

LOUP CITY NORTHWESTERN

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POLITICAL GOSSIP FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, July 12. (Special correspondence.)—Democratic leaders in congress find little consolation in a review of election figures in the so-called "doubtful" states.

The way some of the leading democrats, most of them from the south, opposed aid to the families of soldiers who enlisted for service in Mexico, caused considerable unfavorable comment about the capital.

Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, nipped in the bud a scheme to boost the salaries of some of the attorneys, special agents and examiners in the recently organized Federal Trade Commission.

dismissed, because it is not proposed to increase the appropriation. It has been the custom in this body for senators to make appeals for those drawing small salaries, and not for those drawing large salaries, and I was quite surprised to hear the suggestion made by the mover of this amendment.

Nearly every republican senator and member of congress is receiving the most encouraging reports from the people "back home" relative to the outlook for party success at the coming elections.

The attempt of the present administration to muzzle the periodical press of the country by placing in the hands of the Postmaster General power to put almost any magazine out of business by sending it by freight, has been given its quietus in the senate, and another un-American proposition fostered by the present postoffice department has been snuffed out by proper publicity and the showing up of the offensive provision proposed in the postoffice bill.

May, 1916, found us at the full tide of our war-order prosperity. During the eleven months ended in May our exports totaled \$3,867,000,000, imports, \$1,951,000,000, favorable balance of trade, \$1,916,000,000, to which should be added millions of dollars formerly spent by our tourists abroad who have lately betrayed a cordial desire to see "America first."

"Patriotism in democracy is not merely an instinctive affection for one's native or adopted land, or exultation in national power. Patriotism in democracy is devotion to the rule of the people, love of its ideals, and pride in those achievements which realize its common aspirations and illustrate the progress made possible by equality or rights. It is the patriotism, whose ardor is kindled by the keen sense of human brotherhood, and

that counts as traitors all those who take up against the State the arms of injustice or seek to turn to selfish uses the agencies designed to protect the common interest. The matter of primary importance is fidelity to the fundamental laws of our institutions, and the endeavor to destroy those influences, on whatever behalf exerted, which are hostile to free government itself.

PREPAREDNESS BOOSTED.

Preparedness has been given a big boost by the threatened war with Mexico. That effect is a certainty regardless of whether war is declared. Both houses of congress have loosened up on preparedness appropriations. In the house of representatives \$26,000,000 was added to the army appropriation bill, bringing it up to \$182,000,000. This was in addition to a deficiency appropriation of \$25,000,000 to cover the cost of mobilizing the militia and other immediate military preparations.

THIRTEEN MONTHS IN THE YEAR.

One of the recent interesting discussions that has been on, is the proposition to change the number of months in each year from twelve to thirteen. The plan as proposed would make each month have exactly four weeks. This would give thirteen months in the year of four weeks each and one day over; the extra day, it is proposed to assign to New Year's Day, not incorporating it in any month and it being a universal holiday, it would not interrupt the business lines that would be followed under the new arrangement.

With thirteen months of four weeks each and the odd day set aside without reference to any month as New Year's Day, there would still be left unaccounted for, the odd minutes and seconds that go to make up the complete year. These minutes and seconds would accumulate enough to make another day in something over four hundred years and if the new calendar were adopted, it would have to provide for leap year once in four hundred years instead of once every four years as at present. Leap year would be wiped out and it would only be once in four centuries that the extra day would have to be accounted for in the calendar.

The new plan is more of a scientific plan than the present division of the year into months, and in this way, there is much force in the argument for the change. With thirteen months for the year, and exactly four weeks to the month, the first day of the month would always fall on the same day of the week. The first day of each month would probably be fixed on Sunday as the first day of the week. Sunday would always be the first of the month, and every month would be shortened to twenty-eight days. This would, on monthly salaries, involve some adjustment in business. It would involve a readjustment on loans but there would be a tremendous advantage in the even time that would cover all transactions. There would be no months with odd days or even days and there would be a multitude of complication in figuring time that would be obviated through the even months of four weeks each.

It would not be on the whole, difficult at all to adjust affairs of very kind and character to the thirteen months a year basis. After the adjustment was made, there would be a certain amount of satisfaction as well as larger convenience through always having equal months.

While the discussion is on concerning the setting of the clock ahead an hour, why not discuss the more important and more scientific project of making thirteen months a year instead of twelve months? The advancing of time an hour a day would undoubtedly be advantageous in the long day period of the year, providing it was universally accepted. There would be no advantage in it in the short days of the year and for that reason, it would not be an all-the-year improvement. The changing of the months to even periods of four weeks each, would be advantageous all the time. It could be universally accepted in every line of business without great disturbance and one changed, would be so much more satisfactory that there would be no disposition to ever revert to the old fractional method of days in a month that we follow now in order to have simply twelve months in the year. The difference would be entirely optional between twelve months or thirteen months making up a year, and the separation of the odd day, the setting aside of New Year's day, without reference to any month, would be no inconvenience or interruption and at the same time it would emphasize that day and its observance as the commencement of a new year and the marking of a new period of time.

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By Order of School Board

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SOLDIERS OF THE SEA.

Although the United States marine corps has no reserve, hundreds of former members have volunteered for service in the old corps in case of emergency, it was announced at marine corps headquarters today.

The marine corps forms the first line of the national mobile defense, and the volunteers are likely to get quick action in case of war, as the marines are usually "first in" when actual hostilities commence.

About 4,000 of the less than 10,000 "soldiers of the sea" are now actively suppressing revolution and restoring order in Hayti and Santo Domingo.

My, oh my, how the democratic newspapers now hate Teddy Roosevelt because through his leadership the progressive party has dissolved and the republican party stands solidly united. And three short weeks ago Roosevelt, in the estimation of these newspapers, was a real darling deer. That was when they believed, hoped and urged that he be the progressive candidate for president and thereby aid in keeping the republican party divided. Strange how a man's worth can dwindle—in the estimation of democratic newspapers—but democratic never amounted to much anyway. When a democratic newspaper takes to praising a republican leader then it is time for Wilson to believe everything Carranza tells him.—Ex.

ROADS BY UNCLE SAM.

Uncle Sam is about to dip into the road-building business. His incursion into that field depends only upon the signature of the president to the bill passed by congress appropriating \$85,000,000 to be used in the next five years in building roads in co-operation with the states.

This is as unwarranted a measure, it seems to us, as congress ever has passed. We can see no good reason why the federal government should have anything to do with roads in the states, aside from furnishing information. The people must pay the bill—federal aid is not a gift—and for the general property tax by which state and local revenue are raised. Just at this time especially, when treasury officials are talking about a bond issue to replenish the national money chest, it seems most inappropriate to make large expenditures of federal funds for work that belongs properly to the states and counties.

Worse than the fiscal features of federal aid to road building, however, is the centralization of road authority at the state capitol—that is nothing to the centralization caused by this bill. No road into which a dollar of federal funds goes can be built until the plans have been submitted to, and approved by, the secretary of agriculture. Think of the absurdity of asking the secretary of agriculture what kind of a road should be made in some Nebraska township!

The tendency of the times to remove authority in all matters to some point well out of the reach of the people is one that must be resisted if we do not wish to find ourselves in the grip of a bureaucratic government.—Nebraska Farmer.

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