

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THE BRITISH NOTES.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Unfaithfulness in the keeping of an appointment is an act of clear dishonesty. You may as well borrow a person's money as his time.—Horace Mann.

Remember Yankee Robinson's big show next Monday.

Between "victory at any price" and "peace at any price," give us peace.

After all, it remains that the great majority of the American people want peace.

Old Sol still smiles upon us, and may it so continue for several days, at least.

Occasionally you find a horse that is a good "mud runner." So it is with some men.

A fashion note says that blue veils preserve the complexion. Also, they cover it up; so what's the use of preserving it?

Belgium was crushed, but poor Poland has simply been obliterated, and deserves the sympathy of the world. Oh, cruel war!

Some men are wearing wrist watches, and probably before long it will be customary to have embroidered edging on the bottoms of trousers.

The history of Europe may lead some to believe that the discovery of America may well be confused with the discovery of Heaven made in Holy Writ.

It is hoped, when our government orders thirty new submarines, that one little detail won't be overlooked, and that is that they shall come up as well as they can dive.

The popular idea of cultured town is now that has a Carnegie library, to which the public is rushing to borrow the latest love stories. Soon Plattsmouth will be right in the swim.

We all put up with too many dangers for fear of offending somebody. Everybody, it seems, knew that the steamer Eastland was dangerous, excepting the innocent excursionists. Officers who fail to do their sworn duty are no exceptions, although they should be jailed for not being. The Eastland disaster seems to be the direct result of American inefficiency.

A new war weapon is the strike. It is being claimed by some, and denied by others, that the striking of workmen in some of the plants in the United States where war munitions are being made is being fomented by sympathizers with governments which are getting the munitions. The Remington Arms company strike is said to be of this class of labor disturbances. Naturally the men working in these plants, seeing their employers making immense profits by selling munitions at prices far above the normal price, demand that they share in some of the profits. It doesn't require the interference of any agencies representing foreign governments to show that kind of discontent. Undoubtedly immense prices are being paid for munitions—prices that are many times what the goods are really worth—and it would seem the part of discretion of the manufacturer to make concessions with labor, and give them more money for working on war munitions.

There is a strangely familiar argument set forth in the British note to the United States just published. It is an argument very similar to that which Germany made in her recent notes to the United States.

Great Britain, like Germany, seeks to excuse her violation of American rights as a neutral by asserting:

First—That her enemy is carrying on the war in an unfair way and that retaliatory measures are necessary even though neutral rights are invaded.

Germany mentioned among the unfair measures of her enemy the British attempt to starve the men, women and children of Germany. Great Britain now mentions among the unfair measures of her enemy the German treatment of Belgium, the use of poisonous gases and the sinking of the Lusitania. So each excuses its invasion of American rights on the seas by saying it is necessary in order that the enemy may be punished for its barbarous warfare.

As the United States has already denied to Germany its consent to have American rights thus trampled upon, so it must now deny its consent to Great Britain.

The second branch of the argument presented by Great Britain has also been made familiar to us in the German notes, namely, that changed conditions of warfare and new methods of fighting justify new treatment of neutrals and a disregard of their rights.

In the case of Germany, that nation asserted its right to torpedo enemy vessels without notice and without first ensuring the safety of passengers for the stated reason that a submarine could not always take those precautions and that old rules must be modified.

In the case of Great Britain the right is now asserted to interfere with and if need be terminate our trade with neutral countries like Holland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden, because those countries are contiguous to Germany and are engaged in buying from and selling to her. This right to blockade neutral countries Great Britain claims as a substitute for the old recognized right of a direct blockade of an enemy's ports, saying that a close blockade of German ports is impossible because of submarines and other new forms of warfare.

To this argument America must make the same reply that it made to Germany, namely: You must not do an act which destroys our right as neutrals simply because new methods of warfare have brought you face to face with new difficulties.

The American right as a neutral country to trade with other neutral countries is supreme. That trade may be of benefit to Germany, and it no doubt would be, but that fact does not justify an interference with it.

The attempt of Sir Edward Grey in the last two notes to justify an interference with trade between our country and other neutral countries of Europe on the plea that such trade is like the illicit trade which suddenly sprung up during the civil war between European ports and confederate ports by way of the West Indies and Mexico, is weak. The north then maintained a real, close-in blockade of confederate ports. To avoid this blockade goods were being sent to Mexico and thence across the border into the confederate states. In those cases what is known as "continuous passage" was asserted and proven. The neutral country did not in those cases import the goods. The goods merely passed through it on their way to the confederate states. In the present case the situation is different.

All the neutral countries in normal times have a large export and import trade with the United States. Their merchants, importers and exporters buy from and sell to our exporters and importers. They have this right and we have this right in war time as well as in peace time. If the goods bought and sold actually "enter into the commerce" of the respective neutral countries the trade is protected by international law regardless of whether it hurts or helps either belligerent. Only when there is proof of "continuous passage" has a belligerent any right to interfere and that could occur only in rare cases.

The time has now arrived for the United States to assert against Great Britain the rights of a neutral country as strongly and firmly as they have been already asserted against Germany.—World-Herald.

Now is the time to drag the roads, before another rain.

Haiti has had almost enough revolutions to wear out its cyclometer.

A sharp-pointed tongue can stab any good reputation to death in a minute.

Sometimes the saying that truth is mighty and will prevail seems like flapping.

The law is disposed to regard every man as innocent until his guilt is proven, but the people aren't anything like that.

The baby crop in Cass county this year is better than last, but you know there is nothing surer than a large crop of babies.

Remember the merchant who advertises. He has something to interest you, of course, and that's the reason he wants you to know it.

The trouble in Europe illustrates the truth that it is a very costly bargain when the common people hire kings to do their thinking for them.

A Los Angeles paper diffuses the intelligence that 50 per cent of the farmers wear garters. Jerry Simpson evidently lived in a transition period.

Henry Ford, the automobile man, says people should only eat when they feel like it, and then not as much as they want. Do not worry, Henry, the majority of the people will eat all they want as long as they have the price.

Dr. Surface, the state geologist of Pennsylvania, says that a snake which takes its tail in its mouth and rolls never existed, and that he will give \$100 for a specimen. That's hardly enough for the man who trained the seals to beat the drum.

Miss Jane Addams is a wise one in her generation. She went to Europe as a peace advocate, inspected everything carefully, and on returning says in effect: "Well, there isn't going to be any peace until somebody is thoroughly thrashed, I can tell you that."

So many mean wneezes have appeared about gunpowder and face powder that we are momentarily expecting the one out of the green-backed almanac of 1867 to the effect that "one faces the powder and the other powders the face!" Tee-he.

No one seems to know what has become of Jack Johnson; certainly no one gives a tinker's darn, and it is hoped that Harry Thaw will seek some secluded spot and keep out of sight. Billy Sunday will also be ready to follow suit after his Omaha graft.

We have sent what might be construed an ultimatum to Germany; we are preparing to send one, or something like it, to Great Britain, and we are preparing to drop down into Mexico to do some cleaning up down there. If everything keeps headed the way it is, it begins to look like we are going to have some little world war of our own.

BRITAIN'S PRESUMPTION.

Great Britain, in the several notes to the government of the United States, published recently, sweeps aside the established international laws relating to maritime warfare, and sets up a new code of laws of its own making, carefully adapted to conserve the interests of Britain in the present exigency, and wholly regardless of the rights of neutral nations. Circumstances, it says, in effect, alter laws as well as cases, and the circumstances now pressing upon it justify the abrogation of all laws that are not to its advantage and the substitution of other laws that are, saucily contending "that the measures we have announced are not only reasonable and necessary in themselves, but constitute no more than an adaptation of the old principles of blockade to the peculiar circumstances with which we are confronted."

The right of a belligerent to blockade the ports of an enemy has long been recognized. It may, if it can do so effectively, blockade the entire coast of the enemy. It may capture and condemn all vessels of whatever nationality attempting to break through such blockade, no matter what the nature of their cargoes. It may stop neutral vessels on the high seas, search for contraband destined for the enemy, and if such contraband is found, it may confiscate it. But never yet has a belligerent been given the right, nor claimed the right, to blockade a neutral port for the purpose of preventing merchandise from reaching the enemy. This is the right which Great Britain now claims, and which, against the protest of the United States, it has enforced since the issuance of the order in council last March. It contends now that "the spirit and principles of the essence of the rules of war" permit an indefinite extension of the blockade to as much of the earth or the waters thereof as it can guard; that the purpose of the blockade being to prohibit commercial intercourse with the enemy, it matters not how nor where that prohibition is made effective.

The acceptance of such a principle would put an intolerable restraint upon the commerce of neutrals. Its application in this instance has already done so. It would immediately involve neutral nations in the dire consequences of war and make the whole world to suffer for the sins of the few, for all nations are assumed to be neutral except those actually engaged in conflict. It would demoralize maritime trade whenever a war broke out between nations capable of applying a principle so monstrous. If the right of blockade could be extended this far, it could be further attenuated until neutral ports of exit would be put under guard, and no shipments permitted without the supervision of the blockading authorities. If vessels of the United States can be legally prevented from entering the ports of other neutral countries, it requires no great imagination to see the prohibition extended to vessels going out of its own ports. The violation of sovereignty in the one case differs only in degree from the other.

The citations of American decisions in connection with captures of British vessels during the civil war are not relevant, for those were captures of contraband goods, mainly munitions of war, which were clearly proved, although consigned to neutral ports, to have been destined to the enemy. The United States does not question the right of Great Britain to do likewise, nor has it done so. There is a vast difference between this, however, and the claim set up by Sir Edward Grey. The laws and principles applied to contraband are not the laws and principles pertaining to blockade, and they should be clearly distinguished.

The British order in council of March 15 constituted, as our protest of March 30 disclosed, "a practical assertion of unlimited belligerent rights over neutral commerce," and "an almost unqualified denial of the sovereign rights of the nations now at peace." The note recently printed is an emphatic affirmation of the right to issue and enforce that order. It

is an assumption of power to which the United States cannot and must not bow.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The corn crop is virtually saved from frost.

If it doesn't rain, look for a big crowd Monday.

More new homes contracted for in the past few days.

A hermit has one distinctive recompense—he knows no Ford stories.

It is far better to wear a straw hat in America than a crown in Europe.

Everything is small about a woman's hat this year except the bill.

The matrimonial papers might be suppressed under the anti-lottery law.

The man who thinks Plattsmouth isn't on the boom should take a trip over the city.

Appeals to Mexico only stir the bandits to renewed activity, and they fight harder. Hang the leaders and they will soon stop.

If we are really to return to safe and sane footwear this winter, as promised, make the men's souls at least a half an inch thick.

Germany seems perfectly willing to cease blowing up Americans if we will help her locate the ships carrying munitions of war.

War may bring rain, but it is a wonder that it doesn't again bring divine wrath to the extent of forty days and forty nights.

Beyond the Alps lies Italy, but whether or not it will be there when the 1916 graduates are ready to orate, depends somewhat on the progress of the war in Europe.

Boys shouldn't be too anxious to grow up. Remember, boys, that you have three months' summer vacation, while most grown-up people don't have but two, and some of them none at all.

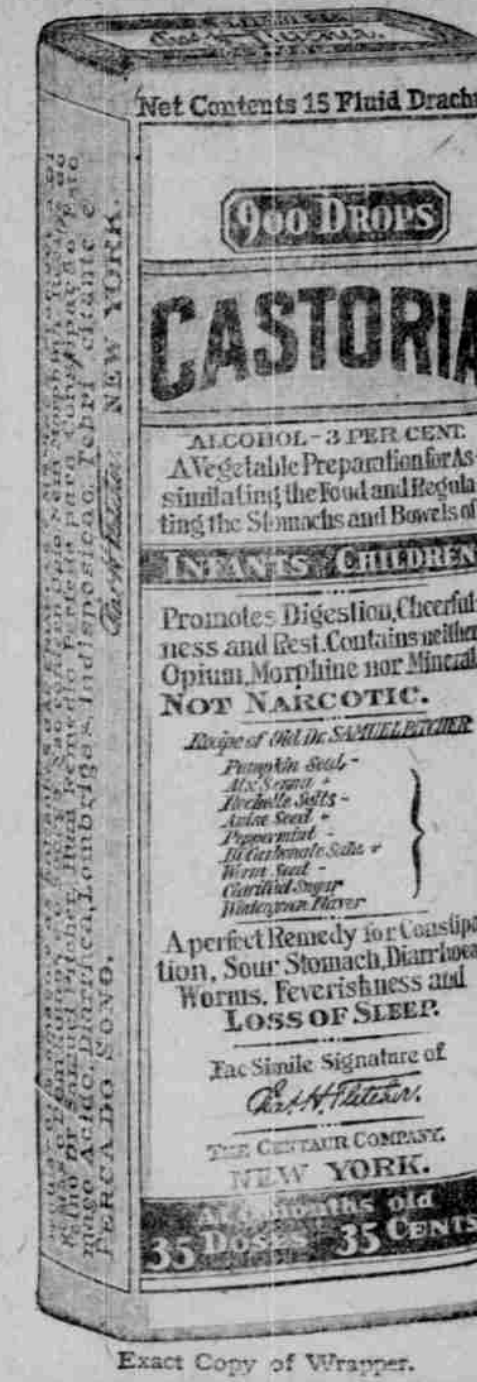
Let us gently urge on Henry Ford that what the world cries out for is not only a tractor plow, but a folding automobile that can be leaned against the house, instead of obstructing the street, parked or unparked.

If times seem hard, why make matters worse by constantly grumbling about the condition of things? You know as well as we do that times have been a great deal worse, and you did not complain half as much. Hush it up and go to work and help make them better.

The automobile accidents of the season have been many. It would seem that "all records are going to be broken." The loss of life has been great, and it seems that the dangers of automobile traffic are just becoming known. Certainly the fact is being emphasized that there should be greater care exercised in running machines than ever before.

A message from Robert Lansing, secretary of state, to Senator Hitchcock, announces the release of James Bell, the Nebraska newspaper man, whose paper, the Mexican City Herald, was suppressed, and Bell, together with his assistants, placed in jail. The Herald will resume publication. Bell formerly lived in Lincoln, and his father is a resident of Franklin, Neb.

It has not been many months since republican politicians were branding President Wilson as a coward because he was doing his best to keep this country out of the war. Now these same republicans are pouring hot shot into him because he dared assert to both England and Germany that this country's commerce must not be interfered with. They seem to be knockers on the administration for no other than political reasons, and it matters not on which side they knock on.



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The United States will not attempt to stop the massacre of Armenians until it gets through with Mexico.

The statement that "American surgery has opened the eyes of the French" should not be taken literally.

Why go away from home to get married, when you can have the job done in Plattsmouth as efficiently and cheaply as in any town in the state? Trade at home!

Statesmen should quit chewing the rag about international complications and make a law against the manufacture of automobiles that go faster than thirty miles an hour.

The migratory game bird law will be enforced.

The automobile victims still count. Three more were killed in the automobile races at Des Moines, Iowa, Saturday.

Many people can't look forward to a good rest until they get their summer vacation over and are back at work again.

Foster's weather service predicts several severe storms during this month. Also considerable warm weather and a frost in the northern sections about the 20th. Let 'er come, we are prepared for the worst.

We are on Top in the Paint Business!



Our stock is the most extensive in the city and includes every requirement in the paint line. Pure paints, oils, turpentine, putty, enamel, varnish and stains we have in an abundance at prices that make our customers happy.

FRANK GOBELMAN,

Hotel Riley Block, Plattsmouth, Neb.

Amazing Yields in Western Nebraska and Eastern Colorado

Many a farm in the above locality will pay for itself with this year's yield. The advance in values of these lands is due to the splendid crops of the last few years including the recognition of those lands for dairy purposes. The history of land values and the demand for our crops should tell you that at no future time can you get hold of these lands as you can today.

If you are not in a position to buy outright, then homestead 320 acres of Mondell lands in Wyoming. While this is called a dairy and stock country this year these lands are yielding 20 to 40 bushels of wheat per acre.

The general healthy condition of Nebraska farms and the success of their owners ought to tell you to quit paying rent and make the move. You owe it to yourself or your son. So send for my booklet describing this territory. The Burlington pays me to help you.

S. B. HOWARD, Immigration Agent,
1004 Farnam Street, OMAHA, Nebraska

