

THE ANDOVER NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY J. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

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PICKING EACH OTHER'S POCKETS

OUR discredited Congress just closed greased the frying pan for public building pork. The reader who has lived in a little village knows of the importance of villages, politically.

And thereby hangs this tale!

I know a village which was promised by its congressman a new postoffice building. That whetted the appetites of the local people for pork. Every man with a cheap lot saw himself selling it. Every workman and contractor pictured himself working on it. Several people figured it out that when it was built there would be jobs as janitors, caretakers and the like. It made a lot of village mouths water.

When election came they supported this man who had excited these hopes. But the public buildings bill was delayed for years — only now is Congress getting ready to put one thru. It dangles a savory mess of pork before the eyes of every village of 1,000 or more inhabitants in the land.

The cheapest public building built by the United States Government costs \$75,000 — at least I have never seen one costing less, and I have travelled much in the native land of the small-public-buildings steal.

As we are running in debt all the time, this means that we shall have to pay at 4 1/2 per cent. the tidy sum of \$3,375 a year interest on the cost of each building. The janitor service, heat, light, water, upkeep and deterioration will cost not less than \$2,625. It can't be done for that, but call it so, and we have an annual expense of \$6,000 a year. It would probably be \$10,000.

What does the postoffice in this village now cost the government? Just \$500 a year, for rent, heat, light, water and janitor!

The congressmen preparing to bring in the bills for these small public buildings, are preparing a steal. They know it. They should be smothered in a wave of public indignation.

THE PROGRESSIVE BLOC

REPUBLICANS, Democrats and nonpartisans of an independent turn of mind, rallied by Senator Robert M. La Follette, have banded together in a new "progressive bloc," which sets for itself the task of "driving special privilege out of control of the government, and restoring it to the people."

The new bloc undertakes to foster constructive legislation dealing with agriculture, labor, railroads, shipping, natural resources, credits and taxation. It champions the direct primary system of election, and demands a corrupt practices act which will permanently strangle Newberryism.

Repeatedly, in our history, leaders have assembled new parties in caucus for the purpose of "restoring the government to the people." Repeatedly, after glittering campaign promises, these popular phrases have been forgotten by politicians in power.

This movement in Washington appears to have a different beginning. LaFollette and his associates foregathered not before election when they needed votes, but after one, in which they were overwhelmingly victorious. They founded not a new party, but merely a new bloc in Congress.

Old hands at the legislative game, they propose to fight reaction on its own ground. With their bloc, they can work within the old parties. If success attends their efforts in the measure of that of the farm bloc, they may achieve in months what it ordinarily takes years for a new political party to accomplish.

In a Congress which has milled around indefinitely for more than two years, it may be that aggressive leadership has come at last in the form of a people's bloc, or ganized for the purpose of championing the cause of the great unorganized majority of American citizens.

"Good fellows" should have good habits, but many of them don't. Not all men are silly. A few are only foolish. Bobbed hair is no longer stylish, but it delines to hasten its growth. If time is money, a lot of people do a credit business. This is an age when the office does not seek the man. It doesn't have an opportunity. It isn't every man who seeks justice. Some fear it. Europe continues to turn out its usual grist of wars, but they are not all confined to the other side of the pond. American divorce courts are airing quite a few of them. Many a man who seeks publicity flees from it in the end. A rejected lover can always punish the girl by refusing to ask her again.

AS THE EDITOR SEES IT

REMEMBER YOUR OWN INTERESTS

ANOTHER Christmas is near at hand, and already many of our people are scanning the list of possible gifts.

As is our custom each year, we again ask you to consider the claims of the home merchant and the advantages to be derived from trading with him.

Consider the plight of Germany in this connection.

That country is prostrate because it no longer has wealth. Its gold is being sent to other countries to satisfy claims that must be met.

If we follow the course that is being forced upon Germany, and spend our money outside of our own community, we will be taking a long step in the direction of local prostration.

We are in fairly good condition now, but we will remain so only as long as we keep our money in circulation at home.

You will find the home merchant's wares advertised in the home paper, and they will be worth the prices asked.

Consider your own interests, as well as his, by keeping your money where you may see it again.

KICKED IN THE PANTS

DURING political campaigns both political parties make numerous promises which are never kept after election.

It has been so in the past, and will continue to be so in the future, until the people arise in their wrath and administer a chastisement too drastic to be forgotten.

Both parties are afflicted with the same disease, a deadly malady that is alienating the respect and confidence of millions of voters each year.

The party machinery is in the hands of a few self chosen leaders, and these men manipulate it to their own advantage and to that of the favored "interests." It is seldom that the welfare of the plain voter is taken into consideration.

At the last presidential election the Democratic leaders wondered what mountain had fallen upon them. But the independent Democratic voter knew quite well what it was. It was the weight of his own displeasure.

Now, in an off year election, the Republican leaders are wondering from whence came the paralyzing wallop that almost annihilated them. And this time it is the independent Republican voter who knows the secret of the smash.

Some day our self appointed leaders will learn that the people want legislation and government for the people and not for the pampered and fattened few.

There is hope that in time a kick in the pants will kick some sense into their heads.

NOT FORGOTTEN

REGARDLESS of what the government has done in the past or may do in the future, the service men have reason to believe that by the great mass of the people they have no been forgotten.

The recent action of the people of Illinois in supporting a state bond by a popular vote of nearly four to one is more illuminating than an editorial that could be written.

But Illinois is not the only state that has come to the aid of its returned soldiers. Many other states have done the same, even more promptly than Illinois.

Unquestionably great financial interests are opposed to a bonus, because it means additional taxation of their wealth, just as it means additional taxation of the poor man's savings.

With a few notable exceptions, the supporter of a bonus, or adjuster of compensation, for the men who fought the battles of our country are found among the mass of the people — among those who so uncomplainingly suffered and died and denied themselves at home in order that food and

Advertisement for James P. Cannon Co. featuring clothing and shoes. Text includes: 'Pleasing and Useful Gifts', 'A List of Things That Men Like We Have Them Here in the Correct Mannish Styles', 'Merrill's Silk Hosiery For the Girls', and 'James P. Cannon Company Store Open Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday Nights'.

Supplies in plenty might be sent to our soldier across the seas. The people have not forgotten the splendid work of our young men who followed the flag of their country into the furnace of hell across the seas. The narrow minded man is never happy unless he has something to be unhappy over. Now that the smoke of battle has cleared away, how many times did you forget to vote? About the only excuse we have for calling some people statesmen is the state in which they live. Make a fool of yourself, if you must, but don't proclaim yourself an idiot by making excuses. A bashful man is fortunate in one way. It is easy for him to avoid rushing headlong into matrimony. If you treat your enemy as you would have him treat you the enmity between you will soon die out. Don't blow your own horn. People who can not attract attention in any other way are not worth it. Marriageable young women should learn to say "no" before saying "yes." A manly sport enjoys the chase. Politicians, however, found it quite necessary to select a poorer brand of booze for election purposes. They buy at murder. And now comes a writer with the assertion that nations have nerves, perhaps that is the reason some of them are so nervy. It was a tremendous slaughter of the ambitious, but fortunately our political corpses are beginning to revive.

Advertisement for O'Neill's Groceries. Text includes: 'O'NEILL'S 34 Main St., Andover, N. Y. Groceries For Less Money', 'One Pound O'Neill's Breakfast Coffee and one Pound Granulated Sugar 30c', and a list of various grocery items with prices.

Partial view of another advertisement on the right edge of the page, including text like 'A Va Will Acc', 'Train No. 2', 'Train No. 7', 'Habits', 'Mrs. J. ville, has a fall', 'The pr ford school scarlet fever', 'Michae had bath while worki', 'Over 5 Steuben C for highwa year', 'The M of Perry o versary regam', 'The im been under dred, Pa. a to traffic', 'Mr. ar dall, of Ph their gold Nov. 20th', 'Ever dollar spent looks to so for cigars', 'Mrs. tained the day eveni Greenwood', 'Don't for Xmas them for Call and', 'The of Mutual will take bers requ', 'Miss on for ap pital, Horn as makin', 'Rev. a call to versalist Morgan s as pastor well know effective', 'H'.