

The Plattsmouth Journal

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT with a toothache must be as comfortable as a giraffe with a sore throat.

THE Missouri river proposes to help along the boom in Plattsmouth by returning to its old channel.

HAVING once lunched at the White House, even Booker Washington may some day lose his reputation for veracity.

DON'T go back on a young man, girls, because he's poor. Listen to this: An Indiana girl married a laboring man whom she supposed to be penniless has had her happiness wrecked by discovering that he is worth \$200,000.

PLATTSMOUTH is at present on the boom, and every citizen should grasp the opportunity to assist it along. Property is steadily advancing and changing hands, new people are coming in daily to buy property and make this their future homes, and now all we will have to do to keep up the boom is to muzzle a few knockers.

If Harriman expected any immediate dividends from his \$50,000 presidential stock in 1904, he is destined to be disappointed. All the others have realized upon their in favors and withheld prosecutions. Roosevelt has been as tender to campaign fund raisers as Jerome, and Jerome is the limit.

If the newspapers can be relied upon, and they generally can in matters of fact, the Peoria Herald-Transcript has put the quietus upon the opposition to low passenger fares by this: "A horrible thing has happened to the Nebraska railroads. After operating three months under the confiscatory two-cent rate their earnings show an increase."

GOVERNOR SHELDON has disapproved of the cigarette bill introduced by McMullen. The bill prohibited the smoking of cigarettes by boys under 18, and McKissen added a senate amendment to prohibit the spitting of tobacco juice by minors in any public place. The governor held that the bill presupposed a violation of the Casebeer anti-cigarette law. According to the law on the statute books, cigarette smoking is unlawful. This measure has been found defective by the courts.

THE railroad commission is paying off the campaign workers last fall. Clark Perkins of Aurora, secretary of the republican state committee, has been selected secretary of the commission, and his salary fixed at \$2,000 a year. U. G. Powell of Lincoln has been elected rate expert at a salary of \$150 per month. C. W. Crosthwaite was elected stenographer at \$70 a month. The taxpayers will in time find out that this body of office-holders will prove a most expensive luxury about the time it begins to play into the hands of the railroad managers.

NEITHER the Thaw trial nor Delmas eloquence can wholly obscure the plight of the president by the publication of the Harriman letter. The Columbus Press-Post sarcastically shows him to be as firm of purpose as was Lady McBeth on a most memorable occasion: "What a series of unhappy misunderstandings has grown out of those contributions of \$50,000 each to the republican campaign fund for New York in 1904? They have had the effect of breaking up the old-time friendships between the president and E. H. Harriman and the other generous gentlemen and heads of corporations who whacked up the contributions so liberally in the hour of danger. The president knew nothing about them, in the Spartan sense, until they were found out. Then he was too firm purposed to resign."

THE package that President Roosevelt handed to Harriman was very neatly wrapped, but the lemon was inside just the same.

A ROSE has been named after President Roosevelt, but like all other flowers of the same variety it has its compliment of thorns.

It really seems strange that San Francisco and Philadelphia are so distant from each other when we read of the characteristics of government and graft which prevail in each.

REPUBLICANS now admit graft and padded payrolls in the alleged construction of the alleged Panama canal. It's high time somebody was being called a liar for thinking all was not immaculate upon the scandal-breeding isthmus.

THE legislature passed a total of 221 bills, of which ninety-six were senate files and 125 were house rolls. Gov. Sheldon signed 204 bills and vetoed fifteen. Two bills became laws without his action. Of the bills vetoed eleven were house rolls and four senate files.

It is said that when President Roosevelt read the resolutions indorsing his administration, passed by the seven members of the Nebraska legislature who remained to notify the governor that the body was about to adjourn, he brushed away a tear of gratitude and ordered a highball in honor of the occasion.

A LITTLE town in the western part of the state has solved the mail-order problem and has solved it in a very practical way. The merchants of that town have taken up the matter of advertising in the local papers, and are conducting a systematic campaign along that line. The result has been all that was expected. People who used to send away for goods now buy them at home. The same policy will work in any community.

GOVERNOR FOLK has commuted to life imprisonment the sentence of the pair of double-dyed murderers, Aggie Myers and Frank Hottman, for killing the former's husband, Clarence Myers, in Kansas City, nearly three years ago. This action upon the part of the chief executive was hardly unexpected and it will receive the approval of the general public, not because it thinks they do not deserve death by hanging, but because of the unacknowledged though keenly felt objection to hanging a woman for any cause.

Wm. J. BRYAN, in a lecture at Kansas City Monday night, praised churches and other institutions for their refusal to accept "tainted money," and said: "I am glad to see this question agitated. I am sanguine enough to believe that this struggle over accepting money which has been amassed by questionable means will be yet settled on the side of ethics and morality. I believe the time is coming when great educational institutions will refuse to give respectability to great criminals by going into partnership with them. We are too prone to measure morality at the door of the penitentiary. We forget that there are many criminals outside of prison doors."

THE veracity issue is water-logged. The Wall Street Summary, a newspaper from its very location and environments expected to sing low as to presidential criticism, gets out from under the Big Stick far enough to make this thrust at the pugnacious occupant of the White House: "Verily, the veracity issue is spreading! To the announcement that a Rockefeller-Harriman-Hearst conspiracy existed to control the next presidential conventions and to defeat Roosevelt's policies, which, it was alleged, was first made public by Senator Penrose, that gentleman comes forward with a sweeping denial that he ever made such an assertion, and virtually proclaims his loyalty to the president. Now, what will Mr. Roosevelt say?"

GOVERNOR SHELDON has finished his work on the bills passed by the legislature and out of the various appropriation bills he cut a total of \$249,411. This leaves the total appropriations of the legislature \$3,241,780.90. The appropriations cut out areas follows: Wolf bounty, \$35,000; deficiency wolf bounty, \$22,411; and a deficiency on the deficiency, \$2,000; for a wing to be built at the Kearney Normal school, \$85,000; for a new building at the Beatrice Institution for Feeble Minded, \$30,000; for Yukon-Alaskan exposition, \$15,000; for a gymnasium for the Institution for Deaf and Dumb at Omaha, \$30,000; for an engine and boiler at the Peru Normal school, \$5,000; for a building at the Grand Island Soldiers' home, \$325,000. All the other appropriation bills that passed were signed.

DOESN'T it look sort of funny for a state legislature to pass a law setting aside the federal statutes? That is what the Nebraska legislature did when it passed the bill preventing railroads from enjoining the collection of taxes. While the railroads have made themselves very unpopular by their course in attempting to resist the collection of taxes, they cannot be denied the same rights that other people enjoy.

An investigation into the construction of the Pennsylvania capitol discloses the fact that contractors were permitted to use American glass, which cost \$27,329, in place of French plate, for which they received \$138,757, a net profit to the contractor of \$111,428. In the land of Matthew Quay and the Quaker fathers they believe in standing up for American glass and American contractors, even if the people do have to pay the freight.

THE Louisville Courier-Journal thus tells us how to understand the fine points in the question just at present knocking at the White House door for answer: "Mr. Bat Masterson, moralist, publicist, political economist, official bad man of the west, simplified speller and leg man for a sporting paper, has handed down his decision as to the merits of the Harriman-Roosevelt controversy. Certified copies should be furnished to persons who do not understand the knotty points in the debate."

THE Beatrice Sun hits the nail right square on the head thusly: "Quite a number of laws passed by the late legislature had an emergency clause attached and became operative as soon as they were approved by the governor. So far as the general public is concerned, there is no knowledge of what these laws are or whom they effect. And yet, ignorance is no excuse for a violation of the law. An act requiring that all laws that become operative upon passage should be printed in the newspapers of the state, would meet a long felt want."

THE government secret service men who seem to be afraid that they will discover where the \$173,000 missing United States money went, which so mysteriously disappeared from the Chicago sub-treasury some six weeks ago, broke into publicity Tuesday by searching a negro scrub woman's shanty in that city. The only discovery they made was that they were being made monkeys by some newly licensed sleuth from Podunk or Coon Hollow. And the money? It's gone!

"HOWEVER sincere and capable President Roosevelt may be there are other men of sufficient integrity and force to take up the work. To deny this would be to cast grave doubts upon the efficiency and stability of the republican form of government." This editorial paragraph from a newspaper which is the president's strong advocate concisely summarizes the attitude of the general public in the question. The idea of one man's perpetuating himself in office is repugnant to the very principles upon which the government is founded.

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Taft as a Stool Pigeon.

The over-tired public has begun to suspect that the handy and tractable Taft is being advisedly used by Roosevelt as a stool-pigeon to draw the fire of the president's enemies and decoy the unsuspecting friends of the former into the Rough Rider net. Evidences of this have already cropped out and the regularity with which prominent republicans in widely separated parts of the country announce for a third term gives color of probability to the conspiracy, says the Kansas City Post.

Taft has always been as putty in the president's hands. His bump of self-respect is not as prominently developed as is Root's and he unquestionably obeys indirect commands which Root would resent and flatly refuse to tolerate. Being hale-fellow-well-met with all, and his long experience in public life being taken into account in jolly-ing the impressionable, it is not surprising that the astute Roosevelt uses him to decoy strength to himself while ostensibly being out of the running.

That the present occupant of the White House is most desperately desirous of running again is patent to those who understand the diplomatic finesse with which objects desired are ostensibly rejected, but rejected like Caesar rejected the crown—in such a manner as made it unmistakable that his whole heart was set upon it. His every move is eloquent with a pantomime which beseeches the public to look upon him as the one only deserving in this entire country, the one man who is properly equipped to be at the helm of the ship of state and who is capable of successfully guiding it upon the turbulent waters of the sea of national unrest.

And Taft is the complacent dummy around which reserve strength is to be rallied and thrown to Roosevelt at the moment the claqueured stampee is sprung in the national convention. It's already as good as a play.

SECRETARY TAFT, who is spending some time down in Cuba trying to pacify the various conflicting elements centered there, has indicated that the United States troops will be withdrawn about July 4, 1908, when the control of Cuban affairs will again be turned over to the Cubans. The Liberals are anxious that the final elections be held in December, 1907, and the government turned over May 20, 1908, the anniversary of the inauguration of the first Cuban republic. They also want the municipal and provincial elections held simultaneously. The Conservatives, on the other hand, desire that the final elections be held later than next December, and that the municipal and provincial elections be held six months apart. While the "pot-gutted" tool of Roosevelt is doing his bidding in Cuba, Foraker is sawing wood like a good fellow in the Buckeye state.

AND still they come. More prominent republicans are being caught in the dragnet in the west. They range in size from United States senator to entry clerks, and now that they are being dragged into the limelight of exposure they "holer" persecution, as do the criminals when first caught. It is not forgotten that Cornelius N. Bliss said, when accused in the insurance fund-losing investigation, "My word should be sufficient to refute it," and how his photographed receipts for the looted money were scattered all over New York within a few hours after he had entrapped himself. Since then he has sung low.

MR. BRYAN thus handles the alleged White House scare over the alleged scare of the office-holders' union as to a fund being raised to discredit and defeat Roosevelt: "The president seems unduly excited over the alleged \$5,000,000 raised in Wall street to prevent his re-election. If Wall street is opposed to any doctrine held by President Roosevelt, it is certainly not a republican doctrine. When we came up against the corporation fund in 1896, we found no more ardent champion of these special interests than Mr. Roosevelt."

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KEARNEY people seem to be considerably worked up over Governor Sheldon's cut-out of the appropriation for the normal school at that place. And the Kearney papers do not comment upon the action of the governor in the kindest manner.

THE St. Louis Post-Dispatch took the prize for unveiling sarcasm in this timely allusion to a live question: "Truthful George Washington declined a third term and meant what he said. Let us wait and see what Truthful Theodore Roosevelt means."

THE Louisville Courier-Journal dismisses it thusly: "In 1904 Mr. Roosevelt said to Mr. Harriman, 'You and I are practical men,' but in 1907 Mr. Harriman is a deliberate liar," while Mr. Roosevelt is a staintess patriot who never knew anything about campaign funds in 1904."

THE St. Louis Republic says: "A citizen of Nebraska offers \$100 in gold to every couple who marry in his county. There are perhaps pessimists who would insist that the only difference between this man and the ordinary bunko steerer is that the Nebraskan offers his gold in the shape of coins instead of bricks." This man doesn't reside in Cass county. They marry in this county fast enough without any such inducements. Our girls are all pretty and accomplished, and the young man who secures one of them for a wife, thinks he is getting that which is worth more than a gold mine.

NEW YORK has had two of the longest drawn-out court trials this country ever saw. Both were noted for the prominence of the principals, the lawyers engaged and the wealth directly or indirectly involved. The most noted, and possibly the longest, was the celebrated damage case of Tilton vs. Beecher, now thirty-three years ago. Theodore Tilton, noted editor and lecturer, sued Henry Ward Beecher, noted author, lecturer and pulpit orator, for \$100,000 for alienating his wife's affections. The trial was bitterly contested by the ablest counsel in America, William M.

Evarts being chief of counsel for the defendant, and Judge Fullerton for the plaintiff. It was more sensational and perhaps more harmful to public morals than the Thaw trial and for a time made pastoral calls of less frequent occurrence in the entire United States. In that case, as in the Thaw case, the jury disagreed, standing nine to three for the defendant. Tilton then dismissed the case and at once started out on a lecturing tour to retrieve his fallen fortune. The subject of his lecture was the "Problem of Human Life." He made an entire failure on the trip.

Ten Questions for Mr. Roosevelt.

The New York World again asks Mr. Roosevelt to answer the ten questions which it asked October 1, 1904, as follows:

1. How much has the Beef Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
2. How much has the Paper Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
3. How much has the Coal Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
4. How much has the Sugar Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
5. How much did the Oil Trust contribute to Mr. Cortelyou?
6. How much has the Tobacco Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
7. How much has the Steel Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
8. How much has the Insurance Trust contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
9. How much have the national banks contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?
10. How much have the six great railroad trusts contributed to Mr. Cortelyou?

Those questions are now, if possible, more pertinent and timely than they were then. This because of the hair-trigger willingness to call men liars who are above the very faintest suspicion of such characteristics and who refrain from resenting the insult because of the official position of the frenzied accuser.

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