

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

We say, again, cut 'em out.

Now, Buy a Smilge Book.

Soon begin to talk "Good Roads."

Farmers are getting ready for spring work.

The "shoe that pinches" is the recollection of a mean act.

Old Winter seems to have no notion of giving in yet awhile.

The wise man learns to swim before he attempts to paddle his own canoe.

We hope there has been no suffering among the poor of Plattsmouth this winter.

After all our country's best resources are its women and they should be husbanded.

The world is out of joint. The Tennessee river froze over this winter for the first time in fifty years.

A lady reader alleges that the human mind is a sewer through which all the filth of the week is discharged.

A large part of the time allotted to a discussion is usually absorbed by the fellow who hasn't anything to say.

There is a cigar store at Camp Funston in which no smoking is allowed. Evidently the proprietor knows what his cigars are going to smell like.

Next Tuesday, February 4, we are going to find out how many German-Americans we have here with other American citizens.

It would seem from reports that in order to make himself more conspicuous Congressman Reavis would like to get the United States in trouble with Japan.

Buy the bond today! Make it your business to attend to the matter the first thing in the morning if you forget it today. You'll feel better when the duty is performed.

Some of our citizens who have been overly critical of the government's lack of war preparedness, were caught without coal during the recent cold snap and were doing some mighty tall hustling to keep warm.

Trotsky and his people want nothing but food, peace and land, according to a Chicago Russian. But Trotsky is going back to Brest-Litovsk to talk some more, so evidently he forgot something the first time.

Premier Clemenceau of France is now to follow President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George in a statement of the Allied war aims. Although Germany pretends to be a little deaf our guess is that she heard us the first time.

McAdoo is predicting a chilly season for the attorneys who have been employed by the railroads, not so much for their legal ability as the influence they possess in the way of the drawing the wool over the peoples eyes when it comes to cases in court.

There were lots of nosey critic in the days of Abraham Lincoln, who sought to create trouble just like some fellows are trying it today. The grand man got through with it, the same as President Wilson will. Men of today ought to know better and no doubt will before they get through with it.

Politics looming up.

Folks never understand the folks they hate.

If a steady, cold winter means good, we ought to be happy.

And thus we find it written again: That man shall not live by wheat bread alone.

Notwithstanding the adage, it is the pot and the kettle which are constantly wrangling.

The first thing a baby learns is to cry for what it wants, and most are just grown-up babies.

Nearly a half million people use the Pike National Forest, in Colorado each year for recreation.

There are a whole lot of Germans in Cass county who don't need to register to show where they stand.

Many counties are hiring county agents. Why not Cass? It might prove a good thing for the taxpayers.

On advantage of operating the railroads as they are now operated is that time tables are wholly unnecessary.

Criticism of a political and friendship philanthropist usually comes from the fellow who has received the most of the beneficiaries.

Also he may generally be put down as a good patriot who does not try to go all through the winter on the reputation acquired in his neighborhood by shoveling the first snowfall from his sidewalk last November.

"I hope that the merchants of the country, upon careful consideration of the subject, will discontinue their efforts to sell merchandise and take Liberty Loan Bonds in payment," says Secretary McAdoo.

We are glad to read that the fire which destroyed the local asbestos plant was not the work of an incendiary, for we have often argued that you can't set asbestos afire. This fire, we are gratified to read, originated from spontaneous combustion.

Having upturned heaven and earth, practically, to head off an investigation of the packing industry, the packers, we now feel sure, will presently issue another statement saying "we welcomed the investigation" the trade commission now has put under way.

A St. Louis army officer says bald heads are not desirable in France, because they present an obvious target to boche bullets. The officer evidently forgets that a Hun bullet will slip and glance off a bald head much more easily than from the one covered with entangling hair.

Women will take the greater part in wheat conservation, and will receive the credit for its success. The only drawback to the plan is that the women can make it just as great a success by staying at home as she can by getting out and running around about it.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Medicine.

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ONLY ONE WAY OUT.

The proposal to repudiate the Russian debt has a strong appeal for the Bolsheviks. But they ought to be consistent about such things. Germany has set up a claim for certain parts of Russia territory, which she asserts Russia owes her for the trouble and expense she has been to in seizing it. If the Bolshevik government believes in repudiation it ought to start with this.

But it is doubtful if the leaders who are running things in Russia just now will find this principle a sound one in the end. When they start to apply it they will find some embarrassment in finding a place to stop. If the Russian government can repudiate, Ivan Ivanovitch probably will figure that he can too. He will try it on the grocery store and the tax collector and it will be very apt to lead to confusion if not to open dispute. Debts are annoying to be sure, but human experience generally has found that the only really satisfactory way of getting rid of them is to pay them.

EVER NOTICE IT?

Men will drive onto the street with an automobile, get out, take a fine fur robe and cover over the hood of the machine. They take every precaution to keep the machine from suffering with the cold. On the other hand some men will drive up to the hitch rack with a team of horses, jump out and run into some place of business and sit down by the stove to warm. The horses have no blankets and are left standing out in the cold to suffer as they may. Don't treat your auto any better than you do your horses—or rather don't treat your horses any worse than you do your auto.—Hamburg Reporter.

KNOCKERS OVERLOOK THIS.

Among 31,000 New York troops at Camp Wadsworth Sparta, N. C., there have been but nine deaths from sickness in five months, yet under ordinary conditions at home in peace times it is estimated that there would be about sixty deaths among the same number of young men. Such a record speaks well for the healthful conditions in cantonments necessarily constructed in great haste.—Fremont Tribune.

The seed committee of the state council of defense announces that if you buy 90 per cent good seed corn you shall pay not more than \$5.00 a bushel, but if you go to the crib and select it yourself, you shall pay \$3 a bushel. If you go at night when nobody is looking and select it yourself and can get away with it, you get it for nothing.

Saturday is the day that old Mr. Groundhog comes out of his hole to tell how much longer winter is going to last. If he sees his shadow and goes back it means six more weeks we will have to pay big coal bills.

Congress may investigate and investigate until the food profiteers are thoroughly torn to shreds, but nothing will bring them to time like a reliable back yard garden and a steady, stay-at-home wife to tend it.

The Rumanians are to be punished by the Russian Bolsheviks for the worst crime in the Bolshevik calendar—the Rumanians were caught in the act of fighting for their own country.

A news article declares that the first gun in the back yard garden campaign is about to be fired, but makes no predictions as to when the first radish will be pulled.

The situation seems to be, briefly, that while the War Department has made no mistakes precautions have been taken to prevent their repetition.

Nothing is so blasted and beastly cold as a cold foot.

Food conservation is a woman's work.

THE TROUBLE IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT

It was an engaging presentation of his case that Secretary Baker made before the Senate committee yesterday. The country has realized the immensity of the war task and has been disposed to be lenient with mistakes. To this reasonable patience of the American people the secretary appealed. The transformation in his attitude presents him in a much more favorable light than he occupied at his appearance before the same committee a fortnight ago.

But the engaging personality of Mr. Baker, as shown yesterday, should not blind the Nation to the facts of the situation. The picture he painted was in glowing colors. Every part of the vast undertaking was going forward effectively. And yet—when the Senate inquiry loomed ahead the secretary began a re-organization of his department that involved the retirement of the heads of two most important divisions, and an entirely new organization to handle the business side of the war.

Presumably these changes in vital departments of administration would not have been made if everything had been moving satisfactorily.

As a matter of fact, things were not moving satisfactorily. There had been no planning ahead on ordnance, on airplanes or on other equipment. Through the efforts of civilians an inventory had been taken of the industrial resources of the country, but the War Department officials had not availed themselves of it. The lessons taught by the European war and by the experience of the troops on the Mexican border had not been taken to heart.

The country got into the war with its old peace establishment. Officers without business experience were suddenly confronted with business problems on a tremendous scale. An illuminating incident was that involving wool for uniforms and blankets. The offer of the country's entire wool clip at pre-war prices was turned down by a quartermaster's department that could not conceive of buying more than a quarter of a million uniforms, and the country thereby lost not only a very large sum of money, but the opportunity to get sufficient quantities of cloth at an early day.

The defects of the ordnance department brought out in the hearings are still fresh in the public mind. As a result our small force abroad is still dependent on our allies for its artillery, and we have been prevented from rushing over the force we otherwise might have sent because we have been unable to give the proper training and equipment. To be sure, the French and British have promised to furnish guns. But that is at the expense of their own forces and of the Italians, who are now dangerously under equipped.

Well, the officers responsible for the major delays are now gone and Mr. Baker has reorganized to meet the proposals of the Senate committee. Undoubtedly improvement has resulted. But time of the utmost value has been lost.

We Americans have some curious ideas. It is a national habit to assume that because a man is a moral leader he is therefore a great executive. Because a man is a fighter against special privilege and for quality of opportunity we take it for granted that he can administer an enormous business successfully.

Men associated with Secretary Baker in Washington have the highest personal regard for him. But there is widespread skepticism among them as to his fitness to handle a great administrative enterprise.

That is why sincere men on the military affairs committee of the Senate, genuinely alarmed over delays and inefficiency in war preparations are urging the separation of the business from the military side of the war through the creating of a director of munitions, and the constituting of a real administrative board in the proposed war cabinet.—F. C. Star.

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SPRING IS COMING.

These days the optimist has little to sustain him. As the winter stretches out to a full-sized season he grows thin and worn by his efforts to maintain a full current in his vein of cheerfulness. But yet a few days he will have a trump card. Spring is coming.

Was spring ever as welcome as it will be this year?

He may not realize it at the time, but the winter-worn citizen inwardly and unconsciously blesses the lynx-eyed watcher for the first robin, as he tells through the newspapers that he has seen what he thinks were a robin's tracks in the snow.

The next time you encounter a news item suggesting spring garden activities, note how eagerly you read it. Observe yourself this evening when you gather up your home-mail and hurry over by the radiator to read it. You will tear open the cover of a seed catalogue. As you toast your chilled bones over the heat, stop to realize the thrill that will warm your being as you read with joy of spring garden vegetables you never expect to plant or to reap.

The advertisers—bless 'em—brave the rigor of the season nowadays to tell of coming spring and the glad garments they are already showing. Don't you agree they deserve a wreath of spring violets?

Think of these things, Mr. Citizen, the next time you tickle the palate of your insatiable furnace, and you will find the monster is losing its terrors for you.—World-Herald.

WILL NEVER GET ACROSS.

Partisanship and personal ambition are not going to be successful in tying the hands of the president with a so-called war board to supplant him as the guiding spirit in the conduct of the war.

All of the noisy critics at Washington seem in a fair way to receive the rebuke they deserve for their suggestion and promotion of this infamous proposition.

For senators are not going to be partisan when the successful conduct of the war is in the balance. They are going to be patriots first, and partisans only after the war shall have been won.

Senator Borah of Idaho and Senator Kenyon of Iowa, both recognized progressives, gave notice Sunday that they are not in accord with the bolshevik program at Washington. Every patriotic democrat who has confidence in the president has reason to take off his hat to these two strong men for their frank disavowal of sympathy for "the word criticism of the administration by men who cannot forget partisanship."

Speaking at Baltimore to an immense patriotic league meeting, Senator Borah declared that the transformation of this peace-loving country into a war machine is such a big one that "in order to have made no mistakes the administration would need be divine."

He urged that the critics be not taken too seriously, for as a whole congress is straining every nerve toward the achievement of the great task. He begged his audience not to judge congress by the few who criticize.

And Senator Kenyon, too, in an address before his home people at Waterloo, Iowa, pointedly rebuked "the unfortunate criticism of the administration by Senator Chamberlain."

The utterances of these two distinguished republicans give assurance to the country that the onslaught upon the administration is not to assume a partisan aspect. They are assurances also that the Roosevelt "drive" against the White House does not command the allegiance and support of Mr. Roosevelt's former factional associates.—Lincoln Star.

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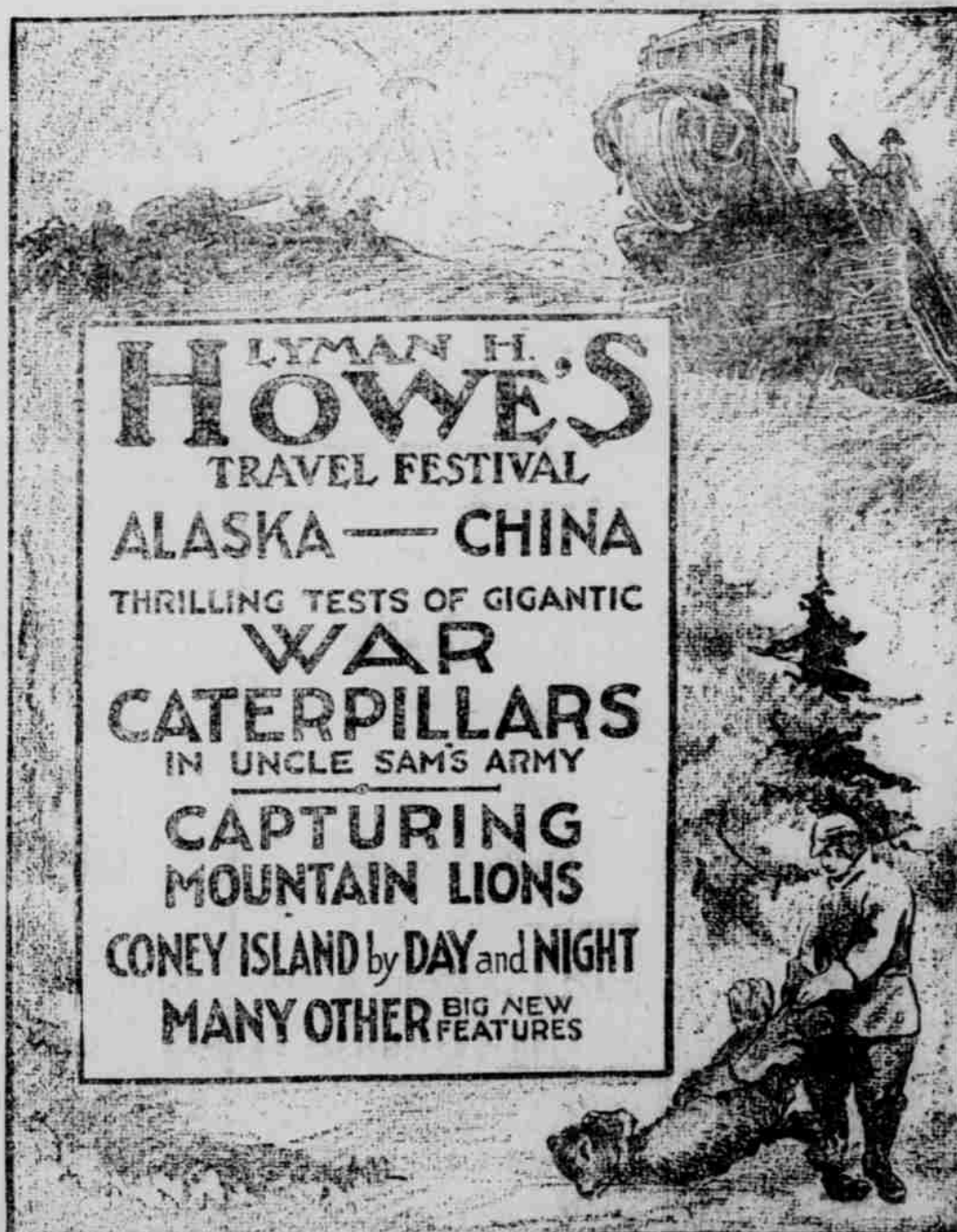
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