

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The tariff wall keeps out everything but the trusts. It locks the chicken coop with the weasel inside.

Mark Twain, whose chief mission in life has been to make other people laugh, has had his full quota of sorrow. The sadness of his late bereavement, the sudden death of a beloved daughter, is intensified because of its occurrence just before Christmas, when the whole world was in festive attire. The thousands who have been delighted of this age's greatest humorist will extend silent but none-the-less sincere sympathy in this great affliction coming in his declining years.

If there is such a thing as an American school of art, Frederick Remington, whose death occurred the other day, was certainly its pre-eminent master. Remington's art was virile, masterful, manly. He depicted rugged scenes, rugged men and rugged horses, as few other men ever have. He once said that he would like engraved on his tombstone as an epitaph these words: "He knew the horse." And he did. Remington's horses, if all else be forgotten, will keep his memory green.

Cutting "melons" for its lucky share holders is quite a habit of the Wells-Fargo express company. In November the company paid a stock dividend of 300 per cent, or two additional shares at par and \$100 in cash. Now it announces an extra dividend of 30 per cent, payable on February 10, in addition to the regular 5 per cent semi-annual dividend. All this is very nice for the express company stockholders, but no wild enthusiasm over the company's prosperity will be manifested by the common people, who are held at the mercy of the express trust and compelled to pay exorbitant prices for service in order that such "melons" may be cut.

DID DR. WOODRUFF SMILE?

The old-fashioned politician has become so rare nowadays that it is really delightful to come upon such a thorough-going old timer of New York. Listen to his forecast for 1910:

"It will be a banner year for the nation. Republican policies prevail and a staunch Republican prosperity will fill the air with good things."

There you have it. The Republican administration is responsible for the rain and the sunshine, the corn and the cattle, the abundance of national resources, and the intelligence of the Americans who use them to good advantage. But what you want to know is whether Mr. Woodruff kept his face straight.—Kansas City Times, Rep.

CORRUPT FEDERAL COURTS.

One need not be a Socialist to admire the fearlessness of the Appeal to Reason, a Socialist newspaper, in its fight against a corrupt federal judiciary. The Appeal is exposing the records of a number of federal judges, supporting its charges with documentary proof, and the exhibition is one to make the blood of any honest citizen boil. Thomas Jefferson prophesied that the United States courts would prove the "sappers and miners" of the liberties of this country. Jefferson's far-seeing vision was keen in this as in all things.

Jefferson had much to do with the making of the constitution of the United States, and he resisted so far as lay in his power the efforts of the Hamilton school of political economists to shackle the liberties of the people. The constitution was a compromise, and the federal courts, with the judges appointed for life and in no way responsible to the people, constituted the victory won by the monarchists, the statesmen who did not believe that the people should

have the unrestricted right of self government.

From the earliest days of the republic to the present time, from the lowest district federal bench to the supreme court of the United States, the federal judiciary has been the stumbling block of progress, the menace of free government in this country. Gradually, step by step, the federal courts have usurped functions not endowed upon them by the constitution, until today it may be said with truth that the three (theoretically) separate and distinct branches of government—the legislature, executive and judicial—are lumped into one—the federal courts. Congress many pass laws for the good of the people, and the United States supreme court may annul them. Some little pinhead federal judge may hale any citizen into his court, charge him with contempt, act as prosecutor, judge and jury, and cast him into jail.

There doubtless are able, honest, conscientious men sitting on the federal court benches, but there are also scoundrels and grafters. And the people have no redress against dishonest federal judges. A vast number of them are simply the tools of the big trusts and corporations. This is privately admitted by many honest lawyers who have to practice before them, but who dare not publicly voice the federal judges hold to ruin their practice and drive them from the profession.

We are glad the Appeal to Reason has instituted the splendid fight it is making against this festering sore on the body of the republic. We would be more glad if the honest, unsubsidized and unfrightened portion of the press of the Democratic and Republican parties would join hands in the work. It is time the halo of impeccability be torn from the federal courts and their iniquity exhibited to a long suffering people.

Incidentally, back it up with a good resolution to keep your good resolutions.

As for the cold wave, the public is left in doubt whether this is the same old one, or another one.

The earthquake recorded on new year's day may have been due to the widespread effort to shake off all the bad habits at once.

Commander Peary's ears were frost bitten in Virginia last week. As for Doctor Cook, he appears to have found Oblivion and frozen to it.

Col. Jack Chinn of Kentucky declares that any man who "totes a gun" ought to be put in an asylum.

Colonel Chinn has had a long and varied experience and always prefers to use a knife when it comes to joint debate.

The editor of the Journal desires to state publicly that he certainly is as competent to judge of the smell of heaven, as the News man. The latter seems to be quite familiar with the smells of South Omaha and other putrid regions, judging by the confidence with which he speaks of them in last evening's paper.

In another part of the Journal will be found an article headed "A Suggestion," from the Omaha World-Herald. We agree with that paper in every suggestion it makes. We know from past experience that the often-mentioned members of the Democratic party meet on such occasions as suggested, the better it is for every man interested in the success of the party. It should have one big rousing banquet at Omaha, one to follow at Lincoln, and that followed by several smaller ones in other cities in the western part of the state—Grand Island and Hastings, for instance.

Now indeed, does the merry war wage. We learn that President Taft has taken off the mask and has joined hands with Joe Cannon and Senator Aldrich to crush the "insurgents." The right of free speech in the Republican party is prohibited now and forever more. Grover Cleveland did this trick to the Democratic party when he was president and the party has not yet gotten over the effects. That Taft should do the same thing is sincerely to be hoped. This means that the people will come into their own very shortly. The "insurgents" will have a lot of trouble but they are the real spirit of Republicanism just the same. Representative Norris of this state is one of them and he has a hard road ahead of him but he is a mighty big man just the same and deserves encouragement and support from the Democracy. He is nearer Democracy than many of the members of that party.

THE TENDERNESS OF TAFT.

Repts come from Washington that President Taft is manifesting the tenderest solicitude for the Standard Oil company. He fears that the dissolution decree recently rendered by the federal circuit court of Missouri, and soon to be passed upon by the supreme court, may be upheld by that body. So deep is his sympathy for the oil trust in his hours of trouble that, so the amazing story goes, he is seriously considering a message to congress urging a federal incorporation act, one of the old Roosevelt ideas, in the hope that it may be passed and become a law before the supreme court acts upon the dissolution decree, thus offering a haven of refuge for the poor, storm-tossed oil trust.

In this idea the president is ably seconded by those noble patriots, Senator Aldrich and Speaker Cannon, but the plan is said to have set the Taft cabinet aghast by its audacity and sinister aspect. Mr. Taft's advisers urge him to withhold such a recommendation to congress until the supreme court has had time to act, but the president frankly admits apprehension of a supreme court decision adverse to the oil trust as his reason for recommending the legislature now. Of course he argues from the standpoint that business generally will suffer if the supreme court affirms the finding of the circuit court.

But the Standard doubtless rests serene in the thought that with such good, reliable friends in the executive mansion and the two branches of congress as the Taft-Aldrich-Cannon triumvirate its own interests will not be allowed to suffer long, whatever may happen to the country at large.

A TWO-EDGED DECISION.

Judge Pollock's decision, in the United States district court at Topeka, that the Kansas bank deposit guarantee law is unconstitutional, is of course hailed with joy by the opponents of guaranteed deposit. But their delight is premature. Judge Pollock's decision cannot be regarded as conclusive until affirmed by the court of last resort. And its logic limps badly.

According to the newspaper reports the court rules against the law on the ground that the property rights of shareholders in existing banks are jeopardized by making the assets of those banks liable for the debts caused by mismanagement or misfortune of other banks. Judge Pollock holds that it is an invasion of the property rights of a bank stockholder to subject him to the liabilities of other banks than the one in which his money is invested.

But, if it is unconstitutional to establish a joint guarantee of this class of bank liabilities—deposits—it must in principle be equally unconstitutional to establish a joint guarantee of the other class—circulating notes. And if, as Judge Pollock holds, it is beyond the powers of legislatures to create new banking systems involving such liability, a new restriction is imposed upon the powers of a state that must assuredly prevent any change or reform whatsoever in the banking system of the country.

The opponents of the bank deposit guarantees will find the Kansas court's decision a two-edged sword and we doubt if, on mature reflection,

they will wax increasingly enthusiastic over it.

A SUGGESTION.

Why would it not be well for the Democracy of Nebraska to follow the example set by the Democracy of Missouri, and hold, in the near future, a state banquet, if not, indeed, a series of local banquets?

Experience has proved the benefits of these meetings. They serve to bring together for consultation and exchange of opinion those who are active in party affairs. They start the difficult and tedious work of organization. They inspire interest and enthusiasm. They get people to talking and thinking about the policies and principles for which the party stands. The Democratic party especially, and at this time perhaps more than ever before, is benefited by publicity and agitation. The opposition party, pursuing policies that are inimical to the public good, setting itself every day more and more at variance with an enlightened public opinion, can well afford to see political interests at a low ebb. It works better in the dark and is best content when comparatively few people are studying its deeds and record. But the Democratic party, representing only the people, appealing only to the people for support, depending on them entirely for its victories, must rely on the popular conscience and intelligence for success.

There has seldom if ever been a time when Democratic theories and policies were as universally popular as they are today. Just as there has seldom been a time when Republican policies were so deservedly unpopular. The Democratic organization should take advantage of the fact, and, in the interest not only of the party, but in the greater interest of state and nation, push the active work of Democratic propaganda.

To the Democratic leaders in Nebraska, and particularly to those who are in charge of the organization, the World-Herald commends, for careful consideration, the idea of holding at least one state meeting, and perhaps a number of other meetings in various sections of the state, this winter.—World-Herald.

SOLDIERS MADE INSANE.

A car filled with crazy soldiers is on its way from San Francisco to Washington, in charge of Major J. M. Kennedy. Of these unhappy insane men a majority will spend their days in a government insane asylum, and, in nine cases out of ten, this is due to the rank hypocrisy of congress, the ignorance and bigoted fanaticism of prohibitionists that have succeeded in abolishing the army canteen.

All of these insane soldiers are brought from the Philippines, and their insanity, as Major Kennedy says, is due to their drinking of the vile, poisonous, highly alcoholic drink called "bino," loaded with the vilest alcohol and full of other poisons. The men drink this dreadful stuff and become insane, because ignorant prohibitionists have persuaded a hypocritical congress to abolish the army canteen.

President Taft knows that is true. Every member of congress knows that it is true. But the congressmen fear the much exaggerated voting power of the prohibitionist, whereas he has nothing to fear from that carload of crazy soldiers, enlisted to serve their country and then made victims of stupid, hypocritical fanaticism.

When the soldiers had their canteen they were content, and they were, as a whole, a remarkably sober body of men.

No strong drink could be served in the canteen, and the men did not wander off to the whisky dive or craze themselves with vile native drink.

The man in charge of the canteen ranked as a non-commissioned officer. He allowed no man to drink to excess. Any soldier showing a sign of intoxication was ordered to go to bed, and he went—and the next day he was glad that he had been at the soldiers' club and been made to obey the rules of decency.

No man made a penny out of the canteen. Every cent taken in over

and above expenses was devoted to provides delicacies—non-alcoholic—for the soldiers.

Today in the dives that surround army posts, old soldiers' homes and every other place where hypocrisy rules in the name of temperance, the soldiers and old veterans are made the victims of sharks. They must drink vile poisons or change a life-long habit and drink nothing.

Meanwhile the hypocrites in congress who voted against the right of the soldiers to have their canteen drink as much as they choose, and when they choose, and not a few of the ardent advocates of canteen abolition outside of congress do the same.

This situation is disgraceful to the country, a sample of puritanical hypocrisy that should be tolerated no longer.

Men content to drink mild beer or light wines are forbidden to do that in the name of temperance, and then in the name of temperance and hypocrisy they are driven to the dive and to the vilest alcoholic poisons as a substitute for the truly temperate canteen.

Every officer in the army testifies that this is true.

General Fred Grant, himself an ardent prohibitionist, who marched in full uniform at the head of a prohibition parade, declares that the abolition of the canteen has vastly increased drunkenness in the army.

Every army doctor knows that the abolition of the canteen has increased disease—the hospital record of our American army is today the worst of any army in the world.

How does that strike the men that would force their minority views on a majority, play upon the hypocritical subservience of congress, and, saying to men, "You shall not have temperate light drinks in your army club," force them to take instead the vile whiskey of the dives here at home, or the vile native alcoholic poison in the Philippines?

Will the president protect the soldiers against this cowardly outrage? Newspaper editors, every man of them knowing well that this is true, should explain to their several congressmen that hypocrisy in the long run does not pay.

And sane, independent men in congress should fight against the cowardly evasion of duty.

The canteen will be restored, and the army will not be permanently organized for the benefit of dive keepers.

What man at Washington will make it his business to see to this?—Chicago American.

FROM THE BUSY WORLD.

The burlesque of the game seems in sight. We read that various railway presidents visited with President Taft and tried to get him to agree not to recommend any measures detrimental to them. We read of their dejected men when they left the august presence but let us read the message. William H. Taft seems a peculiarly susceptible personage and it is possible the lacrymose presidents moved his feelings. Anyway it was worth trying.

Now we have another diversion. Senator Dick of Ohio has written A. C. Barbour, president of the match trust, an open letter denouncing the latter for having sworn off his American citizenship several years back when he was trying to dodge taxes. 'Tis a merry way and right blood, well do we enjoy it. What will happen to Dick in a few years is not going to be hard to forecast. He will join the lamented Joseph Benson Foraker in the discard and then Barbour will have his smile coming.

Charles W. Morse, the New York banker, has commenced his term of fifteen years at the federal prison in Atlantic, Ga. At the close of his case which has really become a cause celebre, he stated that he was simply a victim of the "system" and denied any actual guilt. At this distance it looks as if he was correct and that he was really railroaded to the pen by a rotten bunch of financiers whose enmity he has incurred. Morse probably was guilty and likely deserved a long sentence but he is no worse

than many others who walk abroad in the light of day and carry on their nefarious work without fear of justice overtaking them.

The strike of the shirtwaist makers in New York is assuming serious proportions. Last Sunday a mass meeting was held in Carnegie Hall at which strong resolutions were adopted denouncing the course of the police magistrates in sentencing some of the strikers to terms in the workhouse. It appeared that these girls who are said to be innocent and pure were thrown into cells along with prostitutes and the very lowest class of the underworld and this has raised a storm of indignation among the public. The strikers are supported by many wealthy women of the city and have every prospect of bringing the manufacturers to terms. It is to be hoped they succeed in convincing the police magistrates that they are human and entitled to decent treatment.

It seems the Ballinger-Pinchot matter is to be investigated. According to John Callan O'Laughlin, the Chicago Tribune talented correspondent at Washington and a man who knows the investigation will be held by the following men. Read the names. You, Mr. Reader, must pay the bill in the end. Look and see whom John Callan O'Laughlin—who knows—says the committee will be read!

Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota chairman. A good man—right always.

Senator Elihu Root of New York Well spoken of by the metropolitan papers, but?

Senator Geo. Sutherland of Utah—a product of the Mormon church—see Elihu Root.

Senator Frank P. Flint of California—see yesterday's Journal for Frank P. Flint. Also see Senator Root, Representative Jno. Dalzell of Pennsylvania. Notorious leader of protective tariff thieves. Read Dalzell's record—also see Senator Root.

Representative Samuel McCall of Massachusetts. All said of Dalzell applies here. Also takes orders from Senator Root. Always watch Root.

Representative Fredrick C. Stevens of Michigan. Looks right and has acted right. Let's see how he lines up.

Representative E. W. Martin of South Dakota.—See Senator Root.

Senator Thos. H. Paynter of Kentucky. Let's see how he votes!

Senator James P. Clarke of Arkansas or Senator Chas. J. Hughes of Colorado. Where can Elihu Root lose?

Representative Swigar Shirley of Kentucky or Representative Moon of Tennessee. Both good men and honest.

Representative Wm. A. Howard of Georgia. A good man but out of place.

According to the public prints, Speaker Cannon and Senator Aldrich have agreed upon the foregoing list with the possible exception of Senator Flint, who has talked too much. Senator Bristow of Kansas, will not take Senator Flint's place, however.

If anyone can decipher where Gifford Pinchot has a show with the above committee the Plattsmouth Journal will forward a fine box of candy to said party's address. You tell Busy World where Mr. Pinchot has a chance and a good box of candy is yours. Notice Senator Root! Jim Hill's counsel, always a well known Wall street lawyer, he is a study. President Taft is a figure head compared with this man who could not control Theodore Roosevelt although he was a personal friend.

W. S. Stottler of Union, was in the city yesterday looking after business matters.

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