

The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, PUBLISHER.

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After these four days of March, it must be admitted that the weather bureau is doing some good work. But then maybe, it is only preparing to jolt the people the harder when it does turn loose.

The action of the house in defeating the 7 to 7 bill is commendable. Nebraska has the best liquor laws in the Union and there is no occasion to be changing them about and unsettling conditions. The living up to these laws by the saloon men is all that is required to show their efficiency and they are generally doing this the state over.

The republican press has been howling itself hoarse over the failure of the democratic legislature to pass a lot of laws, and now when the sifting committee gets to work and reports certain measures which will be passed, the same papers howl over the "steam roller." These gentlemen worry themselves much and unnecessarily. The legislature will pass the measures pledged by the democratic platform and that speedily, too.

The standard Oil crowd seem to have been quite successful in getting away from that big fine in the federal court. They did not fare so well in Texas and Missouri and have been having all kinds of trouble in getting settled up with those states. The effective handling of these trusts and corporations seems to lie with the courts appointed by the people and responsible to them instead of the courts appointed by the president and responsible to no one but the United States senate. And yet some people wonder why criticism is indulged in of the United States courts.

Small factories for Plattsmouth should be one of the slogans for the coming year. These factories are the forerunners of larger ones and are worth having. While each employes a few people the aggregate is large and they mean the spending of much money in the city. One of the best things Plattsmouth ever had is the numerous cigar factories in the city. They involve the expenditure of much money every month and have been an unending source of wealth for the business men and citizens generally. If they are successful they demonstrate that other factories can be so. If properly managed as the cigar factories have been. Boom the small factory and help in the up-building of the city.

The action of the senate committee in finding that President Roosevelt exceeded his authority when he permitted the steel trust to absorb the Tennessee Iron & Steel Company was to be expected. It was quite plain that nowhere had the President the right to permit what was so plainly a violation of the law and his action was all the more extraordinary because he has been so aggressive in his denunciation of trusts and their methods, and so aggressive and almost vindictive in his pursuit of some of them through the courts. The instruction to the Attorney General to commence suit to dissolve the merger will end in smoke without doubt as a case commenced under such conditions, can hardly be carried to a successful conclusion ever giving the Attorney General the greatest possible credit for good faith and honesty in the case.

The Journal is glad to note an awakening upon the question of building an interurban between this city and Murdock and Elmwood. The many advantages of the route have been pointed out so often that people are commencing to see them clearly. The thing now to do is to have the local business men get together and start in on building the line. The union of the west end of the county with this city by an electric road means hundreds of thousands of dollars to all concerned and means also,

big dividends to the promoters and owners of the line. Business interests alone would make this construction of this line a matter of vital importance to the people of Plattsmouth and Cass County. It is cheap to build this line and it can be put into service for practically half what a line from Omaha would cost. There are no heavy grades nor big bridges to construct. A public duty calls on the moneyed men of this section to take up this matter.

There are rumors in the air of the approach of the spring campaign for city offices. A number of worthy citizens have their ears to the ground hoping to hear the tread of coming mayoralty honors. So far as heard from a great many of these are desirous of the honor of heading the democratic ticket while some others are flirting with a so-called citizens' movement. The democrats have an abundance of excellent material and they can be depended upon to nominate men who will fill the several positions acceptably and with great credit to themselves and to the city. The meeting of the central committee should be held at once and preparations inaugurated to place a ticket in the field.

The attorneys for R. Mead Shumway, under sentence of death for murder, are making a desperate fight to save their client and are using every possible means to that end. The supreme court having declined to interfere, they now seek to have a commission appointed to investigate his sanity under the provisions of the recently enacted Wilson bill. Without special regard to the Shumway case, it is such matters as this which cause lynchings. The people tire of the law's delays and rise to the emergency and take the law into their own hands. The passage of the Wilson act may have been prompted by the highest humanitarian motives but at this time it looks of doubtful judgment.

Today marked the inauguration of William H. Taft as President of the United States. Without regard to party affiliations the people of the country welcome his advent as a harbinger of a more peaceful and contented condition of public affairs. After four years of the wild, harum scarum excitement and noise, it will be a great relief to have once more a President who will observe the constitution and the rights of the co-ordinate bodies of the government. With all due respect to the good intentions of Theodore Roosevelt, his methods have not been such as to produce a feeling of security with any class or any business interests. It required but little to set him going and then he bristled with fiery denunciation of men and affairs, causing consternation to reign where there should have been the varied satisfaction. And in the end he accomplished little by his outbursts. The good he did accomplish was done in his calmer moments and it is to be regretted he was not always calm. To William H. Taft the American people extend a hearty welcome and hope that his administration will be blessed with good and that it will be devoted to the genuine elevation of the rights of the people.

If this city, Murdock and Elmwood were connected by an electric road, there would be an immense increase in the business each of these towns would do. The interurbans of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio have united the cities and towns of the state together in a vast network and every one of them have felt the good influences which go with such a connection. There has been a large and steady increase in the business they have done. They have become not alone important retail points, competing with the larger cities, but they have become concentrating points for farm produce of all kinds and descriptions. By means of these roads farmers are enabled to reach the markets of the cities in a few moments where before hours were required. The freight business from the farm to the city by the electric line has grown to enormous proportions. The use of the telephone enables the farmer to know just what the market price is for anything he has to sell and the electric railroad

enables him to load the produce at his doors and hurry it to market, getting the advantage of the good prices of the day. Besides this the roads enable the people of the country to visit the cities and attend their little parties and celebrations, giving their families the benefit of the outing at small expense. All these things being taken into consideration, the value of a line through so wood and well settled a country as central Cass County can be readily seen. This line is too good a thing to be overlooked. The business men should boom it.

The first step in the carrying out of the democratic platform pledge to enact a bank guaranty law was taken yesterday in the house in passing a bill to that effect. The republicans tried to substitute the colorless Myers bill but failed. The bill now goes to the senate where it will receive the votes of the majority and then to Governor Shallenberger who will sign the bill, and give to Nebraska citizens a guarantee of their deposits in the banks. The enactment of the remaining platform pledges will be made speedily and then the legislature will adjourn. This is as it should be and will show the people of Nebraska no mistake was made in electing a democratic legislature and state government.

"The best laid plans of men and mice gang aft agley" certainly held good yesterday at Washington. After a week's preparation and much advertising, the inauguration of William H. Taft as twenty-seventh president of the United States, was confined to a parade of soldiers and to ceremonies in the senate chamber instead of out of doors. This was due to the weather bureau failing to produce the right kind of weather. A great blizzard prevailed in Washington and vicinity causing the stalling of trains and prostrating wires. Wireless telegraphy enabled those in New York to learn of the progress of affairs until 11:25 this morning. The reign of Theodore closed as it commenced strenuously and full of noise and fury. Today there will be peace.

On the Newspaper Job.

It is a great game is newspapering. It is a bug whose bite never heals. It is a web from whose meshes the entangled one finds extreme difficulty in disengaging himself. Its fascinations are impelling, its charms irresistible, and a paradox is established which we declare, with a feeling of confidence that every person so engaged will endorse the statement, that all who are in it have their spells of "cussing" it, the almost invariable result being that one who leaves it generally goes back to this fond but harshly berated love.

Now comes John Callan O'Laughlin, a newspaper correspondent to whom the President gave, a few weeks ago, appointed as assistant secretary of state. Just the other day another honor was tendered to Mr. O'Laughlin, that of going to the Argentine republic as a minister laden with diplomatic opportunities and powers.

The political field opened wide and green for Mr. O'Laughlin. He might have kept on until he became ambassador to the splendid court of St. James, or he might have filled a chair at the table where the chief executive's advisors sit.

But not for O'Laughlin, the newspaper man. He has turned his back on the state, war and navy building. He has respectfully informed the President that the dignities of a post in South America do not attract him. Preferring a typewriter, a stack of copy paper and a good story, he has decided to go back to some littered desk lighted by a dingy globe, and he'll be on the writing job again for the Chicago Tribune. And you never can understand why O'Laughlin does this strange thing, unless you are a newspaper man.—Lincoln Star.

Col. Bates of Cass county has introduced a bill to amend the libel law so it will be similar to the Minnesota law. It is house roll No. 496, and provides that the complaint shall be made within a certain time, and that retraction or correction shall be construed to show the motive. This is just what should have been

done years ago. It will give editors and other writers an opportunity to make amends for unintentional injury from reports of doings which have no foundation in fact.—Crest Democrat.

The proposal to nominate a citizen's ticket in this city should not receive serious consideration at the hands of the democratic city central committee. That body should at once call a democratic convention. That body is capable of naming efficient city officers and it should be done. There should be no cloaking of jobs under the guise of a citizen's ticket. The democrats should put forth a ticket which will define where it stands on vital issues before the voters and taxpayers of the city, and when it does this it will be doing its whole duty to the people. The theory that men will give the city business proper attention when they lack so little interest in the public welfare that they will not get out and make a fight to see the measures they believe in carried, is not founded upon sound reasoning. Let us have a ticket that will stand for something.

The hanging of R. Mead Shumway yesterday at Lincoln was an example of even-handed justice. There never was an occasion for the supreme court to have interfered in the execution and had it done so, it would have been taking a step which would not have been justified. The crime for which he was convicted was a wanton, cold-blooded and cruel murder and the jury which found him guilty acted upon the law and the evidence and their findings should not have been set aside. That the law was allowed to take its course is no more than right. Had there been extenuating circumstances surrounding the crime, people would not have been so unani-mously in favor of execution. It is abhorrent to the average man to commit hanging or the taking of human life even as a punishment but under the circumstances surrounding the Shumway case it was the only thing to do.

The building of the Interurban line from this city to Elmwood and Murdock ought to be urged by the business men of this city at once. Spring is opening up, capital is commencing to flow out into new investments we are assured by the eastern papers, and there is no good reason why it cannot be diverted this way. The state has a safe and stable government, a legislature which does not meditate any radical legislation and a broad and fertile field for improvements. The building of this road is something which every farmer along the line will appreciate and the Journal believes they will be willing to do their share toward aiding in the construction of the road. From personal talks with many farmers it can be said they are anxious to see the line built and whatever they can do to aid in it will be cheerfully done. The interest of the town in this line is so obvious that it needs no comment.

A Libel Suit.

Disowning either professional or selfish ends, and speaking purely in the interest of human justice, we wish to commend a bill introduced in the legislature by Col. Bates of Plattsmouth, known as H. R. 496, naming and stipulating the reasons which shall constitute grounds for bringing libel proceedings before a court.

Col. Bates' measure seeks to add no new statute to the books. It is only an amendment of an existing law, and is intended to prune from the old act those features which are not only an injustice to a publisher, but a stoppage upon such publicity of various matters as profusely belong to the people in general.

In this respect the bill of Col. Bates means to give a writer or publisher a chance to show good intent by providing, as is the case in several states, that complaint against alleged libel shall be made within a certain time and that retraction or correction shall be construed to show the intent. This is in accord with, but more explicit than, the bill of rights of Nebraska, which declares that truth when published with good motives and for justifiable

ends, shall be sufficient defense. While broad on its face, the latter is too indefinite and leaves star-eyed justice in a rather precarious position before a bad jury.

It is such defects that the Bates' bill desires to remedy. It aims to provide just punishment for intentional or malicious libel and at the same time protect the man or men who have told the truth without libellous intents. In this way the writer of a newspaper will be allowed to correct unintentional mistakes and thus clear himself or itself of the charge of premeditated libel.

There must be a libel law, and while it should be strict, it should not kill the many who are innocent simply to get hold of a few who are guilty. There are papers that must be held in check as well as there are papers that should be given a certain amount of liberty in presenting facts. The Bates' amendment will do this. Let it become a law.—Fremont Herald.

Card of Thanks.

The undersigned desires to return thanks for the many kindnesses shown them during the final illness and death of their beloved husband and father, and they especially desire to thank the Woodmen of the World for their kind offerings.

Mrs. Charles Teipel and family.

Charles Spence, now in business at Havelock, was in the city today and paid the Journal a call, renewing his subscription to the old reliable. His visit was an appreciated one.

Robt. Kendall, the well known and popular farmer from near Union was in the city this morning for a short time, continuing on to Omaha on the noon train of the Burlington.

An alarm of fire at 3:15 this afternoon took the department to the home of Prof. H. S. Austin on North Fifth street. The blaze did not amount to anything as it was merely some flames in a trunk. There was no loss.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

State of Nebraska, Cass County, ss.
In County Court.
In the matter of the estate of August Stohman, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administratrix of said estate, before me, County Judge of Cass County, Nebraska, at the County Court room in Plattsmouth, in said County, on the 8th day of March, 1909, and on the 8th day of September, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claim for examination, adjustment and allowance.
Six months are allowed for the creditors of said deceased to present their claims, and one year for the Administratrix to settle said estate, from the 8th day of March, 1909.
Witness my hand and seal of said County Court, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, this 8th day of February, 1909.
Allen J. Beeson,
County Judge.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In County Court.
In County Court.
In the matter of the estate of John B. Meisinger, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said estate will meet the executors of said estate, before me, County Judge of Cass County, Nebraska, at the County Court room in Plattsmouth, in said County, on the 29th day of March, 1909, and on the 29th day of September, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m., each day for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance.
Six months are allowed for the creditors of said deceased to present their claims, and one year for the executors to settle said estate, from the 29th day of March, 1909.
Witness my hand and seal of said County Court, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, this 1st day of March, 1909.
(Seal.)
Allen J. Beeson,
County Judge.
D. O. Dwyer,
Attorney for estate.

ROCKEFELLER SAW "THE LION AND THE MOUSE."

Standard Oil King Sees Production From a Seat in the "Peanut."

John D. Rockefeller saw "The Lion and the Mouse" for the first and only time in his life at the Euclid avenue opera house, Cleveland, Ohio, from a twenty-five cent gallery seat.

This fact is significant, in as much as the central character of Chas. Klein's great play is popularly supposed to represent John D. in its grasping and cunning methods of accumulating untold wealth. The character in the play is sneeringly referred to as "Ready Money" Ryder, the richest man in the world.

The fact that John D. saw the play only once and then from a seat in the "peanut" as the gallery gods are pleased to term that portion of the Cleveland theater where the Oil king took refuge when the "Lion and the Mouse" visited his native city, is a mystery to a great many people—because they reason that Rockefeller could buy all "The Lion and the Mouse" companies on earth and then never miss the money paid.

During the entire performance Rockefeller never once removed his hat, but, it is said, that he smiled frequently and at times even grew enthusiastic and applauded the actors.

The Lion and the Mouse will soon be with us again and it is certain not a few of us will relish the opportunity of again witnessing the performance, if for no other reason that to clear up a long lingering doubt as to whether or not Mr. Klein really dramatized John D. Rockefeller and his methods. At the Parmele Theater Thursday, March 11, 1909.

Breaks Record.

The Lincoln division of the Burlington yesterday had a special train standing in front of the depot ready to make a trip to Milford in twenty-five minutes after a telephone order had been received, and fifteen minutes before the physician who ordered it had arrived at the depot to take it. Julius E. Vance, a young banker of Milford, was taken suddenly ill during the forenoon and the physician in charge diagnosed the case as intestinal obstruction and advised that an operation must be performed without delay. Dr. McLeod of Lincoln was telephoned to come on a special train. The run to Milford was made as rapidly as the condition of the track would permit, but the record was made in getting a train ready for a trip in twenty-five minutes after the order was received. Mr. Vance was reported in a very fair way to recovery last night.—State Journal.

To Make Visit.

Henry and George Lohnes accompanied by their venerable mother Mrs. Catherine Lohnes came in this morning from Pekin and Peoria, Ill., to make a visit with Phillip Stoehr and family and John Lohnes and family near Cedar Creek. The two gentlemen are prominent and well known citizens of their locality and are enjoying a little vacation of several weeks. The aged Mrs. Lohnes stood the trip very well and was quite spry and active on her arrival here.

James A. Walker and wife of Murray came up this morning from their town for a visit in the city during the day. While here Mr. Walker paid his customary visit to this office where he was received as always, with much appreciation.

JUST RECEIVED

A Fresh Stock of

BULK CANDY

The kind that makes your mouth water

Gering & Co.
Druggists