

The Plattsmouth Journal

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY AT PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA.
Entered at Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Neb., as second-class mail matter.

R. A. BATES, Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

There is no success without loyalty. The man who is disloyal to his superior, to his profession, or to his country, is disloyal to himself, and all that is good in him.—General Goethals.

Make it a safe and sane Christmas. "Tom and Jerry" will be on the job tomorrow.

Last call of Santa Claus: "Come on, children."

The busiest thing in the world is "idle curiosity."

Both the days and the skirts are about as short as conditions will permit.

It will be a merry Christmas for the men in the financial circles of New York.

The children (God bless their little lives) are waiting to welcome Old Santa.

The base ball war is over and the Federal league will pass out of existence.

Help fill the stocking of the child of the poor mother who is unable to do it herself.

The town gossipers believe all they hear and what they merely think they accept as truth.

Keep prosperity in the middle of the road and Plattsmouth and Nebraska will shove along.

At this season no experienced burglar will touch the family breeches—unless he wants them to wear.

The Journal takes pleasure in wishing its readers a "Very Merry Christmas," with the hope that they may live long and prosper.

The fellow who buries the hatchet is like the dog that buries a bone. He goes around every once in a while to see if it is still there.

Prosperity quickens business. There is no question about that, and Nebraska stands in the front rank of the states that keeps abreast of the times in everything.

A casual inventory of America's coast defense reveals dependence for safety upon sand bars, shoal waters and the three-mile limit. Even peaceful preparedness calls for something more tangible.

In many places the fire risks in school buildings are being investigated, owing to recent disasters. It will usually be considered prudent not to spend any money though until after there have been more fatalities.

American securities owned in England are to be mobilized by the government. A rude shock to holders of securities. Later on, perhaps, a call may issue for mobilizing gold fillings in teeth. Governments at war need the money.

Answering the call of his two physicians, King George obligingly comes down off his perch on the empire water wagon and the toddy mixer to the king is hastily recalled. And so the outlook for spiked plum pudding at the Buckingham palace is tolerably fair.

SOME CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS.

With this issue the Journal extends Christmas greetings and good cheer to its readers everywhere. The year rounding to its close has been an eventful one in many conspicuous respects. It has brought to Nebraska a finer and more diffuse measure of prosperity than ever before within the memory of living man. Better than mere prosperity, which might come to Nebraska at any time from bountiful harvest at good prices, it has brought diversification of products and energy to the cultivation of field and farm, from whence comes and must continue to come the prodigal plenty with which Nebraska annually amazes the world. If in turn we shall learn from diversification the lesson of how to live at home, so that we can make our corn crop a surplus rather than a debt-paying crop, there awaits in the near future a measure of prosperity that will far exceed that which has heretofore been the reward of the thrift and energy of any nation the world has yet known, when the aggregate produced has been divided by the number of population producing it. Then again, if we press the thought a bit further, confining ourselves still within the limits of rational calculation, and develop an economic condition that will enable us to use this one surplus crop at home, thus multiplying its value by four, Nebraska at once becomes so much greater than other American states in productive wealth that nations must be resorted to that comparisons, other than obviously odious, may be made.

This year, 1915, has been more memorable and admirable than others, in that it has brought people of the state to a profounder study of education, road building, soil conservation, market problems, rural credits and constructive economy. The start made in these directions may be arrested temporarily, but it cannot be retarded permanently. Men and women are thinking, thinking seriously and with courage. In consequence the power of demagogue over the masses seems to be lessening slowly but surely, while their conscience is clearing to a wider and better sense of its duty to itself and the government. At any rate, the only route to emancipation from the blighting consequences of following the leadership of small and designing men, lies in the habit, now being indulged by the producers of wealth, of doing their own thinking, organizing and co-operating, rather than in pursuing the course of leaving these things to professional politicians and political office seekers who exploit the masses unto selfish purposes. In the abundance of our prosperity and in the sunshine of the glorious promise that lies about us everywhere, we should not forget to be grateful for benefactions, or neglect preparations for the coming day. Useful and great economic reforms, like charity, begin at home, and from thence widen to larger and better result. There are many things that Plattsmouth can do to advance its interests, the interests of its immediate territory and through that territory the interest of the state. For one thing, its citizenship can get closer together, and bend the common energy to a better purpose. Its civic organizations, of whatever nature, can, and help mightily. They can all cease to complain and criticize while getting together for the public good, for whatever righteously benefits one man or woman in a community, in a sense and correspondingly benefits every man and woman in that community. If every civic organization in the land will resolve to unselfishly contribute some rational aid to the solution of the ever-present human problem of better and more

rational living, another year will not pass without a visibly better and stronger civilization in Nebraska. If each trade organization and Chamber of Commerce in the state will resolve to lend a bit of conscientious study to developing a closer and more intimate relationship between the country and the town than has heretofore existed, out of it will come a better country life and a more prosperous town than has heretofore existed, out of it will come a better country life and a more prosperous town life. If every banker in the state will resolve to lay aside mere calculations affecting rates of interest and exchange long enough to permit his vision to clear to the fact that a solution of the market problem, which will bring better and more staple prices to the agricultural production of the state, we shall have a commonwealth in which all are blessed and a condition that represent the best that a wise and frugal people can create.

We are without war or rumors of war in community, state and nation, and yet we have problems beckoning us from the threshold of the future as grave and as difficult of solution perhaps as those of war. Of course, peace will come to the nations of Europe now in conflict, as well as to the republic to the south of us, and when that peace does come, with it will come problems more complex and far-reaching than those which we have hitherto been called upon to solve. Let us be ready for them, and let us see to it that our own state shall be ready to take its place with other commonwealths that shall be called upon to fight it out with fate and destiny under the immutable and pitiless law of the survival of the fittest. In all these things and to these ends the Journal hopes and pledges itself to do its best, having at all times an abiding faith in the worthiness of the community in which it strives, as well as in the possibilities of Nebraska when it shall have put aside sloth and indifference and devoted its complement of talents to the service of the Great Master.

Now for the new resolution. Any of us are open to improvement.

1916 will soon be here, and it would not hurt any of us to turn over a new leaf.

It may be possible to order a roast beef dinner over the telephone, but a trip down town is necessary for a half yard of ribbon.

A great many of the high school boys are determined to prepare themselves thoroughly for college, even if they break a bone in making a tackle.

Someone has made the unimportant discovery that every man, woman and child in the United States eats an entire animal every year. On an average this may be true, but a great many people don't eat anywhere near that amount, while others eat much more. Personally we may get that much meat in weight, but the animal we got this year contained the least loin steak of any cow brute we ever heard of. She was nearly all round steak and soup bones.

The writer thinks a whole lot of Dr. P. L. Hall. We seriously doubt if there is a more popular man in the state than Dr. Hall. We are satisfied he would make one of the ablest and most popular chief executives the state ever had, and while all these things are true, it is a great risk for Dr. Hall to attempt to make the race in view of the great uncertainty of an election, and then the loss of time from his great business and the expense incurred. We are satisfied Dr. Hall would have no trouble in securing the nomination and believe he could easily be elected. But there is always a doubt in Nebraska, and particularly on the democratic side of the house, and we do not feel that as good a man as Dr. Hall should be sacrificed on the altar of a great uncertainty. Dr. Hall is a good man, a democrat that can be relied upon every day in the week, his friends are legion, and to sacrifice such an honest, upright man would be a shame.

Did you have a Merry Christmas?

Will Tommy Allen be confirmed as U. S. district attorney?

And who will be United States district judge? We hope the right man.

All men love liberty; but few to the extent of remaining a lifelong bachelor.

It will keep the heads of families busy raking up the cash to pay the bills for a few weeks.

His name is now Captain Go-Ed. Here's your hat, Cap. Don't be in a hurry about coming back.

The next day being Sunday gave the boys a chance to rest up before going to work, which was welcome.

The average man thinks so little of money that he gets his mind off the subject when some fellow steps on his corn.

THAT GARY DINNER.

The newspapers of the eastern states that appear determined to open the presidential campaign without waiting for the end of the holiday season, continue to print columns of comment and conjecture concerning the famous Gary dinner to Colonel Roosevelt. That the meeting, at which Colonel Roosevelt met representatives of practically all the big business and financial interests of the country, and that was shrouded in secrecy, was of political significance is very generally conceded. But whether it foreshadows the appearance of Colonel Roosevelt himself as a presidential candidate, or was to further his intense eagerness to "beat Wilson" with some other candidate there is wide difference of opinion.

The New York World reports, on authority which it vouches for as "very reliable," that it was the Colonel himself who suggested the meeting; that it was his overtures to "Judge Gary and his old friends in the steel trust which resulted in the presence about the banquet board of a score or more of the nation's big money men." It is the World's information, also, that Colonel Roosevelt protested, at the meeting, that he himself is not a candidate, and that "his only present political purpose is to bring about the defeat of the Wilson administration; that with this end in view he seeks to marshal all the forces antagonistic to the president."

According to this same course of information, the Colonel let it be known that, under certain circumstances, he would accept Judge Hughes as the republican candidate. Also that he might be induced to look with favor upon either of these two tickets:

For President, Theodore Burton of Ohio; for Vice President, Hiram Johnson of California.

For President, Albert B. Cummins of Iowa; for Vice President, Hiram Johnson of California.

— Even Root, it is stated, would be acceptable to Colonel Roosevelt, provided he were allowed to name Root's running mate.

It is impossible to say whether this represents accurate reporting or mere reportorial conjecture. What can be said with certainty, however, is that Colonel Roosevelt is extremely anxious to "beat Wilson" because of the president's war policies, and that he will go to almost any length short of abject surrender to bring about a reunion of the republican party to that end. As a practical politician Colonel Roosevelt realizes how powerful "big business" is in the national councils of the republican party. Therefore as a first and necessary step toward an amalgamation the Colonel sets forth to rally big business to the support of his program, whatever it may be. He does this with the more confidence because for a fight against the policies of the Wilson administration if it can be made to appear that there is a reasonable chance for success.

The situation is one that is well worth watching—and that will be watched very closely—not only by the democratic party but by the country as a whole.—World-Herald.

WHAT IS NATIONAL DEFENSE?

While diversity of opinion is disclosed in regard to what constitutes national defense. So distinguished and well-informed a man as the former secretary of the interior, Walter L. Fisher, is quoted as complaining because the public does not know whether the defense plans now under discussion contemplate retention of insular possessions, the pan-American canal and other outlying interests, or are intended to apply merely to continental United States. Yet he declared his favor for what he termed preparation for effective defense.

In the minds of those who favor national defense the term means the defense of whatever is Uncle Sam's, be it tangible or intangible. It means the defense of whatever may be assailed.

Men discuss national defense and the proposed preparation for it as if it could mean simply the defense of national territory, and profess to see no menace in that direction. But it means more.

It means the defense of the national honor.

It means the defense of American life in any and every portion of the earth's surface.

It means the defense of this nation's right to sell and buy and ship without let or hindrance, in order that its people may get out of their industry and the fertility of their soil the sustenance to which they are by right entitled.

As long as this republic assumes to own Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines or other outlying territory, it means the defense of such territory from foreign encroachment and the defense of the rights of their people.

This country needs defense today. The lives of Americans have been ruthlessly taken in defiance of international law and of the laws of humanity. The commerce of this country is being lawlessly interfered with and great losses have been and are being inflicted upon American producers. American ships are being stopped upon the high seas, within a few miles of our own coasts, and men are being removed from them without any shadow of right.

Adequate national defense would mean the power to protect against these outrages in such a way that they would cease immediately upon the utterance of the protest or would never even be attempted.—Lincoln Star.

Our fear of foreign invasion is greatly modified by the conviction that within forty-eight hours of the enemy's landing Yankee ingenuity would have invented a dozen contraptions to demolish the foe.

We would like to see some democrat in this congressional district who will come to the front and say he wants the nomination. Every now and then we see the name of someone mentioned, but none have yet come to the front with a "I want it!" salute.

Christmas comes but once a year, and those who do the giving are glad of it. But it is a great consolation to Daddy and Mamma to see the happy faces of the little ones who realize the coming of Santa Claus. But how is it with those who failed to get such tokens on Christmas morning?

We desire to return our thanks to our good friend, Charley Grimes, of Fort Worth, Texas, for holiday editions of Fort Worth's papers. They are very great, and in keeping with the progressive spirit of that city. Charley was our comrade so long, and was never known to forget us when he came across anything good, and we certainly enjoyed these papers.

We desire to notify politicians in time, and especially those booming candidates, that nothing of that character will find its way in these columns unless the cash accompanies the order. We make no distinction whatever where the copy comes from outsiders, who make a business of booming candidates. This thing of paying a manager to carry on his campaign at big salary, and then asking the newspapers to do the booming is played out in this print shop.

Children Cry for Fletcher's

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The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

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Nobody cares anything about O. Garfield Jones, but everybody should be interested in the recent maneuvers of the ex-president in the Philippines.

The Ford peace party may attract some attention in Europe if Henry can suggest improvements in the motor trucks that draw supplies to the soldiers in their trenches.

When you can't think of any other reason for asking the customary annual advance in the price of anything, it is always perfectly safe to charge it up to the war.

It is not necessary to worry about room that will be taken up by the children's new Christmas toys. They don't require much space after they are smashed up.

Money is plentiful in Nebraska. Anyway, applications for charters for the organization of new banks indicates a substantial gain over last year at this particular time. Keep prosperity in the middle of the road, and let Nebraska shove along.

There should not happen at Washington anything to disturb the happiness of President Wilson and his bride at their elegant quarters at Hot Springs. A honeymoon is something that you can't enjoy always, while some older heads than our own say the honeymoon never wears out—with some people, perhaps.

Sales bills done quickly at the Journal.

NOW IT'S NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

You all know that the Journal office carried the finest line of Christmas Cards ever shown in this city; we want to tell you that our line of New Year's Cards is just as nice, and the line as complete. If you are buying New Year's Cards we want you to see this line. We know you will be pleased with them.

For Sale.

7½-H. P. Chopie Gasoline Engine for cash. Inquire of Ed Egenberger.

Bear This in Mind.

"I consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy by far the best medicine in the market for colds and croup," says Mrs. Albert Blosser, Lima, Ohio. Many others are of the same opinion. Obtainable everywhere.

For Sale.

Twenty-one head of steers, coming two years old, most all Whiteface, without horns. They are all good quality and will sell at the market price, if taken before December 12th. R. R. Nickels, Murray, Neb. Telephone 1814.

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