

The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, Publisher

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Where can we find Two wives who sit And do not gossip Just a bit?

A rain must come in a very few days.

The corn crop is in very great danger.

The father of rumors—a censorship.

Civil service is always attacked from without.

How about the home guard proposition, Governor?

Any time you bet on a sure thing be prepared to lose.

The difference between a job and a position is about three dollars a day.

The war has already lasted long enough to wear out most of the amateur prophets.

He is thrice armed who has a sack of flour, a bit of meat and a back yard garden.

These are glorious times, when an ambitious girl can aim to be either a movie star or a Red Cross heroine.

The nights are beautiful, with generally a fine breeze blowing, which is some consolation to those who have passed through the hot day.

The fight waged in congress by the profit managers who want to get rich out of the war, is a disgrace to America, the mother of democracy.

A Michigan girl dislodged a pin from her throat by singing rag-time. This is the only practical use for ragtime music that has ever been discovered.

We are glad that the senate has voted to exclude iron ore and hemp from the food bill, as we cannot help believing that both are highly indigestible.

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell says the best thinking is done after midnight. We always thought that was the hour when people done most of their forgetting.

The dispatches say that 60,000 republicans are just outside of Peking. Mr. Hughes has been wondering since last November where those republicans had gone.

A postcard bearing the following message has arrived from Nevada: "This is a great place for a change and a rest. The grafters get the change and the hotels get the rest."

Unless you are trying to make Plattsmouth a better town, you are not a very patriotic citizen. There are many ways in which you can help without spending a cent, and you know how to do this without us telling you.

"We will never bring disgrace to this our city by any act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks. We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will reverse and obey the city's laws and do our best to incite a like respect and reverence in those above us who are prone to annul or set them at naught; we will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus in all these ways we will transmit this city not only not less but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."—Oath of the Young Men of Athens.

TAKING GOOD ADVICE.

Internment of the minister of the Lutheran church at Riverdale for rabid pro-kaiserism will surprise nobody around the headquarters of the council of defense. It may be that the council had been advised of the activities of this particular minister before, but reports have come to the council of the similar activities and utterances of other ministers of that church. For instance, it was recently reported to the council headquarters that one certain minister in a nearby town had prayed fervently a couple of weeks ago, before his congregation, that the crops in America may burn up, so that they may not be utilized for feeding the allies.

It has not been the policy of the council to make these reports public, because it was feared that some of them might be mistaken rumors or exaggerations of what was really said or done. But the council has sought to investigate each such report and to have friends of the offender first counsel him to convince him of the error of his ways.

On the other hand fine reports have been received of the militant loyalty of other ministers of the same church, and there is at least one clergyman of that denomination who sought to become a chaplain in the national guard.

Those apologists for disloyalty who have simulated indignation because of the recent statement of the Nebraska council of defense are ultimately going to find themselves embarrassed by developments such as that involving the Riverdale clergyman, for they have not taken pains to learn what the members of the council for defense know with respect to disloyalties that have been vicious.

It is encouraging to observe that the appeal of the council to the congregations of disloyal clergymen to curb the activities of their "conspicuous representatives" was deemed good by at least a portion of the Riverdale clergyman's congregation, so that when he proposed to pray for the kaiser, and his zealous followers began to "Hock der Kaiser," an immediate protest broke up the meeting.

It need not be surprising if other clergymen should later be interned. Sergeant Breckinridge, who comes of German ancestry, told his Lincoln acquaintances how thoroughly the German people have, through kaiser proclamations, been imbued with the idea that it is a religious war that Germany is waging. In one of them the kaiser declared that the Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians and Turks were God's chosen people, with a mission to impose German kultur upon the rest of the world, and that he who was killed in battle for the fatherland would be welcomed to heaven. Not by St. Peter, but that Frederick the Great would be there to take him by the hand. That is why there are some in this country disposed to pray for the kaiser, and why the advice of the council of defense was eminently good.—Lincoln Star.

One ought to have more respect for the office of the president of the country even in peace times when political license is quite free, not to utter even a thought of harm for the president personally. And in war time it is obviously intolerable. It is absolutely incongruous with an acceptable citizenship.—Grand Island Independent.

Life in China is just one blamed government after another.

Stirring up bitterness is the sole employment of some fellows. They are spotted, however.

ROOT AND RUSSIA.

Premier Kerensky of Russia is grappling in earnest with his job. It is his to determine whether a "blood and iron" policy can weld together the vast empire which Teuton intrigue is fast tearing asunder.

Kerensky's biggest power is the confidence of the Russian thinkers. He won respect by unselfishly devoting himself to altruistic ends. Diplomats decried his first venture when he sanctioned the abolition of the death penalty and later when he improvised those "soldiers' committees" on the firing line. Military men predicted that such policies would tend to disrupt discipline and that prediction was proved true. The discipline not only was disrupted but the army voluntarily retired, yielding to invading Germans much valuable ground and large stores of war supplies. Such losses are big, but they have a compensating in that they evoked Kerensky, the dictator, from Kerensky, the altruist.

The Russian peasant soldier, or moujik, has long been inured to discipline and hardships. The Romanoffs gave no heed to the grievances of their subjects. It sufficed the czar and his courtiers to know that all was well with the imperial household. Let the peasant gravel through life as best he could.

Kerensky's leniency changed all this. The Russian moujik soon began to realize that his grievances could get an audience and he had many of them to tell. German plotters magnified these grievances. The result was that the peasant soldier who fought unthinkingly for the czar, when fighting would net him nothing but death, ceased fighting for the republic, when fighting would net him liberty and everything else worth living for.

The psychology of the whole affair is so patent that it could not have escaped Kerensky and his advisers. They must have employed the soldiers' committees and the abolition of the death penalty merely to prove that they meant well by the baby republic. They were sops to public opinion. They have outlived their usefulness now and sterner measures, which the moujik can more fully comprehend and which the nation's leaders must sanction, have been adopted. When a peasant soldier sees a whole army corps blown to bits because it mutinied it is a visual object lesson to him. The moujik is mentally a child and learns as a child—through the primary senses and through the primary emotions. Thus his first lesson in obedience must needs have been a bloody one.

If Kerensky ever floated one iota of his power over Russia he may regain it by the announcement of his new policy of blood and iron. He is now on the right path and we believe that Elihu Root and Major General Hugh L. Scott have been instrumental in putting him there.—World-Herald.

There are two courses open to the citizen. One is to pursue a course such as will invite no suspicion of disloyalty. The other is to talk and act as the kaiser would have him act and then kick if somebody gets suspicious. If there is any question which is the best course?

Only one more month of vacation, and then the school teachers will go back and work all winter to get money for another vacation. None enjoy the comforts of this life like the schoolma'am in the good old summer time. But then, what would we do without them?

If favoritism is the policy in promotions in the army, of which we know of some instances right here in Nebraska, it should be stopped and stopped pretty quick. Promotions should come through competency and not favoritism.

Between guesses that the war is almost over and that it may last for another twelve years, various expectations ought to find some safe place to rest and get a vindication.

GENERAL CROWDER.

We have hitherto refrained from generalizing about the official acts of Brigadier General Enoch H. Crowder, United States army, provost marshal general, in the management of the selective draft, because we were curious as to how far he would go and how he would get out of the difficulties that surrounded him. He has now reached a point in his progress at which it is not inopportune to speak frankly at his official conduct.

In brief, this has been marked by uncommon capacity, resourcefulness and enterprise. To General Crowder fell the task of improvising machinery for registration of the young men of the United States for military service, in the application to the nation of a law imposing a new method of performing old duties, and of devising a knave-proof and fool-proof lottery which affected the habits and occupations of 10,000,000 individuals directly and of five times that number indirectly. He had to guide Uncle Sam's hand as it was put into practically every home in the land. General Crowder accomplished this expeditiously and without inflicting unnecessary confusion on the country. Registration and lottery were conducted in a manner that left no doubt of their impartiality and fairness; and General Crowder was so completely prepared against unforeseen emergencies that at the last moment he was ready to revise his system to meet in satisfactory fashion, any new condition that might arise.

It may be said that General Crowder had a well disposed population to deal with and competent aides to assist him. This is true. But the most willing population and the most competent aides, lacking efficient direction or handicapped by an incapable superintendent, would have made a sad botch of the enterprise; and if the draft had been botched, General Crowder would have borne the blame for its failure. As it was carried out with success, he deserves the credit.

We esteem it a privilege to salute General Crowder as a thoroughly equipped provost marshal general, gifted with good sense and executive ability of the first order. If all our military men measure up to the standard he has consistently maintained, our troubles and sacrifices in the war will be reduced to a minimum.—New York Sun.

DON'T TEACH YOUR BOY TO FEAR.

There's Alfred. He was raised like most American boys—by his mother. Once when he was wee small he essayed to climb a tree. Mother caught him in the act and sternly forbade him ever again to engage in so hazardous an undertaking.

"You'll fall and get hurt," she said. And later Alfred sneaked off and went swimmin'. Somehow mother pierced through the thin veil of secrecy behind which Alfred sought to conceal his bit of daring.

She said: "Don't do it again, Alfred. You'll get drowned."

There came a vacation when Alfred's friends got up a camping party. Alfred was counted on as one of the campers, but that was before mother learned the boys planned to take a rifle along.

"I forbid your going," said she to Alfred. "You'll get shot."

Well, Alfred grew up, whole-limbed and unscarred. And into his manhood there came a great crisis, involving a risk of injury proportionate to his inability to ward that injury off. And in the face of this great crisis, which was an even greater opportunity, all Alfred, the man, could think of was his mother's words to Alfred, the child; "Don't do it, son, you'll get hurt."

We cannot honor our country with too deep a reverence; we cannot love her with an affection too pure and fervent; we cannot serve her with an energy of purpose or a faithfulness of zeal too steadfast and ardent.—Grimke.

THE TALK OF PEACE.

All the world is sick of war. There is not a country involved but would welcome peace tomorrow, and not one but is hoping that peace may come before civilization is bankrupt and wrecked.

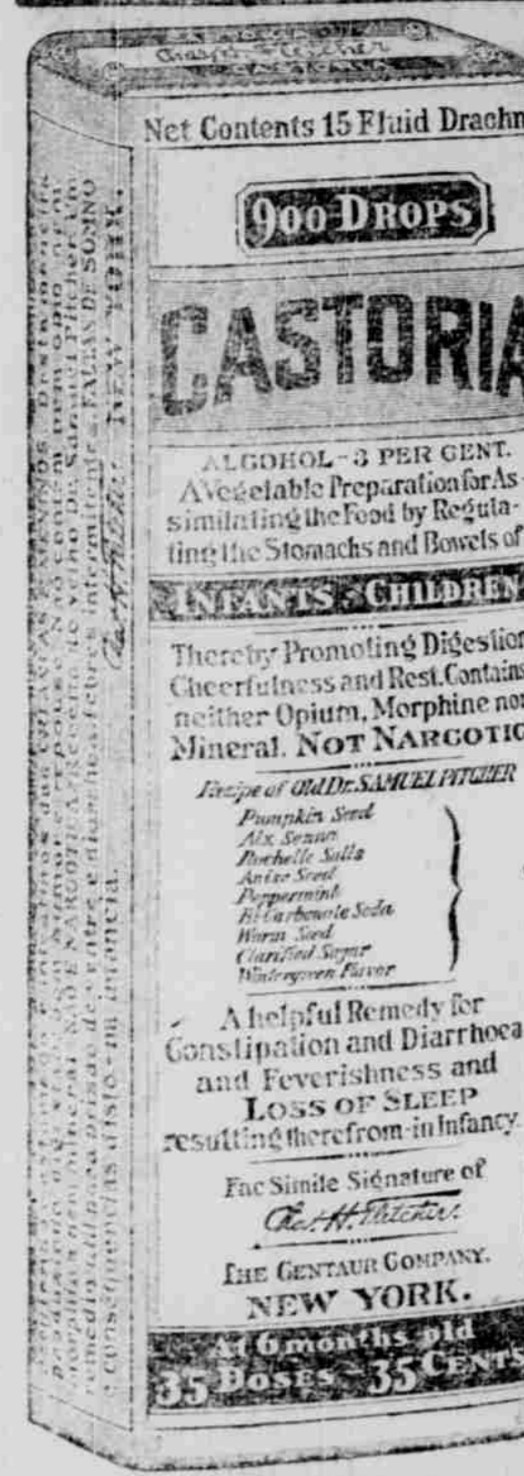
The unthinking reader, scanning Monday morning's papers, might conclude that it is only Germany and Austria-Hungary that are anxious for peace, and bidding for peace, while England and the United States, judging from the utterances of Sir Edward Carson and Secretary Lansing, are averse to peace and determined, at whatever cost, upon continuing the war until Germany is beaten to her knees.

But in reading the peace interviews of Chancellor Michaelis and of the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Count Czernin, as well as the statements of Lansing and Carson, it is advisable to keep in mind the war map as it exists at this time.

Germany and its allies are asking for "peace by agreement and understanding" which would be a peace based upon conditions at the time the peace conference met. Those conditions are distinctly and everywhere favorable to the Central Powers. To the south, the east and the west they hold by arms large territories they have wrested from their enemies. Thanks to the revolution, the Russian menace has been removed. France is bled white. The submarine dagger is at England's throat. All that has been lost is the German colonies, and these would constitute the one bit of "trading stock" in the hands of the allies when it came to reaching an "agreement and understanding" at the conference table. It is hardly possible however long the war should continue, that Germany should gain more than she has gained already. And as a matter of fact she has gained all that she set out to gain—all that German statesmanship has aspired to, and planned for, since the pilot Bismarck was dropped overboard. Belgium might be restored, northern France evacuated, a so-called "independent" Serbian government might be conceded, and still this would be true. "Mitteleurope" would have been created, just the same, and from the North Sea and the Baltic to the Persian gulf German influence would be supreme. But England's naval predominance would have been destroyed, Russia as a source of danger to Germany would have been removed, and France, with its manhood moved down and its pride humiliated, would be a negligible enemy.

So that it is plain to see that Germany and Austria have a very special reason for striving for an early peace, and that it is the same reason that makes the entente governments, and the government at Washington, view these proposals with deep-seated suspicion. Nevertheless, in the countries arrayed against Germany, there is a growing sentiment favorable to the statement, definitely, of war aims. Lloyd George said at Glasgow, the other day, that with peace possible "it would be criminal if we sacrificed more precious life and treasure and prolong the wretchedness and anxiety and suffering." And he asked—the context shows not defiantly but prayerfully, "Where is the common ground for peace?"

Senator Borah, one of the ablest and most brilliant of American statesmen, declared in the senate the other day, that America is in this war not to give England the German colonies, but to give France Alsace-Lorraine, not to defend its own rights and safety and for no other reason. While he strongly opposed any suggestion of peace on the present aspect of the war map, he felt it incumbent on the free democracies of the world to express themselves on the Russian proposal of peace without annexations and indemnities. And particularly he urged that our government make it plain to our people that we are in this war for the defense of our own country, and not with any purpose having to do with European policies. Similar calls for the defining of



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war aims and the enunciation of peace terms, have come not only from the Hearst papers, but from papers like the Chicago Tribune and New York Tribune. And Senator Lewis of Illinois, the democratic "whip," spoke eloquently along that line in the senate the other day.

The New York Evening Post, discussing "the common ground" search, said that the one about which there is the largest hope is a world-arrangement to make another such war forever impossible. And it added:

"There is an epigrammatic saying going the rounds, which runs: 'If England does not win this war, she has lost it. But if Germany does not lose the war, she has won it.' But all depends on how the war ends. If it issues in a League of Nations to enable civilization to come out from under the terror of armed aggression: to compel disarmament all round, and to make even the smallest nation safe on its own soil—then neither England nor Germany will have won or lost, but the whole world will have won."

This is coming close to the truth. And it is little more than an elaboration of President Wilson's statement that we fight to make the world safe for democracy, and insure the liberties of small as well as large nations.

If it is possible to reach such a common ground without having to use the full strength of democratic militarism to crush autocratic militarism, then the sooner it can be done the better. And if the United States, as well as England and France, were to publicly and frankly avow war

aims and peace terms that would convince the German people that Germany is not fighting in self-defense, a long step toward that end might be taken.—World-Herald.

INJURED WHILE GRADING.

From Wednesday's Daily.
While driving a dump wagon, in the making of the excavation for the J. H. McMaken garage which is building, yesterday William Brantner had the misfortune to get his head hurt on the trip where they were loading dirt to be hauled away. Just as he was engaged at something which occupied his attention, the horses moved, with the result that his head was brought into violent contact with the timbers of the leading device, striking the back portion of his head, and producing a strain on the muscles of his neck and chest. He is feeling pretty sore and stiff over the experience, but it is hoped that he will soon be better.

VISITING FRIENDS.

From Wednesday's Daily.
Mr. L. Sinder of Helena, Ark., came in yesterday morning from his home there, and will visit in this city for some time at the home of his sister, Mrs. Levi Golding. Mr. Sinder has not seen his sister for a long time, having lived in the south all his life. He some time since retired from active business life, and thought he would visit with his friends and relatives whom he had not seen for so long. He will make a visit for some days in Plattsmouth and become acquainted with the northern country.

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