

The Plattsmouth Journal

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EVERYBODY is jumping into the Bryan band wagon, and many republicans are following the procession and shouting for Nebraska's favorite son.

THE republican office holders in Washington hope to see the government inspect the boarding houses of that city and see what goes into the hash.

THE new Swedish minister of foreign affairs rejoices in the euphonious cognomen of Trolley. He ought to be up to date on current events, if he doesn't get his wires crossed.

THE Pennsylvania republicans adopted a radical platform and nominated a machine ticket, but as the late Senator Hanna declared on the statehood matter republican platforms are not binding.

"SENATOR BAILEY," remarks the Washington Post, "doubtless figures that if he is a candidate for the presidency he would not get much of the Rough Rider vote anyway." The Post's tenses are a little mixed, but its logic is clear.

ONE thing to be admired about Fairbury and that is she is not letting anything pass without helping herself. She already has one supreme judge, a member of congress and is now bidding for the governorship in the person of one Steele.

THE "Buster" Brown boom will drop with a deep, heavy thud. A leading republican remarked a few days since that two months ago it looked like he would get the nomination without any trouble but that his boomers were not of the right kind of people.

Upton Sinclair won the first round as the boss muck-raker when he exposed the filth of the packing houses. President Roosevelt has won the second round by publishing the report of the filth uncovered by investigation. It is now "horse and horse" and the public will watch the next muck rake performance with interest.

FREMONT a few days ago needed \$40,000 to secure a good thing, and it is the boast of the papers of that town that it took just forty minutes to raise the amount. The good thing was the incubator factory from Clay Center, Neb., that Plattsmouth figured on getting for some time. Fremont got it while we were doing the figuring.

THE sundry civil appropriation bill, as it passed the house, carries an item of \$600,000 "for pay of officers and employees other than skilled and unskilled laborers in the Canal Zone." It cost \$600,000 a year to run the business exclusive of the pay for actual work on the isthmus and also of the president's canal zone press bureau, which was abolished last year.

EDWARD ROSEWATER reached home yesterday in excellent health. Now if the fur don't fly we miss our guess. Watch those fellows who have been talking so much about the old man in his absence, hunt their holes. Mr. Rosewater expects to commence a vigorous campaign, and he will make "Buster" Brown believe that he is "notit" for the senate before the republican state convention.

THERE ought to be a hearty response to Governor Cummins's call for a convention of delegates from all the states to discuss election of senators by direct popular vote. Even if such a convention should not result in an early amendment to the constitution, it could hardly fail to result in an extension of the plan of naming senators in popular primaries now followed in no less than one-third of all the states.

Extermination—Root and Branch.

Mr. Bryan will find no controversy among democrats regarding the attitude of the party to the trusts. Democracy unitedly demands their extermination. As Mr. Bryan puts it truthfully, they must be exterminated "root and branch."

Of course, the demand for tariff revision will be met by the old cry that we must not disturb the business of the country. But there will never be a change in the tariff if we listen to this cry, and the oppression of the people by the tariff-protected trusts will go on forever if congress is not brought to recognize the salutary truth that the people as a whole suffer more by the burdens of a robber tariff than they can possibly suffer by any disturbance caused by a reasonable and sane revision of the schedules.

The trust and tariff barons, of course, will again preach their old-time sermons. We will hear once more the familiar story of the great American policy of fostering infant industries and protecting the American workman. Inspiration for the sermons will spring out of the fat treasuries of the great tariff-born trust, which monopolize so many American industries and levy burdensome taxes on the American consumer that they may undersell in foreign markets the "pauper-made" product of Europe. Everybody knows the argument, and millions of American people long ago learned its hollow sophistry.

Nor least among those Americans who have grown to a full knowledge and a clear understanding of the tariff question are the American workingmen. Most of them know to-day that their high wages are not a product of the protective tariff and are not going to drop when the tariff is cut to revenue-producing figures. They know the wages of the American workingmen are just as high in those trades associated with enterprises which share in none of the artificial advantages of the protective tariff.

Seeing that the American workingman is quite able to take care of himself, even when the tariff contains no suggestion of protection, the working classes have come to understand their interests are the same as those of the great body of the people. So it is in the erst-while strongholds of protection in New England. Sentiment for tariff reforms has strengthened year by year among the workingmen there quite as much as among the capitalists who have found their trade handicapped and their business throttled by the blighting influence of that political system they once looked upon as their greatest blessing.

Mr. Bryan is right. There is no such thing as controlling the real truss. "Extermination, root and branch," must be the cry, and in most cases the high tariff make up all the branches, if it doesn't constitute all the roots also. To exterminate the trust, therefore, we are going to extirpate the prohibitory tariff which gives the trust their life blood.

The supreme court has refused a rehearing in the Bartley bond case and thus ends all hope of ever getting back any of the money stolen from the state by republican officials. The bondsmen go scot free and the people are the losers. Necessity Prout and others of his kind are to blame for this failure to recover. Yet a majority of the voters in the state stand ready to indorse this outrage by retaining the party in power, which has cost the people millions. Partisanship binds men closer than kinship. No wonder Secretary L. M. Shaw has declared that the tendency to dispute party lines, is the most vicious toing in politics. It would turn the rascals out wherever found.

It may sound strange but it is nevertheless a fact there are sixty-seven veterans of the civil war in congress today, forty years after the close of the unpleasantness. Of this number twenty-three are in the senate, of whom thirteen were confederates. In the lower house are twenty-one who served in the Union army and twelve were confederates.

ARE we never to have an end to tragedies in which the Florida girls figure?

LITTLE WILIE's premature celebrations often send him to the premature grave.

THE passage by the House of the lock canal bill sends it up to the president. Now, Mr. Roosevelt, sign and dig.

A WESTERN republican editor, believing that an honest confession is good for the soul, admits that he loves his party and all its brood, in the following lines:

"I love the trust so fair,
The fondness for hot air,
The men of graft,
The railroads that rebate,
The corporations great,
The millionaires elite,
The whole biased raft."

THE still, small voice of the president's conscience reminds us of his forgotten pledge that every dollar contributed by the insurance companies to the republican campaign fund must be paid back. The nation's voice will be emphatic enough in 1908 in reminding the republican party of the unfulfilled promise of restitution.

ALL ambiguity about the application of the anti-third-term rule to the case of President Roosevelt ought to be removed by his re-nunciation that he will not be a candidate again. There is the best of reasons why he ought not to be. He comes so neatly within the unbroken precedent set by Washington and Jefferson that he could not be elected.

In conversation the other day with a prominent republican we were surprised to have him say that in the event of Bryan's nomination for the presidency he will vote for him. He stated that what Bryan advocated in 1896 is what Roosevelt is now advocating in the strongest way. He also said that Roosevelt was a copyist after Bryan. It certainly looks like everything was coming Bryan's way.

CONGRESS with many misgiving has at last allowed the president to have his way and has voted for the lock type of canal. So there can be no further excuse if the work is not pushed with vigor. As the account stands to date there have been millions spent during the last two years and little if anything to show for it, as far as the work on the canal is concerned. The highest authority has told us, more than once, that the republican party "does things," but all it has done at Panama is chiefly to spend money. Official reports from the isthmus show that the canal force has been merely "marking time". Up to March 31, 1906, there has been expended \$17,245,396, of which vast sum only \$2,071,616 has been paid for labor. The pay of the officials has been much greater than the men who really make the dirt fly.

Trust Busting Pastime.

All that has so far been done against trust plundering is merely scratching the surface. Not a trust has been forced to reduce its enormous profits and indeed the coast of living has greatly increased since the so-called trust busting began. Does not this show that the republican politicians, although making faces at the trusts in public, are secretly allowing them to continue their predatory warfare on the people. If the republican party really wished to prevent the trusts selling their products cheaper abroad than here, the leaders in congress would have allowed some sort of tariff revision bill to pass. But all the bills for that purpose have been voted down in committee by a party vote, even the bill to reduce the tariff to 100 per cent on those articles that are taxed over enormous percentage. The fact is the trust busting campaign is intended to just scare the trust and combines enough so they will "come down with the dust." The campaign fund in that way is replenished and the corporations and the republican leaders are combined for a new lease of life. That pleasant pastime is rather expensive for the people for all they buy has advanced on an average 47 per cent since the present tariff law was enacted.

WONDER if the president will do any muck-raking in the Panama ditch?

IOWA evidently is trying to usurp the place so long held by Ohio as the state in which they raise babies on politics."

ONE more star for the starry flag, one more state in the fold, two more seats in the senate boys, and each worth its weight in gold.

It is suggested that the muck-rakers may find something wrong with the breweries. But good gracious, man, don't spring a thing like that.

MR. ARMOUR is quoted as saying that if the stories about the packers are true they are greater than Barnam. Barnam's animals were all alive and didn't have to be eaten.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has advised a Colorado admirer that he will have to vote for some other republican candidate for president in 1908. Does he deliberately advise to throw it away?

MRS. LONGWORTH and her husband are having a de-lightful time hobnobbing with royalty and nobility abroad. No doubt they will be glad to get back home again and greet plain Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt.

GEORGE WASHINGTON had the courage to beard the British Lion in his den many years since, but he never had the courage to make a Fourth of July speech right in the heart of London. This remains for the great commoner, Hon. William Jennings Bryan, to do to-morrow.

GOVERNOR MICKEY has served the railroads pretty faithfully for four years, as the evidence well shows, yet in spite of that the republican machine does not like him. He has been tolerated as a necessity, and now he has to go out. The governor is sore, of course, and bites back. He is quoted as saying: "We are now engaged in a contest with the railroads. I have contended right along that the railroads should have their assessment raised, but the majority of the board was against me. I noticed a statement last night that the average increase of assessment this year is estimated at \$100,000 per county, making the total raise about \$9,000,000. The state board raised the railroads less than \$100,000, or about one per cent of the total increase. The people of the state are talking about this and they are wanting to know whether the railroads will be able to handle the board of equalization next year. I suspect that some of the candidates for re-election to membership on that board have already assured the railroads that there will be no increase during the next two years if they are elected." Governor Mickey only confirms what the democrats have charged in campaigns. The state is railroad bossed and only a radical change can help us.

Passage of the Rate Bill

After one of the most strenuous contests the congress of the United States has known, the administration measure for the regulation of interstate transportation went to the president for signature containing most of the provisions for which he contended.

The enactment of the law is a concession to the demand of the national platforms of both the great political parties, though it is in reality more of a democratic than republican measure. That it is not the makeshift which the Aldrich combine in the senate would have it, is due to the able support and ill-requited loyalty given the president throughout the long struggle by democratic senators.

The new act strengthens the original interstate commerce law and makes more efficient the control of the interstate commerce commission over interstate traffic. The power of the commission is not so great as it would have been if the court-review provisions

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advocated by democratic senators, under the leadership of Senator Bailey, had been incorporated, but the restrictions upon summary court injunctions are accepted by democrats like Senator Tillman as making the measure fairly effective. That the measure is more democratic than republican is readily seen by reference to the national platforms adopted by the two parties in 1904. The republicans in their platform did little more than "point with pride" to the rather meager achievement of their party in providing "additional remedies for the prevention of discrimination in freight rates." The democratic platform on which the conservative Parker made his race for the presidency contains the direct demand for such enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission as would protect the interstate-shipper and the inter-

state traveler from unjust discrimination of any sort. The president's prosecutions of rebaters and unlawful combinations engaged in interstate traffic have also accorded much more nearly with the demands of the democratic than with those of the republican platform of 1904.

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