

# The Plattsmouth - Journal

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## PARCELS POST.

"I am not ready, if I understand the subject correctly, to place the country merchants of Nebraska and the nation at the mercy of the great mail order houses of the large cities who so earnestly desire a parcels post. I remember full well the commencement of the mail order trade of Montgomery Ward & Co., and others. I have never heard of that class of business bearing a penny of local taxation, the upbuilding of local communities in Iowa or Nebraska, of local schools, churches or anything that goes to make the local communities vigorous or towns a desirable place to live in or raise a family."—Congressman Lobeck.

What about Decoration Day? It is only a few days off—one week from next Tuesday.

Besides the questions of law involved, the supreme court may have shared the general realization that Standard Oil, if allowed to proceed unchecked, would eventually own everything there is to own.

Some of the Nebraska papers when they can find nothing else to write about pounce upon the brewers of Omaha. The brewers care less for what these hide-bound papers say than they do of the winds that blow.

Some of the New York organs of the combination are fearful least Woodrow Wilson becomes the democratic nominee for president. The more Wall street and its gang oppose the New Jersey governor the more popular he becomes in the west.

The Burlington will expend \$25,000 in further improving their Plattsmouth shops. The Burlington folks have been awful kind to our people and our people should be for the Burlington first, last and all the time. Our people owe a great deal to Superintendent Baird for the interest he has taken in their behalf.

Doubtless this Standard Oil ruling will take rank as one of the "epoch makers," or, rather, "markers." But it is as certainly not in itself a finality. It is only an aid—a very important aid—to the adjustment of the relations of big business to the public welfare. It will help also to brighten the "twilight zone" between state and federal jurisdictions for the control of trusts, and it may lead to legislation fixing some more definite line between legislative and judicial functions in the government.

The New York bankers who are traveling over and investigating the west would learn much of value if they spent some of their time visiting the actual farmers instead of devoting it all to boards of trade and bankers. The increase in the riches of the west is largely owing to alfalfa, but there is no report of any banker bringing that fact to the notice of these eastern men. They would learn also of the demand for labor on the farm and might take some interest in getting a few thousand of able bodied men who have to be assisted every winter in the eastern cities, out where they would

become wealth creators and self-supporting citizens. There are a good many other things that the farmers could tell them that they will never hear around banquet boards in the cities. The wealth of this nation is in its soil, and those who want the basic facts should go to the tillers of the soil.

It appears to the writer that the spirit which prompted Decoration Day is gradually dying, from some cause or other. Is it because the old veterans are becoming too old to take matters and push them as of old, or is it that the younger people, who now enjoy life and liberty under the protecting wings of that magnificent old emblem, the Stars and Stripes, have forgotten that they owe the preservation of the Union to those, many of whom have passed to the Great Beyond, and many are following them every day? We trust Decoration Day will never be forgotten, not even when the last old veteran has been placed in the silent tomb. It is a noble tribute to those who are gone, to remember their valiant services to their country and their people by scattering flowers over the graves. The rising generation should all be taught to remember this day, so that they may take up the work when others are too old to do it longer. Decoration Day should not be forgotten as long as the Stars and Stripes float over this land.

## REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

"Are the people of Ohio still in doubt about the initiative and referendum?" asks Louis F. Post in the Public. "Are they still willing to give weight to the objections of lobbyists who live by influencing legislators and to the interests that lobbyists serve? Hasn't the grand jury at Columbus made them realize that representative government without the initiative and referendum does not represent the people?" Undoubtedly the Ohio legislative scandal, and like other scandals in other states reflecting on legislative fidelity, is a "powerful persuader" to induce the people to put the initiative and referendum "gun behind the door." It shows how low representative government sometimes sinks, how misrepresentative it may become.

But it is, nevertheless, the extreme of absurdity to assert, as does the esteemed Public, that without the initiative and referendum "representative government does not represent the people." Direct legislation ought to serve to bolster up representative government. It ought to make the rule of the people more certain, and we believe it will. But that is not to say that there can be no such thing as representative government without the initiative and referendum.

Representative government is not a failure. It is the mightiest success the world has seen and it has done more for the world than has any other political agency. It has its flaws and weaknesses and failures, of course. So have the Christian religion and trial by jury and the writ of habeas corpus and the works of William Shakespeare and Michael Angelo. But representative government is still the best form of government that the wisdom of man has devised and its benefices, in Europe, as in America, are contributing wonderfully, every year, to the lifting of the world to a higher plane.

The experiences of many of the American states in the past few years have proved how truly representative can be representative government with or without the initiative and referendum. Look at what has been done in Wisconsin, in Nebraska, in Texas, in New Jersey, in Oregon, in Oklahoma, Oregon, with the initiative and referendum, giving the people a direct say, has done no more in the way of salutary and equitable legislation than Nebraska has done without it. In any state where the people have a will they can have their way, and in those states where government is bad the fault is that the people have not willed to exercise their power or have not known what they wanted or have not cared what they got.

The World-Herald believes in the initiative and referendum, just as it believes in safety couplers and the telephone; it is a convenience to the people, a serviceable instrument, a short cut to safety. But civilization would not be a failure without any or all of them. It is showing scant respect for the builders of our country and its institutions to say now that all they dreamed and planned and accomplished would become an entire and hopeless failure were it not for the initiative and referendum.—World-Herald.

## NEBRASKA CROP PRODUCTION.

It is only when we measure and sum up what this state is doing in crop production through an unbroken series of productive years, that we get an adequate conception of the wealth creating strength of Nebraska. Corn, wheat and oats are the great grain crops of the state, but they are so closely followed by alfalfa growing, stock raising and feeding that in the production of wealth they are by no means an overwhelming part. Here is the record of production of corn, wheat and oats for the last ten years in Nebraska. Not a short year in the ten, but a general average for the ten years has given this state the records in average production of these crops per acre in the United States:

### Nebraska Corn Crop by Years.

Year	Bushels.
1901	109,144,810
1902	252,520,473
1903	172,389,532
1904	200,942,335
1905	263,551,772
1906	243,782,500
1907	179,328,483
1908	205,767,000
1909	195,565,000
1910	207,948,000

### Wheat Crop by Years.

Year	Bushels.
1901	42,006,885
1902	52,726,451
1903	42,147,560
1904	34,453,943
1905	48,022,003
1906	52,288,692
1907	45,868,000
1908	44,284,860
1909	45,596,800
1910	45,596,800

### Oat Crop by Years.

Year	Bushels.
1901	39,065,220
1902	62,121,601
1903	59,426,658
1904	59,600,000
1905	78,552,878
1906	78,461,888
1907	53,622,262
1908	56,078,528
1909	61,825,060
1910	80,652,986

Grasp the fact from the above record that this state has in the last ten years produced over 2,000,000,000 bushels of corn. It would take a continuous train from Nebraska to Liverpool to handle the ten years' crop at one time. Take the average price of corn for the ten years and figure the volume of money the ten years' crop would bring if marketed at one time. It is when we consolidate the principal productions of this state in a series of years that we begin to realize the wealth that comes from the ground in Nebraska. Why should we not stand up for our home state and work together for its advancement in all lines of business and productive expansion?—Lincoln Trade Review.

According to rumors, Plattsmouth may yet have a celebration.

Mrs. Taft is down sick now, like many other women, with house-cleaning only half done.

Lady Decies being unable to deny herself any luxury, has been operated on for appendicitis.

The primaries are not very far distant, and still there does not seem to be very much stir among candidates.

The primary election will come off in August this year, but under the new law it will be held in April next year.

Five hundred thousand dollars in silver went to the bottom in the Merida, and now the mermaids can have their new spring hats.

It is not true that the secretary of war resigned because the militia officers were always in the foreground when the pictures were taken.

Henry Van Dyke has resumed teaching of literature at Princeton, and we hope he gives due attention to the classic style of the baseball reporters.

The Woman's Whist league is meeting at Baltimore, and the combatants could better afford to break all the ten commandments than trump a partner's trick.

The Mexican mess will seem like smoking the pipe of peace to Henry Stimson, after his experience with the war paint and tomahawks of Tammany politics.

The informer Abbetemaggio was called a hyena in the Camorra trial. In our country the witnesses feel like hyenas after the lawyers get through with them.

Wireless telegraph was a factor in rescuing 360 people on the steamer Merida, but lots of passenger vessels are roaming the coast with no means of asking help but throwing a bottle over with a message inside.

The parcels post may be alright, but we fail to see it that way, and we candidly believe it will prove an injury to western retail merchants.

The Reno divorce lawyers want all papers in divorce cases made secret. The marriage service should be changed from "until death do us part," so as to read, "until the newspapers can be hushed up."

The Mexican rebels are to have three cabinet officers and a majority of the governorships. Can it be that "patronage" was what these patriots were warring for?

The politicians are kicking over the \$29,000 for a children's bureau to protect 30,000,000 children in this country. Meanwhile they spend four times that amount for a public building to make some one-horse town vote the right ticket.

Some officeholders should be learned to know when they have had enough. But in Cass county it would seem that some do not take readily to that kind of learning. But the people are liable to teach them a lesson of knowing when to quit.

Stimson's appointment as war secretary is criticised on the ground that he doesn't know anything about war. In view of his inexperience, we suggest that if he will put the army in that town in Indiana that is right in the center of the United States, the enemy would not be able to get it.

In defining the Missouri Pacific

railroad branches in Nebraska President Bush says: "Once let a dog get a bad reputation and nearly everyone is ready to give it a kick." The fault was with the Gould management in letting the road go to the dogs in the first place.

The plight of the republicans who find themselves unable to elect a president pro tem of the senate, although they have ten majority in that body, is due to the anxiety of the standpatters to humiliate the progressives. Senator Gallinger was selected by the regulars in their caucus because he was, for good and sufficient reasons, the most offensive member of the senate to the progressive group.

## OUR CANADIAN TRADE.

Representative Shackelford of Missouri has prepared a table showing the business done between the United States and Canada in the five years ending with June 30, last. It is summarized as follows:

Horses—  
We sold in Canada...\$44,172,475  
Canada sold to us... 2,549,241

Difference in our favor...\$41,622,874  
Cattle—  
We sold in Canada...\$ 1,578,179  
Canada sold to us... 1,493,796

Difference in our favor...\$ 84,383  
Meat and Dairy Products—  
We sold in Canada...\$17,011,047  
Canada sold to us... 904,191

Difference in our favor...\$16,106,826  
Breadstuffs—  
We sold in Canada...\$31,596,556  
Canada sold to us... 6,679,884

Difference in our favor...\$24,916,672  
Differences in our favor on above items...\$53,030,755  
Total trade in five years—  
We sold in Canada...\$886,417,276  
Canada sold to us... 393,913,673

Total different in our favor...\$492,503,763

The query naturally arises, why does Canada buy so much from us if products on the northern side of the line are so much cheaper than ours as to constitute a menace to our producers? The figures, it must be conceded, give point to the president's declaration that reciprocity will prove a benefit to the United States in all directions.

## NEBRASKA RICHES.

A farmer from the north of the Platte writes that he has 125 acres of corn planted, some of it is up and every grain as far as he can find of the rest is sprouted, the fall wheat in his neighborhood never promised so good a crop at this time of the year and that oats, barley and alfalfa are all in a flourishing condition. There has been no cholera among the hogs and his wife is selling more eggs than she ever sold before. Reports from other portions of the state are of like character.

What this means to every citizen of Nebraska, if the prospect holds good until harvest time, few comprehend. Let them compare the time when crops failed in the state, when grass was growing between the cobble stones on lower Farnam street, when merchants were going into bankruptcy, when thousands of men were wandering over the country hunting for work, when many houses and stores were vacant in every city and town, when the farmer bought little or nothing, when the railroads had little freight and few passengers, when the clearances in the banks were so small that they were not worth reporting, when the streets and parks were run down and neglected, when school teachers were hawking their warrants around to get money to pay their board bills, with these days after a few years of good crops. Now the farmer rides in an automobile, his house has modern improvements, his

cribs are full, his cattle and hogs graze over the fields, the city dweller plans a trip to Europe, the stores are crowded with customers, the clearances in the banks run up into the millions, the streets are swept, the boulevards extended and the parks are beautiful.

That is the difference between years of good crops and years of failure. The foundation of all prosperity is the success of the farmer and he has brighter prospects than he ever before had at this time of the year.—World-Herald.

## MIXED PICKLES.

According to a newspaper poll of the senate the reciprocity bill will pass by a vote of 48 to 42. All the democrats but three are counted for the bill, the three being Bailey, Simmons and Foster. And all the republicans but eleven are against the bill, the eleven who are for it being Brown, Burton, Crane, Cullom, Kenyon, Lodge, Lorimer, Penrose, Poin-dexter, Root and Works.

This is as hopeless a mixup as has been seen in congress for many a day. It is a republican measure that is at stake, an agreement negotiated by a republican administration; and it is the darling of the heart of a republican president. Yet 39 republicans are against it, while only 11 are for it! And 37 democrats are for it, while only 3 are against it—and those three southern democrats who lean to the Aldrich-Payne theory of the tariff!

Reciprocity is republican doctrine. It has been written repeatedly into republican platforms. It was fathered by James G. Blaine. It was lauded by William McKinley. It is indorsed, in its present form, by Theodore Roosevelt. It is being pushed by President Taft. Yet there are three republicans against it in the senate where one is for it.

Insurgents have denounced, in the senate and out of the senate, democrats like Bailey and Foster and Simmons, because they demanded tariff reform in general, but opposed it in particular whenever it touched on products in which their own states were particularly interested. And now these same insurgents, men like La Follette and Cummins and Bristow and Clapp, strike hands with Bailey and Simmons and Foster to oppose reciprocity, and for the identical reasons that they denounced when Bailey and Simmons and Foster advanced them!

Consistency and fidelity to fixed principles remains alone with the great body of the senate democrats, who support the reciprocity agreement because it's a step forward in tariff reform, and who support the free list bill and favor a radical reduction in the woolen and cotton schedules because these, too, would be steps forward. The regular republicans, like Penrose and Crane and Root, who favor reciprocity, are entitled to no credit, for they would stop there, crying "hands off" whenever an attempt is made to reduce the tariff on manufacturers. Their action, like that of the insurgents, is dictated by motives that are purely selfish and local. It is the democrats alone who stand, as a body, for tariff reform on the products of the east the same as of the north. Their position is founded on principle and convictions.—World-Herald.

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