

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THE Standard Oil trust does not seem to mind being prosecuted, as it hires its lawyers for a term of years and Rockefeller rather enjoys seeing them earn their money.

ANOTHER evidence of general prosperity is the fact that a great many banks are being opened now. The trouble is, however, that they are being opened with crowbars after night.

WARDEN BEEMER will try to have the death penalty abolished this winter. An act of the legislature, he hopes, will save the condemned men now awaiting execution at the penitentiary.

ONE thing that we note with no small feeling of pride is the fact that the bankers' convention at Omaha opened with prayer. Bankers are supposed to be very much in need of divine guidance.

IT is declared by statisticians that within the past five years 45,000 murders were committed in the United States. That is an appalling aggregate. The cause and the remedy are yet to be discovered.

"ELASTIC CURRENCY" is about as good a remedy for high rates of interest as "trial marriages" for the divorce evil. One is advocated by Wall street bankers and the other by the daughter of Henry Clews, the great Wall street prophet and financial writer.

ANOTHER of Mr. Bryan's theories has proven to be true. He always contended that the use of silver would enhance its value. From 53 cents per ounce in 1896, silver is now quoted at 74 cents. The apparent scarcity of money is advancing the price of silver. The heaven is working.

GRANT G. MARTIN of Fremont has been appointed deputy attorney-general by W. T. Thompson. He has been county attorney of Dodge county. The wife of the appointee is a niece of F. M. and J. G. Richey of Plattsmouth. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Martin are old school mates.

THE Cubans, like politicians elsewhere, are demanding a share of the spoils, but Governor Magoon is standing pat and declares he will let well enough alone for the present. Some of these Cuban patriots will soon have to go to work or take to the woods if the stand-pat issue is persisted in.

THOUGH the republican majority in the lower house of the next congress will be only 58, instead of 114, as it is in this, it will be quite large enough to make the republican party responsible in the presidential election for any trouble that may come of its straddling and vacillating course on the tariff.

REPUBLICAN leaders agree that the tariff must be revised immediately after the presidential election of 1908. That is an admission that it needs revision. But why permit tariff robbery to go on for two more years? Why not do it at the coming session of congress? Give the people relief now.

EX GOVERNOR ODILL, of New York and ex-chairman of the republican state committee, is out in a campaign in which he charges the president with the disaster that overtook the republican state ticket before the office of governor. He says he is sending of Taft and Root into New York to charge Hearst with abetting the assassination of McKinley did the work. The voters certainly rebuked the president's interference in New York politics as well as sticking his nose in other affairs in which he had no business.

Who is "De Boss?"

Notwithstanding Secretary Taft's expressed intention to suspend the president's order mustering out three companies of the Twenty-fifth infantry of negroes, Mr. Roosevelt again declares that these riotous soldiers must be dishonorably discharged.

We have now to see whether the president's backbone partakes of the chocolate éclair quality which he once attributed to McKinley's, or whether it is stiff enough to withstand the pressure which caused Secretary Taft to suspend his original order.

The pressure is mainly political, though much of it is prompted by the sentimentalism for the negro which more strongly prevails in the north and east than in any other part of the country. Though the republicans have about abandoned the hope of doing anything with the negro vote in the south, it is one of their most valuable assets in the north.

If anything like a close election in such states as New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, the negro vote is the decisive factor if the republicans win. They must hold this vote at all hazards. Most of their agitation of the so-called "race problem," including the peonage prosecutions, is carried on for the main purpose of holding it.

Now the agitation assails discipline in the regular army and threatens the efficiency of the military service. A military organization which can with impunity shoot up an American city and kill or wound peaceable citizens with the guns placed in their hands by the government is an element demoralizing to the rest of the army and a menace to the people residing near any post at which it may be stationed.

Every member of the mob of negro soldiers who wantonly killed a citizen of Brownsville and wounded others is guilty of murder, and every one of their comrades who knows their identity and refuses to reveal it is an accessory to the crime. Individually and collectively they are unfit men to bear arms in the military service of the United States. It is for those who condemn their dismissal under the president's order to come forward with a better plan for ridding the army of them.

The explanation given by Mr. Oliver, Assistant Secretary of War, removes the objection as to punishing all for the crime of some. He says with the best of common sense that the order to muster out the enlisted men of these three companies was not based upon the refusal of some to tell on the others, but because investigations made by the war department showed that these three companies are dangerous to have in the service.

No sounder conclusion was ever reached by any department of the government. The army and the country will be better off when these mutineers are deprived of their arms and stripped of their uniforms.

GOVERNOR MICKY has caused a lot of dry bones to rattle among prominent republicans by the announcement that he will make an effort to probe the Joe Bartley defalcations in his message to the legislature. Even if he makes such a recommendation the question is, what will the legislature do? Governor Mickey dislikes to make public his method of procedure and this alone is making many republican grafters feel all the more nervous. The shortage is \$299,842. Bartley can greatly assist the governor in his undertaking, if he will only do so.

THE friends of the trusts and corporations endeavored to down W. J. Bryan in the committee room at the Trans-Mississippi congress at Kansas City, but his resolutions came up for adoption before that body proper, and they went through with a whoop. The common people always stand by the great commoner.

THE question of river improvements is no joke. The railroads cannot handle the great products of the country. The only hope for relief is in the waterways.

Allow Us the Same Privilege.

Arizona only cast 15 per cent. of her vote for joint statehood, so it is quite doubtful if all the Rough Riders followed the president's advice and it is certain that the cowboys did not like to be dictated to from Washington—Plattsmouth Journal.

The Plattsmouth Journal is one of the few papers belonging to the old political school which saw nothing good in the opposing party and nothing bad in one's own organization. The Journal is intensely and uncompromisingly democratic and we know of no paper which hews more closely to the old lines of prejudice and blind partyism. This is said with no intention of reflection upon the general character of the Journal, which gives Plattsmouth one of the brightest little dailies in the state.—Lincoln Star.

While the Journal begs leave to object to one or two sentences in the foregoing, it also desires to extend thanks for the compliment bestowed. The Journal is a democratic paper, and in discussing the issues between the two parties we have not been more severe in so doing than many republican papers we could mention—that great graft sheet, the Lincoln Journal, for instance. We have been more fair, in reality, than many papers who have boasted that they "have no use for a democrat." We have never let our prejudice run to the extent of making such a remark. We have great respect for honest, conscientious republicans, but we have no use for either republican or democrat, who are such simply for the "graft" in sight, of which Nebraska is so numerously afflicted.

THE consensus of opinion among the delegates to the Trans-Mississippi congress, in session at Kansas City this week, seems to be that fifty millions a year should be spent in river improvements. In addressing the congress, Mr. Ransdell of Louisiana made a comparative statement as to the cost of freight by rail and by water transportation. He showed that in Texas, where they have the best possible law for the regulation of the railroads and where they have a strong railroad commission, it costs \$3 a bale to carry cotton 300 miles, while a bale of cotton is carried by river 300 miles for 50 cents to \$1. The speaker further showed that the Missouri river is navigable from its mouth to Fort Benton, Montana, and used to be so regarded, and with very little improvement. He says that navigation can be profitably carried on on all of the navigable rivers of the country. The average freight rate by rail is 7.8 mills per ton per mile. The average lake rate, where the transportation is carried through canals improved by the government, is .85 of one mill per mile. There is certainly a field for investigation here.

THE season of the laughing hearth, with its chill winds out of doors and its warmth of heart within, is a precious time to most of us. Leading as it does to the climax of Christmas, which is the world's great day of reunion, and ending in the first bloom of spring, which is the day of regeneration—it is the season of nature's satisfaction and repose.

THE council last night decided to shut down on new street work for the winter, with the exception of repairing a few crossings that need immediate attention. The city has done an immense amount of work upon the streets the past season, and no one can possibly have any kick coming from that direction, unless it be the same old chronic knockers.

ARIZONA has decided that she prefers to remain a territory than join New Mexico in statehood. The question was submitted to the two territories, and as Arizona rejected the proposition we will still have the two territories in the southwest to be run at the expense of the federal government. In point of territory either would make a state greater in extent than all the New England states.

The People Stand by Mr. Bryan.

Something of a sensation was caused at Kansas last Friday when the committee on resolutions at the Trans-Mississippi congress reported adversely upon the resolutions of William J. Bryan favoring international peace and against the trusts.

When the committee made its report, the congress hooted, and strong members made stinging remarks not complimentary to the committee. Then the convention took the matter up and passed both resolutions with a whoop. The resolutions were proposed by Mr. Bryan in his speech before the congress Thursday night, and are as follows:

Resolved, That this congress heartily indorses the resolution unanimously adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary union at its London session last July in favor of the submission of all international questions to an impartial court or commission for investigation before any declaration of war or commencement of hostilities.

Resolved, That this congress is unalterably opposed to private monopolies and, believing them indefensible and intolerable, favors the enforcement of existing laws and the enactment of such new laws as may be necessary to protect industry from the menace offered by the trusts.

The adoption of the resolutions by the convention was a signal for prolonged cheering, many of the delegates mounting chairs. The opposition to the resolutions which cropped out in the committee is said to be born of political prejudice, some of the members being of the cuckoo stripe who kept the trail to the Palmer-Buckner headquarters hot during the trying days in the campaign of 1896.

No Third Term.

Everybody nearly in Cass county knows Tom Williams, he who was the republican candidate for sheriff in 1901, and was defeated by John D. McBride. Soon after which he removed to El Reno, Oklahoma, where he is now engaged in publishing a republican paper called The Tribune. Tom is opposed to a third term for Roosevelt, and so declares in the following language:

"At intervals since the election of 1904 certain newspapers and politicians have insisted that President Roosevelt should be the republican standard-bearer in the next national campaign. They have thus been insistent in face of the president's repeated declaration that under no circumstances would he be a candidate again or accept another nomination for the presidency. Some of the newspapers have even denied that the president made such a declaration.

"Here is Mr. Roosevelt's statement as issued over his own signature, and bearing date of November 8th, 1904:

"I am deeply sensible of the honor done me by the American people in thus expressing their confidence in what I have done and have tried to do. I appreciate to the full extent the solemn responsibility this confidence imposes upon me, and I shall do all that in my power lies not to forfeit it. On the 4th of March next I shall have served three and one-half years, and this three and one-half years constitutes my first term. The wise custom which limits the president to two terms regards the substance, and not the form. Under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination."

"The politicians and the people know that when Roosevelt made that pledge he meant every word of it, and that he is too smart a man and too honest to ever withdraw that declaration or to disregard it. He could not hope to retain the respect of the American people should he violate that voluntary promise, and we do not believe he could be induced for a moment to seriously consider such a move.

"All this talk about the president being nominated and elected whether he wished it or not, is simply foolishness, the vapors of interested office-holders and half-baked newspaper editors. The American people do not do business in that way.

"While Roosevelt has made a good president, and perhaps but few

will deny that fact, he is by no means the only American born citizen of this republic who has the ability to successfully fill the high office of president. When the time comes, but we do not believe it ever will come, when there is only one man among the eighty odd millions of people in the United States who is fit to be president, then we think it is time for the American people to adopt a monarchical form of government and have done with it."

DEATH OF FATHER HACKNEY

Oldest Mason in Nebraska Dies in His Ninety-Second Year at Ashland.

A special from Ashland under date of November 26, says: "The venerable Father Chas. F. Hackney of this city, who was one of the pioneers of Nebraska, the oldest living Mason in the Nebraska grand lodge and perhaps the oldest living Methodist Episcopal minister in the United States, died early yesterday morning at his residence in Ashland. His death was due to old age, and he came peacefully and after only the slightest warning of dissolution during the past week.

"Father Hackney, born August 11, 1814, celebrated his ninety-second birthday last summer in the best of health, although feeble with his advancing years. On September 11 he and his wife who survives him celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary, being probably the oldest wedded couple living in Nebraska.

"Father Hackney was born at Frederick, Maryland, which lies 20 miles east of Harpers Ferry on the Potomac river. In 1836 he was married to Mary Large with whom he has lived for over seventy years, and who survives him. In 1857 he united with the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1840 he was licensed an exhorter and in 1852 after removing to Wisconsin, he became a local preacher. He united with the West Wisconsin conference at its organization and at the time of his death was the surviving charter member of that conference. He served fourteen different churches in Wisconsin and one term as presiding elder of La Crosse district. In 1878 he was superannuated and moved to Nebraska. For nine years he supplied work in the Nebraska conference and served various churches in Saunders, Cass and Lancaster counties.

"On April 23, 1896, Father Hackney became a Mason. He has served continuously as chaplain of the Ashland lodge for twenty-two years, and enjoyed the honor of being the oldest living Mason in the jurisdiction of the Nebraska grand lodge. A year ago last summer the grand lodge conferred that honor upon him, decorating him with the special jewel and allowing him and his wife a special pension."

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