

The Plattsmouth - Journal

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In their treatment of the Payne-Aldrich tariff the Indiana Republicans clearly know how to "damn with faint praise."

Secretary Ballinger's threat to sue Collier's Weekly looks like an earnest effort to conserve such shreds of resource as he has left.

Some newspapers in Nebraska are disposed to treat the capital removal proposition very lightly, but just wait till they want an appropriation for a new capital building, then is the time you will see the "fur fly."

According to a New York dispatch wedding rings are passed and "smart young matrons" no longer wear them. Perhaps this is because so many "smart young matrons" haven't room for their entire collection of wedding rings.

Only about twelve weeks till the Fourth of July. Don't you think it about time to begin agitating a big celebration in Plattsmouth. "Take time by the forelock" and let us move in the matter.

At Harvard the students are to debate on the subject: "Resolved, That if the Constitution of the United States provided for the recall of public servants, President Taft's record would justify his recall." Friends of the administration would much prefer to have Yale dispose of the question.

The Denver Post says: "Paul Morton, president of the Equitable Life Assurance company, during his stop-over in Denver, bought the entire issue of the city public improvement bonds, authorized for the construction of the south and west side sanitary sewer. The total issue will be \$600,000." And the writer knew Paul Morton when he worked in the B. & M. offices at Plattsmouth, Neb., at \$16 per month.—Belle Fouche (S. D.). Northwest Post.

If William J. Bryan desires to be a candidate for United States senator, he is plenty able to pay his own filing fee, without the aid of Mr. Porter, (or anyone else) who is becoming very officious in the matter. Mr. Bryan has had every opportunity to become the choice of the Democrats, and has declined, and it would not be right or proper for him to come out now, after the other candidates have waited so long for him to decide. He has repeatedly declined, and let that be the end of it.

The good road movement is one in which we all have a more or less selfish interest, but which is altogether for the general public good. The good road will be beneficial alike to the owner of an automobile or farm wagon. The town people want the farmer to have a voice in the matter. The farmers for their own ultimate good will be big enough to accept the responsibility which belongs to them. Harmony among all interests is to be greatly desired. Owners of automobiles and agents for them are likely to take great interest in the good roads movement, but there is a greater benefit to be secured for the farmer. The townsmen want to see good roads for pleasure, while the farmer wants good roads for pleasure and for profit. The one worst enemy to such improvement is the "green-eyed monster," and city man and country man should rule out all spirit save that which puts us all on common ground.

DRINK HABITS.

The American prohibition year book for 1909, asserts that "the figures of the United Census show almost inexhaustible data for prohibition argument." The pro-liquor advocate might come back with the statement that in the American pro-

hibition year book one might pick up a wealth of data in favor of a liberal excise policy. Without subscribing to the latter view, one may nevertheless draw, from the figures cited in the prohibition manual, the fact that there has been less of a change in drinking habit than in the drinking habits of the American people during the last forty years. In 1840 the annual per capita consumption of distilled liquors was 2.52 gallons. After thirty years' fluctuations the figures stood at 2.07 gallons in 1870, whence during the next decade, there was a drop to 1.27 gallons, around which figure the annual consumption has remained; in 1909 it was 1.37 gallons. The consumption of malt liquors in 1849 was 1.36 gallons per head in 1889, it had risen to 8.26 gallons; in 1909 it was 19.7 gallons. To the prohibitionist, whose principles do not discriminate between distilled and malt liquors, this should be a discouraging development. The rabid anti-prohibitionist will seize upon such figures as proof of the utter failure of prohibition. But the great fact that must be taken into account, of course, is the change in the character of our population since 1840. The advent of the malt-drinking German immigrant has profoundly affected the drinking habits of our entire population. It supplied an impetus which has not exhausted itself in twenty-five years after slackening of the tide of German immigration.—New York Evening Post.

THE INDIANA REVOLT.

Saturday Evening Post: The Republicans of Indiana are on the war-path in a prudent, Hoosier way. Occasionally they let loose a scream of defiance when assembled in one of their numerous conventions, but, normally, they are insuring with calmness and deliberation, which, political history records, is the manner that usually gathers results. Out in Kansas, when they insure they insure all over, but in Indiana they insure with circumspection, throwing no fits, but sticking to it until the fateful end. Do not think from this that the movement of protest in Indiana has frills and furbelows on it, is a sort of dilettante revolt. That is far, far from true. When a Hoosier gets his mind set his mind is set. That is what has happened. The bulk of the Republican party in Indiana—much more than the majority—is firmly convinced of three things: The first is that President Taft isn't living up to his advance notices; second is that Nelson W. Aldrich is an incubus—only, they do not call him that exactly; and the third that Uncle Joe Cannon must retire to the rear and cease cluttering up congress with himself as speaker. Coupled with these firm impressions is another, namely, that the revision of the tariff perpetrated under the names of Representative Payne and Senator Aldrich and signed by President Taft, is a betrayal of the party pledges, a direct playing into the hands of the interests, a swat for the ultimate consumer, and an outrage on the body politic.

ARBOR DAY.

It has been the custom ever since the days of Secretary Morton for the governors of Nebraska and adjoining states to appoint a day in April to be called Arbor day, when it is expected that the teachers in the rural schools will talk to the pupils about planting trees. It is expected that the trustees will furnish trees that the teacher may plant, which will be object lessons to the students in years to come. The governor of Iowa has issued a proclamation fixing the date of Arbor day for that state as April 29th, and calling particular attention to the school exercises. In nearly every state in the west

we have ever visited, the rural school house is as a rule about the most forlorn looking, neglected, and beauty-forsaken object in the entire landscape. Why not in all the states give special attention to the planting of trees on the day designated by the respective governors as Arbor day? Why should not the trustees take this matter up, and see that there are plenty of trees furnished for the teacher and children to plant? Why should not the president of the board of trustees look after the matter themselves.

Select in the first place trees adapted to the locality. In nearly all our territory the elm will do well; so will the Carolina poplar; so will the ash. There ought to be an oak tree wherever there is suitable soil.

It will be a lesson in agriculture for the pupils to watch this president or other official of the school board as he digs the holes or instructs the larger boys how to dig them. Either he or the teacher can point out how to trim the roots so that there are no ragged or broken rootlets, how to cut back the top to correspond to the root, how deep to plant and how to tamp the soil around it. Then the teacher should lay it as a special charge upon the pupils to take care of that tree, to keep a dirt mulch around it till July, then cover the base with a mulch of grass, and during the year watch its growth, how the leaves form, and in the fall how they turn brown and finally die. A pine tree of some kind suitable to the locality will furnish a fine contrast to the deciduous trees, the trees which shed their leaves.

We can readily see that there may be great educational value quite apart from the planting of the trees in this observance of Arbor day. We do not think it has as a rule been generally observed in the various states. We hope that it will be observed this year, and not only this year but in the years to come.

The majority of the people of the west stick to the local rural school house, regarding it as almost a sacred thing. Then see that trees are planted about it, that will furnish shade for their children's children in after years. Where the plan of centralization has been followed, it is all the more important to beautify and adorn the grounds, and there is no better way of doing this than by simply planting trees suitable to the locality and have the children care for them as a sacred trust in the years to come.—Wallace's Farmer.

President Taft is finding out that having Ballinger on his hands is several times more tiring than the custody of a white elephant.

Some of the superstitious, who think the appearance of Halley's comet means the end of the world, are slow to make preparations to meet the end.

The bollermakers strike at Have-lock has not assumed, as yet, any very alarming proportions. And it is to be hoped that a settlement will be effected before it does.

It looks as though Slippery Elmer had about given up all hope of being returned to the senate. He evidently sees the handwriting on the wall: "No more of the man who goes back on the interests of the people of his state."

A St. Louis clergyman in a recent lecture declared that old bachelors ought to be chloroformed and put out of the way. How would it do to change the order of things for a while making it good form for the old maids to propose?

It is announced that Hon. W. J. Bryan will devote his talents to preaching the gospel instead of pure Democracy upon his return to the United States. We see very little difference in the change suggested. A good Democrat is always a Christian—but all Christians are not good Democrats.

Congressman Martin of Colorado expresses confidence that there is a great scandal concealed in the acquisition of Friar lands in the Philippines by the sugar trust. Why not let it go until we get through with this Ballinger business, if we ever

do. Two such shows running at the same time is a surfeit of sensationalism.

There is no question but what the handwriting is in view, and that the Republicans are beginning to see it. Some of the very causes that brought about the destruction of Babalon of old, exist today in the leadership of the G. O. P. They have been in power so long that they assume to serve monopoly rather than serve the people who placed them on the high throne. They appear to be intoxicated with power. The day of awakening is at hand. Just watch the developments of the next few months.

Those editors who compare our own Mr. Norris to Senator LaFollette draw largely upon their imagination in placing those gentlemen in the same class. Norris talks insurgency and then votes contrary to his talk, while LaFollette votes as he talks. By which we infer that the former is a politician while the latter is a statesman.

The Omaha Bee is offering a prize of \$25.00 to those who come the nearest of guessing the population of that city as returned by the enumerators for 1910. If Omaha had taken on the activity for river navigation two years ago, they might have had an increase in their population that would be worth while. The people of Kansas City subscribed over a million dollars to buy boats for the lower Missouri, between Kansas City and St. Louis. Think of that!

A FEW STRAWS.

In the past few weeks developments in the political situation have been coming thick and fast. These developments in the main, point toward Democratic gains. The next house will in all probability be Democratic. Here are a few straws, which have shown the Republicans their peril:

"The anti-rules outbreak in the house.

"The Democratic landslide in the recent Fourteenth Massachusetts congressional election, in which Eugene N. Foss, Democrat, was victorious with a plurality of 5,640, as against a Republican plurality of 14,250 only two years ago.

"Gifford Pinchot for Europe, called there presumably by a cablegram from Roosevelt.

"The reported refusal of James R. Garfield to run for governor of Ohio on the Taft policies.

"The Democratic victories in the local elections of Maine.

"The 100 per cent gain by Dickinson, the Democratic candidate, over plurality of the previous Democratic candidate in the Sixth Missouri congressional election.

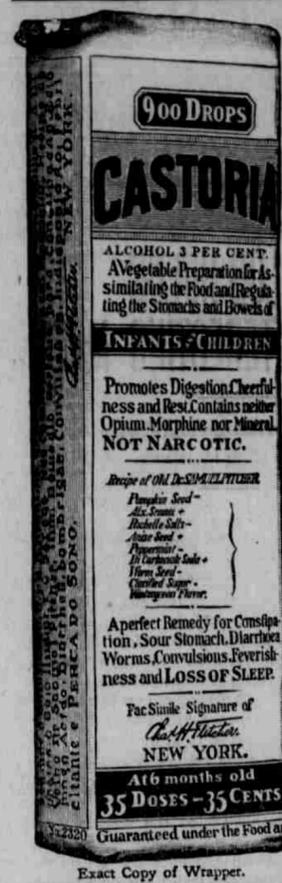
"The result of the Success Magazine straw ballot, which showed 517 Republicans approving and 6,313 disapproving the attitude of Aldrich (approved by the president) on the tariff.

"The reducing of the majority of the Republican governor of Massachusetts in an election in which tariff law was the main issue, from 60,000 to 8,000."

PREPARE FOR A DRY SUMMER.

We are neither prophesying nor predicting a dry summer. To be perfectly frank about it, we do not know whether the coming year is to be wet or dry, or whether it will be one of those rare years that we get once in a while, when it rains just enough to promote growth, and rains at night, not interfering with farm work. We may have one of those ideal years; and yet, we say: Prepare for a dry summer. First, because it is possible, and, second, because it is quite probable.

Why probable? Because the law of the weather is a series of seasons of more than normal rainfall followed by a series of seasons with less than the normal amount. The length of these periods or cycles is never known in advance. We do not know when the cycles change from dry to wet, or from wet to dry. This we do know, however, that in the corn states we have had for several years past more than normal rainfall, and particularly in the growing season.



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It is therefore quite probable, though not certain, that this coming season and some seasons following may be drier than usual, and many culminate in a very dry season, such as that of 1894 or that of 1901.

Therefore, we urge our readers to prepare for a dry season. If we then have a wet season, you will not lose much; a little work, that's all. But if the season should be very dry, you certainly will lose if you do not prepare for it, and the loss may be a very serious one. The most that you can lose by preparing for it, as we shall show later on, is a little labor, for which your land will be none the worse off.

The question at once arises: How shall we prepare for it? The way to prepare for a period of hard times is to save up money. The way to prepare for a period of dry weather is to save up moisture. The farmer who has followed our advice, and has not allowed a crust to form on any of the land he expects to till this year, has been preparing for a dry season. The man who is now sowing his oats on a thoroughly prepared seed bed, disking about twice as much as he usually does, and then getting his oats deep enough to secure moisture, has been preparing for a dry season, though perhaps unconsciously. The man who is harrowing his winter wheat two weeks earlier than he expected, after seeding to clover and timothy, thus breaking the crust and forming a mulch of loose dirt, is preparing for a dry season. If the season should be dry, he will need every particle of moisture that is likely to come for the full development of his wheat crop. His clover will be well started and rooted, and can stand the drouth. If he has allowed a crust to form on his fields, he is losing perhaps half an inch of rain per day when a south wind blows at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, as it did on the 23d of March, and the sun was unusually warm. This may mean five bushels of wheat to the acre when it comes to harvest.

The man who disks his corn stalks before plowing for corn, and then harrows immediately after plowing, is doing much to prepare for a dry summer. If he has allowed a crust to form and the ground to crack, he is losing moisture which he will need, if he intends to raise fifty bushels of corn. If he plows without harrowing immediately afterwards, he is allowing clods to form, from which he will get but little good this summer. He is thus not merely wasting moisture, but is putting part of the soil of his corn field in such shape that it can not work; in other words, giving the corn short space in which to develop.

We are fully satisfied that those of our readers who have mastered our lessons in the movement of water in the soil, how to conserve the moisture and how to prevent clod formation, will, in case the season should be dry, make enough money to pay their subscriptions to the paper for their lifetime. It is important to have these things clearly in mind. We can not tell them when to apply them. They must find that out for themselves; but when the laws of nature are thoroughly understood, it is then possible and easy to obey them.

Although we have no idea what the season will be, it is not difficult to forecast what will happen. A dry April, unless it is followed by an exceedingly wet May, means a short hay crop. It means short but nutritious pastures. Unless it is a drouthy year it means a good corn crop, provided the soil is properly prepared and cultivated. All this, of course, refers to what is called the corn and grass country; in other words, the humid section.

In short, it is a good thing to prepare for what is possible and what just now seems to be very probable. In fact, it looks as if in the humid section we were getting back to normal conditions—heavy snows during the winter, an early spring, and probably a summer with less rainfall than we have been having for some years past. After all, Jupiter Pluvius may reign in May and June; and when Jupiter Pluvius reigns it means an unusual amount of rain, especially when we do not expect it.—Wallace's Farmer.

For Sale.

Fine S. C. and R. C. R. I. Red Cockerels at \$1 each, also eggs 75 cents per setting.

Mrs. C. E. Schwab, Murray, Neb., Both Phones.

Barred Plymouth Rock eggs. 75 cents per 15. \$4.50 per 100. Four miles southwest of Murray.

Mrs. Wm. Troop, Nehawka, Neb.

Fence Posts For Sale.

I have about 500 Bur Oak fence post, split, which I will sell at reasonable prices. Walter Sans, Plattsmouth, Neb. 3-14-1m-w Route 1.

VIAVI—Drugless, non-narcotic and non-surgical treatment; it has spared the life of many men and women, and is cheaper and safer than an operation. 400 page book free. Room 3, Perkins Hotel. 3-15-2w

A BARGAIN—One hundred acres adjoining Plattsmouth for sale to settle estate. All in corn, wheat and alfalfa, only \$85 per acre. Box 97, Plattsmouth, Neb.