

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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## THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Whoever will prosper in any line of life must save his own time and do his own thinking. He must spend neither time nor money which he has not earned.—David Starr Jordan.

March is doing pretty well, thank you.

Texas is the largest state in the Union. Can you name the next two largest?

If you would acquire a reputation quickly, set yourself up for a weather prophet.

You are now living under a democratic national administration. Have you noticed the change?

As something worth while of his genius, Carnegie might devise an ex-presidential scheme that will meet the situation in Mexico.

"It takes money to make the mare go"—also money to keep the roads in condition so the mare can go. Remember that as you go along.

By an overwhelming vote, the Nebraska house of representatives passed the bill to substitute electrocution for hanging as a means of inflicting the death penalty in Nebraska.

And now the postmasters are licking democratic postage stamps. After all, the stamps don't taste any worse by reason of the change, even if the postmasters do feel worse.

If the head of the new nickel is that of an Osage Indian the per capita represented is \$5,000 and not the \$1,340 of Americans in general. On the other side of the coin is a design indicating that the Caucasian may be getting buffaloed.

The senatorial fight in Illinois is still on, and from the present indications is liable to be on to the end of the legislative session. The republicans could possibly elect if the progressives and regulars could get together, but it doesn't look as though they can possibly agree.

Now that Dr. Friedmann is here to cure tuberculosis, the New York doctors are objecting to his methods. There is always petty jealousies and skepticisms to contend with. There is no use to lose faith in Dr. Friedmann until he has at least been tried.

There was nothing seriously meant in Mr. Bryan's remarks to assistants in the secretary of state's office. What he said is simply misconstrued—that's all. The manner in which they were construed made many of his friends wonder what was really meant.

The matters of hiring "Farm Advisers" is agitating the public mind in a number of counties. Farm advisers can be found whitening drygoods boxes to pieces in most any town on sunny days. You can hire them if you will let them "advise," but you must do the work yourself. They are all too lazy to raise a disturbance on good soil.

The "swat-the-fly" season is approaching. Let the clean-the-alley season come along with it.

The state senate has refused to confirm the appointments of Governor Morehead for the board of control. What next?

The suffs in the United States may mean well, even if their sisters in England are raising "merry h—!"

Turkey lacks a navy and ability to borrow money. The combination abundantly explains why the sultan is willing to negotiate.

Democratic city convention meets at city hall at 7:30 o'clock sharp tomorrow evening. Remember this.

One trouble with Mexico seems to be that there are too many patriots down there ready to fight for their country, or any other trifling excuse which may offer.

Here's an instance where the times are having an unusually hard task trying to outdistance a man. A North Dakota farmer, at the age of 104, has just enrolled as a student in a corn school.

President Wilson claims 13 as his lucky number, but is not going to have any edge over Plattsmouth on that score. Just look at the good things lined up for our city for 1913.

The Clarks seem to be greatly in evidence just now. Champ Clark is speaker of the house, and Senator Clark of Arkansas has just been selected president pro tem of the senate.

That Woodrow Wilson will be the president in the fullest sense of the title is now readily noted and he has only been in office ten days. He handles the reins of government like a man who knew what he was doing.

Seventeen states have already endorsed the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. The opinion prevails that the required number of states will have ratified the amendment within the present year and the amendment become a part of the federal constitution.

Hon. A. M. Dockery, for sixteen years member of congress and four years governor of Missouri, has been appointed third assistant postmaster general. The Journal editor has known Mr. Dockery for over thirty years, and was one of his warmest supporters in every race he made. We have the greatest admiration for Mr. Dockery, both as a public official and private citizen, and have always thought there was nothing too good for this noble man. He will prove faithful to the trust reposed in him.

Some men who opposed the election of Wilson because it would lower the price of everything, are now declaring that it looks like prices are going still higher. Some people are so determined to take the risk of drowning that they won't take hold of a rope when it is thrown to them. They remind us of a fellow who was descending from a ten-story building by a rope. When about half way down he let go the rope and came to the ground in a heap. Asked why he had let go his hold on the rope, he stated that he was afraid it would break.

The indications point to a great many improvements in Plattsmouth this season. Several new residences are already under contract, and there will be many improvements in the business section of the city. If anything, there will be more improvements made in 1913 than there were in 1912. Hurrah for Plattsmouth, the only big town in Cass county and one of the best in Nebraska!

There is not a farmer in Cass county who has ever visited Plattsmouth and has ever viewed the old, dilapidated and unsanitary condition of the old shack called a jail, but who knows that Cass county has needed a new jail, and has needed it a long time. Then why not build it now, and not wait until we have paid out two or three thousand dollars to other counties for keeping our prisoners? Look at the matter in the proper light—take off your prejudicial eye-glasses—and see wherein the proposition is a fair one.

We can see no reason for the senate refusing to confirm Henry Gerdes simply because it did not desire to confirm the other two appointees for the board of control. It may be a personal matter on the part of some of the senators as to Gregg and Grauf. We know nothing of the republican appointed, and having served in the house with Grauf, and are not particularly stuck on him. We also served in the house with Henry Gerdes and always found him to be a man of business and one who was always found on the side of the people.

One by one the states have stiffened their laws against the divorce seekers from other states. For years Sioux Falls, S. D., was the mecca for those who wished quick relief from the marriage tie. When South Dakota lengthened the required residence period, Nevada still offered the old facilities and Reno enjoyed a prosperity equal to that of cities whose chief sustenance is the tourists of the country. Since Nevada has now made a year's residence necessary as a prerequisite to a decree for divorce, confusion reigns among the habitual divorce seekers. South Dakota and Nevada were a little tardy in pulling an end to what was fast becoming a disgrace to their names, but they have retrieved themselves in the eyes of the nation.

An exchange makes a logical appeal to the people of Nebraska not to invest their money in distant projects, just because some well-lubricated gentleman comes along and urge it. Promoters of every description are perpetually pursuing every man who has a dollar or who is thought likely to procure one. Those who come under the spell of these slick ones have frequent occasion to chide themselves for the mistakes they have made in harkening to their siren songs. The exchange in question argues that grass looks so much greener at a distance than at your feet, which is a sad fact, for it is too often an optical illusion. It has for a long time been a favorite sport of Nebraskans to send their money out of the state to be invested in real estate, or mines, or coffee plantations, or orange groves, or canned moonbeams, or something equally as good, while they have overlooked the valuable stuff right at home, in the most fertile soil to be found on the footstool. The exchange closes thus: "The real estate pastures of Nebraska are just as green as any others, and make safer investments than a bunch of lots sight-unseen in some Texas coast town which has not yet been taken off the blueprint plat and placed on mother earth. The fields may look greener on some distant slope, but they are no greener than those at our feet."

Plattsmouth is likely to find itself too busy in other public matters to engage in a red-hot spring campaign, especially when there is no need of it.

The "sifting committee" will now be in order in the Nebraska legislature. We have long since come to the conclusion that there is no use for such a procedure, if the members would attend to business from the beginning to the end of the session. There will be many bills that perhaps should become laws (that will be consigned to the flames). A sifting committee is never fair in their deliberations—too much favoritism being displayed.

Frank Doud, a former citizen of Cass county, and who resided on the Chas. Cook farm, south of town, but is now living at Bloomington, Neb., was bitterly opposed to W. J. Bryan for the manner in which he pursued in the Baltimore convention, has taken off his hat to the great Nebraskan, and thinks he was perfectly right. Here's what he writes to the Bloomington Advocate, and it is right to the point: "Take off your hats, democrats, and make your bow. Hon. William J. Bryan, gentlemen, the political general, who has won the greatest victory of modern history. Nelson at the battle of Copenhagen disobeyed orders and won a great victory for England. Arnold at Saratoga disobeyed his superior officers and won the deciding battle of the revolution. History will honor Bryan's act at Baltimore, as example of moral courage, whose far-reaching effect will influence the history of our country as much as the act of Arnold. While we bitterly resented Bryan's repudiating instructions at the time, in the light of later events, we acknowledge the wisdom and courage of Bryan and humbly apologize for our error."

## THOSE WIRE BINDERS.

Some of the evidence given in the Harvester investigation will somewhat astonish Nebraska farmers, especially that which was introduced to prove that the twine binder was no improvement over the wire binder. The wire binder was so unpopular that many farmers preferred the self-raking machine and the binder would have gone entirely out of existence if twine had not been introduced. When wheat was bound with wire it made the straw useless, as the wire got into the stomachs of the cattle and killed them, and with oats straw that was a decided loss, for all the farmers feed oats straw as it has considerable value for that purpose.

The farmers will laugh at that cricket story. When the farmers were sold hemp twine they were bothered with the crickets, but crickets do little or no damage when the bundles are bound with Manila twine. Several attempts were made to so prepare the hemp twine that the crickets would not attack it, but they were all failures and no hemp twine has been on the market for a long time.

The farmers will not forget the attempt made to corner the Manila twine and charge them extortionate prices for it. That went so far that some states put in twine factories for the purpose of supplying farmers with twine at a reasonable price, and an attempt was made once or twice by the farmers of this state to establish a twine factory at the penitentiary, but they were always defeated by some powerful force that they could not exactly locate.

If the rest of the defensive evidence of the Harvester trust is of the same character as this story about the twine binders not being any improvement over the wire binders, it will not have very much force with any man who knows anything about harvesting machinery.—World-Herald.

Josephus Daniels, the new secretary of the navy, is an editor, which is very fitting. He's used to living on water.

which cannot be kept in safety at home unless we have a safe place to keep them. Every taxpayer should look at the matter in a purely sensible light, and if they will do this, the Journal does not fear the result of their good judgment.

The creation of a department of labor will increase the cabinet membership to ten. Although a wide range of duties are to be prescribed for the department, criticisms are coming from various sources that a department combining that of labor and that of commerce into one should have been created.

While there are so many fine legislative schemes being proposed for enlarging the salaries of public officers, or for creating new positions for those who need the money, it is refreshing to observe that a process is actually in operation to procure the services of at least one deputy game warden in each county to look after the enforcement of the game laws without pay.—Lincoln Star. But why a deputy game warden in each county without salary, when there are several district wardens with good salaries? It is a preposterous proposition. Let the fellows who get paid for it do the work, or get out and make way for others who are willing to earn their salaries.

Reports from Lincoln are to the effect that county assessors for the first time will be compelled this year to return valuation abstracts to the state board of assessment and equalization with separate listings made of the amount of property owned by the telephone, telegraph and express companies. Heretofore the valuations of the three public utilities have been returned in blanket form without any regard to the amount held by each. The step is taken, according to Secretary Henry Seymour of the state board, in order that the various corporations may be listed for taxation purposes. Several bills now pending before the legislature contemplate the payment of state taxes on the amounts of property owned by the express companies and if any of them become a law it will be necessary to know the valuation for assessment purposes.

Eastern newspapers say that never in American history has a cabinet officer received such widespread public attention as that given to the new secretary of state, William J. Bryan. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that the popularity of James G. Blaine, pronounced as it was, was by no means to be compared with the popularity of Mr. Bryan, as shown upon every street corner upon every occasion. Nebraska is to be given an opportunity to meet Mr. Bryan on the occasion of the birthday dinner to be tendered him by the Lincoln Bryan club, on the evening of March 19. The dinner will be given in the big auditorium at Lincoln and the Lincoln club has issued a general invitation to everyone who cares to participate. Officers of the club are now in correspondence with prominent men in various sections of the country and they promise a toast list that will equal in interest that ever offered by the club at a Bryan birthday dinner. The names of the speakers will be published in due time. Applications for tickets for the banquet are already coming in and the indications are that the Bryan birthday reception and dinner will be largely attended. Those desiring tickets may obtain them by writing to O. W. Meier, Lincoln, Neb. Price will be \$1.

## BLAME THE MAYOR.

The Journal does not desire to discourage anyone from becoming a candidate for the highest office in the gift of the city of Plattsmouth, but it might be just as well right now to inform them what they may expect if the people take a notion to give them the job. An Illinois editor, who probably has served as mayor of his

town, sums it up this way:  
If your hens refuse to lay, Blame the Mayor.  
If you fail to draw your pay, Blame the Mayor.  
If your false teeth break in two, And your food you cannot chew, Blame the Mayor.  
If your street is never paved, Blame the Mayor.  
If your soul is never saved, Blame the Mayor.  
If your collar's torn and split And up your shirt there is a slit, Blame the Mayor.  
If the water main runs dry, Blame the Mayor.  
If someone blacks your eye, Blame the Mayor.  
If your sewer is not laid And your taxes are not paid, Blame the Mayor.

If the weeds grow on your lawn, Blame the Mayor.  
If your summer's cash is gone, Blame the Mayor.  
If you have no overcoat And old winter's got your goat, Blame the Mayor.  
If no coal is in your box, Blame the Mayor.  
If your kids catch chickenpox, Blame the Mayor.  
If your Jersey cow dries up And you lose your pointer pup, Blame the Mayor.

If your taxes are too big, Blame the Mayor.  
If your neighbors keep a pig, Blame the Mayor.  
If the street lamps do not light, If your crossing is a sight, Blame the Mayor.

If the trains too fast do speed, Blame the Mayor.  
If the ordinance they exceed, Blame the Mayor.  
If the engineers are fined And the trains are all behind, Blame the Mayor.

If you're sore at all mankind, Blame the Mayor.  
If your pants are patched behind, Blame the Mayor.  
If he doesn't trade with you Roast him till he's black and blue, Give him thunder, that's his due, Blame the Mayor.

Bernard Wurl has made such an efficient and faithful city clerk that his friends have increased to such an extent since the last election that no other man seems to be talked of for the place. That is the way it should be with one who has filled the bill as competently as Bernard Wurl has.

A bill requiring all railroads doing business in Missouri to incorporate under the laws of that state was passed by the Missouri house of representatives. The purpose of the proposed law is to make it possible for persons to sue the railroads in the state courts. Nothing wrong about that.

A prominent democratic politician named Alshuler, of Illinois, has declared in favor of making the 4th of July general election lay throughout the entire country, and make May 30th (Memorial day) primary election day in every state. We are not inclined to the belief that Mr. Alshuler's suggestions will meet with a very favorable response from the people generally.

It does look rather foolish at this distance that Cass county people would want court house removal when one contemplates the splendid structure now standing in Plattsmouth, built at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars or such a matter. The voters of Cass county surely will not go on record as favoring the removal of the county seat to some other town, even though more centrally located, a removal which means the utter destruction of the present building; for it will not be possible to remove the building with the seat of government.—Nebraska City Press.