

The Plattsouth Journal

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Uncle Sam is engineer in charge.

No paper issued tomorrow. Remember that.

The Journal wishes all its readers A Happy New Year.

War necessities ought to make New Year resolutions easier to keep in 1918 than ever before.

Cold weather may be a good thing for the coal dealers, but it is very comforting to the poor people.

The Atchison Globe having seen a picture of Leon Trotsky, now fully understands the situation in Russia.

A lot of people this Christmas no doubt spent money on pianos that would have bought whole pecks of coal.

Another reason the packers argue the unecessity of the meatless day is the fact that if it is kept up much longer the price is likely to drop.

As we approach the new year let us not forget that every man in this country is either an American or a traitor and that each man selects his own label.

Stock answer to peace terms while the present German government continues in power: Isaiah 49:22—There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.

If we understand Count Czernin correctly he wants everybody to go back to the starting line so that when the game begins again all will have a perfectly fair start.

New Year resolutions will be scarcer this year. A whole lot of fellows will be saved the labor and worry of getting on the water wagon, as they have so often done.

Why didn't we go into coal and ice business? Here are the coal men who have cleaned up all winter with the aid of a coal shortage and now the ice men, many of whom are coal men, have an ammonia shortage, all ready to spring as soon as winter is over.

There is some speculation as to what General Pershing wants of the bricklayers he has demanded through the draft. Thanks to the censorship, it would be easier to guess what he does not want of them, notably among these being to build a soft place for the Germans to light on.

The Knights of Columbus war fund for this state has reached \$176,191.21 and it is thought enough will yet be reached to make the amount \$200,000. The original sum for the state to raise was \$75,000 and later raised to \$100,000. As usual Nebraska has gone over the top in this case.

Beth Smalley, actress gives this advice: "Flirt. All the time. But not too boldly. And do all the flirting with hubby." It may be added that this is what most married women have been doing all the time. The occasional entrance of flat irons and mops into the flirtation is only an effort to catch the husband's flirting eye.

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with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a disease of great gravity, due to constitutional conditions, and in order to cure it you must take an internal remedy. Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts thru the blood in the various tissues of the system. Hall's Catarrh Medicine was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years. It is composed of some of the best known drugs combined with some of the best blood purifiers. The perfect combination of the ingredients in Hall's Catarrh Medicine is what makes it a wonderful cure for all catarrhal conditions. Send for testimonials free.

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WHY GIVING IS GENERAL.

Everybody can take off his hat to Funk, the little town in Phelps county, which is the only town thus far reporting a hundred per cent membership in the Red Cross for 1918. There may be others, but that there is one is gratifying. Every man, woman and child in Funk is on the honor roll. And Funk is a name of seeming Germanic origin.

Nebraska as a whole is now known to have gone over the top valiantly in the Red Cross campaign, a published estimate being that 20 per cent of the people of the state have joined. Until compared with the general average the proportion looks small. But as a matter of fact many communities need education and stimulation.

Otherwise all are prepared. In no part of Nebraska is there complaint as to conditions of prosperity and thrift. One who searches out the remotest hamlets and inland villages is filled with the spirit of optimism that prevails in them. Everywhere is plenty and prosperity, well-filled granaries, money in banks, brisk business conditions and fine prospects for the future.

Only the war, the suffering and loss of it, darkens the horizon. In every other respect the people find comfort in their situation. And when the call comes for funds for any of the war activities, it is from well-filled purses that the contributions are cheerfully and proudly made. Nobody has any real excuse for not helping, except here and there one is found out of accord with the country and its people, generally because of misinformation or dullness of comprehension as to the stake in the great war.

Another way of drafting farm labor which might appeal to the government, would be to discourage a lot of good farmers from quitting the old place to run for office next summer.

The wise advertiser always finds a way. Anticipating your protest that you spent all your money before Christmas, he now offers merchandise for you to buy with the money you get for Christmas."

For fear Uncle Sam won't think of it, a good deal of time may be saved at stations by letting the passengers off at both ends of the car. Another good point about it is that it will be a jolly annoyance to the porters.

The Kaiser's Christmas peace terms are not receiving much consideration from responsible governments. So little faith have we in Prussianism that if the Kaiser wired us he had committed suicide we wouldn't believe him.

It perhaps is well that General Crowder put the question, "Are You Insane?" up at the first of the draft questionnaire. By the time a fellow gets over to the last, he has grave doubts about himself.

The Berliner Zeitung says the Kaiser hopes to assemble "all the sovereigns and regents of Europe" in a peace council. Apparently the Kaiser has still to learn that after this war the people will be the sovereigns of Europe.

Alienists are frequently called in to testify on matters that are just about as properly within the province of chiropodists. Still, lawyers for the defense must keep their clients in a good humor, and one method of flattery is about as good as another.

Why are war profiteers caricatured always as big, fat men? War profiteers are schemers, and Shakespeare, speaking through Caesar, saw a schemer in every slender man. Our imagination pictures Uriah Heep as a bony sort of citizen. A corpulent Shylock would have been only Falstaff, who gained everything but profit from war. The cartoonist's answer to this sort of argument probably would be that he knows some profiteers personally, and that they are big fat men. In which case, he would be asked to name some names, and then we might get somewhere in cutting down war profits.

achieve allied unity of purpose. It was a straight-forward plan, of a piece with the strategy that set out to unite progressives and republicans behind Mr. Hughes, a year ago.

Mr. Hitchcock, ranking democratic member of the committee on foreign relations, had a more realistic understanding. Possibly the last presidential campaign had shown him that unity needs a positive and not a negative starting point. In a speech which must have made the printer of the Congressional Record uneasy lest the government lose its own second-class mailing privileges, he asserted: "My first view had been . . . that if we declared war upon Austria we would in a large measure be endorsing the extreme and unreasonable demand of Italy against Austria which keeps Austria in the war." This was not an obstructionist's grumble. It was Mr. Hitchcock who, when Senator Stone failed, piloted through the Senate the original declaration of war against Germany. What Mr. Hitchcock emphasized, in the present instance, was the fact that political considerations can keep enemy nations in the war, or force them out of it. He saw in the President's message something more than the address of an executive to the legislative body about to vote ihm funds. He saw in it the reply to a challenging liberalism from all parts of the world. He was persuaded to a declaration of war by the President's assurance of Australian integrity. Thus one senator in five gave his support to Mr. Wilson's efforts at attaining allied unity. In the house the proportion was not so great.—The New Republic.

THE UNDISCOVERED SUPERLATIVE

With all the hunting fluttering in the breeze, all the men in uniform, all the cheering spectators, all the tall buildings, such as he had never seen before, to meet his eye, Prince Ferdinand of Savoy, arriving in New York, made one remark which did especial credit to his powers of observation. "What beautiful women are your Americans!" he said. This distinguished representative of the royal house of Savoy comes from a land where beauty reigns—beauty of nature, beauty of art and beauty of humanity. Everywhere the recalcitrant citizen is discovering evidence that he must get in line or get run over.—Lincoln Star.

ONE SENATOR WHO UNDERSTOOD

Three committees of Congress have begun an investigation of the manner in which the war is being fought. Three more might well be started upon an investigation of what the war is being fought for. Though Congress is discovering that it knows relatively little of military needs, inside of the war bureaus, other investigations would convince it that it knows even less of military needs, outside of them.

This is the conclusion necessary after examining the debate in Congress upon the question of going to war with Austria, and it bears directly upon the military efficiency Congress is now seeking. The debate came shortly after Mr. Wilson had again emphasized the need of reinforcing allied arms with the resources of a genuinely unified objective and a policy of political liberalism which would give aid and comfort to democratic groups within the central powers. To these two allied assets the President devoted the major part of his address. How great a hope he placed in them is shown in the arrangements made for the translation of his message into a score of languages and its immediate transmission to every neutral and belligerent.

It will be disappointing if neutrals and belligerents show as poor an appreciation of the objectives of that message as the Senate and the House have shown. In the Senate five members spoke on the war resolution. Only one of them, Mr. Hitchcock, seems to have caught the President's desire to promote victory by uniting war allies. Mr. Lodge, to be sure, also saw the benefits of political unity among the allies. But he saw it as a different and less difficult problem. Our allies were at war, not only with Germany and Austria, but also with Bulgaria and Turkey. We were at war with Germany; we were soon to be at war with Austria; but we neither were, nor were soon to be, at war with Bulgaria and Turkey.

Let us, therefore, declare war upon Bulgaria and Turkey and

A NEW SPIRIT NEEDED.

It is not on account of any one specific thing that The Star has urged the retirement of Secretary Baker from the War Department. It is on account of the general tendencies shown in his administration.

A competent executive at the head of a big department, expanding with enormous rapidity and meeting new problems, undoubtedly would make mistakes. He would pick the wrong men for certain positions and occasionally adopt a wrong policy. But he would be constantly driving for results. If he found a subordinate bungling a job, showing indecision, and causing delays, he would put another man in that place. If he found a certain routine responsible for delay he would get rid of that routine. He would be constantly calling for detailed statements of progress in all the offices under him and jacking up those that were deficient.

Secretary Baker has shown himself lacking in this executive temperament. He has taken for granted that when an order was issued it would be obeyed. If an officer told him there would be sufficient clothing at Camp Funston at a certain time the Secretary assumed that that matter was settled. His good nature has made him hesitate to offend men he was working with. When the war called for an effective chief of staff to co-ordinate the various divisions of the department the Secretary retained one elderly chief of staff until he was retired under the age limit and then put in another elderly chief who is to be retired in a few days. Fine courtesy, but not for a nation fighting for its life!

The War Department has given the country the impression of being fine in intention, delightful in manner, but lacking the driving force that is required at this time. It has not been up to its toes. It has regarded delays as "perfectly endurable."

A new spirit if it is to measure up to this emergency. A big executive ought to be at its head.—K. C. Star.

PARTISAN FICTION AS A HABIT.

The esteemed World-Herald has devoted much valuable space to an effort to rebuke the specious partisan effort to convince the public that the failure of the Seventh regiment, organized by Governor Neville and his associates, to get into the service has been due to the hidden opposition of Arthur Mullen and Senator Hitchcock.

This ingenious falsehood has been peddled by a small part of the partisan republican press, and some office-hungry members of the governor's party who always receive much encouragement from republicans the purpose being to beget animosities among democrats and intensify democratic factionalism.

Few democrats have been disturbed by the report. It was so palpably false and out of harmony with the policies of the war department that it excited little credence, however

diligently nourished. The war department started out to build an army and navy in which political influence would cut absolutely no figure. Efficiency was the objective, and as much democracy in the war service as might be consistent with discipline. It was early announced that politics would not be allowed to dictate the personnel of the fighting units. Certain tests were provided and certain policies proclaimed, and to these there has been rigid adherence despite political pressure and political influence.

Nor is anything to be gained by attempting to refute or confuse a subtle political rumor of the sort to which resort has been had by the political pipe-dreamers. Disproof will not interfere with its continued circulation. Those who invented it knew it was false. They clothed it in just sufficient semblance of plausibility to make it suit their purposes. No proof of its falsehood will abash them. They will keep on repeating it. They have invented the fiction because they need it in their partisan work. They will go to the ditch with it. And the ditch is where it belongs. So what's the use of trying to dignify it with denial or disproof?

Intelligent citizens are fully "onto" the game of these sophistica wire-pullers. They have cried "wolf" so often that they no longer for anybody but themselves. In the end they win nothing by their ingenious falsehoods, except the distrust of the public. That they have won through years of deception.

Meantime few democrats are concerning themselves with the frost subtleties of partisanship or politics. Neither are republicans getting cued over the personal rivalries

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