

# The - Plattsmouth - Journal

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## Vindicating the Rooster. (Baltimore American.)

The New York court of appeals is to pass on whether the constitutional right to the pursuit of happiness extends to a man's satisfaction in hearing his rooster crow at hours of the night which deprive other men of that constitutional happiness which lies in slumber. The question appears trivial, but so determined is the man in the case to enjoy this constitutional privilege, as involving a supreme right, that he says he will carry his rooster's midnight crow to the supreme court of the United States if necessary.

## Waxing Fat on Hay.

The recent exploitation of "alfalfa muffins" at an agricultural convention in Kansas seems to have taken practical root at Creighton university in Omaha, where a number of the students have organized themselves into the "Alfalfa Hay Club," their purpose being to demonstrate the value of this product for human diet. From it, when properly prepared, are made gems, muffins, mush, and pancakes, and the green meal for some purposes is put through a bleaching process which makes it agreeable to the eye as well as to the palate. Many families in that city are also making the experiment. If found as satisfactory as the first reports would indicate, there need be no fear of famine in that section of the country, since the alfalfa can be raised in large and unending quantities on irrigated land. At present, however, the alfalfa flour costs about as much as wheat.

Yesterday in the senate Senator Beveridge of Indiana took occasion to criticize the stand which certain democratic senators have taken in the pending tariff bill and his criticism is well placed. Pledged to secure revision of tariff downward, a number of democratic senators have been voting quite consistently for higher duties on various articles many of them necessities of life. This is not democracy in any sense of the word and it does not help either the democratic party or the senators individually. The democrats have always stood for genuine tariff reform and if they are to remove from this position it means a readjustment of political lines. Beveridge is quite right in declaring their promises are made to the ear but to be broken at the first opportunity. It is well enough for the democrats to disagree among themselves but their disagreement should not be carried to the extent that they vote for things emphatically opposed by their platform.

## Well, Forever More!

A bold train robbery took place within the city limits of Omaha on one day, and the next the perpetrators were thought to be hiding in some rendezvous in Omaha or South Omaha. The supposition is that the robbers had an automobile chauffeur for their accomplice and were furnished a machine to whisk them away from the scene of the crime to a place of safety. The excellent facilities offered by the two Omahas for concealment of criminals under the municipal regimes in power are well known. Evil resorts are so multiplied in the two towns that the police have to scatter their effort over a large territory when it comes to apprehending men of this stripe. The resorts are allowed to operate because they are the centers of a large part of the voting population and are a convenient asset for the politicians on election days.

Even the World-Herald, which rushes to the defense of saloons and other "liberal" institutions of Omaha, sounds a note of alarm by asking the city council whether it is going to let Tom Dennison name the municipal prosecutor. It says there is a well grounded suspicion that something of the kind is in the air. Considering that in the past Dennison has had a great deal to say about the selection of, not only prosecutors, but mayors, chief of police and members of the fire and police board, the question put by the World-Herald seems pretty much to the point. There is an old saying, "Let me administer the laws and you may make them," the force of which Dennison no doubt knows. With a friendly prosecutor, he should be in a position to protect those who have always looked up to him as a godfather.—Lincoln News.

## Catching the Spirit of the Age.

The general assembly of the Presbyterian church, in session at Denver, is giving evidence that it is catching the spirit of this industrial age. Not that the church is becoming worldly or abandoning any of its religious ideals, but it is applying to the business branches of the church organization the business methods which have been demonstrated produce best results in other lines of human endeavor. There are at present eight boards having the direction of the various agencies of administering the temporal affairs of the church, which in the light of experience and the example in commercial and industrial life appear wasteful of effort and lacking in effectiveness. It is proposed to consolidate these various agencies, so far at least as the general direction of their affairs is concerned and place them all under the supervision of a central authority.

At present in the raising of money each of the various church board covers the entire field, making a duplication of effort which in a large private business enterprise would be considered so wasteful as not to be thought of. The same condition exists in other work of the church to a considerable extent. Under such system the "cost of doing business," as the captain of industry would denominate it, is certainly high.

The intelligent churchman is realizing as never before that not only in methods but in thought, the church must get nearer to the everyday affairs of the people. The churchman who neglects to avail himself of the means which produces results is as much an impractical dreamer as a business man who lags behind with obsolete methods. The business man who puts money into church work wants results and he wants to see the church display capacity and those qualities which assure success. The proposed change is purely one of administrative system, but it is through its administrative system that the church must insure results on the business side. Whether the particular plan proposed is found practicable or not, the fact of its being considered is evidence that the church, as is every other institution, is being touched by modern and adapting itself to modern needs.—Omaha Bee.

Senator Bailey yesterday administered a thrashing or rather attempted to do so, to a newspaper correspondent who had charged him with insincerity in his course on the income tax question. It hardly comports with senatorial dignity to indulge in fist fights but Bailey has been so persistently maligned and traduced through the press that patience ceases to be a virtue and his course cannot be so severely criticized. Bailey is one of the biggest and brightest minds in the senate but he seems to be the target for a line of persistent attacks which cannot help but try his patience. It would have been better had he contended himself with a verbal denial of the article and a denunciation of the author.

## Taxing Wealth—in England. (New York World.)

The British house of commons last Monday passed by a vote of four to one the new income taxes under which an income above \$15,000 must pay 5.8 per cent and one above \$500,000 8 per cent.

Thursday by varying votes of more than 2 to 1 it passed the new death, settlement, legacy and succession duties. The death duties are to be 6 per cent on \$100,000 estates, 10 per cent on \$5,000,000 and 15 per cent upon all excess above that sum. The legacy and succession duties will range from 5 to 10 per cent. Thus a very large estate may pay to the nation nearly one-quarter of its value in passing from one generation to the next.

The automobile tax was adopted without a division by yea-and-nay vote. It taxes a sixty-horse-power auto a little above \$200, besides a heavy tax on gasoline. The law recently passed by the New York legislature taxes a big auto \$10, which does not begin to cover the road damage it does, and releases it from a much larger payment in taxes upon personality.

In Great Britain, as in Germany, they have learned to tax wealth, not poverty.

## The Lighting Injunction.

A cursory perusal of the papers served upon the city officials in the matter regarding the injunction sought against the city to restrain the officials from interfering with the gas company officials in collecting their gas bills at the old rate on the ground that the ordinance is unconstitutional as it seeks to take property of the company without due process of law and is unreasonable in its provisions seems to indicate that the city has a long and expensive contest with the company in court. This is to be greatly regretted and it is to be hoped the city authorities are well fortified for the fight. It would be just as well for citizens to withhold judgment upon the case until it is finally heard and the facts are in evidence. If the evidence develops that the plant cannot be run at a profit under the rate imposed or sought to be imposed by the ordinance, then the court will unquestionably hold the ordinance invalid. On the contrary should it be shown that a reasonable profit can be exacted from the plant under the proposed rates and that the city has authority under its charter to enact an ordinance regulating rates to be charged, then the ordinance will be sustained. It is not the general belief that the city seeks to make the company do business at a loss for that is not fair nor just. At the same time, the citizens are entitled to the benefit of any legitimate reduction which they can legally secure and they should have it.

The entire controversy is regrettable and does not improve the chances for immediate lighting of the city. Plattsmouth needs light and there is but one company in a position to give it. To enter into long and expensive litigation with that company is not calculated to secure good terms for a city contract. It is hoped the litigation can be speedily settled for the welfare of everyone concerned.

## Old and New at Omaha.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Train robbers, like other robbers are capable of using the new appliances of civilization without losing any of the essential coarseness of their work. The four men who did the neat job of Saturday night on the Union Pacific road, in the outskirts of Omaha, had an automobile, in which they made a quick disappearance after the haul. The automobile was evidence of their adaptability to an advanced civilization so far as it can be made to serve evil purposes, but the essential character of their work was seen to be unchanged. While one man was covering the chief clerk in the mail coach, and forcing the surrender of the registered mail pouches containing the bank mail, his three confederates were distributed at strategic points along the train, "keeping up a constant fusillade and an incessant yelling."

All of this sounds like an echo of Blue Cut, of Glendale or of Gad's Hill. The automobile alone marked an advance in the art of train robbing. At Omaha, as at Gad's Hill, Glendale or Blue Cut, the method of everawing surprised and unprepared men was the same. "A constant fusillade made and incessant yelling" being shown to be as effective at Omaha as elsewhere for the purpose of their use, we may confidently look to see them remain as elements in every train robbery of the future. No matter how far crime may go in adoption of the new appliances of science or mechanics, there are some old things it will not abandon so long as they continue to make good as they did at Omaha. The burglar may ere long moor his airship on the casing of the window through which he intends to emerge from the house he is paying a nocturnal visit, but he will stick to the jimmy for forcing locked drawers and locked rooms, until modern civilization provides him with something better.

We shall not miss hearing much valorous talk of the seven other men in the mail car who stood still while the chief clerk was under cover and in the act of surrender. "Put yourself in his place" is an axiom to be commended to all such critics. "A constant fusillade and an incessant yelling" to men taken unawares in the dark, and left in no doubt as to their meaning, may have a temporary narcotic effect which those who have never taken the medicine can not understand. Such things sound better when you don't hear them. It might be more profitable for us to consider the Omaha robbery from the philosophical rather than the personal point of view. A question we might speculate upon is the one of whether scientific and mechanical advance, bringing with them so many new appliances in what we term a material civilization, is being accompanied by a corresponding evolution in the moral and spiritual nature of mankind, which alone can make them beneficent. The automobile is civilized. Many people think it the fruit and flower of civilization. But "a constant fusillade and an incessant yelling" are savagery. If savagery can turn civilization against itself, which will survive?

In the senate yesterday Senator Aldrich postponed the vote on the income tax, evidently not having the senators quite lined up yet. There is small room to doubt that when the time comes, the income tax will be defeated by a handy vote.

## NO FREE LUMBER.

It is evident from the speeches so far made on the subject in the senate that lumber will not be put on the free list. The reason assigned for its retention is that otherwise the price would be certain to go down. In view of the large number of persons who buy lumber and who have been each year paying a higher price, generally speaking, this would not be regarded as an unmitigated evil. The truth, of course, is that taking the tariff of \$2 off lumber would not affect the price, because the demand is so great and the American supply dwindling so rapidly that prices are certain to go higher, tariff or no tariff, in time.

What taking off the tariff would do is this: It would open up the supplies to be found in the Canadian forests to American consumers, and because of the increased supply would prevent the continual and rapid increase in price in the American market. There is enough demand now to keep all of the American mills going, and the workingman does not figure in the matter at all. It is the lumber manufacturer who would be benefited because the tariff has at all times made it possible for him to charge more for his lumber than if there were no tariff, and its retention would simply enable him to keep collecting that much more, as the price rises in response to the demand.

It appears to The News that the lumber manufacturer is asking a great deal of the American people. They owned all of the land from which the supply has been cut and that from which it is now being cut. They practically gave away this land to the lumbermen, charging only so small a price as to be ridiculous. After having had these vast forests of the people turned over to him at a nominal figure, it requires a large amount of nerve for the lumbermen to insist that we keep on taxing ourselves for the benefit of his pocketbook. Don't you think so?—Lincoln News.

## MESSAGE FROM JU JA.

Mr. Roosevelt is "amoyed," and, no doubt through force of habit, he relieves himself in a statement that sounds just like one of those old, familiar special messages. Indeed one has to rub his eyes to realize that the man is on the Ju Ja ranch in Africa and not in the White house.

Consider the phrasing: "Sheer inventions," "due to bribery," "dishonorable man," "willing to invent untruths for money," "traffic in other forms of dishonor."

No correspondent faked this. The "internal evidence of authenticity," as the literary critics would say, is convincing. Mistakes may have been made, yarns told, about Roosevelt's bags of game, but there is no mistake about this bag of words. It is the straight goods from the old man himself.

Mr. Roosevelt warns the world that a great deal of lying is being done about his hunt, and that when the truth, or something like it, has been told, it has been bought with bribes from mercenary and conscienceless guides or porters. For no newspaper, he informs us, has a representative with the party, and all persons connected with the expedition are obligated to secrecy.

This offers some hope that the stories of Sunday slaughter, the killing of the two giraffes on one Sunday and of a female rhinoceros on the next, were erroneous. But only some hope, for these stories were wired by the Associated Press, and Roosevelt does not say that a representative of the Associated Press is barred from the camp. Indeed such a representative has just returned to Nairobi after two days spent on the firing line and it is through him that Roosevelt transmits this special message from the jungle to the world.

Perhaps it is the report of his bagging a mosquito that the former president mainly objects to—the mosquito measuring seven feet from tip to tip and that was brought down with one bullet from Roosevelt's gun as it was sucking a hundred gallons of sweaty blood from a hippopotamus which it had run clean through with its steel-like and elongated proboscis.

Are we not to believe that Roosevelt and Kermit have slain charging lions, leopards, rhinoceroses and a python coiled to strike, to enwrap and to strangle—to swallow whole, indeed, our beloved former president? Are we not to believe that Kermit's latest achievements were the slaying of a charging hyena and the slaughter of a surprising number of female warthogs? These deeds are chronicled and given to a breathless world by the Associated Press correspondent—the same man that has given us the undeniably authentic from the jungle.

It would be cruelty to pry us loose from the charging hyena and the warthogs. And, indeed, none of the reports are so uncomplimentary as to provoke sizzling hot special messages. They only show that Mr. Roosevelt is getting what he went after, and he didn't go to Africa to get the sleeping sickness.

We are not going to carry over Cravenettes until Fall and then ask you to pay full price for them.

We are going to sell what we have left in Micheals, Stern & Co. and Hart, Schaffner & Marx high and low collar coats, all new shades and styles, including a nice line of blacks. For this week only we will offer the following bonafide cash prices on all cravenettes:

\$12.50 and \$13.50 Cravenettes **\$9.50**  
\$15.00 and \$16.50 " **\$11.50**  
\$18.00 and \$20.00 " **\$16.50**  
\$22.50 and \$25.00 " **\$20.00**

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