

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Beef and pork prices are 25 per cent lower, the packers say. But when the butcher from whom you buy your meat says it isn't, what's the answer?

No speaker of the house of representatives has become president since Mr. Polk. Mr. Cannon once said: "The speaker is frequently mentioned as a presidential possibility—until he has appointed his committees."

Governor Aldrich, in a proclamation, has set apart May 14 as "Mothers' day" and on that day every man in the state is supposed to wear a white flower in honor of his mother.

Plattsmouth will still remain on the map, even if she does not have as many inhabitants as we think we ought to have. We have one of the liveliest commercial clubs in the state that will look to that matter.

Congressman Lobeck of Omaha made a speech the other night in Baltimore and favored Champ Clark for the democratic nomination for president. The mention of the speaker's name for president brought forth considerable applause.

Mr. Tilden, the Chicago packer, has been released on a writ of habeas corpus. The fourteenth amendment, you will remember, specifically provides that millionaire packers need not testify in "bottle" investigations.

The solicitude of the lumber trust and the paper trust and numerous other trusts lest Canadian reciprocity may harm their dearly beloved friend, the western farmer, is the most touching and beautiful phase of contemporary politics.

The Plattsmouth Commercial club was about as well represented at the meeting of the state federation in Kearney last week as any of the cities, and they all proved equal to the occasion. Plattsmouth has some very live wires in the commercial club, and when they take a notion they can do much for the interests of the town, and are doing it every day.

The postoffice building is rapidly nearing completion, and with favorable weather it is not going to take long to complete it. The Commercial club don't want to lose sight of the fact that we should have a big celebration in honor of its completion. We should at least feel sufficiently grateful to have such a demonstration and not let it go by default, as we did the laying of the corner stone.

There is one consolation to our people and that is we have not suffered in the loss of population in the past ten years any more than many other towns in Nebraska and Iowa. There are but few towns in eastern Nebraska that have not decreased in population. But it won't take long to regain this loss with the hustling of the live and up-to-date Commercial club that we boast of.

Another good measure passed by the legislature the last session was one compelling the payment of fees—salary and mileage—at the close of their labors to grand and petit jurors. Heretofore it has

been the custom to force a juror to pay out his own money for board and traveling expenses and then wait the pleasure of the county board to secure his money from the county treasury.

Former Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw became considerably peeved the other night at a banquet in New York. He made some disparaging remark in response to Governor Wilson of New Jersey. When he mentioned Wilson's name it aroused the diners, who cheered the former Princeton president to the echo, shouting: "Wilson will be our next president." It is said that Shaw was so mad that he didn't know which way to look for comfort.

The members of congress from Nebraska need not have any kick coming so far as committees are concerned. On the whole, it is doubtful if there is a state in the union which has fared so well in the matter of committee assignments, all things considered. Mr. Maguire is on agriculture and also on claims and both of these assignments will give him an opportunity to look after the state on important subjects which are always pressing for consideration.

If the Underwood bill passes the house and senate both, the farmers will have no cause whatever to complain. Hon. John A. Maguire has favored us with a copy of this bill, and it places on the free list all kinds of farm implements, cotton goods, boots and shoes, leather, harness and saddlery, barbed wire and all other wire, lumber of all grades, provisions of all kinds, salt, sewing machines, and, in fact, everything that the farmer or laborer uses. It is just what will help the poor people. But then, will the lords of the senate support such a measure? There's the rub.

Omaha seems to be at fever heat over the kidnapping of young Smyth, son of C. J. Smyth, former attorney general of Nebraska. Some people are going so far as to say that it was a put-up job by the young man himself. The Sunday World-Herald, in an editorial, pours the hot shot into Chief Donahue and recites some of his former actions in regard to cases of this character happening in Omaha. Young Smyth bears an excellent reputation and his father is one of the most noted lawyers in the state and most highly esteemed for his honesty and integrity.

Ex-Senator Lafayette Young of Iowa, and editor of the Des Moines Capital, in a recent address before the students at the Missouri School of Journalism at Columbia, said: "I confess to grave doubts about news which I read. I have doubted the news from the Mexican border. Bright young fellows are sent there to dig up something, and they must 'dig up.' The managers of newspapers ought to call a halt on their sensational correspondents wherever located. A high wind should not be called a cyclone. A stray shot from the Mexican side of the line ought not to be called a battle."

LORIMER AND "THE SYSTEM."

The center of interest in the Lorimer case is shifting. The punishment of the senator him-

self is so sure, even though it may be delayed, that, as the ugly scandal unfolds itself, it would soon cease to interest were it not that the public is beginning to look away from Lorimer in search of "the man higher up." It is "higher up" that the core of the interest must be found.

Justice can no longer be satisfied by the throwing of William Lorimer out of the senate of the United States. Lorimer is only the miserable puppet of the fertile and adroit brains, the long and mighty arms, that have been working behind the scenes. Lorimer is a mere incident. The event, the danger, the evil, is there back of the screens.

How vicious and how mighty is that unseen power is gradually revealed in the evidence. It talks of other senators than Lorimer as its tools and puppets—northern "reform" republicans as well as southern democrats. It mentions, in a very friendly and intimate way, even the names of the greatest and most powerful officials in the republic—such names as Taft and Aldrich. It calls "Governor" at Springfield over the long distance telephone and shouts its orders and instructions. It collects the assessments it needs for the furtherance of its purposes in the form of checks for \$10,000 each—and doubtless, if the occasion requires, for ten times that amount, and yet again ten times.

It is "The System" that has shown itself at work in Illinois. Because the affair was an unusual one, because the difficulties were extraordinary, because the scheme was bunglingly handled, it showed so much as to cause a scandal and investigation. Generally, however, it shows so very little as to cause, at the most, only murmurs of suspicion, and occasionally charges that have no proof to back them. A noise was made, and attention attracted in "putting Lorimer across." Mostly it is done so adroitly and smoothly that only the initiated suspect—and even they can only suspect.

It is away from Lorimer, the puppet, and toward "The System," master of puppets, that the public gaze is directed. It is the reason that impelled "The System" to spend its money to buy this seat in the senate which is more and more interesting the people. A very simple reason. Lumber. Just \$100,000 for a vote to keep the tariff on lumber, that was all. And plainly, if what the elusive Mr. Hines is reported as saying be true, not the only \$100,000 that has been spent to build a bulwark for Lumber in the senate.

In this case Lumber. In another case Wool. In another Steel. In another Rubber. In another Sugar. In another Oil. In another Railroads. In another Shipping. Possibly it is even true that Lorimer did not know how much was being paid for him. Even more possibly other men have been raised to the seats of power in the same way—but smoothly, noiselessly, without scandal or even suspicion—all unknowing how much they cost the interest they were to serve. And not caring, perhaps.

But now we are beginning to see a little, to understand a little. And attention is turning from Lorimer to "The System;" from "The System" to the senate and the way it is to vote on this question of a lumber tariff and on the other questions of woolen tariff, and cotton tariff, and steel tariff and the rest. For long and bitter years this "System" has had its will of the senate. Of late years the task has grown a bit difficult. The Lorimer case and the revelations it is piling up before the astonished eyes of the country will make it very difficult indeed hereafter. Lorimer himself may be dropped from the rolls of the senate, but his ghost will remain to plague his colleagues, not only when they come

to vote on lumber, but on a good many other matters as well.—World-Herald.

Some snow here Monday morning, but not two feet deep, like in South Dakota.

"Is the fruit all killed?" is the query you will be confronted with for the next week.

A new moon always brings a change in the weather some say. We hope it brings us some fine spring weather.

Governor Wilson is starting out on a long tour of the southwest. It is very kind of him to perform part of Mr. Taft's duties, while not getting any part of his salary.

Although the board of health gave that garbage heap in Mr. Lorimer's back yard a shining coat of whitewash, the neighbors are sniffing more suspiciously than ever.

The Dutch have hauled down our flag on Palmas, but the impression prevails in this country that the island did not pay Uncle Sam for keeping the flag pole painted.

The country has a balance of trade in its favor of about \$100,000,000. But after we have paid the bills of the European tourists, the cashier will be sending us the usual overdraw notice.

The country proposes to find out who did this long list of dynamite jobs. They are the cowardly acts of dirty sneaks who want to kill people in the dark without giving them a chance to hit back.

New York is preparing to spend \$9,000,000 repairing and improving the old state capital in Albany. Allowing half of this for the politicians, the states should be able to restore the capitol in fairly creditable condition for \$4,500,000.

We don't have to say anything in praise of the Evening Journal. It speaks for itself, and our big list of subscribers is sufficient for us to know that the people of the city and vicinity appreciate our efforts in giving them the best paper ever printed in Plattsmouth.

Seventeen years ago, on the 4th day of May, the writer was a delegate to the democratic state convention, which was held in Kansas City, and candidly we believe it was the hottest weather, not only on that date, but for several days after, that we ever experienced. The season continued warm and we had one of the biggest fruit crops in the history of the state.

What about a Fourth of July celebration? Are we going to wait until every little town in the county has made arrangements and then jump in and have one? No, no, don't do that. If we intend to celebrate let us so declare right now and begin to boost for it. Other towns in this section will come here to celebrate in preference to celebrating at home. They always did. Then let us get a move on us and talk the matter over.

The democratic party fought extension and expansion from its first inception. The republican party was in power and forced upon this country that policy. Now the leaders of the republican party in congress are accusing the democrats of desiring expansion and declare it a fearful thing. Congressman Price is warning the world of the complete change in the policies of the two parties and is especially solicitous about the annexation of

Canada. The performance of some republican congressmen would make the old clown Grimaldi jealous.

The significant thing about all of the arguments brought forward in attacking the reciprocity bill is that the protesting farmers are not able to see beyond the end of their noses. They figure correctly that the immediate result of reciprocity will be to affect unfavorably the prices of some of the things they have to sell. Therefore they are against it. But the ultimate result of the enactment of this bill into law will be to cheapen the price of everything the farmer has to buy. It may be set down as a fact that cannot be controverted that as long as the farmer remains a member of the combination which has maintained tariffs at excessive heights there won't be much doing in tariff reduction, because if he is not willing to give away some of the protection given him he cannot ask others to relinquish anything they have. The fact that the farmer has been made the goat in all tariff revisions in the past, that he has been given a little sop while the trusts have taken the cream of things, that so long as the price of wheat he sells is made, like the price of everything he buys, by somebody else, ought to induce him to be willing that a new deal all around should be made. Certainly he cannot fare worse than he has in the past, and he stands to fare a great deal better than he can hope for in a combination where he furnishes the votes and the other fellows appropriate the benefits.—Lincoln News.

LAME DUCKS IN WASHINGTON.

During our last visit to Washington we became acquainted with some fine samples of a new breed of poultry, called, in the vernacular of the capital, "lame ducks." Our readers may have noticed that after a man has been kept in congress for a number of years and has been repudiated by his constituents, he is often furnished with a fine, comfortable berth in the treasury department, or some other department, or on some commission, where he can "live happily ever after." These are the various coops where the lame ducks are kept and carefully fed and watered.

It is interesting to note that when these lame ducks were active members of congress, they were usually on the wrong side of questions in which the people had a vital interest, and worked with the crowd that have usually controlled congress for the benefit of big business. In many cases the right to claim a place in a comfortable coop was earned by serving the administration, whether republican or democratic.

Senator Cummins of Iowa has discovered that one of the choicest coops in the entire Washington poultry yard is the National Monetary commission, which was created three years ago for the ostensible purpose of reporting on a monetary system for the future, but really as a coop for lame ducks, with an appropriation for their feed and water of \$7,500 a year. The poultry in this coop are said to have cost the government in the last three years about \$4,000,000; but under the terms of the law its expenditures can easily be kept a profound secret, for the reason that there is no appropriation, but the vouchers for expenses are paid when approved by the chairman. Of the poultry in this coop twelve are lame ducks who have been repudiated by their constituents. In other words, but six of the members of this commission, two senators and four representatives, are now serving the people in congress. The six members of congress draw no

salaries on the commission; but the twelve lame ducks are paid as above stated for staying in the coop.

What Senator Cummins proposes is to take away this coop on the fourth day of next December, on the theory that three years is ample time to furnish a report on the currency question. This is not the only coop. There are a lot of other commissions that furnish a comfortable shelter for the lame ducks, or the statesmen that the people have dismissed from their service. President Roosevelt appointed two or three other commissions, on the condition that they would work for nothing and board themselves. They found out something about the public property and its conservation, about country life and how it could be bettered, but the congress that so generously provided coops and feed for political lame ducks refused to even publish the results of their investigations and discoveries.—Wallace's Farmer.

Champ Clark has broken four gavel in keeping the house in order. That's what comes from only hitting the desk instead of the heads of offending members.

The senators are quarreling over committee places, but the fact that they wrangle over possession of the buck saw is far from indicating a disposition to do things to the wood pile.

There is a heavy drop in the Steel trust profits, but as Mr. Carnegie got an article accepted by the May Century, he can still furnish a few more library books.

Our society people are mortgaging their houses to see King George crowned, while in England they will want one way fare rebated to take the bother of going to "Lunnon."

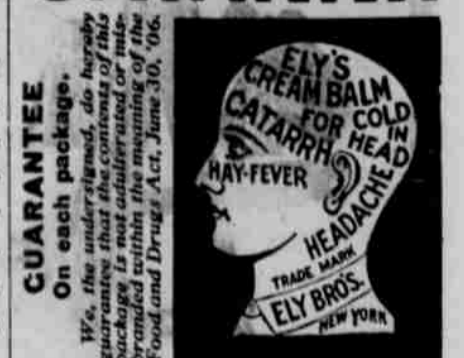
The broom is one symbol to be carried in the New York suffragist parade May 6. Mere man crouching on the sidewalks will ask timorously if this is displayed as a weapon or as a household implement.

No more bootlegging and dives in Lincoln. A. H. Armstrong was elected mayor and the city went "wet" by 900 majority. The "cranks" and bootleggers can't have everything their own way all the time.

Canada bought 750,000 dozen eggs from the United States in the fiscal year that ended March 31. In the same period it sold the United States 40,000 dozen. Evidently free trade in eggs with Canada as provided in the reciprocity treaty, is going to ruin the American farmer!—Kansas City Star.

After a heavy meal, take a couple of Doan's Regulets, and give your stomach, liver and bowels the help they will need. Regulets bring easy, regular passages of the bowels.

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