

## The Plattsmouth Journal

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SCIENTISTS have found microbes in snowballs. Boil before using in the future.

INDIANA makes wife desertion a felony. But the women may run away whenever they get ready and suffer no legal penalty.

GOVERNOR SHELDON has refused to sign the 2-cent fare bill, and it will become a law next Wednesday morning without his signature.

THE president's private graveyard in the vicinity of the Panama Canal strip is growing. Walker, Wallace, Shonts—and now it is Stevens.

YES, Imogene, had Mr. Jerome grilled "strong" men with half the zeal and enthusiasm that he does weak women the world would know more about insurance frauds than it does now. The men were not strong physically.

THE Chicago paper which discovered and asserted that "Senator Beveridge is the only logical successor of President Roosevelt" certainly is about as vitriolic an enemy of the present executive as could be found outside of Texas.

THE papers are discussing the proposition to tax bachelors. In at least six states bills are under consideration for taxing unmarried men. In Iowa it is proposed that a tax of \$25 a year be laid upon bachelors at the age of forty and \$50 a year at the age of forty-five. This, however, should have no terrors for bachelors. The married man who is not taxed several times that sum is in great luck.

WHILE in the business of regulating railroad rates, railroad mergers and what not, why doesn't some humanitarian legislature try his hand at regulating the speed of the flyers that rush through the country that often outruns lightning? Many railroad horrors would be averted if that was done. When a passenger train loaded with human freight clips off time at the rate of from fifty to seventy miles an hour there is danger lurking in every turn of the swiftly revolving wheels.

NOTWITHSTANDING the talk that was put up during the campaign, the present legislature, so far as it has gone, has been the most reckless in squandering time and money of any in the history of the state. In every department thousands of dollars have been added to the allowance made by the last legislature. While no time has been consumed in electing a United States senator, the house has been in session thirty-seven days and the senate thirty-six days, and only seven bills have passed both houses and gone to the governor. Three of these are appropriating bills, and the others are of no general interest.—Beatrice Sun.

IT should be imperative that before adjournment on Monday the two houses of Congress to appoint a joint committee to sit during the recess and investigate the condition of the nine Subtreasuries of the United States and the methods of doing business in them. If \$61,500 can be stolen from one of these institutions and \$173,000 from another within the period of five months, the thefts may easily in a year run into the millions instead of hundreds of thousands. The safety of the Treasury requires that the holes through which these leaks occur be found and stopped before there are larger losses. The Chicago statement, if it prove true, that the money stolen there was in bills of large denomination, probably \$1,000 and \$5,000, calls for special scrutiny. An ordinary thief cannot change bills representing so much money without immediately exciting suspicion.

THE free seed graft has again sprouted in Washington, and is expected to bear fruit before long.

THERE will be no charge of extravagance against congress because it raised the rural mail carriers \$100 a year.

CHICAGO willingly yields the palm to Boston and Philadelphia at divorce centers, but still insists that it stands supreme as a marriage center.

MR. DOOLEY disposes of the matter thus: "If the Docters would open fewer people and more windows there wouldn't be so many Christian Scientists."

HILL in public jokes about Harriman, and Harriman in turn grows jovial when reference is made to "Big Vim." But they don't mean it. They are about as sincere as are pugilists when they shake hands before a battle.

By the time the next president takes office, Mr. Roosevelt will have used up all the available American bosses in constructing the Panama Canal, and the new man will either have to import an overseer or dig the ditch himself.

OUR cartoonists will have to draw some other figure to represent John Bull. A British visitor says that Swettenham is the type of Englishman that caricature represents. We have always had a kindly feeling for the benevolent-looking gentleman with the square jaw and side-whiskers, but if that's the Jamaica Governor another picture will have to be invented.

REED SMOOT, the Mormon's senator from Utah, whose expulsion has been pending for some time, was given a certificate of character by the Republican majority and will retain his seat to the end of his term. Were Smoot a democrat his expulsion would have been precipitate as that of Congressman Roberts. A man's morals should make no difference in the matter of politics.

IT is now reported that Evelyn Nesbit Thaw broke down and utterly collapsed after she had been so long and so severely cross-examined by Jerome. But not until she had helped her husband in every possible way and had, with the friendly assistance of Delmas, parried and weakened the savage onslaughts of the district attorney. And she made an ideal witness for the defense, swearing like a major-general when hard pressed.

Is it possible that private protests from northern white people prevented Roosevelt from appointing negroes to Ohio offices? Three weeks ago it was all the talk in partisan circles and now the colored man and brother is wondering where those offices are "at." It all depends upon who is to be humiliated or has to do with negroes as to whether they are named for public offices. Consistency is a jewel with which Roosevelt is unacquainted.

In view of the fact that a lot of the Nebraska editors signed contracts with a Colorado railroad man, for the sort of transportation which they would not think of accepting from a Nebraska road, the recent newspaper convention in Omaha very wisely said nothing about Mr. Maupin's alleged offense in writing to railway officials concerning advertising tickets for convention purposes. The incident simply afforded an excuse for a lot of silly talk before the meeting.

WISDOM and sarcasm not infrequently camp upon the same side of the creek and have been known to sleep side by side o' nights. An Eastern paper this week said: "President Roosevelt, who, of course, is standard authority on all subjects, says that it requires rough sport to instill courage. Yet it is a fact that half the pugilists are arrant cowards in a real rough and tumble fight, and that the bravest soldiers who ever distinguished themselves in battle were shy, retiring and unassuming men. Courage isn't knocked into a man. It is born in him or is a minus quantity."

### State Rights and Monopoly.

President Roosevelt may be right in saying, as he did in his Harvard speech, that the state's rights cry is swelled by great monopoly magnates who desire to interpose the reserved rights of the states between themselves and the kind of regulation he wants to give them through federal action.

This being so, President Roosevelt only strengthens the hands of these magnates by his general assault upon the reserved rights and powers of the state governments.

The monopolists did not invent the principles of state's rights and local self-government. They have often been as ready as Mr. Roosevelt himself to override these principles and to disregard state lines whenever these stood in their way.

But in every county of the United States the principle of local self-government is cherished as the most precious inheritance of the American people. Unbounded as is the patriotic devotion to the federal government, the people will never consent to substitute its power and control for state power and control in the relations of life which the constitution leaves in the hands of the state governments.

The people desire the federal government to exercise its legitimate and constitutional powers in any and all ways that may promote their welfare. But in the last analysis they would rather side with monopoly magnates shouting for state rights than with a president who practically denies the existence of such rights whenever they interpose barriers to anything he wants to do.

The president will make a fatal mistake if he encourages resistance to his reform measures by pushing too far the issue whether the states have any rights at all which the federal government is bound to respect.

### Pass the Ship Subsidy Measure.

In the final vote of 155 to 144, the ship subsidy measure passed congress yesterday. The Nebraska members divided on the matter. After the legislature had adopted a resolution almost unanimously instructing the members of congress from the state to vote against the measure, it seems that they divided equally—3 for and 3 against the bill. Congressman Pollard was one of the three that voted for the bill.

The resurrection in the house of representatives of the moribund ship-subsidy bill near the fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour of the session is tolerably convincing evidence that monopoly is more potent in this republican congress than the preference of the people who created the law-making body. The bill, passed by the senate at the last session, was shelved in the house because Speaker Cannon and his assistant bosses in the house knew, as they still know, that public sentiment in the west is immovably opposed to this gift of the people's money to favored interests in which the west has no share. But it seems that the pressure brought to bear by the president and the shipbuilders has been too strong for Speaker Cannon and his lieutenants to withstand. The speaker is potent only so long as he works in a good understanding with the dispenser of patronage in the White House, and the White House had set its heart on the subsidy. While readily assenting to the denial of the money for betterments of river navigation which the commerce of the middle west sorely needs, Mr. Cannon and other republican congressmen from this part of the country would be more cordially welcomed home if they had stood out against this measure which sluices the money off into another direction. But, though boss of the house, Mr. Cannon is not his own master. He must bend his neck to the yoke of the interests and influences which control his party.

STEPS are about to be taken to increase Secretary Loeb's salary. Since it is Loeb who acts as the buffer between the president and the thousand and one cranks who want to see him, perhaps the raise would be justifiable.

A LINCOLN firm advertised "sale of muslin underwear now on." How in the thunder are they going to show the goods if they're already on?

THE ship owners who were reaching out to grab a fat subsidy have only the Dutchman's flea. When they put their hands on it, it wasn't there. Rosey and Uncle Joe were badly sat down upon at the last moment.

TO THE credit of Henshaw, Kinkaid and McCarthy, congressmen from Nebraska, be it said that they voted against the ship subsidy bill. Our own member, Mr. Pollard, be it ever remembered, voted for one of the most gigantic steals that congress ever fostered.

CONGRESS has declared war, but not on the Japs, or on any foreign nation. It is on bugs. The house voted \$118,000 a few days ago for the purpose of exterminating the insect pests that have been bothering the farmers so long. That's better than appropriating ten times that amount for a war fund.

SENATOR DUBOIS is to get \$40,000 for lecturing on Mormonism before chautauquas this summer. Senator Smoot ought to be able to do a great deal better, since the senate has allowed him to retain his seat as a member of that body.

"THE railroads will do little or no construction work while anti-railroad legislation is threatened," says A. H. Mohler, general manager of the Union Pacific. The railroads will go ahead with extensions just the same wherever they are found to be profitable. The threatened lassitude is only a lash to whip legislatures into line.

BEGINNING March 5, Senator Tillman has engaged to deliver a lecture every week day, save three, up to November 20. For the lectures the Senator is to receive \$200 each, and his gross earnings for the period will be \$43,000. If he could only take the senate minstrels on this tour he would be in the millionaire class before the end of the year.

A PERSISTENT rumor is in the air that the New York subtreaury, doubtless influenced by the St. Louis and Chicago cash disappearances, has become jealous and is to admit an even larger steal than was pulled off by the republicans in both the western cities. The disappearance of money when in custody of a republican has long ceased to be startling and that no one is ever punished for stealing it is now taken as a party matter of course.

AMONG the Nebraska postmasters appointed by President Roosevelt that were confirmed by the senate last week, we note that of Chester H. Smith of Plattsmouth. The patrons of the office have cause to congratulate themselves upon the reappointment and confirmation of one who has given such universal satisfaction as postmaster. Mr. Smith is every inch a gentleman, and has demonstrated to a dead moral certainty that he is "right man in the right place."

BEATRICE SUN: The mettle of our "Boy Governor" was put to the test in the 2-cent fare bill, and he was found decidedly deficient in the material that goes to make up a strong executive. Last fall the 2-cent rate was made the campaign slogan. "Sheldon and 2-cent fare" was heard upon every hand. Today the governor has discredited his campaign and has refused to sign the bill which was urged as one of the reasons for his election. The possibility that the railroads will fight the measure is no justification for the attitude of the governor. The legislature might as well have said that it was useless to pass the bill for the same reason. Nebraska has been cursed by weaklings in the executive chair for many years, and the hope of anything better has vanished with the refusal of "The Boy Governor" to sign the bill.

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GOVERNOR SHELDON'S sympathy with the railroads was a surprise to those who do not realize that platforms are built to get in on not to ride on.

ALTHOUGH American business interests are not dependent upon German finances, still it will do no harm to hearken to the words of Herr Gamp, a Free Conservative, spoken in the Reichstag. He advises great caution in handling American railway securities, saying that the railroads are so badly constructed that a reaction is certain to come. The facts are greatly exaggerated, but it will be well for the railroads to correct the mistaken impression. A bad reputation abroad will be found most inconvenient if it happens that foreign capital is needed to float construction bonds.

MR. DELMAS, of counsel for Harry Kendall Thaw, now on trial in New York for the murder of Stanford White, announced in open court, last Wednesday, that the end of the famous hearing would likely come this week. As the trial advances, the line of questioning followed by District Attorney Jerome indicates that he, probably, will request the appointment of a lunacy commission to decide upon the present status of the defendant's mental condition. Dr. Evans, the noted New England alienist, in testifying for the defense, positively stated that Thaw is not now and never was insane in the generally accepted interpretation of that word. The doctor declared that the prisoner is suffering from a melancholia to which could be attributed the deed that resulted in the architect's death.

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