

# The - Plattsmouth - Journal

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At any rate the dead year managed to keep something doing most all the time.

The new year unquestionably starts out as if it intended to make a Nineteen-Ten-strike.

Being a tetotaler himself, it required 4,000 words for Mr. Taft to tell just what whiskey is.

There can be no complaint as to the manner in which Explorer Cook has conducted himself since the Copenhagen verdict was announced.

It is reported that President Taft is eager to have the charges against Ballinger investigated, and it may be added that the public shares the eagerness.

One of the bank robbers killed in Oklahoma Friday was an umpire last season in the Texas League. So the fans are not always wrong when they howl "Robber!"

Congressman Richmond Pearson Hobson has made another speech advocating a larger navy. Still, most of us prefer waiting until Japan has captured the Philippines.

The Chicago man who threatens to blow up the United States Senate with nitroglycerine is altogether too violent. A more effective and certain way to dispose of the senate oligarchy is to elect senators by direct vote of the people.

The Carnegie institute has withdrawn its support from Luther Burbank because the plant wizard is inclined to commercialism. Anything inclining to commercialism is anathema to the canny Scot who lends his name to the Carnegie institute.

One of the things Cook can't be accused of is a lack of the sense to go while the going was good. The several thousand dollars Cook made before the Danish uprising raise a question concerning the theory that honesty is the best policy.

Now they are going to try out the new 14-inch gun, and if it's a success, battleships of 30,000 tons will be necessary to carry it, and all the Dreadnoughts in the world will again become antiquated. War is all that General Sherman said, but the price of peace is perhaps even more so.

There's no distinction in Colonel Gordon, the new Mississippi senator, once having had a price on his head. No man ever got to the senate without having had dozens of people wanting his head. The people of Nebraska are after Burkett's head right now, and they are going to get it, too.

Get in line and catch the step for Plattsmouth's progress in 1910. The new year opens with great promise and with abundance of opportunity. Put your shoulders to the wheel and push incessantly for the best interests of the old town. Boost all the time.

Champ Clark, Democratic house leader, has informally outlined the policy of the house Democrats for this session of congress in terse, vigorous language. In a nutshell it is to keep down appropriations, to favor a river and harbor bill and oppose a ship subsidy bill. It is a good program and one on which all the Democratic members can unite for vigorous action.

## A NATION OF LIARS.

Opposition was raised to the income tax on the ground that it would make us a nation of liars.

Revenue by tariff, said the opponents of the income tax, can easier be raised, than by a tax upon incomes, and they assured us that the desire to dodge taxation would be an inducement for otherwise honest men

to make false statements. The probe has only begun its work at the New York custom house, yet the disclosures indicate that a good percentage of that part of the nation engaged in the important business are not only liars but bribe-givers and smugglers. They are specialists in the line of dishonesty and wish to keep the revenue laws that will make their specialty.

We pay the taxes to them, and they pay the money over to the government, that is so much as they are unable to lie out of. Instead of several million people telling timid little lies, we have wholesale liars who have perfected an organization and who, on account of the volume of their falsehoods, have the means to defend themselves, which an ordinary retail liar would be unable to do. We are a nation of specialists.—Beatrice Sun.

## JOHN BIGELOW'S PROPHECY.

John Bigelow, former ambassador to France, statesman, diplomatist and author, declares he sees "more prospect of a revolution than any reform in our government." He made the statement after noting that President Taft, in his annual message, denied that increased cost of living was due to protective tariff.

If a revolution ever does come in this country, future historians will not be brain-racked due to difficulty in finding causes to which to attribute the event. For instance, here are a few features of present day conditions which would no doubt be self-explanatory to future generations:

First. Increase in cost of living from 3 to 11 per cent annually, wages remaining either stationary or showing but nominal increase; lower standard of living.

Second. National government taking no steps to decrease cost of living by reducing import duties, but on the other hand taking every opportunity to revise tariff upward, and thereby assuring further advances in prices.

Third. National government taking absolutely no step toward breaking up trusts which have been repeatedly shown to be in existence in violation of the anti-trust law, such as the sugar trust, the beef trust, steel trust and harvester trust, which monopolies are largely responsible for failure of wages to increase proportionately with the cost of living expenses.

Fourth. Demands of an increasing number of manufacturers of food products (necessaries) that their goods must be sold by the wholesaler to the retailer and by the latter to the consumer at a fixed exorbitant price.

Fifth. Smothering in committee on rules of the house of representatives of resolutions providing for government investigation of this practice.

Sixth. Increasing frequency of destruction of foods in large cities in order to maintain outrageous prices charged for what is sold and consumed.

Seventh. Action of combinations of manufacturers (practically cotton manufacturers) in agreeing to close mills for specified periods, thereby depriving workmen of employment, in order to tighten markets and force consumers to pay increased and unnatural profits.

Eighth. Statement by Senator Aldrich on behalf of the national government while steel schedules of the Payne tariff bill was under discussion in the United States senate, that rates on certain steel products were being maintained or advanced, not to increase profits of manufacturers, but solely for the benefit of the steel workers.

Ninth. Proving of utter falsity of this assertion on July 1, '09, when the

steel trust (the greatest beneficiary of protection) issued a decree proclaiming its hostility toward labor, notifying employes that the right to associate for their common protection was no longer to be recognized or tolerated, and announcing a further reduction in the already scant wages of the steel workers.

There must be radical legislation to appease the workers. The "crown of thorns" is being pressed down more firmly than ever. We are in the habit of legislating for capital instead of legislating for man. We are confronted with a condition. Opportunity is beckoning to President Taft.—Waterloo Times-Tribune.

## WHERE DID THEY GET IT?

The legislature of the state of Kansas, one of the forty-six sovereign states of this nation, possessing every power of absolute sovereignty not granted to the federal government, duly enacted a bank deposit guaranty law. The lower house passed it, the governor approved it. It affected only banks within the state and only banks organized under the laws of the state.

A federal judge presiding over one of those inferior courts which the constitution authorized congress to create, has vetoed that law. He has used a power the governor of the state has but which he did not use because he saw no cause to. The judge not only vetoes the law but he commands the officers of the state to acquiesce in his veto and refrain from acting under the law. Judge Pollock did only what other judges of state and federal courts have done for over thirty years until we Americans have become so dulled to this astounding usurpation of power that it does not disturb our nerves.

Where did these judges get the power that makes them the government in fact? It did not come to us from England by inheritance like our common law. It did not come from any European country to us, for neither in Great Britain nor on the continent would even the highest courts dream of vetoing an act of parliament or reichstag. In some cases judges have held invalid laws that curbed their authority because that authority existed prior to the constitution and therefore, they reasoned, became a part of it. But no precedent anywhere justifies this assumed supremacy of courts over legislatures, congresses and executives.

Read the federal constitution, the state constitutions, sources of authority, for the three branches of government, and nowhere will it be found that authority is given to a court to invalidate a law duly enacted. The federal supreme court is given appellate power with some specified original powers, but nowhere can there be found a word or syllable on which to hang Judge Marshall's usurpation which all courts readily followed because of the added power it gave them.

And we boast of our representative government. We prate our vox populi vox Dei and let judges make themselves above both. We enact law to meet new conditions, to remedy bad ones and fortify good ones, and some judge, elected or appointed to wisdom, adjusts his glasses, peers first at the law and then at some old constitution and vetoes the law because he thinks the constitution did not authorize the law. Who gave him a higher right of judgment of law's relations to constitutions than the legislators had who enacted or the governor or president had who approved it? Who created these law umpires with power of finality? And in whose behalf is this constitutional veto mostly invoked and applied? The holders of privilege, the possessors of great interests wielding great power which the people seek by law to curb.

And in the future, as the people more and more assert their rights, will courts more and more veto the laws enacted to restore or conserve those rights, until some day this arrogated power of courts will be brushed away just as Britons are now getting ready to sweep out the veto power of their house of lords.—Sioux City Tribune.

## DECEIVED OR DECEIVING?

A great many people are puzzled what to make of President Taft. He

is not dishonest, for he emerged from a long career of office-holding a poor man. He is not lacking in intelligence, or he would not have been chosen for the many important places he has filled.

Yet at Winona he declared the new tariff law to be a "substantial revision downward," and "the best tariff bill the country ever had."

To prove this he used some figures prepared by the senate committee on finance, of which Senator Aldrich is chairman, showing that the tariff was reduced on necessary articles which this country uses to the extent of \$5,000,000,000 a year, and increased only on necessary articles which the country uses to the value of \$300,000,000 a year. As to the increases, there should have been none at all; and there were few because practically every greedy and powerful interest already was getting all the tariff duties it needed.

It sounds well to say that the tariff was reduced on commodities which the country uses to the value of \$5,000,000,000 a year, but it means absolutely nothing. Take an article which the country uses to the value of \$1,000,000,000 a year, and on which the tariff duty is prohibitive. Reduce that duty a trifle, though leaving it still prohibitive. The president could then say that the duty had been reduced on an article of which the country uses \$1,000,000,000 worth a year; but there would be no benefit whatever from the revision. And that is exactly what the president did. Either he was badly fooled by Aldrich, or he deliberately sought to fool the people.

Will Payne in the Saturday Evening Post analyzes that \$5,000,000,000 argument, and he doesn't leave much of it.

Duties were reduced on petroleum products, which this country uses to the value of \$260,000,000 a year. Yet this country is the great exporter of petroleum products, and free petroleum products would not lower prices.

Duties were reduced on marble, which is used to the extent of \$84,000,000 a year. Is marble a "necessary?"

Metals and manufacturers of metal which we used to the value of \$1,250,000,000, were reduced, but prices have gone up since the law went into effect. This is because the duties, combined with this country's supremacy in methods of manufacturing, are prohibitive still.

Lumber was slightly reduced, and that item amounts to \$500,000,000. If the maximum rates apply to Canada, the duty will be enormously increased instead of being reduced. The price of lumber has not been reduced by the reduced tariff.

Refined sugar represents \$300,000,000, and the duty on that was reduced so little that if the benefit of the reduction got to the consumer, he would have to eat an even ton of sugar to save a dollar; yet the price of sugar has advanced since the law went into effect. The sugar duties are still prohibitive.

Half a billion is represented by food and agricultural products, mostly bacon, hams, pork and beef, of which we export vast quantities, and import little or nothing. These commodities have also gone up in price. The reason: The duties are still too high and the products are controlled by a trust.

Print paper represents \$67,000,000. There was a very slight reduction on this duty, which still is practically prohibitive, and if the maximum duties apply, as they almost certainly will, the duty will be multiplied several times instead of being reduced.

Soft coal, another large item, amounts to \$900,000,000, and the slight reduction in the tariff will have no effect on the price except in such localities as can be reached by vessels from Nova Scotia. The price of soft coal has not gone down since the tariff went into effect.

These items amount to \$4,000,000,000 out of the president's total of \$5,000,000,000, and from none of them will the consumer get the slightest benefit. Other items too small to amount to much in detail consume the rest of the five billions.

Either the president was ridiculously fooled by Aldrich, or he

sought to befool the people.—Duluth Herald.

## FROM THE BUSY WORLD.

The Rockefeller bible class of New York city is facing a deficit in its treasury. With all his great wealth and all his desire to save souls John D. seems to feel that he should not put up the money for this purpose but the members of the class should be willing to pay for their own salvation. However, John can seize the opportunity and unload some more good advice on the members touching thrift and the like.

President Taft is now said to be opposed to any congressional inquiry into the sugar trust frauds in New York. It is charged openly and above board that immunity had been offered the responsible parties for their testimony and that the prosecution will end with the conviction of some of the little thieves while the big scoundrels who have been guilty of debauching the public service go free. The Taft-administration as remarked before certainly is making a record for rotten performances which smells to heaven.

A Chicago judge has issued a "trial" divorce to parties in that city, the divorce to last for five years at the end of which time the parties may live together again or obtain a final separation if desirable. Neither may marry in the meantime. Now this is more like it, it is the celebrated trial marriage in another form and doubtless will leap into immediate favor with all. It makes life well worth living again and just when we are becoming ennuied and tired, it furnishes another new fangle to our butterfly existence. Hail to the Chicago jurist who has taken so far a step toward completing the burlesque of the law.

Down in Kansas at the town of Jetmore, Rudolph Meyers is engaged in building a railroad all alone and single-handed save for the assistance of four mules and a scraper. Myers states he will build a line fifty-four miles long and has completed two miles of the worst work. We wish Myers all the success in the world but have scant hopes of his being able to ever complete his line but when it is done George Gould or Willie H. Moore or B. Franklin Yoakum or Eddie Hawley will grab it away from him. However, a man who has nerve enough to build the road should have nerve enough to hold on to it when it is done.

In New York last Wednesday George E. McCarroll, a musician on the battleship Missouri, was picked up by the police in an intoxicated condition and haled before one of the police magistrates. At the time of his arrest he had with him a suit case with \$2,000 worth of jewelry in it. The police suspected that he might be a porch climber of a con man or something of that nature but investigation disclosed that he sold jewelry among the sailors of the fleet as a side line. The magistrate fined Mac \$5 and cots whereupon he remarked "Gee, next time I'll go to the Waldorf." He paid the fine though and joined his ship.

Camille Flammarion, the noted French astronomer, has stirred up the peasants of Europe by a prediction that Halley's comet is due to strike the earth sometime this year with the consequent destruction of this sphere. Flammarion is given to making predictions but few of them have ever come to pass but this doesn't cut any figure with the natives of most European countries. Nearly every other astronomer has figured out that the earth will merely pass through the tail of the comet and that the worst that will happen will be a shower of star dust as they term it. This means many shooting stars in the heavens and some beautiful sights at night but nothing more serious. Anyway all we can do is to wait and see what really will happen and it is only a few months away.

New York and Brooklyn have been joined by another immense bridge, the monster Manhattan bridge being opened for traffic new year's day. A

great parade was had and five thousand tickets were issued for the witnessing of the ceremonies of opening the big structure. This aids in a measure to relieve the congestion on the bridges between the two big cities but it is only a step in that direction and the growth of travel between the two cities has been so great since the bridge was started that it has now outstripped the preparations for handling it and more bridges will be necessary at once.

The determination of President Taft to emasculate the Sherman anti-trust act so as to permit the trusts of the country to go on and rob the people under the protection of the law, will meet with a righteous rebuke at the hands of the people. The proposition is one of the most monstrous ever mapped out before the American people. The record of the Taft administration has certainly been bad enough in all conscience with the iniquitous Aldrich-Cannon tariff bill, the Ballinger-Pinchot scandal and a number of other minor scandals but this is the culminating outrage of all. To wipe off the books every vestige of legislation standing between the people and the robber trusts cannot but arouse a righteous indignation among the people and sweep the party responsible for such an act from power.

Congressman Flint of California states in an interview that the tariff is not responsible for the high cost of living and that the trusts are not to blame. He charges the high prices to the middle man and lays the blame for the high prices on the retailer. Senator Bristow of Kansas, comes right back at him with a denial and alleges the trusts and the railroads are responsible for the prices especially as relates to meat products. The general public and the meat men and grocers will agree with the latter. A little personal investigation by anyone will convince him that the retailer is not responsible for the high prices. An investigation into the wholesale prices charged for food products will demonstrate that the trusts have gobbled the markets and are squeezing excessive profits from the people. The retailer must pay the wholesaler his price and the wholesaler and jobber is at the mercy of the trusts and in the end the people pay the bill. Senator Flint's attempt to saddle the cost off on the retailer will not work, the public know better than this.

The greatest rainfall in recent years has been taking place on the Pacific coast and untold loss has resulted therefrom. The city of Los Angeles counts its loss in the thousands while neighboring cities and towns also suffered heavily. The storm extended up and down the coast and penetrated into the interior as far as the mountains. The same storm has been sweeping eastward and today it is giving the middle west a heavy blanket of snow, stopping trains and causing much misery and suffering among the poor. The winter so far has been marked with a succession of heavy storms and much suffering in the cities. So far loss to cattle has been light but the heavy snowfall may result disastrously to that interest. Long range weather prophets do not hold out much hope for a let up in the bad weather. Hicks, DeVoe and others uniting in predictions of storms and floods to last throughout the year. If their predictions come true even in part, the year 1910 will go down in history as one of the most disastrous in the country's history.

Mrs. Charles Carroll and Mrs. J. W. Berger of Murray, were in the city Friday evening doing some trading.

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