

The Plattsmouth Journal

Published Semi-Weekly at Plattsmouth, Nebraska

R. A. BATES, Publisher.

Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Never fancy you could be something if only you had a different lot and sphere assigned you. The very things that you most deprecate, as fatal limitations or obstructions, are probably what you most want. What you call hindrances, obstacles, discouragements, are probably God's opportunities.—Horace Bushnell.

It is almost impossible to hide a hammer, no matter how some fellows try hard to do so.

The man who attends strictly to his own business never has the headache next morning.

With six weeks more of such weather as this the people are not going to kick very hard.

A man may know he is right, but does not possess sufficient courage to go ahead. What then?

The patent office has just closed its busiest year, and yet no one has invented a brass collar button that will not mark the neck.

Widespread interest is being taken in the "Made in Nebraska" convention to be held in Omaha, beginning March 5 and continuing twelve days.

Turkey declares that all Europe is arrayed against it, which is practically true. The right moment has therefore arrived to yield gracefully.

The Bartling Sunday base ball bill is now up to the house for action. Will the house pass it? We can tell you better sometime in a future issue.

It is the price that sells the article. Advertise the price and thus invite patronage. That is the way the catalogue houses get their trade.

A Kansas paper points with pride that whiskers were almost entirely absent from a recent parade of Kansas men. Kansas evidently is improving.

Amending the constitution of the United States is not as difficult as has been supposed. When the people make up their minds thoroughly the methods now prescribed work like a charm.

Congressmen who voted to build a road instead of a monument to Abraham Lincoln, missed out, and may have a like experience when they come to run again for congress.

President-elect Wilson still believes in the old-fashioned principle that the first duty of a new teacher is to lick the bully who has been terrorizing the school and bossing the teacher. Stay with it, Woodrow.

A resolution was introduced in congress the other day to make "The Star Spangled Banner" the national anthem of America. As is the case with other patriots, Francis Scott Key had to wait a long time for popular recognition.

After the legislature has adjourned you will have to study your primer over again to learn what the school and road laws are. Just as we get to know them, the legislature comes in and changes them.

What an immense difference it makes occasionally as to whose ox is gored.

Senator Bartling's Sunday base ball bill passed the senate yesterday by a vote of 24 to 8.

Don't you begin to think that winter is anyway near over, with March right at our heels.

There is no occasion for a panic, even though there are some drastic anti-corporation bills in the legislative hopper.

Senator Norris Brown has made Nebraska famous in being father to the income tax resolution, which has now been ratified by states sufficient to make it a law.

"Let's all pull together for Plattsmouth!" would be a good motto to pin on the coats of every good, enterprising citizen, who has the true interests of our city at heart.

Those who oppose a new county jail do so through prejudice, and the funny part is they know it. No level-headed citizen can deny the fact that we need one bad enough.

The protective tariff barons are getting ready to make some trouble for President Wilson. They want to proceed slowly, or they might "bite off more than they can chew."

Don't misconstrue Senator Bartling's Sunday base ball bill. There is nothing in it to compel you to play ball on Sunday, if you don't want to. But if you prefer to go fishing you can do so.

In comparison with salaries in other states, every sensible man, be he republican or democrat, knows that the governor's salary in Nebraska is not sufficient and that it should at least be increased to double the amount.

If the removal of the university is not a good thing, why are the regents in favor of it? That is a question that demands an answer. We know why so many in Lincoln are opposed to it. It is dollars and cents in their pockets.

Superintendent Manuel's \$30,000 deficit at the Kearney Industrial school should be sifted to the very bottom. There are perhaps deficiencies in other state institutions that need some prying into.

The present legislature is far ahead of any in the history of Nebraska in the number of bills introduced. The twenty-day limit for the introduction of bills closed yesterday and the number ran up near the 1,200 mark.

The fine winter weather we are enjoying prompts the inquiry, "What has become of the old-fashioned blizzards that froze people to death between the house and the barn?" The severe blizzards seem to be things of the past in this God's country of today.

Joseph Patrick Tunnulty has been chosen as executive secretary to President Wilson. He is 33 years of age, been married for ten years and is the father of six children. He is said to be an exceedingly bright young man, evidence of which fact is in his selection by Mr. Wilson to one of the most responsible positions in the gift of the president.

Building quick fires with coal oil continues to be a hazardous undertaking, as it has always been.

St. Valentine's day one week from today. That's the day to get in your spite-work on your enemies.

The Lenten season is here, a season respected, even if not scrupulously observed, in every Christian land under the sun.

An income tax will no longer be unconstitutional in the United States, no matter what the supreme court may think about it.

If by any chance the groundhog did fail to notice his shadow last Sunday, he's gone back into his hole to nurse a quartet of frost-bitten toes.

The initiative and referendum is no good with the present legislature—it refuses to let the people have a voice in the removal of the state university.

How many of the bills introduced by the house and senate will be approved? Who can guess? Our guess is one-third of the 1,328 passed by both houses.

It is hard to think of something that hasn't been thought of by the legislature in those 1,300 bills. If you know of something that has been overlooked, don't mention it—as it might make some of the members feel bad.

Senator Norris says he will not ally himself with either party in his future acts in the senate. He will be a free lance and vote independently on all measures. If Joe Cannon was in the senate, we would not believe Norris in what he says.

Congress is not very much inclined to vote \$2,000,000 to the Panama-Pacific exposition, and the people will stand by them in refusing to squander the money. The canal has cost this government enough, without spending more to graft enterprizes.

The talk about a bill in the legislature prohibiting the selling of "blue-sky" reminds us that some fellow might make a record by introducing a bill prohibiting the useless escape of "hot air." Would such a bill be treading on the toes of some of the members?

The fifty-three gentlemen Governor Morehead has selected to accompany him to the inauguration of President Wilson are all good-looking and will add tone to the exercises. Cass county will be represented by our friend, George W. Towle, of Wabash.

"Compulsion" is a hard word for some people to understand, and it is a hard thing for those who do understand its meaning to enforce its meaning in this free country, where liberty and freedom are inscribed upon that great emblem, "The Star Spangled Banner," which means so much to every American citizen.

Article XVI, just added to the constitution, reads: "The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration." The constitution continues to be one of the best examples of condensed language.

Suppose that President Wilson tenders Senator Hitchcock an important foreign post, and he would accept, who would be his successor in the senate? The story goes that the president-elect has his eyes on Senator Hitchcock for such a position—but we prefer to wait until the senator resigns before saying more.

The democratic party is on record as being the daddy of the initiative and referendum, yet the democratic house of representatives refused to submit the question of the removal of the state university to a vote of the people. That would have decided the question forever.

American hens earn a million dollars a day every day in the year. They never strike except when they want to set and they keep right on through holidays and Sundays. When one hen lays off, another takes her place. Hence we should be kind and tender to the gentle hen, and eat cold storage eggs in pious confidence and hope.

High society people in Washington seem to be all broken up over the simplicity of the inauguration of President Wilson. He says he is not longing for a big show and does not care for a reception, while Vice President Marshall will live at a hotel with his wife and will not entertain. There is no need of spreading it too thick, no matter even if Uncle Sam does foot the bill.

Senator Dodge of Douglas county has a bill before the legislature to prevent a consulting physician called in by your devoted family physician from "whacking up" with the latter in the matter of the price charged for consultation. Now we are unable to see any justice in such a bill. It has been the custom for many years that when a family physician comes across a very serious case, in which he becomes very undecided as to what course to pursue, would it be fair to the patient or justice to the attending physician to prohibit him from calling in to consult with him another physician, which might be the means of saving the patient's life? When serious illness overtakes one, and he desires to get well, he cares nothing for worldly possessions and feels like giving all to be well again. But when some members of the legislature get out of anything to do, they want to strike a blow at something they least know anything about.

The enthusiasm displayed at the Commercial club banquet Wednesday night should be sufficient to convince the weak-kneed what harmony in the work of the organization can do for the good of Plattsmouth. The Journal believes that every man, be he merchant, mechanic or what not, who has the true interests of the city at heart should join the club and do all he can to assist in its good work. It has already accomplished a wonderful amount of good, and with the aid of all who should be tributary to its endeavors, the enthusiasm and energy that characterized the good work of the club in the past two years will manifest itself with renewed vigor the coming season. Then, do your duty. Join the procession and assist by your presence at the meetings of the Commercial club and have a voice in its deliberations "for Plattsmouth first, last and all the time!"

Grand Island Independent (rep.): The democrats of the lower house seem to be dissatisfied with the feature of the single presidential term resolution which would prevent President-elect Wilson from serving six years. The president-elect is committed, both by his party platform and by his own utterances to a single term. His dignified course in the matter of selecting his cabinet; the judicial temperament displayed in the matter of announcing policies and programs of action, and his evident determination to harmonize his party with the purpose of securing from it the most efficient action when, in a few months it shall be wholly in power—these

facts are clearly drawing to him the confidence of the public generally. And the prediction may well be ventured that an amendment by the house making it possible for him to serve a single term of six years will meet general approval.

Hon. C. H. Buseh, chairman of the deficiencies committee, has asked the house to appoint a special committee to draft legislation making the executive officer of every state institution liable on his bond for deficiencies exceeding 5 per cent of the biennial appropriation. The deficiency of the Kearney Industrial school has brought forth such legislation.

George A. Newell, editor of the Ishpeming (Mich.) Iron Ore, enjoys the distinction of having been sued by Colonel Roosevelt for libel. It will be remembered as an incident of the campaign this editor published what was widely talked concerning the candidate and his sobriety and the colonel immediately brought action. Newell has filed his answer to the petition and in it he says he made his statements in good faith, believing them to be true. The sensational part of the answer is in the following: "Defendant will further insist in his defense that at and before the time of publishing the words complained of the plaintiff had been and was guilty of the facts and acts charged and that the statement so complained of was and is true in substance and fact." The colonel hasn't recently gone to the mat with any country editors, we believe; and it will be interesting to see how he comes out with this one.

The following from Wallace's Farmer contains some good sound advice to subscribers who have trouble in stopping papers sent them after the time for which they have been paid for has expired: "At this season of the year we receive a good many communications from subscribers who want to know how they can get rid of never-stop papers. Some of them send us duns received from collection agencies for subscriptions which have been continued after the subscriber ordered them discontinued. Others send copies of what purport to be subscription laws, which seem to compel subscribers to pay for papers which have been sent them, whether ordered or not. The short and easy way to avoid trouble with these never stop papers is to refuse to subscribe for them, and refuse them if they are sent without definite order. Practically all of the worthless papers in the country could be put out of business in one to two years if the people would simply refuse to receive them at any price. When a subscription has been given to a never-stop paper, and has expired, the paper should be refused and the publisher notified that it is no longer wanted. If this is done, a subscriber is under no obligation to pay for it, and should not permit himself to be bluffed into paying for it by bogus collection agencies. A large percentage of these latter are merely conducted by the papers themselves under another name. It is astonishing that people continue to submit to this gross imposition by never-stop papers."

THE GLUT OF BILLS.

The Lincoln Journal, commenting on the unprecedented glut of bills in the legislature, indulges in these sensible and timely observations:

"Two years ago a special committee was appointed to draft and submit to this legislature a bill on a single subject, that of employers' liability for employees' injuries. The committee worked steadily throughout two years. The subject was investigated in all its ramifications. The longer the question was studied the

deeper its roots were traced and the more difficult it became to solve the problem. Finally, the committee was unable to agree and submitted two measures. On this one subject men of experience and ability spent as much time as this legislature can get for its thousand bills.

"The legislature would be doing well if in its three months it dealt efficiently with the three great subjects of roads, university removal and appropriations, and in addition framed a constitutional amendment permitting of the adoption later of other amendments freeing such subjects as taxation and revenue for legislative action. But the legislature cannot limit itself to a few large matters. It must plow through its thousand bills.

"The effort to do that results necessarily in legislation without deliberation, legislation appallingly superficial. How to dispose of this deluge of minor bills and get time for the large questions of state is the biggest problem confronting the legislature."

It is "legislation without deliberation, legislation appallingly superficial" that sensible members of the legislature will resolve to avoid, even though it involve the sacrifice of a great many meritorious measures. The trouble with our state legislatures is not that they pass too few laws. It is that they pass too many. There is a "glut of legislation" as well as a "glut of bills." The tendency should be in the east of bills not thoroughly understood, and the need for which is not plain, not to pass them "to get rid of them," but to defeat them. Better a policy of "do nothing" than a policy of "do everything" without knowing, except very hazily, what it is, why it is done, and what the effect will be. A few essential laws, that can be honestly and fearlessly enforced, are worth far more than several hundred new laws that are not understood even by those who enact them; that tend still further to clutter up and confuse the executive and administrative departments; to jam and clog the courts; and that are subject only to fitful and haphazard enforcement.—World-Herald.

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