

EVENING CAPITAL NEWS AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER Published Every Afternoon and Sunday Morning at Boise, Idaho, a City of 50,000 People, by THE CAPITAL NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD. RICHARD STORY SEBRIDAN, General Manager. H. A. LAWSON, Managing Editor.

SIMS' SERIOUS CHARGES. SENSATIONS are not wanted at Washington and the latest of these comes in the announcement that Admiral Sims had declined a medal for distinguished service during the war from Secretary Daniels. The grounds for the refusal was that Secretary Daniels has used favoritism in placing the coveted medals. A congressional investigation is now under way to determine the truth of the charges and to place the responsibility.

In reply to Secretary Daniels' offer of the service medal, Admiral Sims said: "The department has been pleased to award me a distinguished service medal as an expression of its appreciation of the success of the forces under my command, but since the success of the forces abroad was chiefly due to the loyal and efficient service of the officers recommended for distinction—and to them belongs the credit—I am necessarily placed in a position which renders it impossible for me to accept this award under the conditions now existing."

"This becomes my duty because this list (the one finally issued by Daniels for war decorations) contains a number of instances of injustice to distinguished officers, the effect of which, upon the morale of service, can not fall to be very detrimental. "The injustice lies not in the number of awards made, but in the fact that the awards as issued to officers in a number of instances are not in accord with the relative merit of the service performed by them as indicated by my recommendations."

This is a rather serious charge. Admiral Sims plainly infers there was favoritism shown and that officers who were not entitled to medals have been recommended for them while others who won the right to this distinction are denied the honor. The secretary of the navy stoutly defends the manner in which the awards were made and promises a full and complete statement which will be submitted to congress and the public. He issued a statement explaining that after every war there has been criticism over the manner in which awards of distinction have been placed but he is determined to show that in the present instance the criticism is unjust and unfair. He is willing to submit his case to the people which is of course the wise thing to do.

"It became my duty at the close of this war," Secretary Daniels says in closing his reply to the charge of Admiral Sims, "to approve the awarding of medals and distinctions, and I resolved that action should be governed by fixed principles and all in certain classes should be recognized alike. I was also resolved that most distinguished honors should be awarded those who were in most peril and who suffered most and rendered the most distinguished service. The awards so far announced followed this sound policy. The final and complete list has not been approached, for some recommendations were long delayed."

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"To hell with the people," shout the strikers and bosses, "What do we care for their worries or losses? We're out for their profits—them profits we'll get— Then we'll grab for still others, on that you can bet."

"It's them Unions that do it," the Capitalists scream, "It's they that is damming Industry's stream. They are killing that "Goose" that lays the gold egg— Them would milk her plumb dry then pull her old leg!"

"They're a bunch of danged liars!" the workmenmen shriek, "Our wages ain't just 'Ninety' a week— With forty-cent pork ain't a jump in the rent, Can't you see, you darned idiot, how the 'Ninety' ain't spent?"

Thus upward, still upward, are climbing those prices On every blamed thing from pig-iron to lice— And the Public goes hungry, and the Public must walk, While the Jackasses of business quit pulling and balk!

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WHAT THERE IS OF THE NATION RAY MEXICAN PROSPECTS. (New York Herald.) Unless Carranza forces a crisis during the next few weeks—something he seems to be doing—there is a good chance that the United States may find as the result of the coming elections a president of Mexico with whom it can do business without resort to arms.

PERTINENT QUESTION. (New York World.) Before the house committee on foreign affairs, Justice Daniel P. Cohan urged that the United States should go to war with Great Britain if necessary to establish the Binn Fein republic in Ireland. Will Cohan resign his \$17,500 job, volunteer for service and lead the army of invasion across the Atlantic or is somebody else to do the dying?

RAILROAD LEGISLATION. (New York Times.) Congress should not even attempt to reconcile the antagonistic views without a rest. Even though its debates are not listened to by members themselves, nor adequately reported, the subject is about the greatest next to the treaty of peace, and all the time necessary should be taken. It follows that the ratification should be extended until an acceptable permanent solution is found, and even thereafter until results have been demonstrated.

TREATY SITUATION. (New York Tribune.) Some success has been had in misrepresenting the treaty situation, but the game of deception is about played out. The ratification is not held up and prevented by the majority in the senate, but by the administration. By deferring ratification a seemingly desperate and bankrupt party hopes to get some sort of issue for the approaching campaign. The senate majority offered a definite program. The answer was a refusal to go further except unreserved ratification, a policy which Senator Hitchcock now admits is impossible, and support of which necessarily implies opposition to ratification at all.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE. (Express, Los Angeles.) From warnings issued by forest rangers it is tolerably clear that the best way to preserve a Christmas tree is not to go on a hike and steal one. The Christmas tree in the home fills a gracious office indeed, but that same tree, rooted in its native soil possessed a certain value and fulfilled a purpose, decorative, preservative and productive. So one desirous of a Christmas tree better talk to the ranger before rather than after taking.

THE DANGEROUS YEARS OF MAN. (New York Tribune.) In the news of yesterday an expert critic told the world at large that Champion Dempsey will never again be the fighting Jack that he was when he met Willard. At age 24 he "assess his crest. On the same day Dr. Henry Dwight Chapin of the state reconstruction commission's committee on public health declared man's dangerous-age period to lie between 49 and 55 years. The case with Dempsey is that of reaction, physical and psychological, following a period of over-exertion and frequent tension of the fight into a life of ease, of satisfied aspirations, of going to battle only when he feels like it. As to the Chapin pronouncement, it proves to be general in the analysis than in the phrasology. A fresh rendering of the now familiar proposition that in the matter of longevity among men at large the city has the advantage of the truly rural region.

Dr. Chapin finds as a result of his official inquiries that whereas the death rate reaches its lowest point in developed cities, it attains its highest mark in isolated and sparsely populated areas. The question rises as to what sort of bird a peccan is. Isn't it possible they mean toucans?

Ibex is worried. He asks: "Inasmuch as a person who eats vegetables is a vegetarian, is a person who eats fish a fisherman? Shall we refer this question to Dr. Lowell of Yale. Now doctors have discovered that neither draughts nor open pores cause colds. This much can be said for doctors. They can always find some new theory.

A downtown firm displays a 21-foot sign reading: "Holiday Presents at Unequaled Prices" which leads J. L. Beers to ask: "What do they mean by 'unequaled'?"

WHO'S WHO IN CURRENT EVENTS. NEAR EAST GROWS RESTIVE WAITING TURKISH SOLUTION

Rev. James Levi Barton. Rev. Barton, director of the American commission for relief in the near east, has returned from an eight-month trip in Asia, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia and Armenia. He declares the near east is growing restive because of the uncertainty regarding the disposition of Turkey by the allies. Outbreaks already have occurred in Caucasus and Armenia.

RAILROAD SALARIES. (Post, Boston.) They have on file in Washington an official list of the 1917 salaries paid 400 officials of the principal railroads of the United States. The showing is a remarkable one. The president of one of the largest roads received \$75,460 and his 11 vice presidents from \$40,820 down to \$25,900, while other officials received from \$10,000 up to \$90,000 and upward, amounting in the total to \$681,960. The president of a New York City railway had a salary of \$121,000. Seven leading railroads paid their presidents \$75,000 or more. There were some 25 others who received from \$50,000 to \$50,000.

While there is no positive answer to the question of what a salaried man is worth, still there is consideration due as to what a railroad should pay when freight and passenger rates and the territory served are in question. This is a vital matter, and should receive attention at this time. There is such a thing as boosting salaries to such an extent as to handicap the progress and the extension of the roads, and this result should never be permitted. It is the traveling public and the shippers who pay the bill, and it was the pioneers in railroading whose work, without regard to salaries, prepared these not berths now enjoyed by their successors.

One of the first duties on the return of the railroads to private management is a thorough overhauling and equalization of their payrolls. Money must be just as zealously saved at the top as at the bottom.

NO CHANCE WITH A POLITICIAN. (Star, Kansas City.) A friend writes the Star from Tulsa, Okla., that he has been reading with concern the news in reference to the candidacy of Lowden, Harding, Watson, and the rest. "I have been wondering," he says, "whether the Republican politicians will never learn that it takes votes to elect the president. We have a good fighting chance here with Wood, none with a politician."

Old-fashioned politicians aren't standing high these days. In a time when people feel the need of common sense, effectiveness and courage, the ordinary platitudes of the politicians make them sick.

Confronted by a crisis, the politician of the old school talks bravely, takes the matter under consideration, and hides out until he sees what is safe to do. Leonard Wood, assigned to Garv when the news is in the hands of a man, sends for the leaders, tells them the news to see that they and everybody else have a common sense, and everybody who makes a statement probably will be shot. There is no

THE BAD BOYS INSISTED UPON RIDING ON JOHNNY C. P.'S NEW SLED AND SPOILING HIS JOY RIDE



disturbance. Henry Allen, facing a calamity to Kansas, takes over the reins for the state, organizes a force of volunteers, and gets out coal, while the political governors are holding conferences over the situation. We can see where a lot of people are going to be sympathizing with the gentleman from Tulsa in his feeling that an old-fashioned Republican politician can not possibly win.

THE PRESIDENT AND PUBLICITY. (Heywood Tribune.) Ray Stannard Baker gives us a new light on the president in his book "What Wilson Did at Paris" (Doubleday-Page). We have always been interested in Mr. Wilson's attitude toward publicity. We have been puzzled by "open covenants openly arrived at" and other phrases as contrasted with Wilsonian practices. Mr. Baker explains everything. In the matter of publicity, Woodrow Wilson is not an addict. He can take it or he can let it alone. To him publicity is not a beverage to be used unsparingly, but a stimulant for special emergencies. To be sure, Mr. Wilson keeps a generous supply of publicity on hand, but it is all in the cellar under lock and key.

In Mr. Baker's book, for instance, we find it recorded that the president was seriously annoyed at one stage of the proceedings in Paris because certain newspapers published complete accounts of the controversy between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hughes of Australia, and espoused the position of the Australian.

"Mr. Wilson," writes Baker, "had to protest against these outside attacks, and he did so diplomatically by positively declaring that if they continued he would publish exactly what happened. At once the attacks in the French press ceased."

Here we have a typical case of the