

The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, PUBLISHER

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BRACE yourself for a shock. The President is preparing to let loose another special message.

A BOSTON paper speaks of the "shot-gun Democracy of the South." But the Democracy of the South never scatters.

THE Congress owned by Joe Cannon will probably revise the tariff on the day the Panama canal opens up its box office.

MR. TAFT seems to be the kind of a man who will not let go of one job to grab for another until he sees which way he is going to fall.

It would now appear as the Chicago convention draws near, that Roosevelt might wish to swap positions with Foraker on the Brownsville affair.

TAFT'S "leave well enough alone" policy has closed fifteen manufacturing plants at St. Louis, throwing 30,000 working men out of work during the past week.

WHAT a fortunate thing it is we have a Congressional Record. If it were not for that, 99 per cent of the stuff supposed to be uttered in Congress would not break into print.

THE republicans of Fremont have placed in nomination only candidates for councilmen. All other city officials will hold over a year. They are, evidently, guided by the new law.

So far we have not been able to find a democrat who says he will vote for Taft if Bryan is nominated, but we've found several hundred republicans who say they will vote for Bryan if Taft is nominated. That helps some.

OTHER cities in Nebraska of the size of Plattsmouth are arranging to entertain visitors during the summer months by giving weekly out-door exhibitions. They want business and are thus reaching out after it. People generally go where they are invited, and such an energetic class of merchants always pull the trade from far and near.

THE democratic county conventions now being held over in Iowa, are falling over themselves in seeing which can bring out the best endorsement for Bryan for the presidency. That's the way it will be all over this country when election time comes. It will be a regular ratification meeting of the voters of this country, and the greatest living statesman and democrat of this country will occupy the presidential chair and he will be from the great state of Nebraska.

RAILROAD men and others who have felt the mailed hand of the federal government manifested by injunction suits, are not warming up to the idea of Taft, who was extremely active with injunctions, when a federal judge, being advanced to a place where in the due course of events he will have the appointment of several supreme and district judges. It is not expected that Taft as president would appoint judges who opposed his own beliefs and policies; and the railroads would hail his use of the appointing power as a decided means of strengthening them in all labor troubles with their employes.

THE Lincoln Journal says: "The man who runs for governor on the democratic ticket in Nebraska, thinking that Mr. Bryan will pull him through to victory will be sorry after the election that he didn't invest his money in something of value." When one reads between these lines it easily seen that the poor old Journal crew are very fearful of the situation in Nebraska. Voters are in a far different mood at the present time to what they have been for many years, and they are not only ready for a change in the administration at Washington but are also demanding a clean sweep of the capital at Lincoln. The State Journal is beginning to get a little shaky at the outlook for cutting off its "rations," and may set it down right now that Mr. Bryan will not only carry Nebraska, but will pull the entire state ticket through with him.

CITY ELECTION Tuesday, April 7. One councilman in each of the five wards to elect, and also two members of the school board.

THREE good things to push—a baby carriage, a pencil and the good roads movement. Are you going to be a pusher or a knocker?

A DISCIPLE of Emma Goldman arises to remark that she has just as much right to talk as Roosevelt. Maybe so. But we doubt her ability.

THE dispatches say that reactionaries in Michigan have caused the Cannon supporters to "crawl." That will probably give Uncle Joe the "creeps."

PEOPLE once in awhile get very tired of the monkey business. And it seems that is just what the new light company is doing with Plattsmouth people.

BUSINESS failures for the week ending March 12, numbered 276, as against 287 the previous week. The republican papers show signs of being pleased thereby.

THE democrats of Nebraska City have organized a Bryan club with several hundred members. Hon. H. H. Hanks is the chairman. What's the matter with Plattsmouth following suit?

IS THERE anything being done on the proposed new electric light system? Or is the old plant to continue doing inferior service? The citizens are getting tired of promises that are not fulfilled. Where, oh where is Bortenlanger?

CHAIRMAN NEW, of the republican national committee, announces that all contests will be heard on their merits, with no thought as to the preferences of contests for any candidate or candidates. But we fancy that the swat of the "big stick" will be in evidence, nevertheless.

THE republican in 1906 gave as a reason for the hard times was due to the tinkering with the tariff. Now comes the republicans of the east and the Taft supporters boldly asserting that it will soon be time to tinker with tariff. Were they lying in 1906 or are they lying now.

SOME republican papers would like to make it appear that W. H. Thompson is very sore over his defeat for delegate-at-large to the Denver convention. The Grand Island Democrat, published at the home of the "Little Giant," denies this, and says "Thompson is a good loser, and he exhibits no sore spots."

It may as well be put down as settled that so sure as Wm. J. Bryan lives he will be the democratic standard bearer of 1908. And unless the republican leaders show less inclination to discredit Roosevelt than in common in the big corporation owned dailies, Theodore Roosevelt will be found giving silent consent to the Bryan program. This country will never again be as corporation ridden as it has been. To live and maintain our liberty we must have more individualism. There are thousands of independent thinking republicans in Nebraska and hundreds of thousands in the United States that will support Bryan for president if they can't have Roosevelt. There are many reforms the people are demanding and willing to take Bryan in order to get them in place of some republican that will in the end cater to the money interests of the east.

THE Beveridge bill provides that "there is hereby created a commission which shall be known as the tariff commission," and that "said commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; that said commission shall be appointed solely with a view to qualifications as specified in this act, and without regard to political affiliations," etc. Such a commission would be absolutely unconstitutional. It would be a usurpation of the exclusive rights of the House of Representatives to originate revenue bills. Whatever its functions might be, whoever might be its members (Democrats or Republicans, both or neither), it would deprive the people's immediate representatives, and therefore, in effect, the people themselves, of laying the taxes; for "laying" taxes includes both the suggestion and the enactment of the rates of taxation. To exact a tax means the laying as well as the collection of it; and it could be neither laid nor collected until it had been proposed.

REPRESENTATIVE HAMLIN of Missouri drove a nail home when he proved that the "late panic" was caused by the republicans.

IT'S pretty cheap to buy a nomination with left-over pie, but that is what Taft seems to be trying to do at the expense of Roosevelt.

AFTER Taft gets the nomination that his brother is spending so much money for, he'll probably be referred to by republican as "our invincible leader."

PERRY BELMONT said in Washington that New York would certainly go democratic this fall and that the party will elect the next president. All of which demonstrates the good quality of Perry's judgment.

SINCE the state debt has been climbing upward and onward under our present state tax exorbitancy, you have not been hearing so much loud talk about how easy it is to pay off and wipe out the state's indebtedness.

WILLIAM R. HEARST is about the worst blackslider the democratic party ever had. Because he could not nominate himself for president he will no longer play in the same back yard. Hearst acts like a spoiled child.

DISPATCHES Monday announced the opening of a steel mill at Sharon, Penn., and in the same columns the news is conveyed that mines in the Missouri-Kansas lead and zinc district are rapidly closing down. Rather a mixed condition in the metal situation.

THE man who takes so many away-from-home papers that he can not take the local paper, is the man who gets maddest when the local dealer tells him that he has bought too many potatoes away from home to buy the home-grown product. It pays to be consistent at all times.

LABOR Unions give the following reasons why they will not support Taft if nominated: "Because his records on injunctions is bad; because he is antagonistic to the working man; because he has shown himself a foe to organized labor; because his proclivities are for trusts."

A special from Fremont, under date of March 18, says: "William N. Allen, former United States senator, who was in Fremont today said that although he is a delegate to the populist national convention, he will not attend that meeting, for the reason that he could not consistently do so when he expects to support W. J. Bryan."

REPUBLICANS who are individuals of "the system" are against Roosevelt. Those who are against Teddy are against Taft. It looks like Taft is doomed to political oblivion if he is not nominated and is threatened with a land slide if he is nominated. So there he is! He is doomed if he does and he's doomed if he don't.

PARTIES seem to be engaged in canvassing the city for the purpose of ascertaining the number of electric lights and gas jets in use in each residence and business house. This is done, evidently, previously to the turning of the old plant over to the new one, or something to that effect. We hope so, if it is for the betterment of the lighting system.

THE attorney general of South Dakota in reply to the question from the State Press association whether the anti-pass law of that state is a bar to newspaper contracts for railroad advertising to be paid for in transportation, holds that such contracts are valid and lawful if made in good faith. The South Dakota law is practically identical to the Nebraska law upon this matter.

SENATOR WILLIAM JAMES BRYAN of Florida died at the Providence Hospital in Washington Sunday morning. In Mr. Bryan the senate loses the seventh member by death since the adjournment of the Fifty-ninth congress on March 4, a year ago. They were the two late senators from Alabama, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Pettus; Mr. Mallory of Florida, Mr. Latimer of South Carolina, Mr. Proctor of Vermont, Whyte of Maryland, and Mr. Bryan. Curiously, the last two were the oldest and the youngest members of the body. Mr. Whyte was 84 years old and Mr. Bryan less than 32.

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True to Life.

The Park College Record, a paper published at the college, in Parkville, Mo., has the following to say regarding Mr. Bryan's recent visit to that well known educational institution:

Hon. William Jennings Bryan visited Park College on Monday. He said he came at his own invitation, but that he had had many invitations and made many promises to come. The exact time of his coming was his own appointment. We were ready for him and we gave him a regulation college welcome. College faculty, students and people of the vicinity were all out to hear him. He spoke for an hour and a quarter, not on politics, but something larger and more important. His subject was, first, oratory: "The man and his message;" and secondly, he spoke on "Faith," or, we would say, the elements that win. Mr. Bryan sets forth high ideals of life. He is large of heart. The whole human race is within his vision. He thinks of the world and for the world. The burden of the common people weighs down upon his shoulders. He listens to their cries. He knows their needs. He becomes one to use all human instrumentality to uplift and ennoble. He loves man. Upon his hear the bears the youth of America. After his speech he shook hands with every man, woman child, white and black, who approached him for that purpose. He stood among the college boys for his picture.

Though this was his first visit, Mr. Bryan has long known Park College. He gave an exhibition of his friendship for our work years ago when, a trustee of the Bennett estate, he gave the College \$750.00. His presence and speech were an inspiration to the whole college circle.

Echoes of "My Policies"

The Sedalia (Mo.) Democrat-Sentinel says: The closing of the Missouri Pacific shops for an indefinite period has already resulted in scores of shopmen leaving the city, and other scores are arranging to follow.

The following from the St. Louis Republic of Sunday presents the situation in a nutshell, and should receive careful perusal and earnest consideration:

"General Manager A. W. Sullivan, of the Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain system, announced yesterday that the road's shops at different points will be closed indefinitely, owing to a decrease in the volume of traffic. Mr. Sullivan declared that the rumor of trouble with the labor unions is absurd, as the employes and their organizations are duly regarded by the officials.

"Work was to have been resumed in the shops tomorrow. But Mr. Sullivan said that the traffic indications were not satisfactory enough to resume operations. Strict economy, to meet the decreased earnings from lighter business, is imperative.

"Approximately 4,000 men will remain out of work indefinitely. It is expected that similar action will be taken by other roads, as the laying off of employes of the operating, mechanical, engineering and auditing departments of the western and southwestern lines has been general. It is also expected that many trainmen will be let out by the different roads in the next few weeks.

HERE IS WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The Same is Variousy Construed by the Legal Lights as to the City Election on Tuesday, April 7, 1908.

There has been various opinions as to the election of mayor, police judge and city treasurer and clerk at the election to occur on Tuesday, April 7, on account of the following law, which says plainly when these officials shall be elected. We copy the following section (8311) of the law enacted at the last session of the last legislature, that those who are interested may learn just what it is:

At the annual election held in April, 1907, a Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk, Police Judge and Water Commissioner in Cities not owning their own lighting plant shall be elected by a plurality of votes for the term of two years and biennially thereafter; but the passage of this act shall not shorten the terms office for which any of the said officers above mentioned may have been heretofore elected, and all of said officers heretofore elected shall hold their office until their successors are elected and qualified under and by virtue of the provisions of this Act. Elections shall be held in all cities governed by this Act for the election of Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk, Police Judge and Water Commissioner in Cities not owning their own lighting plant, at one and the same time. The council of each city governed by the Act shall consist of two members for each ward, who shall be qualified electors of said city. Each councilman, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall be required to give bond to the city, with two or more good and sufficient sureties, or some responsible surety company; if by two sureties, they shall each justify that he is worth, at least, two thousand dollars over and above all debts and exemptions. Such

bonds shall be in the sum of one thousand dollars, and shall be conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of the councilman giving the same, and shall be further conditioned that if the said councilman shall vote for any expenditure or appropriation of money or creation of any liability in excess of the amount allowed by law, such councilman, and the sureties signing said bond, shall be liable thereon. Said bond shall be filed with the City Clerk and approved by the Mayor and any liability sought to be incurred, or debt created in excess of the amount limited, or authorized, by law, shall be taken and held by every court of the state as the joint and several liability and obligation of the councilman voting for and the Mayors approving the same, and not the debt, liability, or obligation, or debt, shall be conclusive evidence of malfeasance in office for which such councilman, or mayor, may be removed from office. Each councilman shall be a resident of the ward from which he is elected. All councilmen's terms of office shall commence the first Tuesday succeeding the day of election upon which day they shall assemble and organize a city council and their term of office shall be two years; Provided that at said election held in April, 1907, one councilman shall be elected from each ward for the term of two years, and an election of councilmen; and any vacancy in the office of councilman shall be filled at any such election; And Provided Further that no elective officer of said city shall hold any county office, nor shall he be appointed to any office created by the council; and the acceptance of any county office by any such elective city officer shall be a vacation of said city office so held prior to said acceptance.

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