

The - Plattsmouth - Journal

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Be a booster.

To pave or not to pave, that's the question.

The baseball fever is spreading to beat the band.

Almost time to be thinking about sharpening up the lawn mower.

The split-log drag is doing wonders in making good roads in the country.

Chicago avenue is getting in fine shape for dragging. It should by all means be done before a rain comes.

The east, it seems, is still able to hold its grip upon the west, with the aid of western senators. How much longer will the voters of the west stand such false representation?

When Teddy comes marching home, just watch the tumbles the man who succeeded as president will take. Taft is trying awful hard now to hedge—get his conscience in shape so that he will be able to look Teddy in the face.

If the Republicans nominate Senator Aldrich of David City, for governor, their platform will have to contain a prohibition plank. He is an out and out prohibitionist, and says he will only run upon that kind of platform. He is different from most Republican candidates, who are always trying to carry water on both shoulders.

It may be of interest to the public to know that the last legislature passed more drainage legislation than had been passed before in the history of the state. At the present time Nebraska has as complete a system of drainage legislation as any state in the union. This matter was given special attention in the recent session and as a result, thousands of acres of valuable lands will be reclaimed.

Under Governor Shallenberger's administration there has been one reform that deserves mention—that of pardons and paroles. The "sob squad" is no longer in evidence around the executive offices. Applications for pardon must go through the regular channel, and no longer are attempts made to thwart justice by appealing to the emotions. Applications for pardons receive little consideration unless the real facts warrant it. As a result the number of pardons has been greatly reduced.

The last legislature passed a new divorce law. The new law makes material changes in the manner of securing divorces. It requires personal service in practically all cases. It requires that an applicant for divorce must be a resident of the state for two years. Recognizing the many abuses of the divorce system, this law remedies these difficulties by making it more difficult to secure a divorce, by so arranging the procedure that divorces will not be surreptitiously granted. Non-residents seeking venues in which divorces are easily obtained will pass Nebraska. Nebraska courts never have been bothered very much with transient applicants for divorces. The last law absolutely prevents and prohibits matrimonial soldiers of fortune in other states from securing divorces in this one.

From a strong editorial article in that ably edited newspaper, the Springfield Republican, we quote the following paragraph as showing what the tendency of the best thought of the country is with reference to the Carnegie foundation: "It is almost startling to observe the progress already made by the Carnegie foundation, which is nothing but a private pension agency, in dictating educational policy to the colleges and universities of this country. The coercive power lurking in the simple menace of

being dropped from the Carnegie list of "accepted" institutions is seen to be tremendous in its possibilities. The groveling spectacle of our American state universities rushing to share the income of the steel bonds, which Mr. Carnegie graciously diverted to the support of the superannuated professor emphasizes the moral of the situation. Thus state institutions, supported by state taxes, are coming to listen meekly while Dr. Pritchett suggests this, that and the other education in their educational policy." Nebraska's university, thanks to the courage of the late Democratic legislature, is one of the universities which is not compelled to "listen meekly" to Carnegie's almoner, Dr. Pritchett. Nebraska's university is one of those which are still free to make their own educational policies.

The efforts of Republicans to claim the credit for the eight o'clock law are laughable in the face of the fact that after being in control of the legislature for twenty years the Republicans never took a single progressive step along liquor legislation lines. Senator Witte is not entitled to the credit of having introduced the eight o'clock bill. All he had to do with it was to introduce a bill closing saloons on primary election day. All save the file number and the words "be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Nebraska" were stricken out and the present eight o'clock law substituted. Senator Witte knew nothing about it until the bill was reported out of the house committee and put on passage. The eight o'clock law is the result of Democratic progressiveness along liquor legislation lines, and was enacted by the first Democratic legislature in the history of the state, after eight or ten Republican legislatures had stood still on the question—and all the while the G. O. P. party was standing still it called itself the party of "God and morality" and tied up hand and glove with the liquor interests. All this is history, and those who are deceived by Republican hypocrisy are those who welcome deception if only it furnishes them an excuse for partisanship.

A competitive examination to select candidates for admission to the United States naval academy will be held at 9 o'clock a. m., Saturday, March 19, 1910, at the office of civil service commission in the postoffice, Lincoln, Nebraska. From those taking this preliminary test there will be nominated one principal and three alternates who will be required to take another examination at Lincoln, Nebraska, April 19, 1910, under the supervision of the civil service commission for appointment as midshipman in the United States naval academy. Only actual bona-fide residents of the First congressional district, Nebraska, between the ages of 16 and 20 years will be admitted to this examination. Each candidate must present to the examiners, on the day of the examination, a certificate of good moral character from the principal of the school last attended; also a certificate from his family physician, testifying to his physical condition. Examination will be held in the following subjects: Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, english grammar, geography, United States history and general history. Circulars of requirements and regulations of the navy department for admission to the United States naval academy may be had by calling on E. R. Sizer, postmaster, Lincoln, Nebraska.

GARFIELD'S TESTIMONY.

James R. Garfield, former secretary of the interior, in his testimony before the investigation committee, added another link to the chain of damning evidence against Ballinger.

He testified that Ballinger submit-

ted to him, at the time Garfield was secretary an affidavit signed by Clarence Cunningham, declaring that the Guggenheims had no interest whatever in the Cunningham claims, which Ballinger was trying to force to patent. On the back of the affidavit was printed the name of Ballinger's law firm.

The records now show that prior to the making of this affidavit and its filing with Garfield by Ballinger, the Guggenheims had been given an option of a half interest in the Cunningham claims.

Ballinger will have to go. He stands before the world thoroughly discredited.

The question will remain, though, why was he ever appointed? Why was Garfield, the champion of conservation, the enemy of the pillaging syndicate, turned down at the eleventh hour to make a place for the attorney for the Cunningham claimants and the friend of the Guggenheims—for Ballinger, who had stopped the unearthing of land frauds in order that he might get campaign fund contributions for Taft and Sherman!

Why has President Taft shown a plain determination to go to any extreme, risking even the wrecking of his administration and his party, to punish Pinchot, Glavis, Shaw, Garfield and other honest public servants who stood in the way of the land grabbers?—World-Herald.

A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS.

When congress convened President Taft had no less than nine measures upon which he desired prompt action that public criticism might not find this session a do-nothing one. These nine bills were:

Postal savings banks.
Amendments to interstate commerce act.
Federal incorporation bill.
Anti-injunction bill.
Conservation bills.
Ship subsidy.
Alaskan government bill.
Campaign fund publicity bill.

Here was an array of legislation the accomplished passage of which would have given the president something to boast of, and put a whip in the hands of the party leaders that would have held voters in line when the fall elections come.

But the program has hung fire more or less all down the line. The postal savings bank bill has come to grief on the stubborn disagreement as to the disposition of depositors, and seems hopelessly stranded.

The interstate commerce act modifications have been introduced in both houses and are being virulently discussed, though action on them is confidently expected later on.

The federal incorporation bill is likely to go to pieces, or at least be held over until next session, by the idea that this federal license may be stretched into a blanket to cover the interests of monopolies. The arguments on the question have been full of fire and vehemence.

The anti-injunction bill, introduced in both houses, is being treated to a spell of intentional neglect. Party leaders are either too busy or too astute to push this matter just yet.

The conservation bills, several in number, have no doubt been retarded by the Ballinger investigation. The country as well as the lawmakers wish to know the true status of matters in this department before any final laws are enacted. Thus little has been done except to report the bills by the committee.

The ship subsidy measure, that bug-a-boo of the inland west, has drawn the sharp fire of the representatives from that section and also of the insurgents. So united are these two elements in their opposition that no safe harbor is ahead for the bill.

The Alaskan government bill, under the attacks of Borah and his following met no success in the senate, where it was declared "a measure to turn the whole of Alaska over to the Guggenheims." In the house its fate will probably be reported to the house before very long.

The campaign fund publicity bill has been heard before the committee, and will probably be reported to the house before very long.

Thus we see how little real pro-

gress Mr. Taft is making in his efforts to accomplish the task he set himself for congress at the beginning of the term. His failure, in whatever degree it comes, he will lay at the door of the insurgents.

Let us hope at least that the baseball players won't go on a sympathetic strike.

The tobacco trust's profits last year were over \$30,000,000. And this is no pipe dream.

From present appearances Plattsmouth will boast of a government building one year from now.

The doctors say pork is hard to digest. However, that may be, the housewife knows it's hard to buy.

Congressman Macon, who wants to be shown the Peary proofs, comes from Arkansas, though he talks as if he was from Missouri.

It's frequently hard to get an indicted trust to make any other admissions, but they are always willing to confess as to their strict honesty.

The meat barons claim they are all independents. Well, no one denies it. If the beef trust is not independent, we don't know the meaning of the term.

Chicago avenue has been dragged, and presents an entire different appearance than it did last week. Keep up the good work.

"Hips are coming back into style," says a fashion paper. Those who have saved their hips may now get even with the high cost of living.

A man's life is about as valuable as a Texas steer in the opinion of the Cherry mine owners, who are settling damage claims of the widows of the miners who perished in the Cherry disaster at the rate of \$100 a head.

A Washington grocer tells the high cost of living investigations committee that a family of five can live well with an expenditure of \$30 a month. He neglects, however, to tell how to get the \$20.

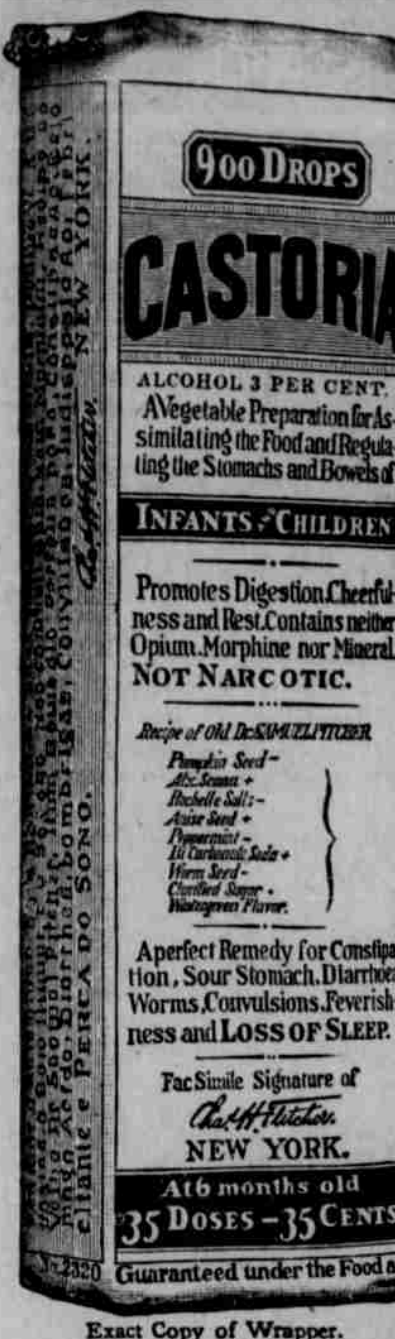
After many years two of the Pennsylvania state capitol grafters have been forced to don prison stripes. Others died while fighting to the last ditch the hand of justice. The mills of the gods grind slow, but they grind exceedingly fine.

Billy Sunday is now doing Danville, Illinois, the home of Joe Cannon. If it is that gentleman he is after he should open in Washington, where he would have an opportunity to reform a few other corrupt Republican members of congress.

There are three things that if followed out to the letter will insure Democratic success in Nebraska. The first is harmony. The next is the best men for the various positions to be filled. And third is a united effort on the part of every Democrat to secure a victory. There should be no logging in the ranks, but all must march in one solid phaloux to obtain the desired results.

Congressman G. M. Hitchcock has announced as a candidate for United States senator. It has been surmised for several months that he would be a candidate but he has never before declared positively. Mr. Hitchcock has served six years as congressman from the Second district, and is acknowledged to be one of the best members in the lower house from the west. His election to the senate would reflect great credit to the people of Nebraska, and would prove a great improvement over Slippery Elmer Burkett, who has never demonstrated in the least that he has had the interests of Nebraska at heart.

Commander Peary must submit proofs of his having reached the north pole before the house naval committee will recommend any reward for him by congress. Such is the decision of the sub-committee, by a nearly unanimous vote. The many friends of Peary cannot with justice find fault with such a determination.



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Neither congress nor the public at large is desirous of withholding from Commander Peary one whit of whatever measure of credit and glory may be due him. But, after the remarkable fiasco at Copenhagen in the case of Peary's rival, Dr. Cook, they cannot be blamed for assuming an attitude of reservation until proofs of Peary's claims are forthcoming.

Representative Rainey of Illinois, is a very inquisitive man. He got himself thoroughly disliked at the white house some time ago by asking embarrassing questions regarding the acquisition of the Panama canal rights. Now he has put himself in bad with capitalistic friends of the administration by introducing a resolution directing the committee on labor to investigate conditions in the plant of the Bethlehem Steel company at Bethlehem, Pa., where the government has large contracts for armor plate and where the conditions are so intolerable that thousands of employees have quit work. The insolence—from a white house standpoint—of Mr. Rainey's latest request for information is heightened by the fact that Charles P. Taft, brother of the president, is reported to have recently acquired an interest in the steel plant in question.

A DEEP GAME.

It may with good reason be suspected that the big snake of the century in Washington legislation is hidden in the postal savings bank measure. The pompous display of preparations for investigating the cause of the enormous increase in the cost of living; for prosecuting the trusts; for reducing government expenses, etc., etc., are so many blinds to divert attention from the deeply laid plans of Aldrich and his co-conspirators to fasten upon the country a great central bank of issue.

The insurgents have—as they perhaps imagine—jammed Aldrich hard, and he has meekly submitted to their attacks. He has permitted the postal savings bill to go through the senate with the Borah amendment, providing that there shall be no investment of postal savings in the \$700,000,000 of 2 per cent bonds; with a certainty that the house will strike out that amendment, and that the administration will bring to bear all its mighty forces toward sustaining, in the conference, the house's action. After this has been accomplished congress may adjourn, as soon as the appropriations shall be agreed on, which will be rushed through at railroad speed, and the monster of a central bank, which Jackson killed over two generations ago, will in this present year be restored to life. Aldrich is

playing the deepest of his many deep games.

Married in Omaha.

The many friends of Miss Maggie Bengen and Mr. John Stones, both well known young people of Mynard, will be surprised to learn that they quietly left the city last Wednesday and went to Omaha where they were united in marriage. They kept the matter very much of a secret and it is only today that it leaked out. Their many friends unite in congratulations to them upon their venture on the matrimonial sea and trust that their life's voyage will be a happy and prosperous one. The bride is the accomplished and refined daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Bengen, excellent citizens from Mynard, and she is a young woman of great worth and many talents. The groom is a well known young farmer of that place and stands very high in the community. He is a hard working and earnest young man and stands well as a very worthy and good citizen. They will make their future home at Mynard.

Up From Oklahoma.

W. W. Coates of Enid, Okla., is in the city making a visit with his family and looking after business matters. Mr. Coates at present has one of the largest wholesale and retail implement and hardware businesses in the southwest and since his acquiring the property of the Coates' hardware company the business has increased by leaps and bounds. He is more than pleased with Oklahoma and regards it as one of the greatest sections of the country. Mr. Coates will remain here for several days and attend to various matters of business.

Good Roads.

Word reaches us that our friend Coon Vallery has been doing some excellent work on the roads along his farm, in the way of dragging them. Our informant says it makes a big difference and put them in excellent shape. If every farmer would follow Mr. Vallery's example, the highways would be in fine shape all over the country. Get out your drags and do something in this line, and you will feel better for doing a duty you owe to yourself, the public and your God.

Another Seed Corn Test.

John Meisinger, Jr., living two miles south of Cullom is another farmer who recently tested his corn. He gathered eighteen ears from a field of corn that had been out all winter, and took one grain from each ear and planted them in a box in the house. The result was that everyone of the grains came up. This seems to demonstrate that a good portion of the corn left in the fields all winter will do for seed.

Our worthy friend John Busche, was in the city Saturday from his new home near Cedar Creek and added his name to the list of readers of this paper. John is an excellent citizen and the Journal is glad to be chosen as the means of keeping him informed upon what is going on in the city.

P. H. Meisinger came down this morning from his home near Cedar Creek to look after business matters in the city.