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| FORGETTING POLITICS. <br> In the early days of American politics, congressional contests were settled by a party vote. If a recount of ballots showed that the contest really was close the majority of the committee always brought in a re port favoring its party candidate, the minority found in favor of its man, and the house of representatives divided on the same basis. The party which controlled the house won the contest. <br> Seating of Congressman Scott of the Eleventh district, a republican, by a democratic house of representatives, after the contest showed a difference of only four votes between his total and that of Tom Steele, is evidence of a growing spirit of fairness in our political organization. <br> We have scarcely yet reached the point where an evenly divided house of representatives would vote to unseat any member holding color of title, and thus turn the organization over to the opposition. But the time may come when ever such a course would be taken. <br> The tendency of the times is toward individual expression of opinion in congress. The party caucus has practically disappeared, although it was strongly in evtdence three or four years ago and is subject to revival. Senators and representatives no longer feel called on to offer explanations or apologies when they cast a deciding vote in favor of neasures inaugurated by the opposition. It is a question whether, except on matters of organization, there have been half a dozen strict party votes in congress in as many years. This development of fndrivaual | razing. It is a co-ordinate branch of the government-not a subordinate department.-St. Joseph * Gazette. <br> DEBTS OF WARRING NATIONS. <br> The London Economist for February places the total gross debt of Great Britain at $\$ 27,736,000,000$. <br> The French minister of Finance in presenting the budget for 1918 estimated the public debt of France on December 31, 1918, at $\$ 22,227$,000,000 . <br> The public debt of Italy at the end of 1917 is estimated at $\$ 6,676$,$000,000$. <br> The debts of the Central Powers are estimated as follows: Germany, $\$ 25,408.000,000$; Austria, $\$ 13,314$, , 000,000 ; and Hungary, $\$ 5,704,000$,000. <br> Our own public debt is now around $\$ 8,000,000,000$, but more than half of this amount has been loaned to our Allies and will be repaid us. It is estimated that of the total net expenditures of the United States for the fiscal year of 191 S . exclusive of our advances to our A1lies, more than one-half will be defrayed by taxation. <br> IF NOT, COME ACROSS. <br> If you do not want to contribute to the Red Cross, there are two reasons you may assign for it, says the F. C. Star: <br> 1. That you are against the Unite. 4 States: that you refuse to help the United states soldiers because you want to sce them defeated. That you are opposed to France and BelEium, England and the United Slates and want to see them crushed |
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