

The - Plattsmouth - Journal

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Nothing succeeds like keeping everlastingly at it. Boost for Plattsmouth.

The coal problem is not so serious as it was, but the Easter bonnet question has suddenly arisen.

"I am not afraid of the people," says President Taft. The people do not fear Mr. Taft, either; but they fear for him.

Mr. Taft ought not to blame the newspapers. With scarcely an exception, they have been as friendly as they dared.

Republican papers are not blowing much about the special congressional election in Massachusetts. Two years ago the district went 14,000 Republican, and a Democrat was elected at the recent election by over 5,000. What a change was there, my countrymen. And the Aldrich-Cannon-Taft schedules did the work. You can't fool the people all the time.

Iowa standpatters are not so very plentiful in proportion to the number of Republicans in that state. Since Cummins won out and Dolliver saw the light and "inspired" and others are laying low; especially those that are looking for pie. The same in Nebraska. Those standpatters who were howling so loud are very quiet.

An exchange wisely observes that if we continue making farmers' boys stenographers, clerks, preachers and lawyers, corn will be worth \$8 per bushel within the next ten years. And we may safely suggest that many of them would make better corn raisers than they do preachers and lawyers. Of course, your home community is always excepted.

"Would you consider an organization to buy all the coal lands in Pennsylvania a conspiracy in restraint of trade and a monopoly?" asked Justice Harlan during the argument of the Standard case in the United States supreme court the other day. The company's counsel was unable to answer. And yet the company goes into court under a plea in extension that its ownership of practically the entire oil business of the country was acquired by straight business methods and the use of superior acumen in conducting its affairs, aided by unlimited capital. The court's question was a significant one.

Notwithstanding the strongest sort of opposition on the part of the Republican members, the house committee has been compelled to yield to the popular demand and has reported out the bill to require the publication of campaign contributions. The effort to pigeonhole the measure was thwarted by the Democrats. Republicans in committee voted against the bill or did not vote at all. But the prospects are good for the passage of the bill at this session. To take off the lid is dreaded by the G. O. P. managers. It was a deliberate refusal after the last congressional election, on the part of some of the congressional managers of the president's own party, to file their accounts. What it costs to elect a Republican majority is thus still a mystery. It is a phase of the old Quay motto: Addition, division and silence.

WHICH?

The Sioux City Tribune aims a wicked and malicious dart at Nebraska's senior senator:

"Which side of the Cannon fight is Senator Burkett on?" asks the editor of the Tribune.

Ask again and then again. Afterwards keep on asking. Echoes innumerable will be the only reply vouchsafed to the journalistic inquirer of Packington.

Where Burkett's silence begins history becomes eloquent. Nebraska voters have not forgotten when "Uncle Joe" Cannon stumped the South Platte country in behalf of E. J. Burkett. In the Lincoln auditorium Cannon declared that whenever he needed Burkett's vote, he, Cannon, got it. He wanted Burkett returned because "they" needed him. And any student of current events knows that Cannon meant the special interests when he enunciated that innocent "they."—Lincoln Star.

HARMONY OF OHIO.

Among the men who are being closely watched by the political forecasters who are already earnestly speculating on the possibilities of the year 1912, is the chief executive of the good state of Ohio—Hon. Judson Harmon. A few days ago, Gov. Harmon made this observation:

"To talk big and do nothing is bad in any case, but especially so in a matter of public morals."

The force of the expression of the governor will appeal strongly to men who have become weary of the somewhat loquacious statesmen who are everlastingly saying rather than doing. For many months now the so-called statesmen at Washington have been busy "saying," and perhaps the governor was offering an inference befitting that class of statesmen. The work that Governor Harmon has been doing in his own state has been such as to cause strongest endorsement from not only the Democratic, but the Independent and Republican press. We venture the prediction that a strong effort will be made by the level-headed Democrats of the country to make Governor Harmon the standard bearer of the Democratic party in 1912. There is every reason to believe that President Taft will succeed in his desire for renomination, and thus, the picking up of Governor Harmon, in view of the splendid work he is doing, will be regarded as a master stroke of policy, in the going to Ohio for the Democratic candidate. Harmon has a record of "doing," and with the approval of nearly all Ohio men for the manner of his doing, we prophesy his presidential strength will grow rapidly not only in his own balliwick, but throughout the whole country.

BIG SWINDLERS AND LITTLE.

It is but human nature that the man higher up should be taken pattern of by the man lower down. Hence there is little surprise at the disclosures made by the government agents in Chicago and other cities of various petty frauds practiced by retail dealers in food products upon the consumer. Such things as loaded bottoms on scales and fake weights were common. There is a computing scale in general use in many parts of the country that turns a pretty figure each year as an automatic swindler. Of course, most of the poor rascals caught at it were promptly haled before the court, fined or jailed. Far be it from the dignity of the blind goddess to simianize with such offenders. Sherman act? What? And the dear public being flimmed out of a fraction of a pound per by such vulgar methods! In you go. No temporizing with the sacred rights of the people.

These same government sleuths, also, found that the large manufacturers of package goods, which have come into universal demand, for reasons of convenience and others, have been gradually decreasing the size of their packages and increasing the price thereof. Were they dumped into dungeons deep, unceremoniously and indignantly? Not they. They went to court, said it was impossible to put exactly a pound or a half pound in every package. In New York thousands of bottles used by

dealers to sell milk by the quart were gathered up and found by a large percentage to be short measure. Were the dealers swatted quickly by the strong arm of the law? Nay. They went to court, too, said it was impossible to get bottles that would contain exactly the amount represented as being sold the consumers. In each case the court said "very good; may be you can't; but you can make packages or bottles that will contain at least the weight of the quantity as represented." May be these dealers are obeying the law—may be. Being a little larger calibre than retailers, it took more time to make their heaven.

All of which indicates that under our system of procedure, the small chap gets it in the neck and the big one gets his in dividends.

"A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY."

The Sioux City Journal, a Republican newspaper, discusses the outcome of the fight in the house of representatives with the clarity, logic and candor which lend distinction to its editorial columns.

As to the "insurgents" who voted again for Cannon for speaker it says:

One thing is clear: With the situation wholly in their hands and those of their Democratic allies, the insurgents did not carry their victory to its logical limit. They had an opportunity to do what has been described by practically all their spokesmen as the most desirable of all things, namely, to get rid of Cannon. Of the thirty-five insurgents who voted against constitution and precedent and party obligation to over-rule the speaker, only nine had the moral courage to vote to oust him when he himself presented the opportunity. One suspects that the twenty-six weak-kneed insurgents who voted to continue Cannon in the speaker's chair will have a merry time explaining to their Cannon-hating constituents why they "voted for Cannon" when by voting against him they could have retired him.

The Journal next points out that the insurgents also failed to "push their reform of the rules committee to the point that must insure the overthrow of the Cannon organization in its control." It recalls that the original Norris resolution provided for a rules committee to be chosen by groups of the house members, made up according to the sections of the country which each group represented. Under this resolution the committee could easily have come under control of the progressive element of the house, Republican and Democratic. But Mr. Norris and the other insurgents failed to stand by this resolution, and amended it to eliminate the groups and provide for election by caucus. The Journal says:

The regular Cannon Republicans will control the Republican caucus. If the insurgents should go into the caucus and agree to abide by its outcome the regulars could name the six strongest Cannon men in the house as the Republican members, and the organization would be as firmly in control of the committee as ever.

Finally, the Journal admits that whatever victory has been won, partial and unsatisfactory as it is, "is a Democratic victory." For, it points out:

Liberalization of the rules was demanded in the last Democratic national platform. It was not demanded by the Republican platform. It could not have been attained without solid Democratic support.

This, it might be remarked, is only history repeating itself. Whatever of progressive legislation was enacted under Roosevelt's administration was made possible only by the support of a majority of the Democratic members and a minority of the Republican members.

Further than that every bit of progressiveness that the Republican party has displayed in recent years was stolen from the Democratic platform.

This is the plain and unvarnished truth. And this is why unadulterated Republican newspapers, like the Sioux City Journal, look with frank and sour disfavor on such performances as were witnessed in the house last week. They hate to see the Republican party going even momen-

tarily and fragmentarily Democratic.—World-Herald.

THE MASSACHUSETTS VERDICT.

The outcome of the special congressional election in the Fourteenth Massachusetts district cannot be regarded as highly significant.

A Republican majority of 14,250 in 1908 is converted into a Democratic majority of 5,840 in 1910.

One of the strongest Republican districts in the entire union, a district that has never faltered in its allegiance to the Republican party, returns a Democrat to congress by such a majority as to make it, for the time being, one of the strongest Democratic districts!

The issues of the campaign were the issues that the whole country is discussing—the Aldrich tariff, the failure of the Republican party properly to restrain the trusts, and the high cost of living.

The verdict is squarely and overwhelmingly and decisively against the Republican party. And it was rendered three days after the uprising in the lower house of congress which, we are assured, would eliminate Cannonism as an issue—"the only issue the Democrats had"—reunite the Republican party, remove the dissatisfaction in the ranks, and send the party on once more to victory.

The Republican bosses will have to revise their estimate.

The simple truth is that the people of this country have become pretty thoroughly educated on the tariff question. More than that, they are no longer under any delusion as to the character of the leadership of the Republican party, and the direction in which that leadership is headed. They are fairly well convinced that the Republican party, as it is organized and controlled today, is only an alliance between "big business," corrupt politics, and torism.

As the World-Herald has repeatedly asserted, the thought of the country is overwhelmingly Democratic. A far larger number of American citizens are satisfied with the Denver form. The Republican party, for several years past, has owed its continued ascendancy to its pilferings of Democratic policies, which alone enabled it to hold enough restive Republicans in line to stave off, for a while, the impending revolution.

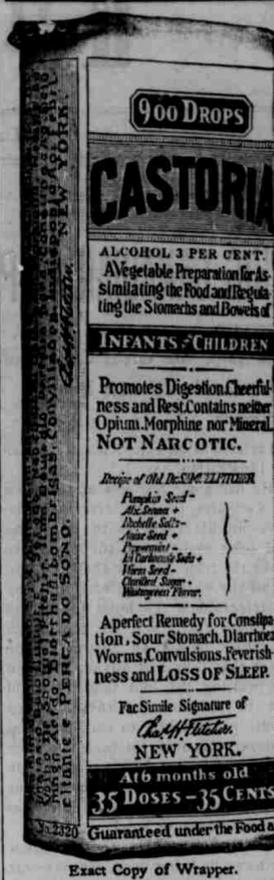
But these tactics will no longer serve. Loyalty on the part of its members to the Republican party, regardless of what it stands for, regardless of what it does, and regardless of what it will do next, is about played out. That loyalty has been given for years, with increasing doubt and growth dissatisfaction. By hundreds of thousands of intelligent voters it will be given no longer unless it is earned.

Independent voting was what worked the political revolution in the Fourteenth Massachusetts district. It will work a like revolution in many another district this coming fall. The conscience and intelligence of the country, of the Republican party itself, is ready, and aching for the chance to punish the party that is in power for its cynical faithlessness.

NATIONAL INSURGENCY.

The extent which the country is dissatisfied with the new tariff law and with Cannonism is strikingly reflected in the several newspaper polls made by the Chicago Tribune. The result of the western poll already has been given, and has shown that the west is overwhelmingly against both things. That result was no surprise, but many will be amazed at the returns from the east.

Only Republican and Independent papers were asked to express their views. More than half of those invited responded. Of the responses 789 were against the tariff law and 197 for it; 879 against Cannonism and 155 for it. And the most astonishing thing about the returns is that the percentage of votes against both Cannonism and the Payne-Aldrich tariff was greater in New England than in the west, suggesting that the remarkable election in the Cape Cod District of Massachusetts the other day was by no means



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merely local," as some of the New England regulars would have the country believe.

No, indeed! Insurgency is national. It has swept the country. The only place where it is not yet expressed by big majorities is in the Republican membership of congress, and that will be changed in the next house, at least, either by the election of a sufficient number of progressive Republicans to give that wing control of the Republican side, or by electing a Democratic house. The alternative depends on the kind of nominations the Republicans make.—Kansas City Star, Rep.

PUBLIC SPIRIT AN ASSET.

Public spirit is a private asset to every man in the community. By public spirit we mean a disposition to advance the interests of the community as a whole. The laborer or clerk without property is benefited in such a community because that spirit provides more comfort and pleasures available. If it is a man of property or business things that makes a city attractive to live in, bring people, energy and capital to it, and thus increase the volume of business and the value of property. There are men in Memphis who are conducting business enterprises while at the same time owners of property, and the increase of the value of property, whose care gave them no work, was greater than the net profits of their business, that gave them all of their work. This increase in the value of property came from increase in population. The more rapid the growth of a community the more rapid the increase in the value of property. If a man has \$200,000 invested in a manufacturing plant and the cost of living in the community and the pleasure of living in it make a difference of 50 cents per day for or against him, and he employs workers, this is \$50 a day, or \$15,000 a year or 7 1/2 per cent on his capital of \$200,000.

Public spirit is not charity or giving, but investing.

Public spirit is that larger spirit of faith that is willing to invest in the community through faith in the community, as a whole or organized segments of a community just as private spirit is willing to increase investment in one's own business, where the faith is confined to one's self. Public spirits inspires a man to take an interest in the management of his community or its component parts to help get things done right, and on the other hand the habit of interesting himself in public matters begets public spirit because he has more faith in the administration of affairs in which he has been exercising some voice.

Every virtue helps every other virtue. Every reform helps every other reform that is worth while. Investment through public spirit may pay larger material returns than investment through private enterprise, and the man of larger vision is the one who sees it. He can see beyond his own business and his own bank account, and understands his part dependence on the business and bank account of every other man in the community and certainly of the community as a whole.

Building a community to private, as compared to public spirit, is doing what the world has been trying to get away from—the habit of pulling a load with four mules pulling one way to the front and three mules pulling the other way to the rear. Speaking figuratively, the business of life has been through all the centuries, in the broadest application, and touching the most vital and largest questions of humanity, to get all the mules pulling one way, and we are as much improved over former times as we have added mules to the front and taken them from the rear. The same thing stated differently is that the business of life has been from the origin of man to reduce and stop friction. The search for frictionless machinery has gone on in the physical, moral and intellectual world.—Memphis News-Scimitar.

In County Court.

In county court this morning a petition asking for the appointment of a guardian for Charles Nordensson, alleged to be incompetent, was withdrawn by Messrs. Clark & Robertson who had filed it. Mr. Nordensson who is an inmate of the Masonic home appeared and objected strongly to the charges and the counsel for the petitioners after hearing him talk and sizing up concluded that he was not incompetent by any means and the petition was withdrawn.

A petition was filed by Messrs. Clark & Robertson asking for the appointment of Verna Barnum Chesey as executor of the estate of Eliza G. Barnum, deceased, and the admission of her will to probate. Miss Chesey is the sole heir of deceased.

In the matter of the estate of John T. Baird, deceased, George L. Farley was appointed administrator. Messrs. Clark & Robertson appeared for the estate.

Death of Willis Horton.

Another old time Cass county citizen died last Tuesday at 8:05 a. m., at his home in Wabash, in the person of Willis Horton. The cause of death was pneumonia.

Mr. Horton was born in New York state in 1831. He was one of the earliest settlers in Wabash. The relatives are one brother in Brighton, Ia., and two sisters, one living in Wabash and the other near Wabash.

Funeral services at 1:30 Wednesday in the M. E. church, Wabash, and interment in Oakwood cemetery.—Weeping Water Republican.