

It is intimated that tonight the council will lead the long agony on the light question and redeem the pledge given the people to light Plattsmouth. It is sincerely to be hoped that this is the case. Lights are needed and that, too, badly.

In yesterday's St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the western edition of the New York World, the entire editorial page is taken up by a review of the Roosevelt administration and it is an exhortation of the President and his official acts well worth reading. Candid, calm and critical it passes in review the acts which have brought Mr. Roosevelt so prominently before the people. Now that he is stripped of the dignity of his high office, the big papers feel at liberty to speak of his shortcomings and his many and grievous failings and they do so with a frankness and unreservedness that is refreshing. The article in the Post-Dispatch is well worth the perusal of any unbiased non-partisan mind.

If the report from Lincoln that certain democratic senators have entered into a combination with their republican brethren to defeat the banking guaranty bill, be true then these same democratic senators had as well prepare for political ostracism and outlawry. The democrats won Nebraska on the pledge to give the people a banking guaranty law and this promise must be kept. No man elected as a democrat can go home and look his democratic constituents in the eye if he votes against the cardinal principles of the last platform. The democrats of Nebraska are in no mood to be trifled with by recalcitrants and traitors—they demand that party pledges be kept—that the will of the people be obeyed and they intend that this shall be done. No combination of National bankers and republican senators should be allowed to control and dictate to this legislature. The Journal trusts that the rumor is not true. It trusts especially that no democratic legislator from this county or section is a party to such an infamous betrayal of the people and it hopes when the vote is taken to be able to point with justified pride to the record of its representatives.

Yesterday witnessed another burning of a negro at the south and we may expect to hear the usual outcry against this terrible method of meting out justice. Yet, after all, when one has lived among these people he ceases to hold the abhorrence of such measures when he comes to know the circumstances under which the punishment is dealt out. The people of the south live in a constant state of terror lest harm come to their home and their loved ones from the blackman in their midst and they have just and well founded grounds for this apprehension. The negro has advanced largely toward civilization and in time he will become fit and capable of citizenship, but that time is far away. His moral nature is far from developed and he cannot absorb the idea that the white man and woman holds that he is not their equal. This leads him to the worst of offenses against society and the home and in their desperation the southern people rise up and make a terrible example of him. It is true the example has no effect on the race and is foolish, yet the white man feels in his soul that something barbarous is needed to meet the barbarity of the crime.

The project of building the interurban from this city to Elmwood and Murdock if brought to the attention of the capitalists can be built without a doubt. If the predicted wave of prosperity and industrial revival comes, capital will be looking for profitable fields in which to expand and there is no better than the interurban field in the thickly settled portion of this state. The

value of land, the value of farm products, the improved method of communication furnished by the telephone, all combine to make the interurban a necessity. There is no use in letting this field be taken away from Plattsmouth by Omaha or any large city. The construction of this line means to bring the country precincts into closer communication with the city, the movement of their products into this market and a general revival of business here. The duty of the Commercial Club owes the city and itself is to interest capital in the building of this line. If one rides over the proposed line of this road and sees smiling fields on every hand, rich, handsome farmhouses the large commodious stables and granaries, fat, sleek cattle, fine, large horses and every evidence of the great wealth which lies at the doors of Plattsmouth almost untouched by its merchants for the lack of a little push and enterprise. All this will come into this city if it is given an easy means of ingress. The interurban furnishes the means and the people of this city should see that the interurban is built. Capital always is willing to enlist in a paying cause and this line means that.

Banks are peculiarly subject to injury by thoughtless or malicious gossip. The strongest bank cannot pay all its depositors at once, and runs have been started on sound banks by unfounded rumors of impending failure. This is one of the risks it has been thought possible to relieve by operation of a proper sort of deposit insurance. Even if that does not suffice, it is to be doubted if a special penalty for slandering a bank, such as the senate has approved, will have the best effect. To the public it is likely to seem an effort of the bankers to suppress all discussion of the strength of banks, and that would merely weaken all banks in public confidence. The public interest is so closely interwoven with the safety of the banks that public opinion, properly informed, would seem to be the best suppressor of false tales about them.

The All-Forgiving Love.
St. Louis Post Dispatch.

"If my daughter wants to come back home, she can do so," said State Senator Peck of Westboro, Mo., when told that Nellie Peck had been found in Omaha, repentant. "As a father, I can and will forgive her. Until I hear her story I cannot pass judgment, and, no matter what the story is, she is my daughter and I will stand by her."

Senator Peck has the warrant of Holy Writ for this attitude on his part. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father, seeing his returning son from a far off, went out and met him and fell upon his neck and kissed him and killed the fatted calf in joy at his home-coming. Why not an even greater joy and forgiveness for the returning daughter, whose need for forgiveness and sheltering care is so infinitely greater? Senator Peck is right. The girl is his daughter, and she never needed his love and forgiveness and fatherly protection so sorely as now.

Construing Legislation.

A member of the Colorado legislature moved that a bill under consideration should be submitted to the supreme court for advice as to its constitutionality.

Supposing that practice should become general: that the court should decide on the constitutionality of a law before it is passed, and while the legislature that wants to pass it is still in session, instead of after it is passed and the legislature has gone out of office. Wouldn't it possibly save some trouble? Surely it would remedy the inequality now existing whereby the poor man is obliged to take it for granted that every law passed is valid, whereas the rich corporations with its \$100,000 lawyers can afford to go ahead and violate the law, its eminent counsel perceiving the technical flaw in the enactment which will nullify it when it finally gets through the supreme court of the state. Surely also it would put a stop to the well known trick of the lobbyists who lead legislators into enacting laws that are imperfect in form, the canny lobbyist knowing that the law will thus be nullified—

long after the legislature has disbanded and cannot re-enact it.

We don't want legislatures composed chiefly of lawyers. Even if they were so composed, that wouldn't insure constitutional laws; for lawyers disagree. There appears to be a conspicuous glimmering of sense in the idea of applying the prophylactic method in the treatment of unconstitutional laws, especially since there is no cure.—World Herald.

A Treaty of Peace.

Adam God, the religious fanatic, now held in the county jail on a charge of murder in the first degree is preparing another treaty of peace which he will submit to the criminal court. Adam offered a month ago to let bygones be bygones, but his magnanimity went unrewarded. Undismayed, he has concluded to make another offer. This time he will quit preaching entirely and if the judge insists he will apologize to the police, with whom he fought. In the case of the two policeman killed in the riot near the city hall, he will offer up prayers to their memory. These plans Adam divulged this morning.

"I was in the dark when I drew arms," said Adam. "Now I stand in the light and I cannot condone my action. I am willing to acknowledge my faults."

Adam still has the faith, which he recovered after his appearance at his preliminary trial.—Kansas City Star.

Municipal Ownership of the Water Plant.

Attacks on the Omaha water board may be expected to come thick and fast, between now and May 1, in order to defeat, if possible, municipal ownership of the water works. Every effort will be made, too, to minimize the value of the water plant. The people of Omaha will be asked to believe that the plant is little better than a pile of old iron and scraps and that the city will be shamefully victimized if it buys the plant, either at the appraised value, or at a price to be agreed on by the water company and the water board.

These attacks, insinuations, lamentations, all have but one purpose—to defeat municipal ownership.

There are less than a dozen cities in the entire country as large as Omaha that do not own their own water plants. The reason is that private ownership has everywhere shown a long, discouraging and disgraceful record of bad service, high rates, loot and gouging profits. A private company runs a water plant for profits. A municipality runs its own water plant for the good of the city. A private company gives the poorest and cheapest service possible at the highest rates obtainable. A municipality gives the best and completest service possible at the lowest rates practicable. This is the difference, in a nutshell, between private and public ownership.

The effort made to induce people to believe municipal ownership will mean higher taxes is too silly to fool any intelligent man. Omaha could take the water plant at the appraised value, charge lower rates than the company is charging, make liberal extensions, give better service, and still, in the lifetime of a single generation, pay the whole cost of the plant out of the profits. Those profits are earned under private ownership. But under private ownership they go to enrich the stockholders. Under municipal ownership they go to benefit the city and every consumer of water.

The World-Herald does not believe the people of Omaha will allow themselves to be deceived. The hands of the selfish interests are not sufficient disguised. It is too easy to see the exploiters pulling the strings—the financiers who are opposed to the city owning the plant because they want to own it themselves.—World Herald.

There is a whole lot of the above editorial which applies in a large measure to conditions in Plattsmouth. Some of the advantages of a municipal plant could be made effective here by the exercise of good judgment on the part of the municipal officers in charge. The editorial is reprinted for the benefit of those who care to study the question.

Lack of Leadership.

The Democratic party is entitled to leaders in sympathy with the voters of the party. Some one has defined a leader as one who is going in the same direction as the people, but a little bit ahead, and surely one cannot wisely, courageously and successfully lead, who is going in an opposite direction from those whom he leads. The men who fight and die in the trenches are entitled to leaders whose hearts are in the fight and who believe that the success of the party will be good for the country.

The Democratic party has been very much handicapped for twelve years, first, by a lack of newspapers in the Eastern states. Few of the large dailies have supported the democratic party and the large dailies that have supported the ticket have, almost without exception, repudiated the platform either in the campaign or immediately afterwards. In like manner many of the men, who have been at the head of the organization in the East, have promptly repudiated the platform as soon as the campaign was over, and have, between campaigns, lent their influence to those who have condemned the Democratic position on public questions. Most of them have not gone as far as Senator McCarren, and yet their influence has been cast against the party rather than for it. In the face of these continual assaults upon the policy of the party it is astonishing that the party has polled as long a vote as it has. It is evidence of the incorruptibility of the Democratic masses that they continue to fight for Democratic principles in spite of those who control organization.

A permanent Democratic club ought to be organized in every county of the United States—a club committed unqualifiedly not merely to the name but to the policies of the party. Such a club is needed more in the East than in the West, but there ought to be such a club in each county, even in the West. Its members ought to devote themselves to

the propagation of Democratic doctrine; they to establish in every county a local paper that will preach Democratic doctrine all the time and in every primary contest they ought to labor to put the Democratic organization in the hands of those who will make the fight with earnestness and with a confidence in final victory. The Democratic party has been a "house divided against itself" and this has been and is its greatest weakness.—The Commoner.

Unequaled as a Cure for Croup.
"Besides being an excellent remedy for colds and throat troubles, Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is unequaled as a cure for croup," says Harry Wilson of Waynetown, Ind. When given as soon as the croupy cough appears, this remedy will prevent the attack. It is used successfully in many thousands of homes. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

I. M. Ward of Elmwood came in this morning from Omaha, having been looking after business at that point. While here he paid the Journal office a visit to look over the real modern methods of producing the news. His visit was a pleasant one and much appreciated. Mr. Ward is one of the representative citizens and business men of Elmwood and a man who is thoroughly alive on any real good business proposition. As in the case with all good men, Mr. Ward was a welcome visitor and the Journal hopes he will come again and often.

P. T. Becker drove in this morning from their home west of the city, and were passengers on the early train for Omaha where they will spend the day.

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 executor 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.

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