

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The ship subsidy is a special interest, and the president's advocacy of it puts him in the special interest class.

Wherever he is, Doctor Cook will have ample time to reflect that his \$80,000 or \$100,000 was a poor return for what he did.

Poet Watson denies that he is insane. But for that matter so did Harry Shaw, and he was playing the bucket shops at the time.

The commercial club has resolved to "be up and doing next year." He who is not with us is against, and had better lay low with his "Kick Bazo," when activity begins in earnest.

Cranky Patrick, once a state senator, is now going to stop boxing contests in South Omaha. Next he will want to stop the playing of baseball. But Patrick is not the "whole cheese," by a whole lot.

Secretary Ballinger is to be tried by a jury of senators, a majority of whom are "conservative" in everything except conserving the public domain.

Speaker Cannon says the report that he intends to resign is "hot air." However, when hot air comes into contact with Mr. Cannon's air of defiance there will be a whirlwind.

Colonel Gordon, the new United States senator from Mississippi, says: "During my term in Washington I may not be able to do much good, but I certainly will not do any harm." What a pity that more senators do not feel that way about it!

Years ago when everybody could afford to eat pork, a man arose who had a poetic vision. He penned these lines: "O won't the pork be high, When the pigs begin to fly?" It is all a reality now, and we can appreciate that the fellow was not only a poet, but a prophet as well.

Friends make inquiry of the writer every day as to whether Governor Shallenberger intends to call a special session of the legislature. We don't know, but if we were governor we would call the body together in short order to amend some of the bills the Republican supreme court declared unconstitutional.

"Governor Straddleberk" is what the Silver Creek Sand calls the chief executive, because he refused to have Mayor Dahlman and the police board of Omaha removed. Governor Shallenberger cannot afford to act according to the whims and dictations of any clan of faction, and he has displayed the evidence that he is going to use his own judgment in such matters. And he is usually right in that judgment, too.

Senator Dolliver believes the time when a skin game can be worked on the people with the unanimous consent of congress will never come again. This is a gentle hint that he has no sympathy with the tariff bill passed by the recent special session of congress. Dolliver is an Iowa insurgent of recent conversion, who has foresight enough to tell how the land lays in Iowa. He is lined up with Cummins, whom he fought so strenuously a few years ago.

Three new short cuts to truth have been coined in Washington recently. Senator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois is responsible for one. The veteran senator, in commenting on an aged friend, said: "He has one foot in the grave and the other resting on a banana peel." Congressman Hughes of New Jersey, in describing a lobbyist whom he had met, remarked: "He is so crooked that he puts on his clothes with a corkscrew and has to sleep in a coil of rope." State Senator John Gardner of Illinois,

describing "Parsifal" and its failure to please him, said: "The only people who enjoy it are those educated fellows who don't know nothing."

If the ice dealer fails to get a full supply of the crop for next summer's consumption, it will be their own fault.

In view of the high prices which prevailed, perhaps this particular Yuletide might better be called high-tide.

Bwana Tumbo, mighty hunter, has at least one great achievement to his credit. He hasn't shot anybody in mistake of a deer.

Those goodfellowship lodges ought not to be disbanded merely because Christmas is over. "The poor always ye have with you."

That clergyman who proposes to reform funerals would make a hit if he would go a step further and find a way to abolish them altogether.

Zelaya has escaped into Mexico, and if Mexico is as barbarous as the American Magazine declares it to be, Zelaya will feel perfectly at home there.

Not even Speaker Cannon's promise to relinquish the speakership in 1911 will save the reactionary Republican congressmen. The fight has been not so much on Cannon as on Cannonism.

Anyone who is willing to operate the sugar factory at Norfolk, Neb., will be given the plant absolutely free of charge. The offer looks easy, but the trouble is to get the sugar trust's consent to the running of the plant.

Many claim that last night was the coldest of the winter. Over town the thermometers varied all the way from 12 to 17 degrees below. At the Burlington depot at half-past eight o'clock this morning it was 12 below. Pretty cold, thank you.

The prohibitionists of the state are going to make a desperate effort to have everything their own way at the next election. No one faction can do just as they please so long as there is free ballot. And the radical temperance people might as well understand this right now. This is yet a free country.

Others of the Republican "insurgents" may be amendable to persuasion or intimidation, but Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, evidently is not. He comes out in his weekly publication in severe criticism of the evident disposition of President Taft to coddle up to "the interests," and calls attention to the fact that Taft was elected on pledges that have not been carried out and that evidently he does not intend to fulfill. The Cannon-Aldrich-Taft reactionaries will find a foeman worthy of their steel in the present session of congress so long as the senator of Wisconsin retains his energies and his disposition to call them to account.

That was a very cute move of Mr. Taft's in issuing an order that no subordinate of an executive department shall give information to any member of congress, senator or representative, except upon instructions from the head of the department. Democratic and "insurgent" Republican members of the house are discovering that this new executive order is an effective barrier against their obtaining information from the different executive departments with which to support their arguments in favor of such legislation they deem desirable or in fighting the moves of the Aldrich-Cannon organization. This innocent appearing but really drastic executive order is a little straw showing conclusively, if any

further proof were needed, that the Taft wind blows toward the reactionaries in congress.

Any day the railroads may be expected to attribute the shortage of freight cars to the immensity of the ice crop.

Nor is it surprising to learn that the New York milk trust is paying 10 cents dividends on its "water."

And if congress doesn't investigate the Interior department the way it ought to, the people will investigate congress.

No one seems to care who becomes King of Belgium, but there threatens to be a lively contest as to who gets his fifty million dollars.

President Taft is said to have splendid control of congress. Well, most men could get that if Aldrich and Cannon can control him.

"Business depends on the weather," says a business man; but our friend Aldrich says it depends on the tariff. We are with the business man on the proposition.

The Kansas railroad commission has compelled the Pullman company to reduce its rates about fifty cents a berth. Evidently there's nothing the matter with Kansas.

Of course an American cruiser might have taken Zelaya off the Mexican cruiser. But the Trent affair taught the state department that desperate measures are not always advisable.

A good New Year resolution: "I will send the Plattsmouth Journal, the best paper in Cass county to a former resident of the county, and who would appreciate it more than anything I could give him."

It is incredible but true that there are still many politicians in Washington who imagine that the public will be satisfied to have Secretary Ballinger tried by a jury of senators already committed in his favor.

Governor Shallenberger has signified his willingness to join in a conference with the governors of Oklahoma and Kansas in regard to the bank guarantee law, which was passed by the legislature of the three states.

Canada should pass a vote of thanks to the Republican party of the United States for enacting the Taft-Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, for it is profiting by the act far more than the United States. The drift of the American emigration into the Canadian northwest is becoming more pronounced than ever, and it is freely predicted that by another year the number of emigrants will have reached a million. It may be said that this is due to natural causes and not to the tariff. Possibly, but the fact remains that Canada is becoming more and more able to get on without close trade relations with the United States. Its industries and its agriculture are rapidly developing. Canada would like the American market but is not obliged to beg for it, while New England is suffering because it has been cut off from the Canadian market.

The postoffice is the form in which the national government is most familiar to its people. That gives the reports of the postmaster general a maximum of popular interest as reports go. Mr. Hitchcock shows that his department falls \$17,000,000 short of paying expenses. The carriage and delivery of second class mail, printed periodicals, costs \$64,000,000 more than it pays. Rural free delivery costs \$28,000,000 more than it returns. The profit from letter mail pays a large share of this deficit. How much of this profitable letter mail is caused by the unprofitable printed mail and the expensive rural routes, Mr. Hitchcock does not say for he cannot, and so is proved the partial futility of his classification. How much of the deficit may come from railroad subsidies in the form of pay for hauling mail is another open question. It is interesting to note that despite his inferential criticism of the deficit, Mr. Hitch-

cock advocates increasing it by mail subsidies to certain steamship lines flying the American flag.—Lincoln Journal.

While discussing the record of the last legislature, why not consider the merits of the valid bills that passed? Why confine the discussion entirely to the three measures that have been declared invalid? Why not mention the merits of more than two hundred laws passed by that body which are now in full force and effect? Among these are the physical valuation law; the precinct assessor law; the law taking the arbitrary power of assessing property away from the State Board of Assessment; the reciprocal demurrage law; the law limiting the issuance of stocks by railroad companies; the anti-discrimination law; the charter law for both Omaha and South Omaha; the military code; the law regulating campaign contributions; the Oregon plan of electing United States senators; the law prohibiting employes from attempting to control the votes of persons employed by them by intimidation; the law regulating the granting of divorces; the liquor legislation; the drainage laws; the corporation tax law, and many other measures of merit that might be mentioned with pride.

MONEY AND MONEY.

Senator Money of Mississippi was recently chosen leader of the Democratic minority in the senate. The fact inspired Senator La Follette, leader of the Republican insurgents, to draw a very truthful and striking parallel between the Money who is the Democratic leader and the Money that is the Republican leader. We quote from the current issue of La Follette's Magazine:

"The selection of Money of Mississippi as senate minority leader is less important than the leadership of both house and senate by Money of Wall Street. Money of Mississippi is a fine old southern gentleman in the best sense of the word. Money of Wall Street is not a gentleman in any sense. Money of Mississippi is the soul of honor, whose word is as good as his bond. Money of Wall Street is destitute of honor in public life, and is guilty of most of its corruption, local, state and national. Money of Mississippi will voluntarily retire from public service one of these days, and will be missed by all who know him. Money of Wall Street never dies, never resigns, and must be hurled from his place of power in our politics by the force of the ballot of an aroused people. Here's health and long life to Leader Money of Mississippi. And here's confusion and annihilation to the political reign of Money of Wall Street."

A TAFT ELECTOR'S COMMENT.

A Taft elector from Ohio, Mr. E. M. Huggins, returned from a visit to Washington a few days ago and gave his impressions to the Ohio State Journal as follows.

"I have seen in the concrete in Washington what I have always known in the abstract, and that is Cannonism and Aldrichism in control of the legislative machinery of the national government, directing the party's policy, suppressing reformative measures, blocking the president in his program, insolent with power, defying public opinion, celebrating their successful exploitation of the people and planning further to serve the special interests, of which Cannonism and Aldrichism are the agents. I am a Republican. All these evils are done in the name of the Republican party. If these forces of corruption and deplorable political methods are not dislodged, the Republican party will collapse by the very weight of them. The issue is becoming more a moral than a political one."

All of which means, in a word, that if the Republican party is to be saved, it is to be saved by the insurgents, whom Speaker Cannon has been trying to read out of the organization.

ROUT OF DICTATOR CANNON.

The news that Mr. Joseph G. Cannon soon will announce that he will not again be a candidate for speaker

comes from an authoritative source and is entirely plausible besides. The fact that a number of the speaker's closest friends and allies in the house are in danger of losing their seats in the election of next year is plainly obvious. For some time it has been accepted as inevitable that a move would be made by the speaker or his "cabinet" to counteract the hostility to Cannon's thick and thin supporters.

But it is almost unbelievable that either the speaker or the other machine leaders could be so fatuous as to suppose that even an irrevocable pledge that Cannon will not be a candidate for speaker again would give his followers a clear field. Even if Cannon should resign at once, and under an arrangement that would bring about the election of a more liberal speaker, such action would not clear the skirts of the men who servilely obeyed his orders in the tariff session.

It is not Cannon, but Cannonism, that the country is determined to eliminate. The personality of the speaker is a mere incident. The personnel of the house is everything. So long as that personnel is untrustworthy, so long there will be no assurance of the desired changes in the rules and regulations of the body. The progressives must gain control if representative rule is to be restored.

Cannon is quite capable of doing something for his "friends" that he is incapable of doing or unwilling to do for his country or even his party. But the time has passed when any personal sacrifice he may make will avail those "friends." They are marked men. Many of them will face hard contests, and such of these as win their nominations against progressive candidates of their own party will have hard fights with their Democratic opponents. A number of them are doomed in spite of the events that the next ten months may bring forth.

Some of those now in jeopardy would be saved, no doubt, if they should come out aggressively for strong, progressive measures in the present session, regardless of the orders of Aldrich and Cannon, regardless of the influence of the special interests in congress. But there is little prospect of a stampede to get into the progressive bandwagon. Most of the flagrant offenders know that the records they made in the tariff session are the standards by which their constituents will judge them, for those records were made in violation of the party's promises and the country's expectations.

Meanwhile the rout of Cannon is a gratifying spectacle. Representative Murdock was not far out of the way when he predicted that early in the present session the speaker would have to resign or announce that he would not be a candidate for reelection.—Kansas City Times, Rep.

PLAIN TALK BY WHEDON.

Charles O. Whedon of Lincoln, chairman of the last Republican state convention, concludes a searching article on the sugar trust and its tariff graft, published in Tuesday's Lincoln Journal, in the following straight from the shoulder fashion:

The crimes in which sugar is involved are not limited or confined to false weights at the custom house. It is a crime against the people of this country, a crime for which the dominant party is responsible and answerable, that an unnecessary and prohibitory duty should be maintained on a necessary of life in most general use by all the people, in the interests and for the benefit of a combination whose very existence is a continued violation of law. A congressional investigation would, if as complete as could be made, disclose the influences which were at work when the representatives of the nominat party made the party false to its pludge and placed it on the defensive. But a decade has passed since an investigation disclosed to a moral certainty the fact that the votes upon a tariff bill containing a sugar schedule were influenced by speculation in sugar stocks.

A member of congress who acquiesces in the policy of the administration when such acquiescence carries with it a surrender of the duty which he owes to those whose chosen repre-

sentative he is, is unworthy the position of trust which he holds.

This indictment is flung squarely in the face of Senator Burkett, who lives in the same city and is a member of the same party as Mr. Whedon.

Senator Burkett, without deviation, voted with and for the outlaw sugar trust. He voted with Aldrich and his flock of trained senators to give this criminal trust the right to tax the American people two cents a pound on all the sugar they consume.

Mr. Whedon declares that his votes on the sugar schedule constituted "a crime against the people." Mr. Whedon declares that his votes amounted to "a surrender of the duty which he owes to those whose chosen representative he is." Mr. Whedon declares that those votes stamp him as "unworthy of the position of trust which he holds."

Senator Burkett is now in Nebraska. Will he allow this indictment, made by a prominent and responsible fellow townsman and fellow Republican, to pass unchanged? Or will he defend his honor, which is thus directly assailed?

What has Senator Burkett to say in response to what Charles O. Whedon has said?—World-Herald.

We don't mind an occasional cold wave, but this season's cold billows have surged too much for the average poor man.

While the speaker denies that he intends to resign, the insurgents are still confident they will tie a can on Cannon.

Now for more industries for Plattsmouth in 1910 than we succeeded in procuring in 1909. And we did pretty well in the year just closed.

Did you resolve to do your duty to yourself and the city in which you live in 1910? We hope you did, and that you will live up to your resolve.

Every business man in Plattsmouth should make up his mind to continue the good work inaugurated in 1909, during the year 1910. There should be no factions in striving for the best interests of the old town.

Jacob Glenn who attended the reunion of the Glenn family Saturday, departed this morning for his home at Gothenburg.



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