

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

It is a much shallower and more ignoble occupation to detect faults than to discover beauties.—Carlyle.

May parties are now in order.

The first of May, and all seems well.

Slight frost Monday night, but no injury.

Disagreeable Sunday, but beautiful weather since.

The fruit crop is yet in good condition, unless it be peaches.

Only four weeks till Decoration day. The day we all should remember.

The young girl who is to graduate is now the "whole cheese," or thinks she is.

The general rule is that it takes a housewife five years to live down a bedbug.

In this country an aristocrat has to do something more than avoid work to prove it.

You can nearly always tell when a man is wearing a new suit, without looking at the suit.

A new linen collar that can't be melted down by perspiration is announced. Good thing.

"Exchange" gets a lot of credit for things the country editor is afraid to say on his own responsibility.

House cleaning time always puts a man on the bum, because he is too lazy to help his wife, and wants to be.

Sometimes there is such a thing as giving a man an office which forever afterward bars him from earning a living.

Thousands of Americans slaughtered by Turks. Stay away from that God forsaken country if you don't want to be murdered.

Evidently it will take more than a world war to cure men of the habit of breaking in shoes that were never made to fit human feet.

It is surprising how easy it is to get father to beat the rugs after mother has lugged them out and spread them on the grass.

J. Fuller Gloom has always regretted the fact that a half dozen tenebrons have not killed each other off claiming to be his birthplace.

From the amazing array of information that fellow Carranza has just given us about Villa's condition, it is suspected that he has just been talking through his hat.

English "Tommy's" continue to jest in the trenches, although a wave of poison gas naturally depresses a man who has never breathed anything worse than a London fog.

A scientist has figured out that 10,000 mosquitoes may be killed for one cent, which strikes us as being important to many cities. Now if this scientist will tell how much it will cost to kill 10,000 dandelions, maybe it would prove beneficial to some people in Plattsmouth.

It may be good advice to say, "Don't talk war, talk business," but at the same time you have to have some explanation for the high prices you are obliged to get for your merchandise, and if the war is really responsible, the best thing you can do is to tell why and how. Many people won't believe you, even at that, but will think it is merely an excuse you, or somebody else is making to get a little extra profit. All you can do is to learn the truth and tell it.—Trade Exhibit.

Time is the kind of money a lot of people can't see.

BUSINESS MEN IN POLITICS.

Most sensible people will agree with ex-Governor Shaw that the government should seek to promote business instead of to ruin it. There is even a general feeling, of late, that "big business" may be decent and beneficial to the country. We agree with the secretary that business should not be hampered by red-tape restrictions that are without practical value and that business men should not be kept continually on the rack merely because they have been successful. We also agree with him that a protective tariff will be more necessary than ever, after the natural protection of the great war is ended and the millions of Europe who are now fighting or providing the means with which to fight, have become engaged in productive industries, in competition with ours.

But if Mr. Shaw, or any other publicist who is pleading for the cause of business, hopes that business men are to be freed from all restraint, he has failed to reckon with the host. Combinations in restraint of trade are as repulsive as they ever were. The public will not, and it should not, submit to extortion. The people will not consent to being taxed forever, through high rates or prices, to pay dividends on watered stock. They will not submit to the wrecking of great public service corporations, for the enrichment of high financiers. The country, or at least some of its political leaders, went to an extreme in denunciation of capital and in proposal of fanatic remedies for acknowledged abuses. But the pendulum should not swing to the other extreme. The reign of the demagogue may be over, at least temporarily, but the plutocrat will not take his place. Business men can and should have great influence in politics. But they should exert it in the interest of fairness and honesty. Otherwise the demagogue will find a resentful people ready to listen to his wild theories again.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Prosperity reigns supreme in Plattsmouth.

The cartoonist who pictured Villa as a skunk hiding behind a cactus bush appears to have it in for the skunk.

The man who talks a great deal about what he is going to do for the people is getting things fixed to put something over on them.

A farmer up in North Dakota is building an ark to be ready for another flood. Evidently that farmer believes strictly in preparedness.

What Plattsmouth needs is more factories. No spot on earth better located for such enterprises. Come on, boys, and view our lovely location.

One hundred students of Yale have made affidavit that they never learned the use of tobacco until they entered that school. What sort of preparatory schools do they have back east, anyhow?

Will Mauph truthfully remarks in his York Democrat: "The man I pity most is the disappointed politician who goes around with an ingrowing grouch and an outgrowing snarl for the friends who have made him successful in politics and in finances."

One objection to Roosevelt's nomination is the fact that he isn't a republican, but it is believed that this little fault can be overcome if, with him as a candidate, there is any show to again restore the republican officeholders and grafters to power. They don't care who is president, so long as they are cared for. See?

The Plattsmouth Journal says it has in its possession the first paper printed in Plattsmouth, "The Platte Valley Herald." It is dated October 18, 1860. Better send it to the State Historical society, as it might prove interesting. But we believe that a paper was printed in Plattsmouth before 1860.—Nabraska City News.

There may have been, but we have no record of it. Mr. Kirkpatrick, whose father was one of the first settlers of Cass county, and he, himself, born here, it would seem to us that he would know something about it. Mr. Kirkpatrick is a gentleman of 68 or 69 years of age.

AN UNDAUNTED PROSPERITY.

In spite of conditions and probabilities that seem well calculated to discourage a militant prosperity, business continues to go forward with steady strides in all sections of the country. The fear of possible embroilment in the European war has not stopped it. Apprehension of the changed conditions upon the return of peace disturbs it not. The imminence of a presidential campaign injects no appreciable element of uneasiness. Not even the threat of a great railroad strike operates to allay business activity. Take up the latest issue of Dun's Review and glance over the classified business headings. Here they are:

"New England—Brisk Movement of Spring Merchandise and Steady Progress in Manufacturing Lines."

"Middle Atlantic States—Satisfactory Conditions Fully Maintained and Prospects Very Encouraging."

"South Atlantic States—The Situation Favorable in Practically all Departments and Optimism General."

"Southern States—Spring Trade Opening in Satisfactory Volume and Continued Activity Anticipated."

"Central States—Heavy Distribution of Seasonable Merchandise—Industrial Departments Busy."

"Western States—Liberal Anticipation of Requirements Reflects Generally Well Maintained Confidence."

"Pacific States—Indications, as a Rule, Favorable, and Merchants Make Few Complaints of Conditions."

From which it appears that prosperity, this time bearing the democratic brand, has made conquest of the entire country. Even the Pacific coast merchants, whence recently came much hope for the republicans, "make few complaints of conditions."

The masses have forgotten about the tariff as the surest method of starvation. They have no anxious thought about the dinner pail, nor the idle forges about which John M. Thurston used to mournfully sing. No firm footing anywhere for the republican cause to brace itself upon for the coming tug of war.—Lincoln Star.

For the past ten years the democratic party has been gaining in strength and interest, and is now in power in the state, and now to be defeated by the doings of its own party members is an outrage and a shame. We have said, time and time again, that the primary election system was not the proper method of nominating candidates and we prophesied several years ago that it would result disastrously to the democratic party. Under the present system of nominating candidates, the men whom you would think could be nominated easily come out at the little end of the horn. Had the old convention way prevailed the right man would have been nominated. In a convention Mr. Bryan would have undoubtedly been selected as one of the delegates at large and Charley Bryan would have been probably nominated for governor, but the primary occasioned a long and exciting campaign and everybody that wanted to come out for office, and excitement was worked up to such a pitch as to create enmity among democrats who had heretofore pulled together in democratic harness, and wounds were created that may never be healed. But we hope all will return to their sober senses and fix upon some plan by which we can have a good, old-fashioned revival and all get together for the November election. The late primaries have made us more sternly against that system of selecting candidates, and we hope the next legislature will repeal the law in its entirety.

There are many ways in which harmony can be brought in the democratic party of Nebraska. The best way, however, is for the leaders of the two factions to meet in the next few weeks and devise ways and means by which the factions can be united for action in the campaign. There is no mistaking the fact that the democrats can carry their ticket to victory if we all get together. The democrat who is not in favor of united democracy is no democrat at all, and the sooner we know where he is at, the better it will be for all concerned.

It must really be spring. They say one pair of lovers who called it off several months ago, have made up and set the day; that a divorced couple are about to be remarried, and that the bachelor who sent the magnificent Easter bouquet really is in earnest.

The Sinn Fein uprising has resulted in the razing of the Dublin post-office. But happily, Dublin won't have to barter with a score of congressmen from remote and unconcerned parts of the empire for five years to get a new postoffice.

Some people don't seem to understand when the people don't want them. But such people, by insistence, very readily find out.

OUR CITIZENS, THE MOST OF THEM, AT LEAST, ARE HAPPY AND CONTENTED.

Farm hands have no trouble in getting work.

The busiest g. o. p. presidential bees might easily be mistaken for drones.

Don't smoke cigarettes near a gasoline tank. If you are not worth much, gasoline is.

The road drag should be used as early and as often as conditions are right for it.

Some people are going to find this fall that a "nomination is not equivalent to an election."

To a man up a tree, the Mexican situation is deserving of even more attention than the German situation.

It is again reported that Villa is surely dead. If he is, produce the body and the people will believe it.

Come to think about it, more than six weeks have passed since the groundhog went in his hole, and people, that is, the sensible ones, are wearing their winter underwear yet. Confound the groundhog, anyway.

Senator Hitchcock extends thanks to his friends in Cass county who gave him such a magnificent support for renomination in the recent primaries. The senator is a great favorite in Cass county.

All sorts of proof has been submitted, at one time or other, that Villa was dead, except the body. Obviously, the thing to do now is to abandon the requisition, and go after him with a writ of habeas corpus.

A well-worked road will shed the spring rains as well as save so much work later that early dragging pays better than the old "stitch in time."

It saves much of the discomfort of traveling over muddy roads, too.

BIG BUSINESS GETS RESTIVE.

Mentioning as candidates who would be acceptable to its members Senator Root, Senator Weeks, Henry Estabrook, Fairbanks, Barnes, Knox, McCall and General T. Coleman DuPont, the Business Men's Presidential League of the G. O. P. announces the organization of itself at New York.

It seems to have no use for such men as Roosevelt, Ford, Cummins, Borah and Robert G. Ross of Lexington, Nebraska. Nor for President Wilson. It professes a purpose to deal, not with persons and personalities, but with an idea, and the idea is to favor "a big, successful business man for president." However, in the list it mentions as eligibles the only recognized business man's name is that of DuPont. The rest are all politicians and statesmen, not so readily identified as business men as is Robert G. Ross of Lexington, who, it has been claimed, runs or works in a livery stable, but who is by other reports a farmer. The farmer has come to be reckoned as a business man.

Ormsby McHarg is chairman of this noisy organization. Ormsby McHarg, who began the campaign four years ago as an ardent Roosevelt man and later deserted to the enemy.

"You should demand that the government's business, which is your business," says Ormsby, "be directed by a president who is a real business man."

That's good. Thanks to President Wilson's wise administration the country today is full of real business men, for business has been exceptionally good recently. No better measure for the promotion of legitimate business was ever enacted than the currency measure. Another good business measure is the trade commission.

But Ormsby and his ilk want for president "a big, successful business man." Transposed it would be "a successful big business man." Big business dotes upon the republican party, and its sentiments are reciprocated with fervor. It is by no means a one-sided love affair, this Ormsby wooing. Both parties to the compact, big business and the G. O. P. are at the tryst with the goods. But there are doubts that the wedding will take place on schedule time, for modern thought is dead against the perpetuation of the race of the unfit.—Lincoln Star.

A CARD

I take this means of expressing my heartfelt gratitude to my immediate friends and our neighbors from the north who so kindly assisted in my numerous deaths and burials. Should opportunity ever offer I shall be glad to do as much for them.

Francisco Villa.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MEXICO.

Whether Villa be alive or dead, is of exactly the same importance as whether or not Huerta saluted the flag. That is to say, neither is of the slightest consequence whatever. Mexico is in the situation of a drunken man who is beating up his family and disturbing the peace of the neighborhood. The duty of the neighbors is to go there and subdue him and save his family from further sufferings. Not only that, but in this ruffian's house, sharing in the violence and injury, are numerous members of our own family, who are there on legitimate errands and entitled to our protection. The Monroe doctrine bestows upon us, so long as Europe acquiesces to it, the prerogative of discharging the functions of neighbor nations and acting as the agents of foreign powers in the protection of their subjects' life and property.

Discharge of this duty, on our own part and on the part of every nation whose subjects are injured through Mexican anarchy, calls us into Mexico, as we were called into Cuba. Our plain duty is to suppress rapine and murder. Restore peace, order and prosperity, and having established a competent government of Mexicans, retire. Abdicating of this plain duty, on the ground that Villa has not been caught or that Huerta has or has not saluted the flag, is discredit to our national honor and may at any time serve as the just occasion of offense against us by other nations, whose vice regents in dealing with Mexico we profess to be and are. If, in addition to this evasion of plain duty, we go on to excuse ourselves on the ground that we may get hurt or soil our hands or that we cannot think of interfering with the Mexicans' inalienable rights to be robbed and murdered, then our position is not only wrong in practice, but it is pusillanimous in principle. There are nations in Europe that, if the great war were not engaging their every resource, would not submit for a single day to the ignominy that Mexican bandits visit daily upon their citizens nor endure for a moment the craven and slovenly way in which we perform our duty as custodian of international rights and obligations in the bleeding, starving and dying country to the south of us. The Mexican problem stands just where it has stood since the fall of Diaz and the beginning of the present reign of anarchy.

How long is a reasonable length of time?

Now that the short skirt has come to stay, why can't the girls be persuaded to get into military training?

Dandelion parties are being formed in some sections to fight the pests. Such an organization could find plenty to do in Plattsmouth.

It has taken the people a long while to learn that the candidate who promises a business administration is rarely able to reduce taxes.

General farm work is well advanced. There has been abundant moisture and the prospects are favorable for an unusually large acreage of corn.

Mr. Roosevelt puts the question of his nomination entirely up to the republicans. Well, ain't that the way with all other republican candidates?

The Methodist Episcopal conference at Saratoga Springs, New York, has declared for church union of the south and north branches. That is a great idea.

Only ten more weeks till Fourth of July. Will Plattsmouth celebrate the great natal day? Many have asked us, but as we are not the boss, we are unable to say.

The Sinn Fein rebellion progressed to the point where a president was chosen. However, in the course of a rebellion, the selection of a president is only the first milestone.

Can anybody tell offhand what Mr. Burton or Mr. Fairbanks or Secretary Sherman or Senator Weeks or Justice Hughes thinks about preparedness, Mexico or submarine warfare?

Saloons have been operating at Hooper, Nebraska, without authority from the law for thirty-eight years. What has the Nebraska Anti-Saloon league been doing all that time?

It is just as important to be sure you are wrong before backing out as it is to be sure you are right before going ahead. But some people are so egotistical as to think they are right all the time.

By the way, there won't be any more elections now until the seventh day of next November, and we are liable to have a good, hot summer intervening, in which to "sweat out" your grievances.

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Cheer up! There will not be another primary election for twenty-four more months, and if we would have our way, there wouldn't be one then.

Not many weeks now until the candidates for president and vice president will be nominated, after which there will be something doing in politics, and the excitement will continue until the election is over.

R. M. Fuller, chairman of the Thurston County, Washington, Democratic Central committee, announced that a majority of the delegates from that county had agreed to go to the democratic state convention at North Yakima May 2, pledged to work for the selection of William J. Bryan of Nebraska as the delegate from Washington state to the national democratic convention. Fuller's announcement said this action was being taken in an effort to inflict a "silent rebuke" upon the standpat democrats of Nebraska, who refused to send Bryan to the national convention as a delegate from his home state.

The trouble with shooting Villa on the spot is that he keeps jumping off the spot.

The standpat republicans are in the saddle in California. The progressives made but little showing, comparatively speaking.

The Elmwood Booster club has been reorganized and now goes by the name of the Elmwood Commercial club, with the election of the following officers: L. F. Langhorst, president; Joe Capwell, secretary, and C. S. Stone, treasurer. Success to the Elmwood Commercial club.

Senator Sheppard, democrat, of Texas, said in the United States senate last Friday that the United States was menaced by a rapidly increasing aristocracy of land owners and proposed a constitutional amendment to authorize congress to purchase land anywhere in the country, hold, subdivide and sell it, and make loans for the purpose of encouraging farm home ownership. The amendment, he said, was similar to one adopted in the state of Massachusetts and approved more than 3 to 1 by a popular vote. This amendment would be very beneficial to the poor people of the country who desire to farm.

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