

The - Plattsmouth - Journal

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Colder weather is in the forecast. The climate during the last few days has been almost too good to be true.

Shoes are to be so much higher that it is suspected the shoe manufacturers imagine the public intends to go wading.

If the Eiffel tower is undermined and topples over it will be the hardest tumble Paris has had since the fall of the Bastille.

De Rake's comet is now more or less visible, but the press agents for Halley's comet warn all star gazers to wait for the big show.

Nor is there any comfort in the knowledge that, no matter how much cold weather there has been this winter, there's some more coming.

Those who hope to see Jeffries win on July 4, will be glad to note that Jack Johnson is still engaged in buying champagne in New York.

Mr. Morse and Mr. Walsh now have nothing left to remind them of their long careers in the banking business except the ornamental grating at their windows.

Thanks are due the attorney general for bringing proceedings against the beef trust. But after the beef trust is investigated and tried and found guilty—then what?

Detroit, Mich., and Windsor, Ont., are but a stone's throw apart. But Detroit is in the United States and Windsor is in Canada, the two cities being only separated only by the St. Clair river, and therefore it costs 25 per cent more to live in Detroit than in Windsor. The Detroit housewife who pays 36 cents a pound for butter and 42 cents a dozen for eggs could walk across the bridge and get the same quantity articles in Windsor for 28 cents and 34 cents, but as she would have to pay a tariff tax on them before she would be permitted to bring the Canadian products into this country, she would profit nothing by the transaction. In Detroit the cheapest cuts of beef cost 10 cents a pound, but the same are sold for 6½ cents in Windsor; mess pork costs 20 cents in Detroit, 13 cents in Windsor; bacon is 24 cents in Detroit, but only 19 cents in Windsor. What a blessed thing the tariff is—but not for the housewife, nor the family.

Another bill has been introduced in the house of representatives having for its object the raising of the wreck of the battleship Maine, which for 12 years has been rotting, and its cargo of human bones bleaching, in the waters of Havana harbor. It is a national disgrace that all these years have gone by without an attempt at any genuine investigation of the wreck of the Maine, or the recovery of the remains of the men who went down in that ill-fated vessel, that they might be given decent burial. Congressman Sulzer of New York, made a vigorous but unsuccessful effort to accomplish something in that respect. It is to be hoped that the present movement will bear better fruit. To this day it is unsettled whether the Maine was wrecked by an internal explosion or by and outside mine. What other civilized nation would have tolerated such secrecy and indifference? Public sentiment should unite in demanding the raising of the Maine, in a tone so loud as to reach the caloused ears of congress.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATION.

(Special Correspondence).
Lincoln, Neb., January.—Home rule has always been a cardinal principle of the Democratic party. The

principle is as old as the party itself, for Jefferson included it among the fundamentals. The Nebraska Democracy reiterated its belief in the home rule principle in its 1907 platform, declaring for local self government in Omaha and South Omaha, the election of local assessors and placing a check on the arbitrary power of the state board of equalization.

For years the Republican legislatures busied themselves to enact laws empowering Republican governors to appoint fire and police boards of the two Omahas. The purpose was plain—to give the Republican party, through the governor, the right to control for partisan purposes the fire and police commissions of two cities that are normally Democratic. The Republican city of Lincoln was always permitted to elect its own fire and police board. This was some special legislation in its worst form—undemocratic, and in violation of the first principles of our government.

The Democratic legislature of 1909 did its full duty by the two Omahas. It gave to those cities the rights enjoyed by other cities in the state, namely, to elect their own boards of fire and police commissioners. The party redeemed the pledge in letter and in spirit. Certain selfish interests sought to invoke the doctrine of home rule against all forms of regulatory legislation. The liquor interests and the railroad interests sought to invoke the home rule doctrine to prevent needed regulatory laws. But the Democratic principle of home rule, or local self-government. In this the Democratic party stand on solid ground. It believes in treating all cities in the state alike. It believes in equal rights to all, special privileges to none. It is opposed to sectional and special legislation.

In another way the Democratic party redeemed a platform pledge when it passed the local assessor law. The Republican party had deprived the people of the right to elect by enacting a law that prohibited the voters from voting for the men who actually assessed the property.

The Democratic legislature of 1909 changed this, invoking the Jeffersonian doctrine of self-government, and giving back to the people a right that never should have been taken from them.

The Democratic legislature of 1909 went even further. It took away from the state board of equalization the arbitrary power that it had been exercising in reassessing the property of the state under guise of "equalization." The revenue laws passed by Republican legislatures gave five men sitting as a board of equalization the power to arbitrarily reassess the property of the citizens of the state. This was insidious, undemocratic and un-American. The board could raise the assessment of any county as it saw fit and could do it without notice or appeal. In many instances the board did so, raising the assessment from 10 to 100 per cent and without notice to the county's officials. The Democratic legislature of 1909 changed the law. It gave the board the right to equalize the value of property by giving it the right to raise one county and lower another for the purpose of making the assessment uniform, but it provided that if the board undertook to increase the aggregate assessment of the state above the amount returned by the various county assessors, notice must be served on the counties affected. The law now provides that before the aggregate assessment of the state can be increased by the board of equalization or assessment,

notice must be served on the county clerk, the county assessor and the chairman of the county board, requir-

ing them to appear and show cause why the assessment should not be raised. By this simple provision the Democratic party took from the board of equalization an arbitrary power vested therein by a Republican legislature. The Democratic party so framed legislation as to give the people something to say as to who should assess their property. Under the Democratic plan the property is assessed after actual view by an officer chosen by the people themselves. It took the power of assessing out of the hands of an arbitrary board and appointed assessors, and placed it where it belongs—in the hands of the people. The Republican party now, as in the past, disapproves of allowing the people to have full voice in their own governmental affairs.

Recently we called attention to the fact that the Republican secretary of the state banking board was demanding and receiving an increased salary under the provisions of a law that had been declared invalid. Under the old law the secretary received a salary of \$2,000 a year. The bank guarantee law provided for a salary of \$3,000 a year. Secretary Royce said the new law was bad and refused to let go when Governor Shallenberger undertook to appoint a successor. Judge Munger then decided that the bank guarantee law was invalid. Secretary Royce then held to his job as provided by the old law. But he insists—and receives—the salary provided for by the law which was knocked out. But this is nothing strange, for Republican office holders. For several years the statutes provided a salary of \$1,500 for deputy state officers. But Republican legislatures went right along appropriating \$1,800 each, and Republican auditors allowed the claims, each one \$25.00 a month above the legally fixed salary. Now one Republican office holder is being paid an extra \$1,800 a year under the provisions of a law that has been declared invalid on motion of Republican bankers and politicians by a Republican federal judge appointed by a Republican president at the urgent solicitation of two Republican United States senators. Yet we have been hearing an awful howl from g. o. p. organs about "Democratic pie-biters" and Democratic salary grabbers.

A recent civil service order places fourth class postmasters under the rules of the civil service, and the g. o. p. organs give their full approval. The need of civil service in the management of state institutions is recognized by all. But if this reform should be instituted now, when the institutions are being economically and efficiently managed by Democrats, the g. o. p. organs would howl themselves hoarse to show how awfully vicious and depraved the Democrats are to take advantage of the time and opportunity.

The best thing about a good man is that he never knows how good he is.

There is only one test the true church can apply to any man, and that is, "Do you need?"

There are persons in this community who have become so indifferent to matters of public interest that they don't care a last year's straw hat whether Prof. Jim Jeffries gets into condition to fight Prof. Jack Johnson or not.

Some patrons of one of the elevated roads in Chicago are much displeased because the company has put into force a rule against smoking. The gentlemen should recognize that smoking on cars is something in the nature of a favor and not a right. Street car companies are in the business of carrying passengers, not of providing smoking rooms for patrons. The patrons of the Chicago elevated road have enjoyed the privilege of smoking many years. They should be grateful for past indulgence instead of vindictive if smoking now interferes with the comfort of other passengers and with the business of the company.

PLAIN LIVING.

Putting extremes aside, we may

anchor to this rock of fact: Plain living here hurt man or nation. The frugal repast is the most satisfactory, if garnished with hunger's sauce. As a nation we are lavish and wasteful in our food bill.

If we would fool the predatory meat man, we have the remedy always at hand. We can quit eating his high-priced meats. Let the whole country do that for a while, and the price would soon come down, whatever else might happen.

As to doing it—well, that is another story.

WHAT'S THE JOKE.

In Indiana the voracious dispatches tell us a woman tried to tell a funny story to her friend, but before she had well begun, burst into laughter, broke a blood vessel, and died. This is sad, but unsatisfactory. What was the story? Why did not the correspondent tell us as much of the story as the friend knew, so that we might a pede Hercules reconstruct it after our own fashion? This is another lost story. The world is full of them. Since the careless Millet lost his tales the world has been tantalized with fragments and hints of promised recitals never finished. Like the song sung by the sirens we shall never know what these good stories were.

We restore old paintings, temples, and statuary, and thus glimpse something of what the creator's original conception must have been, but the stories remain untold, like that of Antonio. "Twas a dark and stormy night and the brigands were seated around their campfire. And the brigand chief, turning to his lieutenant, said: 'Antonio, tell us a story.' And Antonio said: 'Twas a dark and stormy night and the brigands were seated around their campfire—'" and so the childish rigmorale goes on in an unending circle. We never know Antonio's story.

And just so on the stage. The doors in the center back open in act II, and a crowd of men enter laughing heartily. Their mirth is uncontrollable. The story must have been a gem. We get ready to hear it. But some inconsequential actors begin a dialogue and we never know what the laughter was about. Do the novelists and dramatists give us credit for too much imagination, or do they themselves lack it?—Chicago Tribune.

BOYCOTTS OR BALLOTS?

Blunt old Senator Tillman, in his comment on the meat boycott, hits the nail on the head in a very few words. "Any man who pinches his own belly because he does not know how to vote has no sympathy of mine," he said. And he added that the excitement over the boycott "disgusts a man who knows that there is a remedy in the Elkins and Sherman laws if they only were enforced."

What is the use, after voting for the candidates whom the trusts support, to organize a boycott against a single trust when they have all got what they wanted—and what you voted to them?

Why were the trusts, the big railroad systems, the giant monopolies, the masters of finance—why were they all for Taft and against Bryan? Were their reasons selfish or unselfish. Mercenary or patriotic? Why did they contribute so freely to the Taft-Aldrich-Cannon campaign fund? Why did they threaten panic and starvation if Bryan should be elected?

It is worth thinking about. Any man who has a right to be outside a lunatic asylum knows why. They were working them to secure what now from day to day they are obtaining.

They were working for the Aldrich tariff.

They were working for "security" and "peace"—and immunity.

They were working for federal charters—which they will get if the next congress is Republican. Once they have got them they will become legalized highwaymen instead of outlaw highwaymen.

They were working for a central bank—and they will get that, too. If the next congress is Republican.

They were working, in a word, for

such control of commerce and industry, for such influence with the federal government, as would enable them to fix their own prices on the articles they have for sale and which the American people must buy.

The trusts and monopolies are merely putting on the screws which you, dear boycotter, voted into their hands, when you cast your ballot Taft and the Republican party.

How silly of you, then, to boycott the beef trust! Suppose you get the price of meat reduced to a point where the trust realizes only a reasonable profit over and above what it pays for beef on the hoof. What is to prevent the trust from raising the price again day by day and month by month, once the boycott is declared off? Are you going to declare a permanent boycott on the meat?

And, if you do, what about the other trusts, that are just as merciless and just as burdensome?

Are you going to boycott salt and sugar and lumber and oil and steel and copper and hats and holsey and gloves and boots and shoes and coats and trousers and calico wrappers and underwear and earthenware and stoves and glassware and furniture and carpets and everything else a civilized man requires for himself and family? Are you going to try to beat the trusts by abandoning civilization and going out into the woods to live on nuts and wild berries and roots and slippery elm bark?

Why not do your boycott at the polls, instead? Why not boycott the party that stands for the whole rotten system; for high tariff and subsidies; for monopolies immune from the law; for federal incorporation and a central bank; for government by money instead of government by men?

If the American people have to seek relief in boycotts at the expense of their own backs and bellies; if they are unable and unwilling to cure at the polls the evils that afflict them, then they might as well admit that popular government is a failure and turn things over outright to the oligarchy of wealth with Mr. Morgan as King Pierpont.—World-Herald.

A strong pull together—and united front, and Plattsmouth will step to the front as the best city in Nebraska.

There is a proverb which says "A tradesman who gets not, loseth." Let Plattsmouth merchants remember this in advertising.

Now is the time to get busy. Take time by the forelock and proceed to make Plattsmouth succeed. Do a little boosting on your own hook.

Astronomers regard the new and unauthorized comet with much the same disapproval that the Taft administration contemplates Judge Landis.

Governor Shallenberger has settled the extra session question for good and all. He says there will be none unless the supreme court passes upon the bank guaranty law and this is not within the life of this legislature in all probability. Therefore this question will be one for the next legislature to tussle with.

Speaking of absentee ownership last Thursday night George B. Irving said that Plattsmouth should give them a wire berth and that they should move to Plattsmouth or dispose of their holdings. The Plattsmouth Journal is a shining example of ownership held in this city and it is proud of the fact. If every other concern in Plattsmouth stood in the same position, the city would be much better off than it now is.

The postal bank bill has been brought in and from all parts of the country there comes a cry from the country bankers who see themselves being swallowed up in the bank and the money which they now have on deposit finding its way to the east. It will be remembered that last fall many, if not a great majority of these bankers were for Taft and his program. Now have they a right to kick over what they deliberately voted for?

The many good ideas which George B. Irving advanced to the people of Plattsmouth on Thursday evening should be put into execution without delay. He suggested certain industries which the city has at its doors undeveloped. The material in itself is sufficient capitalization to secure funds on. Let the commercial club and the moneyed men of the town take hold of the project to which he called attention and push it to a finish. It is the commencement of a great enterprise if it is but hurried up.

George B. Irving recommends that there is a "knockers club" formed in the city to take care of the fellows who are always kicking on the town. The idea is an excellent one and should be put into immediate practice. The man who sees nothing good in the city can only see the ills which afflict it, is not a good citizen and the quicker he moves the better it will be for all concerned. Live men see the ills but they do not waste their time in walling over them. They prefer to remedy them and build up—not pessimistically tear down. Let us have a knockers club to knock the knockers.

As was pointed out sometime ago in the Journal, any postal savings bank bill which will be passed by this congress, is a step in the direction of an auxiliary system to the great central bank scheme of Senator Aldrich. Any postal bank bill is subject to a wide division of sentiment but this bill seems to be so absolutely iniquitous that even the staunchest friend of the postal bank will have to oppose it. It proposes deliberately the loot of the west and the south for the benefit of Wall street and the stock gamblers and nothing else, and the government is to be a party to the deal.

"STUNG."

Under this caption A. P. Kelly, editor of the North Platte Telegraph, gives some information gathered on the spot with reference to one of the Burkett "meetings" held, by allegation, last Thursday:

"It is the rule of newspapers, when gathering local information for the general public to rely largely upon information gathered from people who are in daily touch with the business world, and more specifically that of a public official.

"It is not the intent of the Telegraph to mis-quote or elaborate upon visionary proposition, and the bunch handed to this paper yesterday by Receiver "Bill" Woodhurst has reacted in an unpleasant and unfair manner.

"We refer to the news item concerning club organization, and the very words printed was taken from the lips of this government official and believed to be true.

"After sifting the facts of the said Burkett boom down to solid ground we find that Woodhurst looked through peculiar glasses and instead of a great harmonious gathering of 60 rank and file Republicans at the said meeting there was less than 3, and the signers to the paper, were gathered through solicitation of parties who still love to suck the public tit.

"As before stated, the Telegraph is not tied to any ilk or party, or man, and if such false publication as was handed us regarding the Burkett boom is continued, and sanctioned by the senator, then both he and his cohorts should be made to take more bitter than the sweet.

"Have Mr. Burkett's followers in North Platte gotten into such a strait that they have got to commence lying and mis-quoting facts to boost his boom? The question is what has Burkett done since he has been in Washington? Has his record been such that his followers have to resort to lies and misstatements to secure anything that would resemble a boom for this gentleman? As we look at the matter from an unbiased standpoint, Senator Burkett is not the choice of the people of this vicinity. How would Senator Norris sound?"—Lincoln.

Otto Puls and John West from west of Murray were in the city looking after some business matters. While here Otto made the Journal office a brief call.