

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

For country and home.

Cut out politics for awhile.

Hard on picnics just now.

Politics is running rife in Washington.

Uneasy rests the foot that wears a tight shoe.

Now proceed and conscript a little Wall street money.

Making war on rats is one way to reduce the high cost of living.

Wisdom is a wonderful asset, when one has horse sense enough to apply it.

Business men who are not in politics seldom clamor for municipal ownership.

The police shake-up in Omaha has no doubt resulted in much good to the city.

Anyway, in these trying times of conservation, there will be no more pie-eating contests.

Perhaps by this time many of the war bridegrooms will be glad to enlist to secure peace.

Every man may have his price, but as yet no hen has consented to lay a cold storage egg.

The French line may be getting thin, but so did Bob Fitzsimmons at the time he had his heaviest punch.

When Constantine left Greece he took his crown with him, probably figuring that crowns would be out of style before his son got a chance to wear it.

If Haller is guilty of one-half of what Dick Metcalfe accused him, he should resign as repugnant without any further ceremony. Put none but loyal men on guard.

The average capacity of all box cars, for instance, is 30.7 tons, but the average load carried per car now has been only 15.5 tons, just 43 per cent of the capacity.

It ought not be necessary to repeat day after day how brave and patriotic American citizens are. They are both, and the world knows it. The world is to get further demonstration of the fact soon.

Nebraska City is going to have a home-coming day Thursday, August 16. What about Plattsmouth having one? If they are good investments for Nebraska City, they should also be for Plattsmouth.

The applications for exemption from the draft come a plenty, and it is amusing to note the pleas that some of them put up. But some of them are so flimsy as to be ridiculous.

The appointment of Bill Maupin by the state conservation council as director of publicity, is the wisest thing that council could have done. This truly is a selection of the right man for the right place, and no mistake.

Hollweg went up against the wrath of the German crown prince and was compelled to retire as chancellor. Now everybody over there seems to be spitting fire at the man who just a few weeks ago was heralded as one of the empire's greatest statesmen. It's a dollar against the doughnuts that the same feeling, and in more intense form, exists against the kaiser, but the poor military ridden people dare not give expression to it.

HAS OUR HOUR STRUCK?

The very serious uncertainty which characterizes all things Russian must at once result in added intensiveness in our own participation in the war. Our allies naturally will anticipate a speeding up of our military program. We ourselves realize the necessity of preventing a permanent turn in the tide favorable to the enemy, as a result of Russian weakening. Splendidly did Russia pull herself together once before when her enemies believed that she was out of the fighting for a long time to come. Can she do it again? Certain it is that all her future prospects in the pathway of liberty and democracy depends on her firm fidelity to the powers allied in defense of liberty and democracy.

In Kerensky, Russia has a leader of rare force of character and magnetic personality. He is the proper combination of kindness and iron resolution. But a nation whose very existence apparently hangs on the genius, energy and moral force of one individual is in grave danger. The one man who stands forth as the possible political savior of his people may fall tomorrow as the victim of internal hatred, jealousy or fanaticism. Russia is full of anarchy and treason. The fall of Kerensky would prove a national and international calamity. Civilization may well pray that such a disaster may be averted.

It would be an unwarranted assumption to believe that the fate of a whole people, much less of many peoples, hangs on the life of one man. There doubtless are other Kerenskys in Russia. But this man seems so masterful, so democratic and yet so capable of assuming absolute domination at the crucial moment that he fits the situation, possibly, as few men could.

In any event the call on America will be urgent and insistent. It is no small task which we have undertaken. The western front is a practical dead lock and operations on the eastern front are in a chaotic condition. Americans may as well look squarely into the facts. We are in for a long, hard struggle that will demand of us all that we can give. The sooner we weed out treason, shame cowardice into hiding and get the country into its fighting clothes the better for us and for civilization. The hour has struck when milk-fed, lily-fingered, pink-whiskered men who whine and criticize should be shamed into silence. There are enough real virile men with red blood in their arteries to win this war for civilization and protect and feed the anemics and peace-loving besides.

Millions of our boys will go to the front. For their sakes and for the sake of the country and civilization let treason be henceforth recognized as treason and the German government as our enemy. It plotted against us in peace, forced us into war, and voices contempt for our genius and courage in war. This war must be fought to a permanent peace. Therefore we must win it.

And still it rains occasionally, but not too much, only for the joy riders.

Even the crushing defeat of the Russians fails to turn Austria from its purpose to secure peace at the earliest possible moment.

The orderliness of the American troops in Europe is provoking admiring comment from all others there. Europeans have had the notion that Americans were a noisy, unrestrained lot of bores and they cannot understand how the soldiers are so quiet, but they now believe that our boys have determination.

IN TIME OF NEED.

Organizers of the new Home Guard in Nebraska report considerable opposition. The opposition is usually in form of ridicule on the part of citizens who say there will never be need of a Home Guard in any Nebraska town.

Wait a minute, brothers!

Those of you who now oppose the organization of the Home Guard are no doubt the same citizens who discouraged enlistments in the Nebraska National Guard. Perhaps you are the same good, but misguided citizens who have frequently uttered words which a good citizen should not say in opposition to his home government in time of war.

Wait a minute, brothers.

Soon six thousand splendid boys of the Nebraska brigade may be started over the sea to defend the American flag on foreign fields. But they may not reach the goal. The ships which bear them may meet an enemy submarine, and one or all of the transports may go down. God forbid, but indeed ships do go down at sea when enemy submarines attack, and so it may be with the ships which shall bear our own Nebraska boys upon the voyage of duty and of honor.

Wait a minute, brothers!

Try to imagine the situation in a score of Nebraska towns in that unhappy day (which we pray may never dawn) when the cable might bring announcement of such a death for our own loved boys.

And then—

Human nature is human nature, but it can be quickly changed to brute nature under stress of great grief. In that sad day the friends and relatives of loved ones sent to death by order of a war-mad autocrat might happen to remember how it was that in thoughtless moments certain of our own citizens had spoken sentiments pleasing to that mad monarch over the seas. And then will come a time when the thoughtless ones will be glad that Nebraska has organized home guard companies to preserve a calm and order which might not be preserved without the presence of the guard.

Think it over, brothers!

Think once again, and then perhaps your better self may gain the ascendancy, and you will cease ridicule of the Home Guard, and begin doing your part to perfect an organization which all good citizens feel may be as greatly needed here at home to preserve quiet and order as our own brave soldier boys are needed to combat a war-mad monarch beyond the sea.—Columbus Telegram.

EXEMPTIONS.

A wealthy farmer in a Nebraska draft district, one of whose six sons fell within the first quota, has offered an eighty-acre farm to anyone who will take his son's place in the army. Doubtless there would be takers, for such a farm in that particular part of the state is worth more than ten average young men can earn by fifteen years of labor.

But the trade cannot be made. If such deals were possible, we should have the rich hiring the poor to do their share of the fighting for them. The draft law contemplated no such plutocratic operation of the war. Unless its spirit is violated, there will be no buying of military indulgences.

We have progressed in the last half century. When men were drafted for the civil war they were permitted to hire substitutes. It was one of the criticisms of Grover Cleveland when a candidate for office that he had employed a substitute to take his place in that war. There was no giving of farms worth ten or fifteen thousand dollars to substitutes then. Seven or eight hundred dollars was a liberal price. The viciousness of the substitute system was not appreciated then sufficiently to prevent its use. Today such practices would not be tolerated if known.

Of all men, the man with such quantities of Nebraska land that he can afford to give away an eighty-acre farm is the last man who should refuse to fight his country's battles.

The men who own the land of a country own the country. It is truly their country. If their country were conquered, it is its land the conquerors would take, as the Normans took in England the land which is even today the basis of England's Norman aristocracy. The landless American would have his job under a conqueror no less than before. He would lose at worst only political rights. But the landed proprietor, with both political and economic rights at stake, would be a sufferer indeed. If he isn't willing, himself or by his sons, to fight for his country, who should be?—Nebraska City Press.

A RICH MAN'S CONSPIRACY.

A war news item of unusual interest, to the effect that there is a conspiracy among the "international financiers" to bring about an early peace, was published prominently last Friday on the first page of the New York Times. The information was unearthed by "New Europe," a weekly publication in London, which the Times says "possesses special sources of continental information." In the course of the article headed "Unholy Alliance of Finance" New Europe says:

"We learn from an unimpeachable source that a secret conference of international financiers which recently took place in Switzerland was inspired by somewhat different motives from those which were ascribed to it at the time. Acting purely in the interest of the great capitalists of all countries, it aimed, above all, at an immediate peace such as would arrest the growth of international socialism and the rising tide of revolution throughout Europe. The gathering sought to forestall the holding of the Stockholm conference by a direct arrangement between the belligerents in which national claims would be entirely subordinated to considerations of world-wide finance."

The nature of the "considerations of world-wide finance" alluded to may be easily conjectured when it is remembered that the war has cost, already, more than 80 billions of dollars, and that what Senator Borah calls "the almost incomprehensible burden" of 67 billions of war bonds has already been imposed.

One reason why the world of high finance may well be alarmed is indicated by the Des Moines Register in the statement that "to meet the running expenses of Great Britain and pay interest on the bonds already issued will take 53 per cent of the total income of the empire." And the taxes, everywhere, are falling more and more heavily, and more and more directly, on wealth, in the form of levies on incomes and excess profits. As an example, it was announced from New York the other day that the steel corporation had set aside, from its earnings, 53 million dollars to cover the one item of excess profits tax for the three months period ending June 30, representing 37 per cent of the net earnings. In England excess profits taxes have mounted as high as 80 per cent. If the war should last two or three years longer, at a daily expense to the world of 100 million dollars or more, the mountain debt would become so vast that to pay interest on it alone, not to mention reducing the principal, would require about all that land, labor and capital, in some of the countries involved, was able to produce.

NOT THEIR WAR.

Just how some of the pro-Germans, those whose love of the fatherland is greater than their devotion to the land which has given them all they possess, can say that this is Wilson's war is one of the unfathomable riddles of the present age. President Wilson was sustained by both houses of congress by almost unanimous vote, and today leading republican politicians say there is but one party in this country, and were a presidential election held tomorrow it is doubtful if the republicans would place a nominee in the field. We are one party, on country, one purpose. We are in a struggle to break down the last barrier between plutocracy and democracy. We are not seeking expansion nor indemnity, but are simply making the world safe for democracy.—Ulysses Dispatch.

And yet there are men foolish enough to speak of this as a "capitalists' war" to enable the wealthy to forge the chains of servitude still more securely about the bodies of the poor!

It makes no difference what may have been the aims and motives in the beginning. The fact today stands out clearly that this is a war for democracy, for the rights of the common people, not merely in the lands where the troops are fighting but in the lands from which they came. When it is ended the rights as well as the privileges of the rich will be encroached upon, as a result of the lessons the war has taught, and government, more than ever before, in every country involved, will be of the people, by the people and for the people.—World-Herald.

SPEAKING ABOUT PEACE.

There is peace talk in Germany, and more of it in Austria. It is a fit topic for discussion everywhere. The allies in Europe occasionally mention it, to say that there be no such peace as Germany proposes.

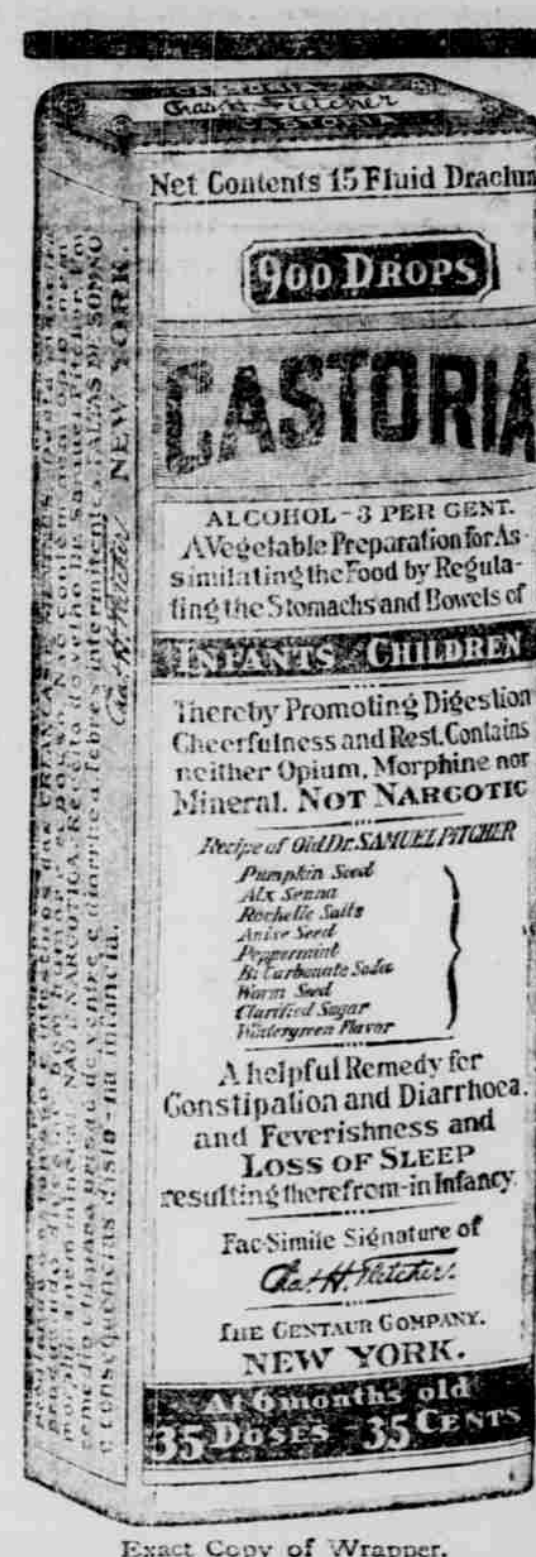
There is little discussion of peace in this country, not so much as there was before Uncle Sam was brutally forced into the war by reckless frightfulness. Some day the United States will begin to discuss peace, for this is a peaceful people that abhors war.

And when this country lays down the terms of any peace that will be acceptable to it, the chief condition of it will be that the world must be made safe for democracy, and that those old world rulers who, claiming to rule through the divinity of kings, have for a century sought to destroy the germ of popular rule, must be deprived of the power, if not the inclination, to ever go to war again. With the disposition of disputed provinces, the control of colonies on other continents and the jurisdiction of dynasties this country and people are not concerned except insofar as they have a bearing upon the problem of preserving hereafter the peace of the world.

When the Prussian autocracy begins to entertain a desire for a peace that will deprive it of the power to set the world afire again, Uncle Sam will be ready and eager to listen. And when that shall have been accomplished, Uncle Sam will address himself to the task of fully and decisively Americanizing the United States.—Lincoln Star.

BEING A SUSPECT.

Longfellow said: "Full many a shaft at random sent, finds mark the archer little meant." At the present time it is well to bear this fact in mind and weigh your words before you speak of the war and its objects. If you are loyal, it will not be hard for you to eliminate all questions of unfealty. If you are disloyal, "The boggy man'll git you if you don't watch out." There is no middle of the road path—you are either for the government or against it; you must go the limit; you cannot say "I would be in favor if such and such was done;" we are in the war, and must win to save our nation from utter annihilation. Even a rumor of disloyalty will leave a stain that even



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your death cannot efface, for your children and grandchildren will be compelled to bear the stigma and will be pointed out as descendants of a traitor. Watch your words.—Ulysses Review.

WOODMEN CIRCLE PICNIC IS A BIG SUCCESS

Yesterday the Woodmen Circle gave a picnic at Vroman Grove, in the south portion of the city. The picnic was directly under the supervision of Mrs. A. J. Trilety and Miss Anna Rys, and was a success in all its appointments. They went to the picnic grounds during the morning, and when the noon hour came spread their well filled baskets on the grass under the trees, and did ample justice to the good things to eat. During the afternoon the younger portion of the picnicers played games and enjoyed themselves with the swings which were put up by some of the members, and which added to the enjoyment of the affair. Both the youngsters and those older thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and thanked the two ladies having charge of the appointments for furnishing them a good time. A. J. Trilety assisted greatly in taking parties to and from the grounds in his car.

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