

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THE BATTLE CRY.

Boiled down, Henry D. Estabrook's address to the McKinley club Friday evening was devoted to three themes: First, he charged the democrats with having driven prosperity from the land; second, he blamed President Wilson for bungling with the Mexican problem and for having kept this nation out of the European war; third, he declared the necessity of republican reunion in order that the party of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley may be restored to power.

This is the speech which Mr. Estabrook's friends hail as introducing him to the country for presidential preference. Presumably, then, it sums up the candidate's idea of the strongest arguments that may be advanced for his election, or for that of any other republican.

First, he declares that the democratic administration has plunged the country into a slough of business dependency, from which it has rallied only temporarily because of the "lamentable but lucrative" traffic in war supplies, a rally which, with the end of the war, will leave it in worse condition than it was before. It is true that a portion of the country's present remarkable prosperity is due to profiting from the war. But it is not true that this is the sole basis of prosperity. It is a pity that Mr. Estabrook did not read the Friday Evening World-Herald before he delivered that speech and note therein this statement by A. R. Malcolm, assistant general freight agent of the Missouri Pacific:

"We are completely swamped with business. Building material, groceries, lumber, piping and all this freight of healthy nature compose most of this tremendous traffic. It is a wave of prosperity such as our railroad has never seen before, and has but little to do with the war."

It is a pity, too, that Mr. Estabrook's fourteen years in New York have so far led him to worship that hub of the universe as to forget that, fundamentally, this country is nationally prosperous when the harvest is good. The harvest has been good. The farmers are prosperous. And because they are prosperous, the tradespeople and the manufacturers must also be prosperous, willy-nilly, war or no war, calamity howls or not.

But how about Mexico? Mr. Estabrook denounces the taking of Vera Cruz as "the outcome of a superfluous threat made by our president" and then, although he thus censures the invasion of foreign territory, he turns right about face and objects again because "we should have made good the threat and stopped the dog fight." He laments the death of a score of American soldier boys, "whose blood cries shame upon us," and as quickly demands that the blood of thousands more should have been shed. Would not that vastly greater tragedy have been a thousand-fold more shameful?

But assume that Mr. Estabrook is right. He says the president's Mexican policy has been "fatuous, chaffed and humiliating." Call it so! What would Mr. Estabrook do? One searches his words in vain to find even the faintest suggestion or hint of what action he would take—will take, if he should be successful in putting a republican in the White house.

Mr. Estabrook may claim that we falsely state his position when we say that he criticizes the president for keeping this country out of war. Let his words speak for themselves. His whole statement on this topic follows:

"Ah! But there is Mr. Wilson's foreign policy. Has not his masterful statesmanship kept us out of war? No! The most that can be claimed on that score is that he has not, by some

superhuman blunder, plunged us into war."

A case of "damned if you do and damned if you don't!"

But, fortunately, Omaha and Nebraska need not let Mr. Estabrook quit his former native soil without an expression of their approval on at least a part of his speech. He expresses a certain conviction of the necessity of a reunited republicanism, if that party is to again attain national power. As to that, none can gainsay him. Most certainly the republican party must be reunited if it is to return to power. Most certainly a terrific amity—terrific is the word—must prevail if the various contradictory, quarrelsome, leaderless, groping republicans are again to occupy a place in the sun.

But, are the republicans ready to unite to so flimsy a battle cry? And are the voters ready to entrust the country's affairs, at so critical a time, to such petulant and constructiveless philosophizing.—World-Herald.

The wheat market seems to have an upward swing.

Ain't you glad Hallowe'en is over? Why, of course you are.

King George thanks the French army. He sure ought to.

Bacon is still so high-priced that it is a sheer waste to cook it.

Only about thirty-five selling days before Christmas. Remember that.

Think of spending another winter in those trenches! And is this war?

Having been recognized, many people are wondering if Carranza will touch us for a loan?

The contractors in Plattsmouth are hoping for a moderate winter—having so much outside work to do.

Tired business man may wish for just one day in which he could be as free from care as those whose only task is to rake the dead leaves.

A Japanese lantern has a huge contempt for a Hallowe'en pumpkin to do a stunt with a candle inside of it.

What would have been the fate of Miss Cavell if she had done one-hundredth part of the destruction planned in a neutral country by Lieutenant Fay of the German army?

Announcements for state and county offices are appearing in some of our exchanges. Remember, gentlemen, you are never too early to do good to yourself. The primaries are four months earlier than usual. Throw your hat in the ring and come to the front.

They have just had two earthquake shocks at Asheville, the North Carolina town in which Mr. Bryan has established his newest residence, which fact may inspire the hope that Fairview may yet be restored to some other use than as a residence for voting and patronage distribution purposes only.—Lincoln Star.

"Dan Cupid" is credited with cutting very queer capers sometimes, and politics will be in the queer caper bunch in the next six months. There is no question as to the republicans being divided on many questions, and the democratic party is in the same boat, and from present indications, it is hard to tell how politics will stack up between now and the election. The trouble with the democratic party is that a few fellows about Lincoln want to steer the party where many who have always been democrats do not want to go, and will not go. Therefore, we cannot perceive very much difference in the condition of both parties. Another thing is, many in both parties have asserted their intentions of voting next year independent of party, and this sentiment is steadily increasing. So it is necessary for the leaders of the democratic party throughout the state to get wise as to the maneuvers of the Lincoln fellows.

The so-called prophecy of Kitchener that the war would end in May and of the kaiser that it would end in October are now both exploded.

A grapefruit about the size of a base ball has at last been produced; and will that reduce it to the price of an orange? Certainly not. The idea that it is a luxury dies hard.

RAILROADS AND THE PUBLIC.

It was a gloomy picture that Mr. B. F. Bush, receiver of the Missouri Pacific system, displayed to the members and guests of the Commercial club at St. Louis, at its meeting Wednesday night, in his address upon the question, "Why Are Certain Important Western Railroads in the Hands of Receivers?" It was gloomy because Mr. Bush had little else but grays and blacks upon his palette. It is true, as he stated, that the railroads, particularly those of the central west, are in a bad way. It is true that a great deal of legislation has been apparently designed for the destruction rather than the regulation of railroads; that taxes, wages and cost of materials have increased while rates have been arbitrarily lowered below the possibility of profit; that the railroads, in short, have been ground between the upper and the nether millstones of public antagonism and economic circumstances. But there was a bit of brighter color that Mr. Bush might have put into his picture, for it belongs there. Let us apply it, and then take another look. The picture is the same, yes, but away in the background we may now discern a spot of blue that breaks the leaden sky. Mr. Bush and the gentlemen who listened to him the other night would do well to keep their eyes upon that bit of blue, for it is the changing attitude of public opinion.

How often on a sad and dreary day we have looked up and observed a little rift within the clouds and we have murmured hopefully, "Perhaps it will clear after awhile." We go on about our business and a little later we realize the sun is shining, although we did not note its first appearance. We look up again, and, miracle! the clouds have disappeared; not dispersed, but dissolved. So it will be, we think, with this railroad situation. It was brought about by public opinion, largely because of evils that did exist in the railroad business. It is public opinion that will restore it, and soon restore it, to the prosperity to which it is entitled and without which there can be no general and permanent prosperity in this country. The people are learning by hard experience that the railroads, rightly managed, are not enemies but friends, not evils but necessities, and they are beginning to realize that the new type of railroad manager, the type that has come up through great tribulation, can conduct his properties with fidelity to its stockholders and with right regard to the public interests at the same time. A new era is dawning in the railroad business. One of these days, and the time is not so far distant, the railroad men of the country will look out of their windows and discover a clear sky.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Tuesday, April 18, is the date of the primaries next year for the nomination of both state and county officers.

There never is a last rose of summer, as there never is a last strawberry since horticulturists got busy.

If M. Briand, premier of France, would insert a "g" in the middle of his name he might become a power in Mexico.

It is hard to work up much sympathy for Mormons who went to Mexico to get away from United States laws.

Profits from the big war trade will gradually get into general circulation. Already the doctors have operated upon Mr. Morgan.

It is not a bit too early to get your stores in shape for the Christmas shopping. It is only seven weeks from Saturday till Christmas.

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Do your holiday advertising early.

Woman suffrage won't go in the east.

Jack Frost visits us every night now.

Higher prices for wheat, and may go higher.

October returns show big increase in the volume of railroad business.

"Fay disowned by his government." The instantaneous fate of any caught spy.

It is contended that Eve was the first summer girl, because she arrived before the fall.

New Orleans is becoming a city of big things. Its ratification bills runs to nearly \$4,000,000.

The wets make a clean sweep in Ohio, notwithstanding the desperate efforts of our own W. J. Bryan for prohibition.

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but if it were an American Beauty by any other name it wouldn't cost as much.

Aldrich is determined to make the race for the republican nomination for United States senator, despite the severe criticisms he is receiving daily from members of his own party.

Next Friday is the day set apart by the governor as "Clean Up Day." Do you intend to heed the governor's advice? It may help some of you, in many ways. Do it, and do it well.

Revolution in Mexico may be slowly subsiding because the peons have found that there were no free farms to be given out. Forty acres of sand and cactus needs irrigation; and it requires a pretty well centralized and efficient government to provide that.

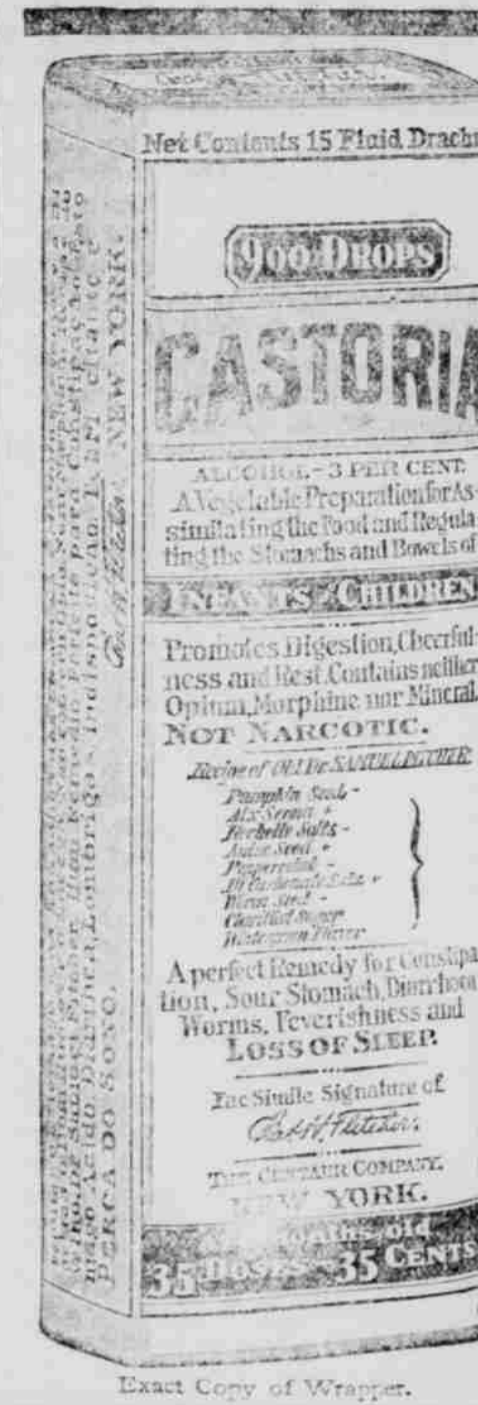
There is not a day in the week that the speed laws are not violated, and some sort of an accident occurs in consequence. A few heavy fines might make a cure for this evil. He that speedeth his auto beyond the limit of the law deserves to pay for his folly.

Some of those fellows who slipped into office on the popularity of Governor Morehead will find out that they can't do it the next time. If Governor Morehead is to be a candidate for re-election next year we would advise him to cut loose from the heavy weight he will be compelled to drag after him.

We are pleased to note that our friend, Will Maupin, will hereafter have charge of the York Democrat and the democrats of that section should feel highly elated over the announcement of this fact. Mr. Maupin is one of the best writers in Nebraska, and we are glad that he is in a position now where he can "spread himself." The Journal wishes Will an abundance of success.

The death of Herman Ridder in New York removes from the scenes of this life one of the ablest and most noted German citizens in America. He was bold, brave, fearless and honest in all his work. He was a democrat, and always behaved in true democratic principles, and never deviated from that line one iota. He was a true American German, while he loved the Fatherland, he was for America first, last and all the time.

One of the visiting ladies who was grieved by the refusal of Governor Morehead to sign the nation-wide suffrage petition did not like his explanation that his state had voted against suffrage and that he did not deem it right to use his position as governor in signing that petition. It was a logical conclusion, but Mrs. Sarah Bard Field thought it was the duty of a statesman to lead, not follow. She probably had in mind some statesmen who seek to lead their constituents around by the nose.—Lincoln Star.



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Not since a similar holocaust in Ohio several years ago have the mothers of school children been so worried over the safety of their little ones as they are now, after the Massachusetts fire horror which cost the lives of twenty-one little ones.

But few mothers in Omaha, it is safe to say, will let their tots go off to school this Monday morning without feeling, in greater or less degree, the shadow of the Peabody tragedy. Countless dangers of disease and accident beset the path of every child, but none has quite the horrifying threat of death by fire.

Luckily, Omaha may point with considerable pride to her public school buildings. One factor in increasing local taxes has been the quality of the buildings erected for public school use in recent years. It is a factor which no taxpayer will care to make the basis for an outcry. Rather, the protest is that still more money has not been spent for so worthy a purpose.

There is always the chance of panic when children are grouped together, no matter how carefully the building is constructed or planned. The chances can be greatly reduced, however, by careful design and fire-proof material. There is not a school building in Omaha, for instance, which has doors opening inward, as was the case with the ill-fated Massachusetts structure. There is not an outer door but that is opened at the touch of a child, even by the weight of the body pressing against it. No turning of keys or knobs or moving of bolts is necessary. In the newer buildings stairways of iron and floors of concrete reduce the actual fire danger to a minimum.

True, there are still some old structures which need to be replaced. The board of education is about to spend \$1,000,000 in relieving the worst of these situations. It is work which should not lag.—World-Herald.

There is a growing feeling that it pays public corporations to spend a dollar now and then just to get the public's good will, even if the returns don't come back the same day.

If there is nothing worth while, therein lies the satisfaction of taking time to do everything as nearly perfect as one can do it.

Friends of A. O. Thomas may seek a deferred endorsement of that gentleman at the state teachers' meeting now in session in Omaha.

A great many democrats in the First district would like to see Governor Morehead come out for congress, sincerely believing he can be elected.

Over in Europe they suppress newspapers that give any information valuable to the enemy. In this country a lot of the newspapers would suppress the officials who refuse to give out such information.

Three weeks from today is Thanksgiving. While turkeys are high, you should feel thankful that you can always get a duck or goose. And then, by that time, maybe, rabbits will be good and ripe.

It is pretty generally understood among his democratic constituents that Senator John Mattes will be a candidate for re-election. He made a brilliant record in the last session. No member of that body made a better record.

While the republicans are slyly at work all over the state, the democrats are doing nothing. They are not paying very much attention to the prohibition question, which Charley Bryan says the democratic candidates must come out bodily for. We would like to know when this would-be boss became the owner of the democratic party in Nebraska?

About one-fifth of Nebraska's gigantic corn crop is safe, according to figures given out Monday in the Burlington's weekly report. Since the crop itself is so far greater than normal, this practically signifies that the state is in possession of close to 90 per cent of hard corn. The soft yield is being gathered in many districts for immediate use as fodder.

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