

The Plattsmouth Journal

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How can any little nation
Though it fight with desperation,
Hope to beat this combination—
Von Falkenhayn,
Von Mackensen,
Und Gott!

Forward, march!

State fair next week.

Haller is still there.

The soldier boys are moving.

The hay fever season is here again.

Profits and poverty go hand in hand.

The second Liberty loan is to be floated in September.

Winter is coming on, and the coal question needs looking into.

When it comes to grief, there is always enough to go around.

As soon as both ends collide the middleman is a goner for sure.

The consumers could soon settle the coal question, if given a chance.

The state board of assessment made no change in the assessment of Cass county.

What is the sense in discussing politics in these war times? None in the least.

General prosperity is in command of Plattsmouth, and is going to see that things move.

The more the people of the United States know of Senator LaFollette, the less they think of him.

The canning season is now on, and everybody is canning all they can, and there is still plenty of cans.

What if the food speculators should go on a strike—do you think it would make any difference to the consumers?

No longer can it be called "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight," because the conscription army will have as many rich men's sons in the army as poor men's sons. When it comes to conscription none escape except for physical disability.

Just two things seem to stand in the way of complete happiness for the Sammies now in Europe. They are anxious to get into action and they are waiting for American tobacco. The French article is not to the Sammies' liking at all, one shipment of American tobacco was lost and the boys are now watching the arrival of every boat hoping for the second shipment to arrive.

It seems evident that the price of county seat weeklies must shortly advance to \$2 a year or be published at a loss. The advance in printing material seems to be permanent. Cost of the paper on which this is printed is more than twice the former cost and there is no sign of any material reduction. Wages and other expenses are higher, and on top of all this the dollar itself is no good—it won't buy anything. The price of \$1.50 a year is evidently not enough. So far as this paper is concerned the time for a rise in price will be postponed as long as possible, but it seems to be drawing near. Those who take time by the forelock, or the hind leg or other place where the grabbing is good, and pay in advance, will probably make high interest on their money. An announcement of a rise to \$2 a year may come as a Christmas present or at any rate, in the near future.—Fairbury Journal.

THE BLEND OF MATERNAL AND NATIONAL DEVOTION

One Mother's Letter to the President and His Kindly Reply to the Noble Writer.

In years to come letters like the following will be treasured in the archives of libraries and museums as precious legacies of history. Such letters are today among the most interesting tokens of the Civil War days when President Lincoln's great heart was so often wrung by the love of loyal mothers, and when he was moved as President Wilson has been, to respond in similar gracious manner to the patriotic spirit of the nation. So if these letters are to possess value in the years to come, why not now?

The Reply

The White House, Washington, July 16, 1917.

My Dear Mrs. Meyer:

Your letter of June 13th has warmed my heart. Your feeling about your sons is the feeling which I should think every mother in whom the true spirit of motherhood and of Americanism dwells would have, and I like to believe that it is true that the country is full of mothers of the same heroic and self-sacrificing sort. It quickens my pulse and strengthens my belief in the splendid capacity of this country to meet every crisis of this sort to receive such a message as you have been gracious and kind enough to send me, and I shall treasure it in my heart as a typical expression of devoted American womanhood. Cordially and sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.
Mrs. Louis Meyer,
R. F. D. No. 2, Wheeling, W. Va.

A Mother Heroine.

Sherrard, June 12, 1917.
To the President of the United States:

Dear Sir: Perhaps you will think me presumptuous to write a letter to you, but we are all one thing—loyal Americans. I simply wish to let you know what one West Virginia woman has done for our country. I have sent two stalwart, strong, healthy boys to the front. Perhaps you have already met them. They are Fred and Louis Meyer, now in Washington, D. C., in Company D, Sixth Regiment, American (something). They enlisted ten days ago at Columbus, Ohio, as truck drivers and are to be put in the Amulance Corps. They were at home to bid us good-bye before joining. While it hurt me very much to bid them good-bye, as I may never see them again, yet I know that our country needs them and I must not mind a few more pants. Must I? They have both written a lot of letters and cards and sent me their pictures in uniform, of which I am justly proud. I inclose one to you of the brothers standing side by side to show you a type of West Virginia manhood. The stout one is Fred, 27 years old, weight 245 pounds, height 5 feet, 11 inches. The tall one is Louis, 21 years old, weight 185 pounds, height 6 feet, 1 1/2 inches. All I ask is that you return the picture after you are done with it, as I may never get another one.

Mr. Wilson, it makes me angry to hear some women talk. They say, "Oh, Mrs. Meyer, how can you stand it to see your big strong boys go away? It would kill me if mine would have to go," and so forth. I tell them that my boys are not cowards, that they volunteered as my father and brother did in the sixties, and that if such boys as mine did not go, who would go? The cripples, lame or blind? Mine are perfect in health and mind, being clean, pure country boys. I have still another son who would enlist if I would give my consent. He is but 15 1/2 years old, but tall and strong. But his father is growing old and we need him to work the farm of 100 acres. If the war does not end soon and he is needed badly, I must let him go, but just now I think I have done my share, don't you? We preach patriotism to our children at home and in the schools, and then when the country needs them, let them hide behind our backs (not I) and ask them to be exempt, as one of my neighbors did whose son was working away from home, but came home to help pop on the farm and fired the hired man to make room for the son, a large husky boy of 21, like my tall

one. If you have the time, Mr. Wilson, and want to see a healthy man, go to Company D, Sixth Regiment, just arrived from Columbus, Ohio, and ask for the brothers, Fred and Louis Meyer, Ambulance corps. And don't forget, please, to return my treasures (the pictures) and oblige.

And now one word more. I highly approve of what you have done, namely, sending troops over the water to put down the rebellion and stop this war business, this slaughter of the innocents. I took my sons in my arms, asked God to bless them, told them to be true to their country and not forget their mother.

MRS. LOUIS MEYER,
R. F. D. No. 2, Wheeling, W. Va.

SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY.

Governor Capper of Kansas offers a good suggestion under the caption of "Keeping America Safe for Democracy." He says:

"With the national guard mobilized and the selective army drawn, it is but natural that all over the country there is keen interest in what the government will do with them. Will they be rushed hurriedly to the battlefields of France and Belgium, or will they undergo a sufficient training and seasoning here at home in order to make them fit for fighting? Fortunately we have a line on what the war department, thinks about it. In his correspondence with Colonel Roosevelt last spring, Secretary Baker said that if an expeditionary force were sent to Europe he would feel obliged to urge that 'it be officered by and composed of men selected because of their previous training and, as far as possible, actual military experience.'

"My judgment reaches this conclusion," continued Secretary Baker, "for the reason that any such expedition will be made up of young Americans who will be sent to expose their lives in the bloodiest war yet fought in the world, and under conditions of warfare involving applications of science to the art of such a character that the very highest degree of skill and training and the largest experience are needed for their guidance and protection.

"I could not reconcile my mind to a recommendation which deprived our soldiers of the most experienced leadership available, in deference to any mere sentimental consideration, nor could I consent to any expedition being sent until its members have been seasoned by the most thorough training for the hardships which they would have to endure."

"As the war department has wisely decided that no troops will be sent abroad unless thoroughly seasoned; as experts agree that two years seasoning is not too long; and as we won't have the shipping to transport a million American troops and the necessary food, equipment, munitions and supplies much if any inside of two years; can't we be doing something in the meantime to make that democratic army not only valuable to the country but popular as well?

Can't we make army service both profitable and educational for the soldiers, for the boys who have volunteered or been selected to serve our country? We offer these suggestions: Make the army a great national, democratic college, where our young men may prepare for the trade or profession they may elect to follow after their term of service is over.

"While training and seasoning our soldiers here in America, make every cantonment an American college. Temper strenuous military training and seasoning with wholesome amusement and schooling to fit the boys for valuable citizenship in time of peace. The preparation for a trade or profession will enable every American soldier-boy in the army to look forward to the end of service with hope and assurance. He will feel that when he has performed his patriotic duty for Uncle Sam, his country will have enabled him to make good at a trade or profession and support a family. This will help keep America safe for democracy."

Governor Capper's suggestion is a good one and should be given careful consideration.

The genuine thought—America.

DRAFTING MARRIED MEN.

There has been sharp difference noted here in Nebraska among exemption boards as to whether married men with dependents should be selected for military service. That same difference has arisen in many other states, and has created so much feeling that it has finally elicited an expression from President Wilson.

Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, an early and vigorous champion of the draft act, wrote the president that opposition to the policy of drafting married men, and to the exemption of aliens of draft age, "are creating a state of mind which is likely to be extremely harmful." The drafting of men with families, the Massachusetts senator declared, "is economically an unsound policy."

And he said further, in his letter to the president: "It is unwise from the standpoint of successful prosecution of the war to take married men as long as there are a sufficient number of single men of the draft age to meet the government's requirements. It will also mean very materially added burdens to the government in providing for the dependents and it increases the distress of mind of at least one person for every one drafted, developing in the total an amount of criticism and resentment which might be and should be avoided."

To this President Wilson wrote a letter agreeing with the views of Senator weeks, saying:

"Your point with regard to the drafting of men with families is undoubtedly well taken, and I have reason to believe that it is very much in the mind at any rate of most of the drafting boards. I shall take pleasure in calling the attention of the war department again to it."

Charles E. Hughes, chairman of the district exemption board of New York City, says that his board is deciding each case upon its merits, in accordance with the regulations, and calls attention to the text of the regulations—the rulings of the provost marshal general under date of August 8—as follows:

"A clear case of dependency ordinarily renders discharge advisable, since the drafted person loses his civil income and thus loses his means of support, the wife is left without support, and this lack of support is 'the effect which the act aims to avoid. But wherever such effect does not in fact follow, and the wife is not left without reasonably adequate support, but will receive such support from other sources, there is no real dependence rendering discharge advisable."

It is clear, from the text of Senator Weeks' letter and the president's response to it, that Mr. Wilson believes exemption boards should administer this regulation with liberality rather than with severity toward the family man claiming exemption. In fact, the correspondence establishes that both writers think the general policy should be to exempt married men from service so long as single men are available.

Fabian Franklin, in the New York Times, holds that the rule is that; "a married man bona fide supporting his wife, or wife and children, by his mental and physical labor, is entitled to discharge unless the wife or children have independent means of support." It is not a question at all, he argues, of whether an army can be raised, but of how it shall be raised.

One-third of the entire list would furnish the first army of 687,000 men, with this rule adhered to. "By straining and warping the rule, perhaps, we might stop at one-fourth, or one-fifth. But why should we? Is the accident of a man's draft number being low in the list to be allowed to count more, he asks, than the reasons against "throwing a young woman upon the more or less charitable aid of persons other than her husband." And he concludes by saying:

It is not a question of getting the army. It is a question of whom to take first. After this army has been formed out of the first third of the lottery list, and a second army of

the same size out of the next third and a third army of the same size out of the last third, then, if we still need men and can equip them, by all means take the married men, dependents or no dependents. But why do it now? Why not carry out in good faith a program deliberately laid down, and based not only on considerations of humanity, but also of national policy, until the time comes when the program is no longer feasible? Of course there are cases where the general principle does not apply, and above all cases in which marriage has been resorted to for the purpose of evading the draft. But the principle itself is manifestly sound and it is mere want of clear thought as to the nature of the alternative that accounts for the fumbling with it which has characterized the proceedings of the last week or two."

There has come to this newspaper a great many letters from young wives vigorously protesting against the drafting of their husbands while single men, with no family responsibilities, are left undisturbed in civil life. A few of these letters have been printed, but they must not be interpreted as signifying any lack of loyalty on the part of the people of Iowa and Nebraska, or the existence of a sentiment here different from elsewhere. It is a sentiment that has found expression generally over the union, and it is one that so appealed to the president himself to cause him to write the letter above printed.—World-Herald.

Time to go on record! Time to separate the sheep from the goats! Time that loyal fathers and mothers who are giving their sons to the country's service be protected against the sneers and the disloyalty and the indifference of the slackers and the disloyal. The assertion that a woman might as well boast of her virtue as for a man to declare his loyalty is the piffle of the coward, the disloyal at heart and the spineless slacker who is afraid of losing a penny by openly standing up for his country.

Some automobile owners are breaking the law every day in this neck of the woods, and on the streets of Plattsmouth, in the fact of permitting their sons and daughters to run autos. We know of several instances where slight accidents have happened, while cars were in the hands of young people, under the age limit. We want to once again warn parents that children are not allowed to handle cars, and if arrested by the police, don't blame him, for the law makes it his duty to arrest such persons.

Many people are known to blame other people for the same things they have done themselves. This may be termed reaction, but it is not right. Always keep your own door yard swept clean before finding fault with your neighbor.

About the only definite thing that can be said for a certainty about the pope's peace suggestion, is that some arrogant power is finding out that it has more than enough of fighting.

Many cities and towns are having market days and special sales days. Would it not be a good idea for the merchants to invest in something of this kind?

It will do no good for the kaiser to cry "Enough," says the Topeka Journal. The entente allies will tell him when he has enough.

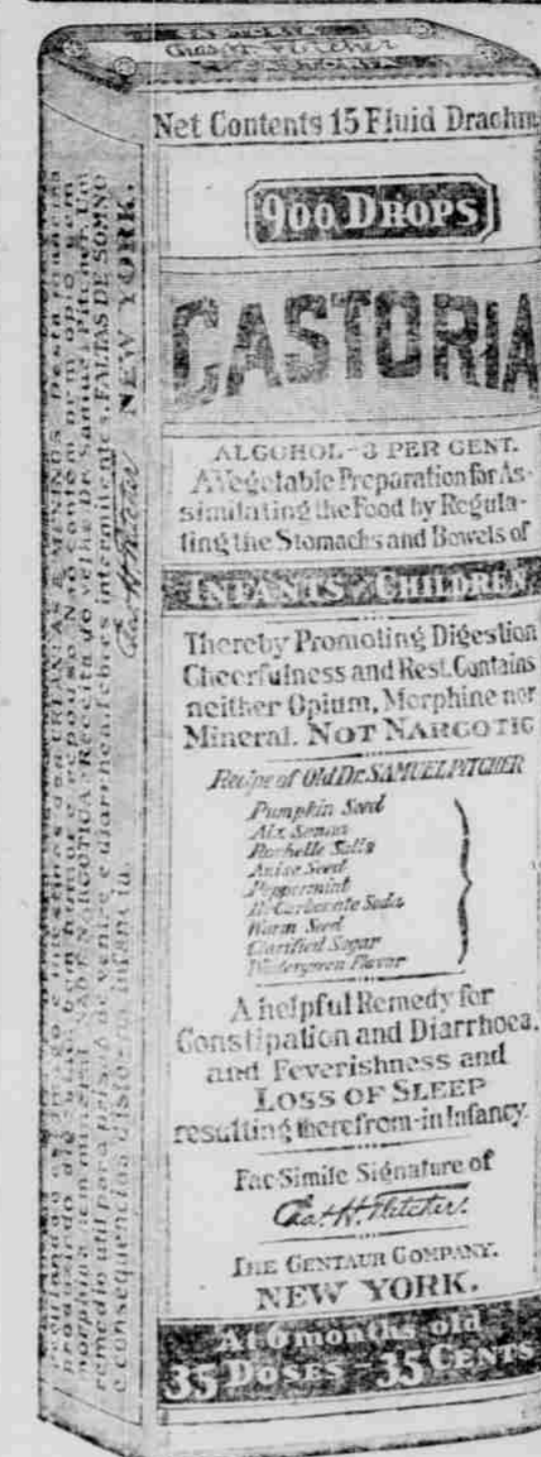
The "cousins" will no longer rule Europe after this war is over. That fact seems settled, right now.

Nebraska being one of the best states in the Union, will always hold her own, and then some.

Our merchants keep moving, and are selling the goods, which is in evidence every day.

Peace without annexation must go, or no peace at all. That's the "word with the bark on it."

While you keep putting food down, the speculators keep putting it up.



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