

The - Plattsmouth - Journal.

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Again, when will Taft reform the weather bureau. We need the weather.

For a city of its size Plattsmouth has less crime and is better governed than any in the state. This is because its officials are the right kind and because the people do not need to be governed by an iron hand.

The city of Plattsmouth wants the people of Cass County to understand that the attempt being made in certain quarters to injure its reputation as a peaceable, law-abiding and decent city, are simply a tissue of lies and emanate from a sore and disgruntled politician.

Plattsmouth merchants and business men ought to appreciate what is being done for their trade when they find their town blazoned fourth to the world as a hotbed of crime with wide-open gambling dens running, houses of bad repute on every hand and the town full of pimps and confederates. Does it pay to talk "boom the town" in one column and stab the business men in the other. The Journal stands up for Plattsmouth and it wants the world to know there is no better town in Nebraska than this. It is the best place to trade and everyone who visits it knows this to be so.

But a few years ago the proposal to put a tax on incomes brought down on the democrats a storm of denunciation and derision. Now it is found that a large section of the republican party joins with the democrats in demanding this most just method of taxation. The various planks of the famous Chicago platform of 1896 are thus being one after the other vindicated and the wisdom of the framers of that document is bearing the test of time. That the income tax looms large in the future is plain to be seen and the republicans listening to the voice of the people, are compelled to bow and say that Mr. Bryan and the democracy were right when they demanded the passage of such a measure.

One of the most ridiculous productions of the present campaign in Omaha for the mayoralty is the editorial printed in the Omaha News anent Mayor Dahlman and prohibition. The editorial writer wades through several sticks of stuff to prove Dahlman's election means prohibition in Nebraska in two years. It is hardly considered reasonable or probable that the mere fact of Jim Dahlman being elected as mayor of Omaha would cause the rest of the state to vote prohibition on themselves to get even with Omaha for his election. To a disinterested outsider, it would appear that the forces back of Breen are pretty hard up for campaign material when they put forth such nonsense as that article contained.

Is it the right way to help a town to describe it as a sink hole of iniquity when such is known absolutely to be without warrant of truth? Plattsmouth merchants are well aware that this town is not overrun with six or seven gambling joints and they know that the various societies that maintain bars cannot be "peaked" by Mayor Sattler and the council nor compelled to close as they are run for the benefit of the members of the several societies. Lastly they are fair enough to wait and give John P. Sattler a chance. He received the largest majority given a mayor in years and is the man in whom the people have confidence. Should a prurient sheet be allowed to malign and libel your city and your business, Mr. Merchant, and in so doing hurt you and your prospects? Do you think falseness of this character tends to help you build up your trade?

Press Censorship.

The first official manifestation that the news lid is being gradually closed on government information under the new administration comes from the department of justice. The following order, addressed to "Heads of Departments and Bureau Chiefs," has just been issued:

"It is the direction of the attorney general that all matters relating to the department of justice, which are proper for publication in the daily press be noted in memorandum form and be transmitted to the private secretary to the attorney general; and all such news items shall emanate from the attorney general's office only. Any matter arising in any bureau or division of the department which affects it in general, or its policy, and any explanation of such matters which it is desired to make to the press, should be prepared in accordance with the foregoing.

"Co-operation with the attorney general's office on the part of the respective bureaus and subdivisions of the department is requested in connection with the above.

(Signed) "Geo. W. Wickersham, Attorney General."

This order was circulated just in time to reach the office of the solicitor general just as the new appointee, Lloyd Bowers of Chicago reached his desk. Wade Ellis, just back from representing the attorney general at the powder trust hearing at Chicago, was enabled to scan this among the first matters that received his attention.

The president is said to have expressed surprise that an impression existed that there was to be a press censorship. He attributed the impression to the fact that a majority of his cabinet members were new to the work and their time was being occupied in familiarizing themselves with their complex duties.

The newspaper correspondents, although not inclined to judge the president and his cabinet harshly, says the Editor and Publisher, are firm in the conviction that while the cabinet members may have had no experience in official life in Washington, the president has; that he understands the news fields here thoroughly from long personal contact and that a word of explanation to his official family would set things right in a moment.

One of the humorous features of the railway notes from Omaha appeared the other day when the visit of a federal judge to that city was chronicled. It was doubly so when taken with the rulings which this same judge has made in several railway cases which have been tried before him.

Not such a long time ago the public was promised the exposure of an immense graft which was to be worked on the people of this city and Cass County. Has anyone seen it-

The season of the year when the fool rocks the boat is upon us. Yesterday at Oakland, Cal., he made his initial appearance for this season and several lives paid the penalty. The work of the foolkiller seems to never end.

It would seem that a man depending upon the business and public of Plattsmouth, would have decency enough about him to refrain from slandering and maligning the place which gives him his bread and butter. It is hard enough to stand the competition of other cities and towns from without than to have to stand the treacherous stabbing and knifing from alleged "boomers" within.

Talk about advertising a town. The Weeping Water Republican is engaged in reprinting the vile attacks made upon this city by certain persons who regard libel as not worth considering speak of the town where they have their habitant. The dirty attacks upon the city's reputation are being circulated broadcast by those who have it in for the city and, unfortunately, they are being aided by some in the city.

Our ancient friend John Bull seems to be having some trouble in raising funds to keep his government on the go. His budget for the last fiscal year showed a heavy deficiency and he is now trying to get Parliament to pass the budget which provides for heavy increased income taxes, estate and legacy taxes and increased liquor taxes. It surely costs John something to keep up the pace with his big naxe and expensive standing army besides what King Ed and family have to have to live on.

The Young Turk party seems to have been really in earnest and they have supplanted Abdul Hamid the despot, with a new man who is said to be progressive and in favor of liberty for his people. All the courts in the world even those who have helped the "unspeakable Turk" to hold his seat, rejoice at this triumph of constitutional liberty. It is one of the greatest steps forward the world has ever known to see the Ottoman empire advance into civilization and it may mean within a very few years, a marvelous change in the development of Europe.

It is to be hoped the work in which the Commercial Club is now engaged—that of securing several factories for the city bears prompt and generous fruit. The city needs these and it is a duty every citizen owes to see that they are obtained. When everyone remembers that the value of his property depends upon securing something to employ labor and bring people into town, he will see that every dollar put into securing these factories is money well invested. And one thing to be thought of is not to put the price of your property too high so it can't be purchased for sites.

Dispatches announce that proof has been secured that Abdul Hamid, the deposed Sultan of Turkey, deliberately ordered the massacres of Christians in his empire in order to produce foreign intervention and defeat the plan to overthrow his power. If this is true and the proof exists that he is responsible for these terrible crimes, he should be immediately executed as a warning to any coming despot that the world will not tolerate such awful methods of protecting a tottering throne. He has been accused of this method several times before but no direct evidence was ever produced to show that he was actually guilty. Being now down and out he has little show to conceal any participation in this series of crimes and the evidence should be easy to obtain.

"Decent—Characterized by propriety of conduct, speech, manners, or dress; becoming; decorous; respectable."—Standard Dictionary.

A study of the above definition taken in connection with some of the things which are being said in certain quarters about Plattsmouth and its people and coupled with the professions of the parties making them, serves to cause some wonder as to whether the parties knew what decency is or whether the makers of the dictionary made a mistake. For persons who desire decency, some mighty curious examples are being set. If falsehood, slander and libel is part of decency, then it must be conceded the dictionary makers do not understand their business and do not know the proper definition of the word.

If the last and supplementary decision of Judge Smith McPherson can be read aright it is the opinion of the learned court, that a railroad which does not pay under any rate of charges is justified in raising the rates to a point to which they would pay, regardless of what these rates are. The public is thus required to make any improvidently constructed railroad pay dividends. This may be good law but it sounds very curious reasoning. The sacred rights of the railroads seem to be thoroughly vindicated by such reasoning.

Prohibition That Don't Prohibit.

From the Johnston (Pa.) Democrat.

Henry Watterwson, we believe, is inclined to lay too much stress on the fact that prohibition "annihilates millions of property, income and revenue." This loss could be afforded if the drink habit under the operation of prohibition should cease. If those millions of men and women who drink should quit after the enactment of prohibition they could afford to reimburse the liquor dealers put out of business and still have a balance on hand. The question is not how much would be lost in "property, income and revenue," but whether prohibition is correct in principle. If it is, the Anti-Saloon league is justified in its crusade, no matter how much it may destroy.

The contention of the Democrat is that prohibition is not only wrong in principle, but is an impossibility, and will be an impossibility so long as God decrees that trees shall bear fruit and the fields yield grains. For every man has a natural right to grow fruit and grain, and if from part of these he shall elect to make fermented wines and liquors it is a privilege which no one can deny, or, if denied, which none can successfully prevent. Thus the best solution of the liquor question is the full recognition of personal liberty—not liberty to defy public decency, but liberty for each man to regulate his habits according to the dictates of his conscience. If in the exercise of his personal liberty he offends his neighbor, that is another question.

Prohibition is inevitably a blunder. As Mr. Watterwson well says prohibition does not prohibit. It simply breeds new vices. In place of the saloon it gives the accursed speak-easy the brothel, the haymow bottle, the bootleg outlaw. In lieu of prohibition we get lawless dispensation of rank poison, a murderous concoction of the very devil himself.

One way not to secure factories for your town is to put the price of property which is wanted for sites so high that they can't consider buying it. That helps some town with more enterprise and vim but it is hard on your own town. Don't do it.

Some men who enter the newspaper profession seem to believe that if a merchant does not advertise, he can be made to by the judicious method of going to some competing town and securing advertising there. The same sort of men always profess to be anxious to build up the place they live in and where they print their paper. If you keep your eye open you will probably see a case in point very shortly.

The erection of several good sized factories in this city is something which every business man and every citizen should encourage. Especially should property owners work for this end. Everything which comes into the city and which employs labor is worth money to you in advanced values of your real estate. This is an incontrovertible fact and one which every property owner knows. Therefore it is a part of his duty to himself to turn out and do his best to secure these benefits. When he can contribute something, no matter how little, to secure a factory, he should take a pride in doing so.

Here it has been two months and Congressman Maguire has not yet built the Plattsmouth postoffice. Has anybody heard of Maguire since he promised to vote for Cannon if elected.—Weeping Water Republican. Mr. Maguire has done very well for a new member. He has been busy on committee work and his speech on the tariff was highly commended. It was not a "leave to print" address, but he was frequently interrupted by the republicans. Maguire will prove all right.—Nebraska City News.

Notice is now given by President Winchell of the Rock Island railroad that Nebraska is next on the list of states where the 2-cent fare litigation will be pushed to a conclusion. For the information of Winchell and all other railroad officials, it may be said Nebraska is ready for them. The easy victory of the carriers in Missouri is not likely to be duplicated here. There is nothing sacred about the McPherson ruling which requires other courts to follow it. The federal judges of this state have never formed the habit of issuing injunctions whenever corporation attorneys demanded them. Also Nebraska has an anti-pass law which prevents the railroads hauling their favorites free and charging the expense up to the general public, as they still do in Missouri.—Lincoln News.

Senator Norris Brown yesterday spoke at length in the senate upon his proposed amendment to the constitution providing for the levying of an income tax. In the west everyone will agree with the Nebraskan in a desire to have such a tax levied and they will all agree that this amendment should be carried. But is not at all likely this will be done. The powers that be in the east, have too complete control in the senate to permit the amendment to carry. Again, the Brown motion goes clear around Robin Hood's barn to get to the object desired. If it should pass it would bring the income tax to the front several years from now and there is small doubt but this question will be reached in a very few years any way by means of a law which public sentiment will force through congress. The income tax was started on the road by the democrats and it will become a law sooner or later.

Here's the Answer.

"Prohibition doesn't prohibit." Neither does the law against murders prevent them being committed. The highest code of law ever enacted, and by the highest authority, namely, the ten commandments, were insufficient to make a morality.—Detroit News.

Slander and Libel.

Justice William J. Gaylor of the appellate division of the supreme court, Brooklyn, in a lecture on "Libel" before the journalism class of the Bedford Young Men's Christian association said in part:

Abuse is good for nothing. It hurts no one but the paper that uses it, and I am glad to say that nowadays you seldom find a paper addicted to this.

Slander is when you say anything false of another which accuses him of a crime. Slander is never a criminal offense. You never arrest anybody for slander. All you do is bring suit. Slander exists when a man says something about another man's business or accuse him of a crime. Anything you write which holds a man up for public ridicule, belittles him or lowers him in the estimation of the community, even though it does not accuse him of a crime, is a libel. Libel laws protect you from having anything said against you which detracts from your reputation.

In conclusion Judge Gaynor said it seemed improbable that any fairminded man would sanction the attempt of the government to conduct the trials of newspaper officials indicted in connection with the Panama canal story in districts other than those in which the defendants lived and worked.

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