

The - Plattsmouth - Journal

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This week's tumble in trust stocks in Wall Street, notably sugar stock, indicates the trusts may at last be taking a tumble to themselves.

Walter Wellman is entirely safe in denouncing Explorer Cook. Nobody is going to take the trouble to retaliate by denouncing Explorer Wellman.

A petition asking Speaker Cannon to resign probably would be just about as effective as the request to have the English lords pay taxes on their estates.

It is a shame that the people have been robbed year after year by the sugar trust, and a note of warning has not been sounded. The customs officials have all been Republicans for many years back.

Developments in the sugar trust inquiry in New York show that the government weighers received \$15 a week apiece for their perfidy. They not only helped to swindle their government, but were wretchedly cheap about it.

The big trusts are improving their opportunity now. There is a reason for this, too. This will be the last Republican congress for some time to come. When the change comes to a Democratic congress, the picking for the trusts will be extremely short. Mark that!

Only three weeks from Monday next until Christmas. Begin your holiday advertising now in order to catch the bulk of the trade. People in the country will buy such goods in Plattsmouth instead of Omaha, if they know what Plattsmouth merchants have in store for Christmas presents.

They have an organization in Lincoln called the "Seldon Shouters," which is booming the ex-Governor for U. S. Senator. The organization has addressed a communication to Sheldon at Wayside, Miss., announcing their intention. If they can not secure him for "Slippery Elmer's" place, they will want him for governor. They may shoot to their hearts content, but George Sheldon don't care for the governorship. Enough is enough.

CANNON'S LAST SHOT.

The general interpretation put on Speaker Cannon's word to the progressive Republicans, in his Kansas City speech, is that the speaker will make no concessions to them; that he will refuse to co-operate on any basis that would regard the self-respect of the Republican "insurgents" who bolted his high tariff program.

It is well that right now, on the eve of the convening of congress, this attitude of the speaker should be even more definitely revealed than it has been throughout the vacation. The real issue in congress now is the restoration of representative functions in the house. The real obstacle to this reform is Cannon and the powers he represents.

The insurgents cannot make an effective stand until their numbers increase, or until they have unqualified help from the president. The best way to augment their numbers and to procure executive assistance is to stand by the people's interests, especially as defined by the party platform. The cause of progressive Republicanism is sure to win on these lines. Whether it wins soon or late, its original sponsors cannot serve the country so effectively in any other way as by standing unflinchingly by their guns.

Of course there is a postal defect. Why shouldn't there be? Or, how could it be otherwise? Last week Senator Burkett sent a half ton of

his personal effects to Washington from Lincoln through and by the United States mail route, free of cost. In this respect, Burkett is apparently not in favor of high tariff.

Which is the worst, Plato, the Rockefellers, Carnegies and other magnates whose pockets bulge with extorted millions, or the system that enables them to fill their coffers by crushing the life out of competition and exacting unfair profits from the public? And wouldn't it be better to reform the system than to roast the oppressors it creates?

Every senator and congressman who was caught in the Aldrich-Cannon tariff trap are trying now to convince the people that the tariff question is settled and will not be re-opened by congress again. And really, they are only wishing that their utterances will be verified. But the question will be re-opened, not only in congress, but upon every stump in the country next year.

Joe Cannon has been in congress thirty-five years. Why was he not elected Speaker long since, if he is such a great man? No, that's not it. The trusts knew their mark. They knew that Cannon desired to be Speaker before he got too old. The trusts set the trap and Old Joe fell into it, and they have him so tightly in their grip that he can't let loose. And there he is—the poor old fool.

THE WATER POWER TRUST.

Word comes from Lincoln that the water power trust has got a strangle hold on the water power sites in Nebraska, and for the past few days there has been something doing in the state engineer's office at the capitol where the discovery has just been made that the power trust has gained control.

And now, after these immensely valuable rights have passed from the hands of the state to private owners, the state officials are endeavoring to find some way of cancelling the applications and regaining control.

In return for these power sites, many of which are destined to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, the state of Nebraska is paid \$4 a year a site.

The worst feature of the case is that the big power trust having secured control of the waters of the different rivers and streams in all parts of the state, is not developing and producing power, but is simply playing the "dog in the manger," and while itself refusing to develop power is standing in the way of all others who might desire to build dams and provide electric power for the Nebraska towns and cities.

It is charged openly that the Standard Oil company is the interest which has gobbled up the Nebraska power sites, its object being, by preventing the generation of cheap electrical power, to force the electric light companies of the state to maintain such high prices that the people will use kerosene instead of electricity for lighting purposes.

The power sites in Nebraska are under the supervision of the state engineer, but he has no choice but to file applications and issue permits whenever the law is complied with. And about the only condition required is that the applicant, having found a desirable power site, may monopolize it for six months by paying a filing fee of \$2.

If at the end of six months development work has not been begun the permit becomes void. But there is nothing in the law to prevent the same applicant from re-filing on the same site, paying a second \$2 filing fee, securing a new permit and holding the property for a second six months, at the end of which time

the same routine can again be gone over. And that is the system by which the power trust has secured control of the Nebraska power sites.

Although lacking in mountains the state of Nebraska has many swift flowing streams, and for continuity of supply some of Nebraska's rivers stand right at the head. As for example, the Loup river has been found to have the most uniform flow of water of any river in the world. This property of the Nebraska rivers make them particularly valuable as sources of power whenever the necessary fall can be secured. And opportunities of this kind are found in all sections so that splendid power sites abound in practically all portions of the state.

The attention of State Engineer Simmons was some time ago attracted by the numerous power site filings being made in his office. He quietly began an investigation and discovered that practically all the filings were made by irresponsible parties, and everything pointed to the fact that all were made in the interest of some one concern.

Under the present law, as stated, the state engineer has no choice but to accept the filings and issue the permits regardless of the responsibility of the applicants. He will, however, ask the next legislature for a new law governing that point as well as the provision which now permits a re-filing by the same party. In this way, and in this way only, Engineer Simmons thinks the state can regain its lost power sites.

"Speaking of conservation" says Mr. Simmons, "the only way to conserve water power is to use it. You can't conserve it by allowing the water to run away. With coal mines and forests it is different. Their conservation lies in saving them, in mining the coal carefully, cutting the timber carefully or letting it grow. This state should be anxious to have the water power sites taken up, but it is necessary in order for this to do any good that the sites be used and that the applicants prove their good faith by developing the power."

The state board of irrigation is preparing to go into court and test the present law under which re-filings are permitted, and should the law be upheld the state will be tied unless the next legislature repeals the present law and enacts a new one.

In the meantime the power site trust has possession of all the valuable power sites in the state.

FROM THE BUSY WORLD.

William L. Wilson is in jail in Kansas City, Kansas, for having insisted on taking off all his clothes on the public street. William got the idea in his head that the time had come to discard clothes while conducting a street meeting and started in to carry out the theory when the police juggled him. The doctors insist William is "batty."

At Cochran, Georgia, day before yesterday John Howard, a negro preacher, was burned at the stake for fatally shooting Will D. Booth. Howard was incensed because Booth drove his automobile up behind his mules and scared them. Those who know the proneness of many automobilists to enjoy a little fun by scaring a man's team will regard the action of the mob with abhorrence. In many cases Howard will be justified as many autoists deserve killing for their reckless handling of their machines.

At Chicago day before yesterday receivers were appointed for the Chicago Warehouse and Terminal company and the Illinois Tunnel company. These companies were engaged in building a subway under Chicago's principal streets. The receivership is a friendly affair and means to squeeze out the little stockholders. It is always the little fellows who are reorganized and he is usually reorganized out of the company.

One William T. Bruce has been sued by Mrs. Nettie A. Broadus at Chicago for \$3,000, money she claims she lent him in 1908. She recovered a judgment. Now comes Bruce with a counter-claim and alleges Nettie induced him to elope with her

to California by "moral suasion" and Knox's letter attacking Zelaya and the Nicaraguan government. Why they should be is some mystery altogether. Had the Nicaraguan government been England there would have been ground for the amazement, but Nicaragua can't fight back. It is all very spectacular but quite pitiful.

The strike of the Switchmen's Union on the northwestern roads seems to be crumbling fast. In fact, it appears to have almost fizzled out before it was well under way. Non-union men seem plentiful and it is stated there is no trouble in filling the places of the strikers. The war between the various labor organizations is blamed for the failure of the strike. There will be no successful strikes until men learn to stand together.

As has happened before, a number of highly important witnesses for the government in the sugar trust cases in New York have disappeared. It is strange how these people sometimes find it convenient to drop out of sight just when needed. The government attorneys are much exercised over the situation but, as a matter of fact, they should have expected such things. The defense in the sugar trust cases intends to acquit their clients if it is possible.

At last it seems a minister has arisen, who grasps the ethics of success. Rev. Paul Moore Strayer of Rochester, N. Y., in a sermon advised the church to copy the tactics of Tammany Hall and "helps a man in a pinch." Therein has always laid the secret of much of Tammany's success. It has succored many of the poor and needy. It has appealed to the sense of gratitude in man. And in so doing it has waxed strong and virile. Rev. Strayer may not meet the approval of all churchmen, but he has struck the keynote of victory. Help a man in a pinch is a good idea and it appeals to the human heart.

New York dispatches announce that J. Pierpont Morgan has purchased Thos. F. Ryan's holdings of the Equitable Assurance society stock and now has control of the \$472,000,000 of assets of that corporation. The Equitable Assurance society represents a vast sum owned by the American public. It is good policy or sound sense to have J. Pierpont Morgan handle this vast wealth? Thos. F. Ryan took this corporation over during the panic, incident to the exposure of crooked work in connection with insurance bodies in this country when public opinion forced James H. Hyde out of control of the corporation. Was Hyde so much worse than Morgan?

Senator Moses Clapp of Mississippi last Thursday night opened the campaign of Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, for re-election in a speech at Milwaukee. Senator Clapp assailed the Aldrich-Cannon tariff bill furiously and, while he did not attack either sponsor for the bill by name, he made it plain that the "progressives" were lined up solidly, the one with the other, in opposition to it. Senator Clapp declared emphatically that congress did not regard the rights of the consuming public when it passed the tariff bill, and he declared with equal positiveness, that Senator La Follette would not be "wiped off the map" politically. In fact, Senator Clapp sounded a clarion call to arms for the "insurgents."

Advertised Letter List. The following letters remain in the Plattsmouth postoffice at this date (November 23) uncalled for, and unless called for within a reasonable length of time they will be sent to the Dead Letter office at Washington: Miss Mae Darling, Miss Irene Lindsay, Miss Pearl Turner, Miss Annie Rich, Mrs. A. Lewis, John F. Bixby, Walter Downer, Anton H. Polek, G. W. Surface, Elmer Sawyers, Josef Tpsilem.

For Sale. My property in Murray is for sale and it can be bought very reasonably if taken soon. Address me at Plainview, Neb. W. M. HENDRICKS.

Mrs. S. G. Stone is a visitor today in Omaha, going to that city this morning on the early train.

UNION.

(Ledger.)

Mahlon Applegate who was severely injured in a runaway some time ago, is slowly improving.

The condition of Ernest Smith, who is dangerously ill with typhoid fever, seems to remain unchanged at this writing.

Simon Gruber, who some time ago fell and smashed his foot and ankle in a horrible manner, is reported to be improving slowly but sure.

Miss Cleo Applegate, teacher in the Plattsmouth school, spent her Thanksgiving vacation with her mother and other relatives and friends in and near this village.

A deal was made the first of this week whereby Dr. R. L. Newell leased two rooms on the second story of the new Woodman building, and he intends to use them for his dental offices.

Andrew Jackson McNatt of Kenosha was down Wednesday afternoon to attend to some business matters and meet his many friends. "Jack" says they have just as much mud up in their country as we have down here.

Mrs. Charles Downs departed last Saturday for Crescent, Okla., to spend some time visiting with her parents. Her sister, Miss Nancy Smith, who has been visiting here for sometime, accompanied her and will remain there.

Linus Reynolds, who has been very sick the past week with an attack of appendicitis, is very much improved at this writing and able to be up and around the house which reports his many friends will welcome.

John C. Roddy, the well known wealthy pioneer residing in Wyoming precinct, has been seriously ill for the past several days, having heart trouble. His condition caused much alarm for a while, but we are pleased to learn that he is now improving.

G. F. McNamee departed on the forenoon train last Saturday for Hot Springs, S. D., where he entered the Battle Mount Sanatorium to take treatment for a serious attack of rheumatism which has been troubling him for some time. His son Amos accompanied him and reports that he stood the trip remarkably well.

Continued Snow Storm.

Those who have attended the performance of "Way Down East" have seen an exact duplication of a New England snowstorm. This is something which those who have not seen can see today if they will but look out of the window. Today the great, fleecy, white flakes have come down in a relentless torrent, burying everything alike under its fleecy mantle and clothing the world in a cloak of white. The snow has been general all over the west and it is accompanied by what is so far the coldest weather of the winter. This morning the thermometer on the streets registered in the neighborhood of ten above zero, which begins to come close to real winter. Trains are late on all roads and mails are badly disarranged. From the east less trouble is reported than from other points but there is still a delay in them. Trains from the west are all the way from one to three and four hours late and the probabilities are that by night they will be even later. The snow commenced falling yesterday and was a wet and heavy blanket which extends over the whole region from the Rockies to the Missouri river and by night it will be to the Mississippi. Colorado reports a very heavy snowfall with snappy winter temperature and to this is laid the delay in trains. In addition the entire western section of the country is covered with ice and many accidents are reported from different points on that account. All day today the snow has come down and business is paralyzed in every line. The winter seems to be settling in in dead earnest and it looks as if there was a long period of bad weather still ahead.

Split His Thumb.

Charley Cline, who is working for C. L. Martin driving back and drag, this morning had the misfortune to split his thumb while handling a trunk. Owing to the slippery condition of the walks, his feet slipped and the trunk came down on his thumb catching it between the bottom of the wagon and the trunk and splitting it wide open. The injury is quite painful but does not incapacitate him for business and unless poisoned in some way, it will soon heal up.

Night Operator at the M. P.

A. E. Whitlow, who for some time past has been employed at the depot at this place, went on the early train Saturday morning to Omaha, where he took the required examination to become an operator. He passed the examination successfully and is working as night operator at Plattsmouth.—Union Ledger.