

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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GOVERNOR FOLK of Missouri says: "Plenty of men will die for their country, but the man who will live for his city and state every day in the year is the man good government needs."

THE New York girl sued a beauty doctor for \$2,000 because in trying to straighten her nose he ruined it, lost her case. The court takes the ground that she got her money's worth for now she knows better than to trust beauty doctors.

How would you like to go to congress? There are fifteen active candidates in this district and two counties to hear from.—Lincoln Journal. And the Journal could have just as well added, and told the truth, too, that at least ten of these live in Lancaster county.

THE Journal would like to see an election this fall just to know what weight the "bungling legislature" would have upon the result. The people are not in a mood to be hoodwinked so soon again by the party that is responsible for the many obnoxious measures passed.

EDWARD ROSEWATER certainly possesses a great amount of gall. Last fall he was very lukewarm in his support of Governor Mickey, and then, on account of an ill-feeling toward some of the present office holders in Douglas county, he goes before the chief executive with a great plea for his veto of the biennial election law, and gets greatly enraged because his suggestion was not favorably received. Evidently Rosey has lost his cunning, and is no longer the "smooth guy in politics" that he "used to was."

GOVERNOR MICKEY vetoed the bill to erect the plant to make twine. There is something very funny in this twine bill transaction. It was a very popular measure with the public. The legislature was petitioned right and left to pass the bill. Finally the bill did pass both houses practically unanimous, without resistance from the lobby. But it was not passed until the last moment, then the legislature adjourned and left it with the governor, and the twine trust knew that the governor would veto the bill. There never was a time when a lobby had its own way with legislative and governor as it seems to have had in the 29th session. The republican press of the state was almost unanimous for the twine bill, but even that did not help matters.

THE three supreme court commissioners have been appointed, and as usual, Cass county y didn't get a smell, although the bill creating these three positions was concocted and engineered through the legislature by one of the Cass county members. This outrages all common sense usages, and by common consent of the supreme court Cass county should have been favored with one of these appointments. Jesse L. Root, who was an applicant for the appointment, so far as qualifications go, is the peer of any one of the successful appointees, and his defeat is a downright insult to the representative who introduced the bill at the suggestion of the supreme court judges, and who labored so incessantly for its adoption. But, by some hook or crook, Cass county is eternally "getting it in the neck."

If you want the legislature to enact laws along certain lines you had better put it down in black and white before it meets. Last fall you talked about what you did NOT want done—the repeal of the revenue law—but two years hence you may be a little more definite in your demands as to what you do want. There is no doubt but that some excellent laws were passed this winter, but not many of them were of a character to attract any very widespread attention on the part of the public, as was the case when the revenue bill became a law. As a matter of fact there was considerable speculation as to what there was to do. One thing is certain, there was very little, if any, of what might be termed vicious legislation enacted.—Evening News.

The foregoing is a fair measure of the standard of morals possessed by the "Get Rich Quick" editor of the News. Led by the State Journal and Bee, the intelligent republican press of Nebraska protest against the betrayal of their party by the late legislature, in the interest of the railway corporations of the state. An act to promote train robbery by that republican body would probably receive his approval. The acts of omission on the part of the populist legislatures some years ago will ALWAYS serve with that eminent journalist as an excuse for republican betrayal of the people. Of course he doesn't see anything out of the way with the refusal of that legislature to give the people "A square deal." Oh, what a damp-heel!

It is said that 71,000 fourth class postmasters will be discharged this summer but there are more than 171,000 good republicans waiting to fill their places.

ARMY officers in the Philippines are subject to a disease called "Philippin-itis" which is caused by too frequent visits to the shark money lenders. The people of this country need have no fear that the government junketing party that goes there this summer will be exposed to infection. The Philippine government pays all the expenses.

Was it anything like "taking the judiciary out of politics" when an eminent jurist like Judge Sullivan was sidetracked for a man like Barnes—with nothing to recommend him but that he was a good republican. To the four winds of heaven with such boss as "taking the judiciary out of politics," when it comes to a comparison of these two men.

We met two republicans on the street the other day, surrounded by a number of listeners. One was an office holder and the other was a prominent farmer and a large taxpayer. That farmer was giving that office-holder a severe tongue-lashing about the way our law-makers had done during the last session of the legislature. He was loud in his utterances, and among other things said: "You fellows think as you always have thought, that the republican farmers of Cass county will overlook, as usual, the serious mistakes that our party bosses have made, but it has gone too far. They have abused our confidence, and we will never forget their unworthiness as servants of the common people." And he is right. There are many honest republican farmers of this county who have made up their minds that they will not tolerate the actions of the party leaders, and when opportunity affords will let them know it in no uncertain tone.

WITH the distinguished occupant of the white house hunting ferocious animals in the western wilds, and the secretary of state cruising in the Mediterranean, the government is running by acquired momentum in its accustomed grooves. There are a few hundred clerks in Washington who are the masters and the slaves of routine. Through them the government revolves like a planet in a frictionless ether. Revenues are collected, supplies are paid for, employees are paid off, the mails are received and distributed, patents, pensions and trade marks are issued, investigations are made by the departments of agriculture and of commerce and labor, the army and navy (the big stick) peacefully practice in times of peace the arts of war. More and more it is forced upon us that we are a big country and if it were true two thousand years ago that "no man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself," how much truer must it be of the heirs of the ages equipped with the gun powder, steam, lightning and printing presses. We believe that Cuba, the Philippines and even Spain have been benefited by the peace which we compelled, and that San Domingo has been helped to an era or interim of peace and honesty through administrative interference. The Monroe doctrine, first proclaimed when we had not a tithe of our present strength, has assumed a broader significance and acquiescence.

"Will the People Forget?" In talking about the late defunct and rotten legislature last Saturday, a republican farmer, addressing one of the party office holders, said: "Do you suppose the farmers and all other voters who believe in fair and square legislation, are going to soon forget the acts of the last legislature? No, sir, they are talking everywhere about their infamous acts, and will continue to do so until honest and reliable men are sent to represent the people in the legislative halls of the imperial state of Nebraska. Will they forget? Not much. The farmers of Cass county won't stand to be humbugged any longer."

This is the sentiment everywhere, not only in Cass county, but all over the state. The farmers and the common people are aroused, and declare they will not be trampled upon by the tools of the railroads and other combinations any longer. With impunity this has been done right along by the men who have been elected by the votes of the people to do the bidding of the railroads and other professional lobbyists. It is a well known fact that the late legislature is a disgrace to the state, and in many instances, it is remarked, that the members on leaving Lincoln acknowledged that they felt more like taking to the woods than returning home to face their constituents.

But, then, the leaders of the republican party, in the event that no election is held this year, expect the people to forget the acts of the legislature ere another year rolls around. This is one hope they entertain. In this they take the people to be a set of damp-heel, and that they will forget and do the same as they have always done—vote the straight ticket, "right or wrong."

"Will the people forget?"

## Must Democracy Die and Born Again?

"Theodore Roosevelt will be re-nominated for President of the United States in 1908, and he will be re-elected. Through his domination of his party organization and his control of the Post Office Department, Mr. Roosevelt already has the nomination in his own hand. There will be no trouble about obtaining a majority of the delegates in the national convention. He will be re-elected—not merely because he is the idol of the people or on account of his virtues or by reason of the mistakes that add to his popularity, but because there will be no real opposition. The Democratic party is and will be hopelessly divided against itself."

This is a literal extract from the New York World in whose editorial columns were the ablest written advocates of Alton B. Parker in the last national campaign.

It is an editorial utterance deliberate, definite and stated without limitations as the judgment of one of the most influential of the great American newspapers which generally supports the democratic party and its candidates.

The World usually trains with the ultra-conservative or eastern wing of the democracy, and its views may be reasonably construed as representing in a large degree the attitude and opinion of eastern democrats. This makes the utterance significant and especially worthy of note.

It is exactly the political position foreshadowed in the pessimistic prophecy of the World which has been in my mind as an apprehension since the election and which has been the inspiration of a majority of the letters which I have contributed to the discussion.

An utterance like this from a source like this is enough to challenge every democratic voter in America to serious thought and to vigorous action.

There is no doubt that President Roosevelt is riding the crest of the popular wave at this time. Even the south is relaxing—if it has not already relaxed—the prejudices aroused by his negro appointments, and there are democrats all over the country who are thinking and saying, in view of the president's courageous and vigorous administration, that Roosevelt is a better democrat than Parker.

The president's party, if not sympathetic, is at least quiescent, either through astonishment or timidity, and he is going straight forward in a great career.

Now, what are we doing in democratic ranks? Wrangling, as usual, with unabated ferocity. The eastern democrats are eagerly urging William J. Bryan to break away from his engagement with the Iroquois club in Chicago and to come instead to the Jefferson dinner in New York. To this insistent invitation they are adding the questionable entreaty, "But if you don't come to us, for God's sake don't tie up with those radical democrats in Chicago."

Where is the hope of harmony in an attitude like this?

There in congress we saw John Sharp Williams, leading the democratic minority, deliberately turn his back upon the best and soundest railroad reform bill that the generation has produced, and commit his party to a hasty and imperfect measure which needed constant amendment, for no other ostensible reason than that he was unwilling that the credit for this vital reform measure should go to William R. Hearst, who had already done a Titan's work in effective democratic warfare against the trusts and the public grafts of the time.

And where do we find the hope of getting together in a spirit like this? The eastern democrats are even now coquetting shrewdly with the rising fortunes of Joe Folk, of Missouri, who has had the good sense to hear their blandishments, to eat at their banquets and to hold his tongue.

And out yonder in the great wide territory of the central west there are hundreds of thousands of the same sturdy democrats who stayed away from the polls at the last election, just waiting grimly to see what the democratic party of their faith and the democratic party of their fathers is going to do.

It may just as well be repeated here that the difference between the wide wings of the old democratic organization is deeper and wider than the difference between the platforms of the two opposing parties in the last campaign.

How are we going to get them together?

Now this, if ever, is a time for plain speech and definite understandings. There is no need for any man to be afraid to speak his mind. The next campaign is three years away, and this interval must be filled full with the frankest and freest agitation a great party has ever known.

Faithful are the words of a friend, and that Democrat is most loyal and most worthy who does not hesitate in this vital period to criticize, to challenge and demand. If the Democratic party has any chance in the next election, it lies in the complete separation of itself from the Republican party,

with which it has grown too intimate. And we cannot separate from the Republican party until we separate from the Republican Democrats who have led us into bad company.

Let the fellows who do not believe in the things for which Democracy stand go away to some other party. Don't be afraid to let them go. For every man who deserts the party of the people because it stands for the people there will be found a hundred to come in.

We are now compelled to separate the democratic democracy from the plutocratic democracy. Oil and water will not mix. The democratic party cannot any longer survive half-plutocratic and half-democratic.

It is high time for a reorganization of parties in the republic, anyhow. There are democrats who ought to be republicans, and republicans who ought to be democrats. Let these men find their political level. Let them seek the camps to which they belong. Don't be afraid. Go where your convictions leads you. If you are not a democrat, don't be false to your political conscience but go right on into the republican camp. If you are not a republican and your interests lie with the democratic party, come right in to the fellowship of your real faith and your evident welfare.

The curse of all parties is the compulsory loyalty that comes from environment or heredity. The democracy and the plutocracy have the great battle which must be fought out. Let us fight it honestly and have no half-hearted or lukewarm followers in either camp.

There is no use to get mad about it. There is no way to drive the republican democrats out of the party. The only thing to do is to commit the party to principles and platforms so essentially democratic that their fellows will have neither motive nor excuse for remaining.

We will never have a real democratic party representing the majority of the American voters until these fellows go.

We can never sail into port until we unload this ballast.

I have sometimes asked myself whether the democratic party must die before it can be born again.

I might find it easy to quote history to prove that no party so radically divided as ours ever came into effective harmony again without a burial or a revolution. It was so with the Free Soil party. It was so with the democratic party which split into fragments at the Charleston convention of 1860 and never came together until a civil revolution had washed away its antagonisms in blood.

But we cannot afford to die now. The south is held intact by the shadow of a negro balance of power, real or imaginary. The party at large is held together by the fact that the real democracy is essential to individual and popular liberty, and because no other party of possible relief looms upon the horizon except in creeds so radical that the thought and judgment of the people is not ready to receive it.

And we must not die now. The democratic party is worth fighting for and worth living for. Its principles can never die, and its organization along normal and traditional lines is too vital to the people and their interests.

Least of all can we who love the grand old party stand by and see it go down to even temporary disintegration without a brave and honest effort to reform its broken lines, to redeem its drift from the faith of the fathers, to bring it back to the old creeds of the people, to rebuke its enemies within its ranks, and at the cost of all the truth, and all the courage, and all the criticism which its errors may require, to rally once more the great people who are its faithful followers, and to carry it once more to wholesome and glorious victory.

JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES.

## Merited Compliment.

The Journal is always willing to give credit to whom credit is due, and as the legislature is to adjourn this week, we want to say that the people of Cass county should feel proud of their representative in the senate. A republican though he be, Hon. George Sheldon has proved himself a peer of any member of that body, and deserves great praise for the record he has made. No man has worked harder to maintain the dignity of that body.—Plattsmouth Journal.

Every person who knows Capt. Geo. L. Sheldon, knows he merits all the good things said of him, and the opinion of the Journal (the democratic official organ) carries more than ordinary weight when it compliments a republican. Now we want Col. Bates to remember that he must not undertake to do any "hedging" on his opinion when Capt. Sheldon is nominated for governor to succeed Gov. Mickey.—Union Ledger.

The Journal was never guilty of "hedging," and it is too old to begin such an unpardonable sin at this late date. We meant every word we said about Senator Sheldon, and it would be such a God-send to the people of Nebraska to have a governor with the backbone he possesses, that you won't find us shedding any tears if he is nominated and elected to the highest position in the gift of the people of the state. He would be such a great improvement over the governors we have had the past few years that the Journal would feel more like rejoicing.

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Plattsmouth

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