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Pledging Loyalty

Those persons who are making such an ado over loyalty pledging are instigating more mischief than they probably imagine. They do not allow anyone else to express their own loyalty in any other way than that prescribed by these self-appointed guardians of the nation's honor. They are like all other quick tempered people, who let their anger arise before they stop to think, and are therefore prevented, while the passion lasts, from reaching sane conclusions. The process of this trouble is quite simple. The great love of country these people have is expressed in a certain way, and according to their belief, all who differ from them are traitors.

Is this a fair proposition? There is a great evangelist now holding religious services in a large city, who circulates a pledge binding the signer not to mistreat or beat his wife. He also might circulate another pledge not to commit murder or robbery. Would he have the right to brand those who refuse to sign these pledges as brutes, robbers or murderers?

There are men, such as those of whom the Great Teacher spoke, who like to make professions "in the streets and public places that they may be seen of men", while others are content to meet their duties in just as good faith, and perhaps better, but with more modesty. These quieter patriots are no less determined to do their duty than are their more noisy brethren.

Let not the pledge people be discouraged at the large number who decline to sign. Those who refuse are not plotting the betrayal of their country, nor the overthrow of their government.

When reason returns they will find that all are good neighbors and as good Americans as they.

Now that war has been declared an expectant public will watch for some of those "jaw patriots" to enlist. Likely to be another case of "watchfully waiting."

City Hall's Needs

Now that the voters of New Ulm have agreed to a bond issue of \$50,000 for the building of a new and up-to-date City Hall, in keeping with the progressiveness for which New Ulm is noted, the country over, it is up to the City Council and all others who have to do with preparing the plans for the structure, to see that all of the city's needs are carefully safe-guarded.

First of all space should be planned for a public library. That, before election, was one of the arguments put up by men who have heretofore opposed the establishment of such a necessary institution.

Second, there should be a rest room provided for the benefit of farmers, their wives and children.

It should be large enough for all requirements, and above all should be made as comfortable as possible. It should be well supplied with wash-rooms, toilets, etc., and should also have a kitchen where the farmers' wives could prepare their lunches, etc.

There is nothing that New Ulm could do that would be of greater value from an advertising standpoint. It would make our visitors feel that they are welcome, and its cost would be repaid many times over.

These are two of the things that should be included in the new City Hall, aside from the necessary city offices, municipal court room, council chamber, fire headquarters, and other divisions for the city's use.

With a fund of \$50,000 to draw from there certainly should be no objections to the features mentioned, all of which would mean much to New Ulm from any standpoint that might be taken.

Tom Davis, of Marshall, who misrepresents a district in the State Legislature, says there are too many Bob La Follets in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Many people believe there are enough of the Tom Davis stripe there.

A Noble Roman

A Minnesota exchange refers to John Sharp Williams, the fire-eating Southern Congressman, as "the noblest Roman of them all." Let's see! Seems like it was the John Sharp Williams brand of "noble Romans" that some years ago, thousands of loyal citizens of Minnesota helped whip into submission, in order to preserve the Union.

The Massachusetts Legislature has passed a law putting the intoxicated automobile driver completely out of business. It's a good law for other states to copy.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH PATRIOTISM?

By Max Eastman, Editor of "The Masses."

Before we say what to do with it, we ought to decide what patriotism is. Patriotism figures in literature as a virtue, except in Tolstoy's writings where it figures as a vice, which is much the same thing. All you can do with patriotism as a virtue or a vice is preach about it. But instead of trying any longer to change the instinctive nature of man by preaching, what we have to do is find out the unalterable facts of that nature, and then try to construct a world in which it can function without disaster. If this had been the policy of the idealists all along, perhaps Europe would still be in existence now.

Patriotism is one of the unalterable facts of man's nature. It is a virtue if you like it, and a vice if you don't like it. It is composed of two instinctive tendencies laid down in our nervous structure when we are born, reinforced by two other tendencies still more compelling. The first two are pugnacity and gregariousness or group-loyalty.

All men and most animals are pugnacious. They love to fight. Everybody loves to fight. Some people get all the fighting they want at the breakfast table, and other people have to carry it out in the law courts or the battlefield where it makes more noise. Roosevelt likes to charge up San Juan hill, and then he likes to prosecute for libel anybody that says he didn't charge up San Juan hill. War people fight for war and peace people fight for peace. When Roosevelt calls the peace people mollicoddlers and college sissies, I only want to walk up and smash him. That's the way I like to fight.

Not only does everybody like to fight, but everybody has an irresistible tendency to identify himself with a group. Boys fight in gangs, and so do girls, and wolves, and cows, and elephants, and yellow jackets, and grown-up people. You don't have to prod every single individual in order to bring a bee-hive around your head. You only have to prod the hive. Every individual identifies himself with the hive.

It's exactly that way with a swarm of people trained by custom and habit to think themselves one—one family, one fraternity, one church, one clan, one tribe, one nation. Love me, love my dog. Love my dog, love the whole pack. That's the way we work. We identify ourselves with the larger group, and we do this especially when the group is subjected to any kind of a prod from an outsider.

Patriotism was born of war, it was born of the necessity of uniting for common defense. And although a whole lot of different feelings, some heroic and some feeble-minded, have got mixed up with the word patriotism, the basic sentiment is still one of fighting rivalry. Patriotism is made out of pugnacity and group loyalty—these two instinctive tendencies—combined.

These two tendencies are backed up by two others still more compelling. And those are self-love and baby-love. By baby-love I mean the disposition of men and women to return in times of trouble to the affections and passions which swayed them when they were very young. There is a little child inside of everyone of us, and when anything gets the matter he always wants to run home to mother. Or he wants to run home to father, or sister, or brother, or nurse, or the nursery, or the old homestead, or the home town, or "my native land," as the case may be. He wants to get back to the things he was sure of, the things he loved and leaned on in the days when there was no doubt and no trouble. For those things, as for no others, he will pour out his song and his sacrifice.

That is a large part of patriotism. It is what explains the queer, blind, puppy-like, almost chemical way in which otherwise intelligent minds will cleave to the proposition that their country is right, no matter what their country does, and no matter if it does two exactly opposite things at the same time. It is the native land part of patriotism, the part that comes before the hyphen. It is not usually so strong as the part that comes after the hyphen, but you can't always tell how much of this sacred baby-love there is in a man by looking at him.

I know of two German brothers in Jersey City who came over here fifteen or twenty years ago, and built up a ten-million-dollar business. After they had been here about five years one of them, the aggressive one, decided to become an American citizen. The other said: "No, I'll stick by de Vaterland." When the war broke out, the one who had been an American citizen for ten years, packed up his kit and took the first boat back to fight, and the one who had "stuck by de Vaterland" stayed over in Jersey City in the vicinity of that ten million dollars. You can't always tell. Generally speaking, however, when there is a choice, the part of patriotism that comes before the hyphen is not so strong as the part that comes after. But it is uncanny strong. Men cling to the place they were born in, as they cling to the breast that bore them.

Still more inconquerably, however, they cling to themselves, and the noble task of increasing their own importance. And nobody can understand the over-whelming force of the conviction people have that their country is the greatest country in the world; that it has the bravest soldiers, the prettiest women, the tallest church steeples, the biggest hotels, the best cooks, the most commodious bathrooms, the fattest hogs, the longest ears on its jackasses—nobody can understand that, who does not see that patriotic people are puffing themselves. I saw in the gallery of war pictures in Paris a drawing by Forain of a couple of starved and destitute hoboes dragging along the roadside discussing the war.

"We're bound to win in the long run," said one.

"Sure! we're so rich," said the other.

It is that patriotic "we" that slides in and corrupts everybody's judgment, gets people to give up their happiness, and their lives, and their children's happiness, and their children's lives, over a point that does not concern them the least bit in the world. It concerns their imaginary self-importance.

Churches are supposed to be put up by the people to the glory of God, but when they get them put up how often do they call them God's House, and how often do they call them Our Church? If a man can't afford to have a steeple on his own hat, he is so much the more proud and anxious about the size and proportions of the town hall and the village church. You can make that a mathematical rule.

Well—that is what makes patriotism so coercive of your reasonable judgment. It combines the strongest possible appeal to altruism, the appeal of infant memories, with the strongest possible appeal to egoism, the chance to behold yourself enlarged and clothed in public splendor. In patriotism we have both the emotion of losing ourselves, which has been celebrated by the saints in all ages, and the emotion of magnifying ourselves so large that there is no possible danger of our getting lost, which is more enjoyable if not so celebrated.

That combination of remarkable emotional satisfaction is irresistible. Add to that the pleasure of fulfilling an hereditary instinct, the pleasure of sliding over those tracks that are laid down in our brain-matter, greased and oiled and waiting to be slid over—what I've called instinct of pugnacity, instinct of gregariousness—add those four things together, and you have something that no pledge or resolution, no theory, no gospel, no poetry or philosophy of life, no culture or education, and not even your own financial interest can ever conquer.

Men are militant patriots at heart, because in the long ages of tribal warfare through which they beat their bloody path, they had to be militant patriots in order to survive at all.

The individualistic and the peaceful tribes went down. The patriotic and pugnacious tribes survived. We are those tribes.

Write that motto on the walls of our peace palaces, our tribunals, our international Socialist congresses, our departments of foreign relations, and some result may come of the deliberations within.

Patriotism is a fighting self-identification with the gang, the tribe, the nation. It is there in our human hearts forever. What shall we do with it?

(Continued on Page 6)

The Open Forum

Editor The Open Forum

I was greatly interested in a couple of articles which appeared on the editorial page of the Review, of a recent date, relative to New Ulm's providing a rest room for farmers' wives and families when they come to town. This is a matter that is now receiving a great deal of attention in towns all over the country and are found to be of a great deal of benefit, both to the towns with the enterprise to prepare such rooms, and to the people for whom they are intended.

I know of several towns in Indiana, Illinois and other states where the rest room idea has been carried out, and in every instance the citizens declare the investment has proven the most paying they have ever made.

Should New Ulm make the move in this direction, I am sure the citizens would find it the same paying investment that it has been found in other wide-awake and enterprising cities.

C. E. R.

Chicago, April 6.

Within the past year the question of an adequate water supply for the city of New Ulm has been discussed at different times and at some length. It has been contended without any serious opposition that it will be only a question of a short time before the water situation in this town will become very grave indeed. Different sources of water supply have been considered and investigated by the city council but nothing has resulted therefrom. Conducting the water from the springs at Marschner's mill has been considered and this project has been practically dropped, because a superficial examination of the proposition has demonstrated its impracticability. The water situation becomes more acute every year largely because of the steady increase in the number of consumers and the apparent inability of the city to increase its yearly output, especially as the leakage is bound to increase from year to year on account of the increasing porosity of the pipes conducting the water.

Oiling some of the streets and thereby reducing the water heretofore annually used for sprinkling purposes, has had a tendency to relieve the situation somewhat but this saving of water has apparently not been sufficient to relieve the minds of the city officials upon whom devolves the responsibility of making provision for an adequate supply. At any rate one is justified in reaching this condition from the fact that in a recent issue of the Review, the question of a sufficient water supply is again seriously considered.

From last year's statement of the Superintendent of the Waterworks it appears that in the neighborhood of 83 million gallons of water were pumped of which approximately 23 million gallons were lost, leaving about 60 million gallons that were actually consumed. The quantity of water consumed annually is on the increase and it would therefore seem that the only logical thing to do would be to sink more wells and thus increase the output. But there seems to be a question in the minds of some who have given this matter thought and study whether the sinking of additional wells would accomplish the purpose. It is a well-known fact that the well sunk near the reservoir is not yielding the supply that was expected and it is maintained by some that the sinking of additional wells would have a tendency to decrease the flow in the other wells to such an extent that nothing would be gained and that therefore it would be a waste of the city's money to attempt to increase the water output in that manner. If there is no other way to increase the water supply and the city is not yet ready to install a filtering system, then the only thing that can be done to relieve the situation is the practice of economy in the use of water and to eliminate if possible consumers who may not use water for drinking and other household necessities, because in the final analysis the individual must be considered first. The only consumers of any consequence who might be eliminated on this theory are the two railroad companies who annually consume about 8 million gallons. But they must have water and if the city would cut them off, they would naturally sink their own wells and by so doing might take away enough from the city's visible water supply so that the city would lose indirectly what they are not willing to supply directly. Practically all the water used by the railroad companies is for the purpose of supplying their engines and well water is not absolutely necessary for that purpose. It is even claimed that softer water would not be as hard on their boilers and flues as well water. It just occurs to me that it might be possible to supply the railroad companies with river water and use the reservoir in North German Park as a supply tank, pumping the water into this reservoir from the river. The Eagle Mill I understand is using river water entirely for its boilers and with good results. Possibly this method of handling the water situation has already been considered and found inexpedient. If it hasn't it might be worth a passing thought from those who have the water supply situation under consideration.

A Citizen.

NEW ULM MERCHANTS TO MEET ALL COMPETITION

In this issue will be found the first series of our Community Building Advertisements. This is the result of complaints every now and then from some of our subscribers that the merchants of New Ulm do not furnish the merchandise that they need at the right prices.

We find upon investigation, that the matter of meeting outside competition has been carefully considered by the various trade organizations in the State, and by their co-operation we are presenting you an illustration this week which we feel proves that so far as these particular items are concerned that there is every reason in the world why the home merchant should be given the preference.

Please note that the Review is presenting you this information in such a way that it is easy to compare and judge. We are referring to this example because we know that nearly all our merchants can do likewise under the same terms and conditions, but we find that foreign corporations are not in it, while on the other hand the home merchants have not told the buying public that it is not so. We have adopted in the interest of our subscribers and New Ulm the policy that the business of this community belongs first, last and all the time to this community and that there is absolutely no reason why this business should not stay at home and so we will present to you from time to time as it is worked out by our different merchants, proofs as illustrated in the rocker advertisement in this issue.

We have all discovered that in order to make a better community and a greater New Ulm that we must all pull together and that after everything is said and done the real prosperity of New Ulm depends upon the prosperity and wealth of this community and if every need that this community develops is bought in New Ulm, it will give us all the wherewithal to do the things that will make life worth living and more pleasant in this great game of Community Building.

Latest Telegraph News

An explosion in the big plant of the Eddystone Ammunition Company, one mile from Chester, Pa., wrecked the works at ten o'clock yesterday morning. The dead are estimated from 125 to 250 and about 300 injured, mostly women and girls, according to telegraph messages.

The Eddystone Company's ammunition works is one of the large concerns of the kind in the east, and was making ammunition for the Allied governments. Nearly all of the employees were women and girls.

The cause of the explosion when the last message was received by the Review late yesterday was unknown.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon eighty bodies had been recovered from the ruins.

ELEVATORS BURN

Two grain elevators in Southeast Minneapolis burned early yesterday morning, entailing a loss of \$475,000. They were the Marfield Grain Company's wheat elevator in which 200,000 bushels were stored, and the other belonged to the Quinn-Shepardson Company and was filled with about 70,000 bushels of corn.

Chief Ringer, of the Minneapolis Fire Department, believes the fires were of incendiary origin.

The fires caused rumors of all kinds, but there was nothing to substantiate most of them.

EDITORS TO MEET.

The mid-winter meeting of the Second District Editorial Association, which was to have been held March 17, but which was indefinitely postponed on account of the blizzard that prevailed at the time, will be held Saturday, April 21, at Mankato. A business meeting will be held in the afternoon, to be followed by a banquet in the evening.



STYLE is to a suit or coat what Mayonnaise is to a salad or Meringue is to pudding—it gives spice and flavor.

STYLE has always been our hobby but it is one thing to produce stylish garments at a steep price and quite another to produce these stylish garments at a low price.

TAKE our line of spring ready-to-wear apparel—new creations from the best of designers—original models in spring garments—new ideas in cuts, lines and trimmings. Practical apparel for spring wear on all occasions.

THIS is a season for smart clothes and we have them to show you.

THE BEE HIVE

J. A. OCHS

United States custom house statistics show that 50,000 miles of moving pictures films were imported and exported last year, or enough to reach twice around the world. The films produced in this country during the year amounted to more than 1,000,000,000 feet, and yet it is said the industry is only in its infancy. Wonder what it will be when full grown.

The Manato Led er is waging war on those dealers of that city, who "short weight" their customers. The Ledger editor should appeal to the Department of Weights and Measures, if its business men are giving their customers short weights. Prices of all commodities are high enough at best, and any dealer who fails to give an honest weight is no better than any other thief.

A Rest or Club Room, would be a mighty fine thing for a portion of the new City Hall, and it is hoped the Council will not overlook this necessary feature when planning the new municipal building.

CHILD DIED FROM SCALDS

Catherine, the year-and-a-half old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schaefer, living on Front street, died Monday afternoon, at the Loretto hospital, of scalds received Sunday morning. The child accidentally tipped a pail of boiling water upon herself, and was so seriously burned that she died thirty-six hours later at the hospital.