

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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## REPUBLICAN MILITARISM.

A democratic congress has given to the country a bill providing for a standing army with a maximum strength of 296,000, according to the figures of the ranking republican member of the military affairs committee of the house. It has provided also for a reserve, or second line, composed of a largely increased and strengthened militia, and of citizens to be drilled in training camps, to be used in case of war. It is the first and only measure for adequate military defense against outside aggression ever given the country, and it will cost a pretty penny. Yet republicans, inside congress and outside, have attacked it as puny, inefficient and ridiculous.

By unanimous vote of the democratic members of the naval affairs committee of the house, \$160,000,000 is to be provided for new ships for the navy. The total of the naval appropriation bill will reach \$240,000,000, and the budget for the fiscal year 1917 will be the largest ever reported for the navy. It provides for five battle cruisers, with a speed of 35 knots an hour, to cost more than \$20,000,000 each, for four scout cruisers costing nearly \$6,000,000 each, and for twenty submarines, in addition to destroyers, hospital ships, fuel ships, ammunition ships, etc. Yesterday's Washington dispatches told that the republican members of the committee have united on a report "attacking the measure as inadequate."

If a standing army of nearly 300,000, in addition to more than 400,000 militia and citizen reserves, is to be inadequate; if \$240,000,000 in a single year to be spent on the navy is inadequate—how much preparedness at how great a cost, could we expect the republican party to provide and saddle upon the country if it had the power?

The battle cruisers provided for in the democratic bill will be the most powerful vessels of their class afloat. Each of these naval monsters will displace about 32,000 tons, and mount ten 14-inch guns. They will be as powerfully armed as any of the dreadnaughts now in the fleet, and about 50 per cent faster. They will be the most expensive warships ever constructed, and their total cost will be greater than the total cost of all the real dreadnaughts now belonging to the Atlantic battleship fleet.

These monster battle cruisers are proposed, rather than dreadnaughts, on the advice of the best naval experts. The lesson of the war in Europe is the imperative need of such vessels. Captain Sims, in command of the Nevada, told the committee that battleships without battle cruisers would be worse than useless. Asked if he would recommend four battle cruisers and no dreadnaughts, or two of each, he replied:

"Without the slightest hesitation I would recommend the four battle cruisers; and if the following year you should decide on four more capital ships, I should recommend that you build four more battle cruisers, until we had eight or nine."

Rear Admiral Peary, in a letter to the New York Times, declares the "overwhelming weight of testimony" is in favor of battle cruisers, of which the United States now has none. He declares them "the most powerful fighting ships known to the world today." He concludes his letter in these words:

"I venture the unqualified statement that a fleet of 35-knot battle cruisers carrying 16-inch guns, with their proper accessories of destroyers, submarines, and an ample equipment of seaplanes, will put our navy in second place, more quickly, more effectively, more cheaply, than any other addition we can make to it, and

that these ships will be more adapted to our need than any other type."

It is along the lines of this advice that the democratic membership of the naval affairs committee has acted. It is considered likely that the senate will add to the house bill provision for two more dreadnaughts in addition to the battle cruisers. Yet republican congressmen and republican newspapers and leaders continue to denounce the inadequacy and the futility of the "little army" and "little navy" democratic administration!

The situation is one to call for serious consideration. This newspaper, like the democratic administration at Washington, is in favor of reasonable and adequate measures to protect this country against aggression. It is in favor of strengthening the army and navy, for defensive purposes, to the point requisite to insure the United States against a possible invader. But it is not in favor, nor, it believes, are the great body of American citizens, in favor of a program of preparedness run mad, a program of militarism regardless of cost and regardless of its effect on the ideals and mission of this republic, such as it seems alone will satisfy the republican leaders.—World-Herald.

The rule in politics is that the side that owns the steam roller uses it.

Maybe after all the striped skirts are nothing more than righteous protests against hubby's striped shirts.

Some women are born beautiful and others have beauty thrust upon them by the society reporter who writes up the wedding.

The newspapers "never get anything right" because it is next to impossible to get the facts from a score of eye witnesses.

Fourth of July comes next as a holiday. Very few celebrations will be held in Cass county. Really, up to date, none have been advertised.

Dandelions are worth 25 cents a peck in New England states. It is said the land is so poor in that country that even dandelions won't grow.

The New York World thinks that ten words from Justice Hughes would stop the Roosevelt boom. Perhaps, but all ten of them would have to be pure Americanism.

"One way to keep the boy on the farm is to have a neighbor with a good-looking daughter," says an exchange. An excellent plan, no doubt, until another neighbor comes along with a good-looking son.

A paper is being published at Indianapolis in the interest of the candidacy of one Charles W. Fairbanks for president. And there are several other ways in which money may be wasted.

The New York woman who left all her money to her lawyer merely took the shortest cut. Ordinarily there is more or less circumstances in vesting the title to a client's property in his attorney.

Most movie plays are advertised as preventing a "social problem." Sometimes they involve a wife who has an affinity, other times they depict a husband with the same complaint. There are no other social problems, according to the movies. But it is just what the public wants, and why not gratify the desire?

"Kind friends, have you heard of the town of No-Good, on the banks of the river Slow, where the Some-Time-or-Other scents the air and the soft Go-Easies grow? It lies in the valley of What's-the-Use, in the province of Let-It-Slide; it's the home of the reckless I-Don't-Care where the Give-it-Ups abide. The town is as old as the human race, and it sleeps in the flight of years; it is wrapped in the fog of the idler's dreams, its streets are paved with discarded schemes, and are sprinkled with useless tears." This is from an exchange. But the author has no reference to Plattsmouth, which has so much get-up-and-get.

And yet we have plenty of rain.

Flag day, June 12. Old Glory and honor.

Few political dictators die in the harness.

By the way, has anybody captured Villa yet?

Berlin predicts the fall of Verdun by August 1.

It is easier to learn to run an automobile than it is to keep one up.

How colorless official dispatches are in describing the horrors of Verdun.

Next week, and off comes the republican national convention at Chicago.

A country woman's idea of shiftlessness is to trade a cow for a cottage organ.

Discussion of the cause of the war will not promote peace. That will be in dispute a century from now.

It's a rather thoughtless congressman who sends free garden seeds to a man who works on a morning newspaper.

Speaking of the four corners to a husband, the lady lecturer must have had in mind those that are on the square.

The ruinous advance in the price of violet dye is not going to worry the violet that coyly hides by the mossy stone.

There is a controversy as to what constitutes the ideal household pet. We can settle it. The ideal household pet means petticoats.

Carranza is now confiscating the Madero family estates. A Mexican property owner should acquire skill in recognizing band wagons.

One thing is evident. Billy Sunday is making more money than he would in baseball, and some consider his later performance better sport.

While Oak Hill cemetery is looking better than it has for several years, much of the credit for its present appearance is due to Councilman Harris. Give him the necessary encouragement and he will go right on with the good work.

When the republicans must have something to talk about, it must be Secretary Lansing or Secretary Daniels. Now they have circulated the report that Secretary Lansing is about to resign, which, of course, is a lie of the first water.

The women say it is hard for a widower to get through the second summer. If he does, they say he is liable to make good his escape. We don't believe this, for there are several widowers in this old town who have remained single five and ten years, and then married.

Speaking of vacation, the exchange says: "Now a school mistress, accustomed to a hushed interior, etc." Inasmuch as a few school ma'ams are privileged to board at home, it is plain what the exchange really meant was a "hushed interior."

Don't bother about who originated an idea—just get the idea. The fact that it didn't originate with you doesn't shut you off from its benefits. The other fellow didn't originate it, either; maybe it was originated by some duck back in ancient times.

Recently one of our adjoining states that does more or less, crowding made the statement that the value of its crops and live stock for the year 1915 averaged \$3,660 per farm. This was somewhat startling, but when the statistics of Nebraska were obtained it was observed that the crop and live stock value outstripped our windy neighbor by a thousand dollars per farm, or, to be exact, it was \$4,506. Nebraska is not much for bragging, but she is always ready to deliver the goods. Stand up for Nebraska and prosperity!

## AN ARMY'S BUSINESS.

Occasionally, but not often, one still hears something of Senator La Follette. His latest suggestion to come this way is the use of the army in social service. That is in line with suggestions from other statesmen that the army be devoted to building roads when there is no war in progress, or easing the harvest hand shortage or otherwise helping out in the agricultural situation. Another high brow would apply a college course to the period of enlistment. All of which are pleasant dreams of those who have vague notions of military matters. They should remember that the business of an army is fighting. With that possibility removed, the army wouldn't be needed, but the possibility will not be removed so long as nationalism exists. Hence it is the business of the army in time of peace to study warfare, which is a more difficult course than that required of those engaged in the professions of civil life. Driven at top speed, a soldier may learn his craft rather well in a year, but with reasonable hours for his duties, two years are nearer right, and after that there is much to learn before he is really competent to fill the higher non-commissioned grades, and still more before he can properly qualify as a commissioned officer. War is becoming an increasingly exact and difficult profession, and even after it is learned, as well as it may be in peace, there is always the necessity for keeping in condition and keeping the knowledge of the game fresh and up-to-date. No man should join the army, even in a time of peace, and think it is to be a life of sloth and ease. Soldiers work harder than other government employes, and for less pay. The social service and the road building and the farm work will have to be done by others if the army is to be fit to play its part.

ELMER THOMAS CHUCKLES.

My old friend Elmer Thomas chuckles with glee over the prohibition resolution adopted by the Episcopal council and he takes a poke at Father John Williams and Dr. Mackay, both of whom were opposed to that resolution. No one can blame Mr. Thomas for his enthusiasm. He has fought so long in the minority and has suffered so much for his prohibition views that it is perfectly natural he should feel elated at every new evidence that his opinions are winning. But why condemn the men who differ with you? Even if I were not in favor of every man having his own opinion and the untrammelled right to express that opinion I would favor special dispensation in that line for Dr. Mackay and Father Williams. Never were there men more honest in their opinions than these two fine clergymen. Never men who rendered greater service than they to this community and to their church. I would demand this right for Dr. Mackay, whom I have known and loved for a quarter of a century, but would fight for it for Father John. Come to think of it, whether we will it or no, Father John will have his opinion and he will express it in no uncertain terms. Whatever that opinion may be, it will have the profound respect of everyone who knows this molder of his own opinions, this militant defender of his own convictions, this man whose whole life has been devoted to the service of his God and of his fellows. I differ with him on many subjects, but our very differences make me love him all the more. I hope he will live for many years to bless and comfort other men—even as he has often blessed and comforted me. When he falls asleep I hope there will be someone who knew him well who will write of Father John Williams this simple truth: "He was every inch a priest."—Omaha Nebraskan.

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Since the withdrawal of Henry D. Estabrook from the presidential race, a number of curious persons have written in demanding to know who he is. Why? Is he going to run again?

Henry Ford is talking about organizing another squirrel trip to Europe, so a Detroit rumor goes. If he hurries, he may be able to patch up another row in King Constantine's household.

In the midsummer the fancy of the young and old of both sexes lightly turns to thoughts of fruit. We have already ascertained that there is no shortage in the strawberry crop. We shall not know for some time about cantaloupes, watermelons and the like. But a special bulletin of the committee on statistics and standards brings the glad news that the general outlook for fruit is unusually promising. With the single exception of peaches, the fruit yield will be the greatest known in years, provided the wet days in June are not too bad and "the June drop" does not cause unusual damage.

Billy Sunday's ten commandments are appearing in the Kansas City papers, and here is one, which is not even hinted at by those given out by Moses: "Thou shalt not be stingy." The evangelist in commenting upon the commandment declares: "Some would-be Christians are so stingy that they would steal flies from a blind spider. There are others so mean that they sing through their noses to save wear and tear on their false teeth." It's real mean for Billy to talk like that. What does he know about the stinginess of others? He has no trouble in getting his money, and is the highest priced soul-saver the world has ever known.

It's only the paper line that will be found at the Journal office, but this line will be found complete. Come in and see.

J. E. Meisinger, one of the leading young farmers of Eight Mile Grove, precinct, came in this morning from his home and spent a few hours with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Meisinger.

## For Sale.

The Hotel Berger, of Murray, Nebraska, is offered for sale, and a price that is right, if taken soon. For full particulars and terms see Mrs. J. W. Berger at the hotel.

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