily followed until eleven come.

New York would rather have that income tax for state purposes. So would Nebraska or any other state, for that matter.

The temperance forces oppose the increased tax on liquor. For once the temperance and liquor powers may work together.

Did the book trust get it in the neck in the recent primaries, or did it get candidates for state superintendent that will serve their purpose if elected? It's a very cold day in August when the objects of the school book trust is defeated.

You will recall that a few months ago it was said that our diplomacy in its dealing with the Mexican question was the laughing stock of Europe. You have also heard of him who laughs last. As a far-seer that man Woodrow Wilson is a wonder.

"Why not the United States of Europe, with a government by, for and of the people, with royalty relegated to the past, crowns and scepters shelved in museums and peace from the Ural mountains to the western shores of the British Isles secure?" asks Henry Waterson of the Louisville Courier-Journal. Why not? Will you bite?

Ex-Governor Aldrich has come to the conclusion, as between Governor Morehead and Howell, he will support the latter, believing that Howell has done less injury to him. He has it in for Governor Morehead because that gentleman snowed him under so deep two years ago. Governor Morehead is just the man that will snow the other fellow under just as deep in November.

Frank Harrison is the last man for the suffragists to pick upon to pilot them through the state campaign. He is known as a man of very little influence and is always in for something that will make Frank a few dollars. That's all there is in it for this politician who has failed in everything he has undertaken. If the ladies will dump him out somewhere along the roadside they will fare a great deal better, and the people will have more faith in their cause.

There should be no room for sore spots over the primary election. Candidates cannot all be nominated where there are two or three running for the same office, and the defeated should take their quinine like we used to have to in the army. It was awful bitter, but we felt better after the chills were gone. There is no use sulking, but be brave, and remember there is another primary day in two years. That may be your's—you can't tell.

NEGLECTED RESOURCES.

Following the remarkable and very excellent plan of "making the best of everything," the American people may reap large and lasting benefits from the war that is now sweeping over the old world. Not that the destruction of life and property in Europe will bring either riches or happiness to the United States, because it cannot have that effect. Whatever of good that is destroyed in war is a loss to the whole world, and war is a calamity to all mankind, whether it be in the jungles of Africa or in the slaughter pens of Europe. But inasmuch as the United States cannot turn the armies of Europe back to their homes nor save the life of a single human being now engaged in war, it is part of wisdom for the American people to "make the best of it," and reap whatever benefits they may. This is the first time that the lesson has been hard pressed upon the American people that they have grossly neglected many of the most valuable resources of the country, and that their proud boast of being a self-supporting people must not be taken too seriously. So far as foodstuffs are concerned we have enough and to spare, but in the matter of manufacturers and raw materials, this country imports almost two billion dollars' worth every year. A very large portion of this might be produced in the United States, and this is especially true of manufactured articles. It should not be necessary for our people to ship their iron, and cotton, and hides, and wool to Europe and then ship them back in finished products. This country has not developed as it should along manufacturing lines, although protected for half a century by high tariffs and restrictive laws. The war has emphasized this fact to a degree never before thought of, and the country now finds itself badly crippled in many lines of business because certain articles are not manufactured here and cannot be imported during the war. This condition should not exist, especially in regard to those articles that might be classed among the necessities of the people. This country ought to be able to feed, and clothe, and shelter itself, regardless of conditions in other parts of the world. The war has brought out the fact also that the American flag is practically a stranger among the shipping interests of the seas. We have heard lots of talk about the shipping and shipbuilders' trust along the Atlantic coast, and took it for granted that a shipping trust would have ships galore, but when the war sent the foreign merchantmen to cover, the ocean was about as bare of ships as are the prairies of Nebraska. When Uncle Sam found it necessary to send after his stranded sons and daughters across the sea, he was compelled to rig up his coal haulers and his roustabouts to do the job. And it has been discovered that Europe commanded the commerce of South America to the almost total exclusion of the United States. The American people may profit largely from the knowledge that the war is bringing to the surface—if they will.

The military expert shrewdly directs his reader's gaze to the future, with the hope that what has gone before will be forgotten.

The corn crop in the southwest seems to have been caught coming and going, suffering from flood and drought like.

Judge Begley received an enormous vote in Cass county—nearly 2,000—democrats and republicans alike voting for him, where really there was no necessity for it, as he had no opposition.

A late news item tells us the raw material used in the construction of woman's headgear has gone higher. Many a husband had come to the conclusion that these things had reached the top notch last year.

Governor Morehead bears his honors, and is now on duty at his office "watching and waiting" to see his majority pile up higher and higher as the final returns come in. He is justly proud of the grand endorsement he received from the people of Nebraska. The people called, and called louder than some people thought or really wanted to believe.

That wheat movement which was checked by the outbreak of the European war will be resumed is indicated by the raising of embargoes by a number of railroads. The Baltimore & Ohio has lifted the embargo on grain for export via Baltimore. The Pennsylvania will also accept shipments for export via Baltimore, and the P. & R. will now accept traffic for export via Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania has advised western roads that it will accept oats for domestic use, destined Baltimore.

No country at war or peace can help but praise the beautiful sentiments expressed by Woodrow Wilson in his every attempt for peace. His every utterance in reference to the great war in Europe demonstrates the true Christian spirit of the man at the head of this great nation. This is a critical time, and the American people are fortunate in having such a wise man as President Wilson to advise them. He wants our people to remain neutral, and the way to remain neutral is for our citizens to criticize as little as possible. It would be best not to criticize at all. The discussion of affairs in Europe is not going to help matters in the least. Opinions differ in this free country of ours, and for the sake of our noble president, who is always right in his opinion, don't express yourself too freely in regard to the European war.

The London Times warns the public that bad news is to be expected, but adds that the war is young.

The recent tussle with a long list of candidates has emphasized the desirability of the short ballot.

Notwithstanding the dissolution of the harvester trust it will keep right on bringing in the sheaves.

They are going to try to elect a pope that will have sufficient influence to stop the war. God grant that they may.

The correspondents manage to get past the censors with stories of their personal hardships and insufferable difficulties.

The ceremony of opening the Panama canal to regular business should be expedited. Thousands of American citizens are awaiting in anticipation that it may cheapen the cost of living in several ways.

Falls City should be proud in the citizenship of a candidate for governor and two candidates for congress—Lyford, progressive, and Reavis, republican.

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SEEKING GREATNESS.

The disciples disputed among themselves as to who should be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. They appealed to the Master for an answer, and were told that whosoever shall humble himself as a little child shall be the greatest. We can imagine the look of disappointment that spread over the countenances of these candidates for heavenly honors. Their dreams of greatness were suddenly transformed into the possibility that they might not even get to heaven, much less wear a crown or occupy a place of honor. This new measure of greatness was a shocking revelation to the pride and ambitions of these men, and so far as history relates they made no further inquiries along this line. But be it said to the credit of these disciples, that they caught the meaning of the lesson and devoted the remainder of their lives to the humility, the trustfulness, and the love and service as exemplified in the innocence of the child. Whether they are today sitting upon the right hand and upon the left of the throne in heaven we are not told, but it appears of record and stands out in history, that because of these commonplace virtues, the disciples have, for twenty centuries, been the greatest among men. They achieved greatness that they did not seek, and honor that they did not know of. And in writing their names high upon the roll of fame, they left no bloody finger prints upon the scroll. They left no newly-made graves nor broken hearts or hopes along the steep and rugged path to paradise. Wherever they went in quest of heavenly greatness they carried the promise of peace on earth, good will toward men. By preaching brotherly love and by inspiring the poor and the oppressed with new courage and a new hope, they left a memory that has the freshness of the morning on it still. They humbled themselves as the little child, and became the greatest among men. Which shall be the greatest? is a question that has been asked time after time by the monarchs of the old world. Instead of appealing to the Master for an answer, as did the disciples, they have appealed to the god of war. The answer has been sought upon a thousand battlefields, but the fortunes of war come and go as do the tides, and the answer of today may be reversed tomorrow. The battles that are being fought today in Europe have for their aim the final settlement of this question—who shall be the greatest? This question and nothing more; and the poor misguided monarch whose armies are carrying destruction as if the destroying angel were leading the way, imagine that heaven will place the laurel crown upon him whose armies are most efficient in human butchery. Misguided monarchs indeed, and what a blessing it would be to humanity if they and all their race and kind, might be transported to the great unknown before another blow is struck! The common soldiery, like the disciples, might go to the Master for an answer, and getting it, go to their homes and serve their country best by living for it, rather than by dying for it.

All some men do in this old town is to threaten to sue the city.

If they can only draft Jack Johnson into the army while he is in Paris and get him killed, it would be a relief to many in the United States who do not want the troublesome nigger to return to this country.

In the midst of a nation-wide advance in the wholesale prices of foodstuff, and the rumbling of the machinery of a nation-wide investigation into the causes of the advance, it should be noticed that the Plattsmouth grocers are playing fair with the consumers. With the exception of the prices of sugar and flour there has been little increase in the staple foodstuffs in Plattsmouth. The housewife has noted that potatoes have gone down in price, that vegetables are cheaper than they were ten days ago, and that the advance in meats are no greater than was expected, war or no war. Fruits, vegetables, butter, milk, fish, poultry and eggs have undergone little change in price. Water-mellons and corn, fruits and vegetables are plentiful in the markets, despite the dry summer in central and southern Illinois. It would be extremely hard for any dealer to justify to the agents of the department of justice any sudden rise in prices. Thus far there is no evidence against the corner grocer, the retailer. He is dealing squarely with the people. He has no explanations to make.