

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA. Entered at the postoffice at Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

J. E. Douglass, Trustee.

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TELEPHONES

Plattsmouth No. 85 Nebraska No. 85

AND we are still in the dark.

OF COURSE it may have been the wrong Mr. Wright.

ONE of the very noticeable results of Plattsmouth's dark town policy is the poor evening attendance at the various churches.

A DYSPEPTIC exchange remarks that a girl begins to hang up mistletoe about the same time that she stops hanging up her stocking.

FROM the fact that Castro took with him something like \$60,000,000 in negotiable securities, the probabilities are that he never intended returning.

THE Ashland Gazette calls it "Teddy's disgusting exhibition of himself." Bro. Becker's digestion must be a little off, or perhaps his carburetor needs overhauling.

ONE of the latest feats of science is the hatching of eggs by means of electricity, a demonstration of which is soon to be given at a poultry show in the east. But the hens will keep on laying the eggs.

THE Havelock Times is authority for the statement that prohibition in this country is held up in Germany as an abhorrent example of what might possibly overtake the land of Rhine wine and Wurzberg. The Rhinelanders have probably been watching the course of Carrie Nation in Scotland. But what the dickens is Wurzberg?

THE light committee of the city council has referred to the newly reorganized commercial club the much mooted question of better lights for Plattsmouth. This is an excellent opportunity for the club to show its mettle, and the NEWS-HERALD predicts that it will grasp the situation in a manner that will give to the city an adequate supply of light at the earliest possible moment.

OUR neighboring city of Havelock has now probably struck the right gait

to bring the Lincoln Traction Company to time in the matter of the disagreement as to the amount of fare to be charged. The ten-year franchise of the company under which it has been operating in that city having expired, the city attorney has been instructed to bring action requiring it to show cause why it should not either conform to the wishes of the people or cease from using the streets. The probabilities are now that an early settlement will be reached.

BONDS to the amount of \$20,000 have just been voted by the town of St. Edward for the purpose of erecting a municipal water system. Albion is soon to hold a special election to vote on the proposition to bond the city in the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of establishing a municipal gas plant. Municipal ownership of public utilities is growing more in favor each year, and Plattsmouth should ponder the question well before granting any more long time franchises to private corporations. It is the exception rather than the rule when such plants do not reduce rather than increase the taxation, and may invariably be traced to gross mismanagement.

THE Journal is whistling to keep up its courage. Its assumption of cocksureness that Congressman Pollard cannot again be elected from this district deceives nobody. Nor may his defeat be ascribed to "jocannism" or any other ism. It was simply one of those political blunders which sometimes happen, but which, happily, are usually rectified at the next election. And without casting any aspersions on Mr. Shallenberger, it may be said that Sheldon's defeat was also a blunder. Big, honest, whole-souled men are in demand in public life, and when the people come to realize their error both Pollard and Sheldon will be called upon to again take up the work of the people, and the call will be in no uncertain tone either.

THERE are only two year left of the present decade in which to solve the light question. There is this consolation, however, that if we do not get it done perhaps our children may. The matter has been "cussed" and discussed by the council and it has given up in disgust, and thrown the whole matter over the transom, with the hope (presumably) that the commercial club may accomplish something. This seems to the NEWS-HERALD entirely wrong, as the council represents the whole city and has power to go ahead and do the right thing by the citizens of the town, while the commercial club is only recently born and may or may not represent the entire city. While we hope for the best we cannot banish all doubt.

Trouble With Pledges. We judge from a cursory reading of the World-Herald that it is having trouble with the democratic legislators in advance, or that at least it fears an attempt will be made to defeat the enactment into law of some of the reforms promised. Mr. Newbranch's fearfulness is apparently justified. There will certainly be an organized effort made against the redemption of each and every one of the important platform pledges. This is inevitable. The democratic party contains about as many reactionaries, among the leaders, as did the republican party before the dethronement process began. If the Omaha paper is really in earnest in its crusade it has the same fight ahead of it in the democratic party that The News and other papers had a few years ago in the republican organization.

The democrats are going to have more trouble redeeming their pledges than did the republican legislature of two years ago. The reason is plain. Most of the interests that were hit by the republican reform legislation lined up with the democrats this year. The men who were managing the democratic campaign were glad of their help. We do not know if in return they made any pledges, but knowing politicians as we do, we have personally little doubt but that some bargains were struck that will bob up to distract the legislators this session. If the World-Herald were not owned by an office-holder who has still more vaulting ambitions its present good faith would be above suspicion, but as long as that is the case, it should not complain if men who know how politics is run suspect its chief editor is open to a compromise where his interests are taken care of.

There are several platform pledges that the democrats must redeem or be convicted of both insincerity and incapacity. There are others that if redeemed will be serious mistakes of state policy. We refer more especially to the proposition to build another agricultural college and to the one promising a return to the tax dodging scheme of precinct assessors. These we shall debate later on, as they do not constitute the important reforms admitted and had little or nothing to do with formulating the result of the election.

We have no partisan bias towards the democratic legislature. We are well aware that in the main it is made up of patriotic, well-meaning men who are interested in doing only what is apparently best for the state. But it is the leaders who shape the legislation in our law-making assemblies, and there are some among the democratic members—and Douglas county has a bunch of them—in whose good faith and fealty to the cause of the people we place no credence. There is certainly work ahead for the rank and file if they hope to circumvent the schemers with whom they must contend.—Lincoln News.

What Others Say

WATER WAGON TO BE ENLARGED. That old water wagon is becoming more and more an aristocratic conveyance. Now that the kaiser has climbed aboard and joined company with Mr. Taft and President Eliot, it would seem advisable to enlarge the vehicle and fit it out with staterooms de luxe.—New York Tribune.

A divorce court decision that will generally be conceded as being in the right direction has just been handed down by the St. Louis court of appeals. A divorced man, whom the decree obliged to pay alimony, in the course of time married a second wife and thereupon plead that he could not support two families. The court held that the second marriage did not release him from the decree and he must also continue to support the divorced wife to the extent of \$25 per month. A few more like that won't hurt any.—Grand Island Independent.

TRUE TO HIS CLIENT. Mr. Knox was a corporation lawyer in Pittsburg before he became attorney general under McKinley, but that did not prevent his delivering the most effective blow yet given to railroad combinations in the United States. He took the government for his client the minute he entered its service, just as Elihu Root did. In the same way in the administration the secretary of state will be in complete harmony with the president on all matters of general policy, and with two such lawyers at Taft and Knox sitting side by side in the cabinet meetings the country will be in pretty good hands.—Chicago Tribune.

EXAMINES CONDITIONS. Mr. Taft will have the general approval of the nation in his determination to set Panama conditions for himself. The nation is pledged to this work of tremendous effort and immense cost, and its honor is, in a way involved in showing the world it can finish the gigantic task it confidently undertook. The forces both of nature and man appear to be obstructing its successful conclusion, but to the American spirit opposition acts as a stimulant, and it will not fail to go on in this case, in which the wonderful possibilities for the future of the whole world are concerned. To fail in the work from any standpoint would be an irreparable national humiliation.

Everybody Looking. Nearly everyone is looking to see what is new on display in the way of Christmas novelties. While you are looking, don't fail to drop into Crabill's jewelry and see Mrs. Howland's beautiful line of hand-painted china. Brooches, 50c to \$1.25; pin trays, 50c to \$1.00; plates, \$1.25 to \$10.00. You will also find just what you need for Christmas, nut bowls and many other novelties especially appropriate for Christmas gifts. If C. A. Marshall, dentist.

\$176,000 IN BRIBERY FUND. Sum Paid Pittsburg Councilmen for Selection of Depositories.

BRIEF RESPITE FOR SUSPECTS. Probable No New Steps Will Be Taken Till After Holidays—Promise Plenty of Money to "Clean Up" City. More Bankers May Be Involved.

Pittsburg, Dec. 25.—That at least \$176,000 was paid councilmen for the selection of certain bank depositories for the city's funds has been almost positively established through evidence submitted and statements furnished by the Voters' league and the Scranton detectives employed by the league to give this city a municipal house cleaning. Whether all of the banks selected as depositories contributed to this fund has not been established. Officers of but one bank have so far been arrested and they are charged with the payment of only \$17,500 of the alleged bribery fund. That other bankers are to be arrested is almost positively stated by those back of the probe.

Mayor Guthrie, who refused to make contracts with the banks, as authorized by the council, on the ground that they were illegal, said that the selection of the depositories is void because secured by bribery and fraud and that the council can set them aside without the formality of court proceedings. The period for which the depositories were selected expires early in February.

That other arrests are to be made is practically admitted by all concerned in the cases, but the present intention is to let the matter rest until after the holidays. Detectives are still at work, however, and if developments make it necessary officers will close in upon the suspects before the time now fixed by the league. The Voters' league has been assured of all the financial backing needed. It was stated by Vice President H. B. W. English. The league depends wholly upon voluntary contributions, but Mr. English said any sum up to \$500,000 can be secured any time it is needed without effort, profers having been made by leading wealthy men of the city.

WOULD TEACH ART OF FARMING. Secretary Greene Wants It Made Part of Public School Curriculum.

Des Moines, Dec. 25.—Secretary Wesley Greene of the Iowa Horticultural society wants every farm to be a training school in the art of farming, and he recommends that the art of practical farming be taught in the public schools. To this end he wants every school house to have a certain amount of land, which shall be cultivated each year, and the scholars taught the art of farming in a manner which will show them the practical side of agriculture. He would have a male teacher and provide a dwelling on the land, the crop of the land to go to the teacher. In this manner, Secretary Greene believes, the interest of the teacher and pupils would be equal and the result would be beneficial to the youth of the state. This would prepare the student for the state agricultural college and make it much more popular than it is at present. He thinks the crops raised would go a long way toward paying the teacher.

Death of Iowa Pioneer. Creation, Ia., Dec. 25.—Patrick Sweeney, a wealthy retired farmer, died at the home of his son, aged eighty years, of cancer of the neck. He came to Iowa fifty years ago and has been a successful agriculturist.

Burned to Death in Barn. Sioux City, Dec. 25.—Having accidentally set fire with sparks from his pipe to the barn, where he was feeding his horses, R. S. Jones, aged sixty, a well driller, was burned to death at Kingsley.

TAFT MAY OPEN NEW CHANNEL. Effort Being Made to Have His Boat Proceed Through Southwest Pass.

New Orleans, Dec. 25.—To have the vessel which will bear President elect Taft to this city from his Panama trip, the first to use Southwest pass, at the mouth of the Mississippi river, is planned by the New Orleans board of trade. The war department will be asked to open the channel cannot be officially opened on the date on which Mr. Taft is to pass from the gulf to the river. The work of bringing the Southwest pass to a uniform depth of thirty-five feet has been practically completed.

Fines a Milwaukee Alderman. Milwaukee, Dec. 25.—Former Alderman Charles Jungman pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with bribery in connection with a special ordinance in 1903. He was fined \$600 or an alternative of eighteen months' imprisonment. The fine was paid.

Gomez and Zayas Formally Elected. Havana, Dec. 25.—The presidential electoral college met and formally cast a unanimous vote for General Jose Miguel Gomez for president and Alfredo Zayas for vice president.

Pope Receives Bishop Scannell. Rome, Dec. 24.—The pope received Rt. Rev. Richard Scannell, bishop of Omaha, in private audience. This is an Easy Test. Sprinkle Allen's Foot-Ease in one shoe and not in the other, and notice the difference. Just the thing to use when rubbers or overshoes become necessary, and your shoes seem to pinch. Sold everywhere, 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Photo post cards of Taft at Plattsmouth. Now on sale—Ten different views at 5c each. Nemetz & Co. next to P. O.

HAINS' LETTER IN EVIDENCE. Paves Way to Show Events Which Led to Slaying of Annis.

Flushing, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Nearing the close of its case against Thornton J. Hains, as a principal in the killing of William E. Annis, who was shot down by Captain Peter C. Hains last summer, the prosecution brought out a letter written by the defendant, thus opening the way for Thornton Hains lawyers to bring to light those incidents in Captain Hains' marital career which brought about the tragedy. The letter was written last June by the defendant to Jordan Ripley. In it he characterizes Annis as a "rascal" and "second-rate" and accused him of betraying his brother's wife. Policeman Eugene Fallon testified that Thornton Hains, during the coroner's inquest, declared to him of Annis, "I would go down to hell and get him and kill him over again."

MONEY TO SIXTY PITTSBURG OFFICIALS. Testimony in Bribery Case Shows Graft System is Gigantic.

Pittsburg, Dec. 24.—Pittsburg has moved into first place in corruption and municipal graft. The record of San Francisco is left far behind. Furthermore, it is stated, the sensational developments here are mere preliminaries and that subsequent proceedings against additional councilmen and business men will startle the whole country. From the testimony offered in court it was hinted that over three score councilmen are "easy reach" with sums ranging from \$100 to \$5. In the passage of one ordinance alone, it was testified that sixty councilmen had divided \$45,000. The evidence showed that the graft system is gigantic. The evidence was brought out in the hearing of the seven councilmen and two former bank officials arrested on charges of bribery, corrupt solicitation and conspiracy. W. W. Ramsey and A. A. Vilsack, former president and cashier of the German National bank, were first arraigned. It was testified that they had been approached by Councilman John Klein, one of the accused, who stated the bank would be a depository for the city's funds if it "would do as other banks have done." After several conferences the bankers placed \$1,500 on a table in a room of the bank. Councilman Klein and a companion entered the room and left in a short time. The bankers then visited the room and, it was said, the money was gone. The bankers were held in \$14,000 bail each.

The seven councilmen, President Brand and Members Klein, Seitel, Wasson, Melaney and Ferguson of the common council and Atkinson of the select were then called. The principal witness was Robert Wilson, a private detective, who testified that he engaged a room in a hotel, and cut holes in the walls of an adjoining room. Then a series of meetings were arranged with councilmen. His assistant, Herbert Jones, posed as a business man desiring certain ordinances passed and during his conferences with the councilmen Wilson and a stenographer were stationed in the next room, making a full record of the transactions.

During these conferences, he said, Councilman Klein had much to say regarding how completely the councilmen were controlled. He also declared that Klein and Brand each accepted \$500 from Jones in payment for securing the passage of an ordinance. Councilman Klein, Wilson testified, said that the councilmen had differed on prices. Some councilmen wanted \$100, some \$75, some \$25 and some \$5. It was also possible, the witness said, to secure some votes in return for a suit of clothes or street car tickets. All the accused men were held for trial and released on bond.

UNITED STATES BACKS GOMEZ. Sends Warships and Resumes Friendly Relations With Venezuela.

Washington, Dec. 24.—After eight months the United States has resumed friendly relations with Venezuela, and William I. Buchanan has left on the cruiser North Carolina to visit that country, look into the situation and make a report. The report he will make to the state department will decide whether the United States will accord formal recognition to the new government. It has not yet been fully established that the Gomez government will maintain control without trouble.

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INQUIRY HITS ALL PACKERS. Government Plans to Reopen "Beef Trust" Case. DETAILS ARE KEPT A SECRET.

District Attorney Sims Announces That Methods of Big Packing Firms Will Be Gone Into Thoroughly in Present Investigation. Chicago, Dec. 26.—In addition to the inquiry in regard to shipping rates and possible rebates, United States District Attorney Sims announced that the methods of the big packing firms would be gone into thoroughly in the present investigation. Special agents of the interstate commerce commission, as well as secret service agents, who work directly under the department of justice, are prepared, according to the district attorney, to give the results of their investigations to the grand jury. These officials have been trying to determine whether tacit agreements between packers as to the fixing of prices and the division of territory for distribution have been in systematic operation.

This is no mere "fishing expedition," said Mr. Sims. "We know what we are going after, although we are not permitted by the nature of the inquiry to state what it is. We are not merely starting a little case in which packers or railroads are concerned in the hope that we can unearth some information which will be of value to be used as a basis for a new and more extensive investigation." The federal grand jury will convene Monday, and in addition to the rate inquiry the investigation is said to include an attempt to show that the spirit of the law which prohibits agreements on prices of products has been violated in various markets.

No witnesses from packing concerns other than Nelson Morris & Co. have so far been summoned, but the witnesses already subpoenaed will keep the grand jury busy during the greater part of next week.

CLEMENCY FOR WIFE SLAYER. James Lane is Liberated From State Reformatory at Anamosa.

Des Moines, Dec. 26.—At the age of seventy-two years, and bowed by a long confinement, James Lane was liberated from the state reformatory at Anamosa, where he was committed for murder and where he would have been confined until 1915 if he lived, had it not been for the clemency of the retiring governor, A. B. Cummings. His sentence was commuted on Christmas day and freedom came as a welcome present to him. He hastened to the home of one of his sons in Minnesota, one of the provisions of his release, where he will spend the remainder of his life. Lane was convicted of killing his wife.

Autoists Win Legal Point. Des Moines, Dec. 26.—A ruling of the Polk county district court that will be of interest to automobile owners all over the state has just been made. Several auto owners were arrested and fined in police court here for not having red lights on the rear end of their cars. They appealed and the district court holds the lower court erred. The law reads that the auto shall have a white light in front and a red light on the reverse side. The district court interpreted this to mean that the red light should be on the reverse side of the front white light and not on the reverse side of the automobile.

Places Ban on Eastern Stock. Des Moines, Dec. 26.—Governor Garst has issued a proclamation prohibiting the importation into the state of all animals from the states of New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Michigan unless they have been inspected by the state veterinarian and pronounced all right. This is because of the foot and mouth disease spreading among cattle in those states.

Iowans to Inaugural. Des Moines, Dec. 26.—General J. F. Bell, who is to be chief marshal of the inaugural parade in Washington in March, has written to Governor Garst for information regarding the size of the Iowa delegation and the names of the governor's staff. As B. F. Carroll will be governor at that time, the communication has been turned over to him.

Hargis Jury Still Out. Irvine, Ky., Dec. 26.—Twelve mountain men, in whose hands rests the fate of Judge James Hargis, his father, were sent back by Judge Adams after they had reported that they could not agree. Judge Adams told them that he must leave Irvine for another point this afternoon and sent them back to think it over and return a verdict today.

General Fevrier Dead. Grenoble, France, Dec. 26.—General Fevrier, who was a grand chancellor of the Legion of Honor at the time of the Panama scandals, and who resigned July 13, 1895, in consequence of a vote of censure passed upon him in the chamber of deputies, as a result of the canal question, is dead.

Here is Relief For Women. If you have pains in the back, Urinary, Bladder or Kidney trouble, and want a certain, pleasant herb cure for woman's ills, try Mother Gray's Australian-Leaf. It is a safe and never failing regulator. At drug stores or by mail 50 cts. Sample package free. Address, The Mother Gray Co. Lefroy, N. Y.

Send her a post card of your favorite food. At Nemetz & Co.'s

MINNESOTA WINS TAX SUITS. Supreme Court Holds Three Per Cent Gross Earnings Tax Valid in Law.

St. Paul, Dec. 25.—The state won a double victory in the supreme court when that court announced decisions in its favor in both the Chicago Great Western and Great Northern railway tax cases. The court upheld the validity of the increasing of the railroad gross earnings tax from 3 to 4 per cent, which the railroads had attacked as unconstitutional.

Attorney General Young personally fought the railroad's contention that they could not be made to pay a gross earnings tax larger than the 3 per cent, which was provided for in their territorial charters.

The Great Northern case nominally involves about \$120,000,000 for 1905 taxes. The Great Western case involved about \$25,000,000. The amount at stake to the state treasury, however, is really more than \$150,000,000 a year. If the decision is sustained by the United States supreme court, to which it will undoubtedly be appealed.

GIFTS TO WALL STREET WORKERS. New York Stock Exchange Subscribes \$16,000 for Employees.

New York, Dec. 25.—Wall street's observance of Christmas was marked by a large distribution of gifts to employees. The members of the New York Stock exchange subscribed \$16,000 for the 450 employees. The American Exchange National bank divided a bonus of \$10,000. The First National bank and the National City bank raised salaries all around. The Chemical National bank gave employees 10 per cent of their salary; the Guaranty National bank and the Importers and Traders bank 20 per cent. J. P. Morgan & Co., it was reported, will give a bonus of 50 per cent of their salaries to old employees. The others will receive from 15 to 25 per cent.

TRADE REVIEW FOR THE WEEK. Bradstreet's Says Holiday Business Exceeds Last Year's.

New York, Dec. 25.—Bradstreet's says: Holiday trade expanded further and reached its maximum this week, with a majority of cities reporting this class of business larger than a year ago. A report of the volume makes it larger than last year by saying the aggregate monetary value is smaller owing to cheaper grades of goods bought in the wholesale and jobbing lines the week has been a quiet one, with the possible exception of staple goods, which have been sold well at the highest prices of the year. Attention in wholesale lines is largely concentrated on inventories and calculations as to the entire year's business. As to this latter, there is very general agreement that while business in the latter months of the year helped to swell the turn-over, there is a perceptible decrease, ranging from 1 to 20 per cent, in the volume of value of business done in 1907 and 1908. There is also general agreement that profits have been decreased, owing to the prevalence of small orders through the year and cutting of prices to attract business.

Failures for the week number 126. Wheat exports for the week aggregated 2,024,591 bushels. Corn exports for the week are 995,351 bushels.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS. Features of the Day's Trading and Closing Quotations.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Wet weather in Argentine imparted strength to the wheat market here today. Dual quotations showing net gains of 3/8c. Corn, oats and provisions closed easy. Closing prices: Wheat—Dec., \$1.02 1/2; May, \$1.07 1/2; July, 98 1/2c. Corn—Dec., 57 1/2c; May, 60 1/2c. Oats—Dec., 49 1/2c; May, 51 1/2c. Pork—Jan., \$16.25; May, \$16.40. Lard—Jan., \$9.45; May, \$9.67 1/2. Hops—Jan., \$3.25; May, \$3.67 1/2. Chicago Cash Provisions—No. 2 hard wheat, \$1.02 1/2; No. 2 corn, 57 1/2c; No. 2 oats, 49 1/2c. South Omaha Live Stock. South Omaha, Dec. 24.—Receipts, 600; 10412c higher; native steers, \$10.00; 715c; cows and heifers, \$2.75; 65c; western steers, \$2.25; 60c; Texas steers, \$3.00; 51c; canners, \$2.00; 275c; stockers and feeders, \$2.75; 20c; calves, \$2.00; 25c; pigs, \$2.50; 25c; hogs, \$2.50; 25c; receipts, 4,900; 10420c higher; heavy, \$3.00; 75c; mixed, \$2.40; 55c; light, \$2.10; 55c; pigs, \$2.50; 25c; bulk of sales, \$5.40; 55c. Sheep—Receipts, 2,700; active, stronger; yearlings, \$4.50; 60c; weathers, \$4.25; 47 1/2c; ewes, \$2.50; 44c; lambs, \$6.25; 47 1/2c. Chicago Live Stock. Chicago, Dec. 24.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,000; strong to 10c higher; steers, \$4.60; 70c; cows, \$3.00; 65c; heifers, \$2.50; 60c; bulls, \$2.75; 45c; calves, \$2.50; 25c; stockers and feeders, \$2.50; 25c; Hogs—Receipts, 15,000; 10420c higher; choice heavy, \$5.00; 55c; light, \$4.50; 55c; bulk of sales, \$5.40; 55c. Sheep—Receipts, 2,700; active, stronger; yearlings, \$4.50; 60c; weathers, \$4.25; 47 1/2c; ewes, \$2.50; 44c; lambs, \$6.25; 47 1/2c.

Every Woman Will be Interested. There has recently been discovered an aromatic, pleasant herb cure for woman's ills, called Mother Gray's AUSTRALIAN-LEAF. It is the only certain regulator. Cures female weaknesses and Backache, Kidney, Bladder and Urinary troubles. At all Drug stores or by mail 50 cts. Sample FREE. Address, The Mother Gray Co., Le Roy, N. Y.

Photo card views of Plattsmouth, 2 for 5c at Nemetz & Co.'s

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