

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Only three weeks from Sunday till Christmas. The early advertiser is the one that gets the holiday trade.

The fact that the days are getting shorter is another cause for early Christmas shopping.

On the whole Nebraska has increased in population, and in wealth wonderfully, in the past ten years.

Plenty chilly, thank you, for the first of December. Winter starts in pretty well, although we have had no snow in this section yet.

Cass county has decreased nearly three thousand in population, and Otoe county a little more than that, according to the reports from Washington.

There will be no revision of the tariff at the short session of congress. Aldrich has issued an edict to that effect. But Old Joe hasn't been heard from since the election, only in the way of "oussing" democrats.

Champion corn huskers now have the right of way. And they are engaged just now in telling how many hundred bushels they husk in ten hours. But, of course, they don't expect the people to believe one-half of the reports, and hardly that.

We now feel confident that Norris Brown will get closer to the "insurgent senators" when congress meets than an indisposed kitten to a warm brick, and it wouldn't surprise us if he didn't try to get next to Charles O. Whedon.

The cause for the decrease in population in some of the western states is easily accounted for. The western census takers were not versed in "padding," while the eastern fellows were old hands at the business. It's all in knowing the trick it is done by in the increase of population.

During the last year the internal revenue bureau noticed an increase of 30 million gallons of distilled spirits consumed, an increase of 160 million cigars, 1 billion cigarettes and 50 million pounds of oleomargarine. Yet thousands of people imagine they can eat oleo or let it alone.

The Oregon returns indicate the adoption of the amendment by which the voters may express, in the primaries, their choice of candidates for the presidency and vice presidency. The primaries are held before the national conventions meet. Thus does Oregon continue to lead her sister states along the progressive path.—Sioux City Tribune.

A whopping corn story comes from Mills county, Iowa, and the Silver City Times vouches for its truthfulness. A farmer, living east of that town, named Tom Parker, has 20 acres of corn which averaged 120 bushels to the acre. That seems to be a whopper, but maybe the reporter has been taking a few lessons from some of the census enumerators in the eastern states.

Chairman Mack and Champ Clark have wisely advised those who were working up the proposed "democratic conference" to be held at Baltimore to make it a "Jackson day celebration of democratic achievements" instead. Their advice has been taken, and the meeting on January 17 can have the hearty best wishes and support of democrats everywhere.

On March 4th several scores of re-

publican congressmen are going to stop drawing \$7,500 a year from the federal treasury with liberal allowances for mileage, clerk hire and stationery. Whereupon, in accordance with long precedent, nine-tenths of them will expect a grateful president to provide them with jobs as nearly as may be equivalent to those from which a determined constituency has pruned them loose.

The authorities in Omaha should have allowed Charley Pool the same privileges they did the other fellows who thought they were elected, and demanded a recount. They evidently saw a chance to "gouge" Charley for \$100.00, and he refused to be gouged. It would be very easy to overcome Wait's majority of 92 in a recount of the ballots in Omaha. Judge Sutton gained nearly 100 by a recount, and we believe Pool would gain fully that many.

MR. ALDRICH IN OHIO.

The Lincoln Star grows both peevish and sarcastic because his soon-to-be excellency, the governor-elect of Nebraska, told his home folks back in Ohio that he was "going to rid Nebraska of the gang that has been running it" and eventually "make it a stat to be proud of." The Star seems at a loss to know which particular "gang" has been running Nebraska, whether the Rosewater "gang" or some other, and also to be obsessed with the idea that Nebraska was a "state to be proud of" even before Mr. Aldrich was elected governor. And so it huris a half-column or more of satirical language at the dignified and haughty Aldrich's head.

The esteemed Star should be charitable. Let it put itself in Mr. Aldrich's place. When he went away from that dear old Ohio to teach school and study law in Nebraska he was a common dud like the rest of us. Probably there was more than one venerable graybeard who stopped his whittling, when he saw young Chester marching to the depot with his portmanteau, to murmur that he felt sure that graceless Jackanapes would come to no good end. Doubtless the future governor of Nebraska heard them. Now, after many years, he goes back to the old home with the laurel wreath upon him. Why shouldn't he step high? Why shouldn't he speak firmly and ponderously? Why shouldn't he give them to understand that he is a greater and better man than Nebraska is a state, but that he's going to give Nebraska a chance to grow up to him and make it almost as worthy as himself?

Bless you, it's human nature! If the Star could go back to the old Kentucky or Indiana home decorated as the first citizen of Nebraska, and greet the old neighbors who had confidently predicted it would be brought home on a shutter, the Star, too, would step high and talk big.

Meanwhile, perhaps Mr. Aldrich really means it. Why not? There is a plenty of a "gang" in that rickety old state house to be cleaned out—and it's precious little that Aldrich owes to Rosewater anyhow. Maybe he'll do what he says. Maybe he'll make good. Whether he does or not, of course, the rest of us will go right on feeling proud of Nebraska just the same. Mighty few people in all history have accomplished as much to be proud of, in a short 60 or 70 years, as Nebraska people have.—World-Herald.

POLITICS NOW AND THEN.

Good people have been shocked at the charges affecting personal character, which candidates of opposite parties have made against each other during the last campaign. Some of these good people go so far as to im-

agine that the race is becoming degenerate very fast. If they will just compare this last campaign with those of ten or twenty years ago, they will take an entirely different view of the matter and conclude that the world is getting better fast.

There was a time in our history when it was regarded as necessary in any campaign to deride the opposite party, to call in question the motives of candidates, to circulate half-truths and whole falsehoods. Men who are now regarded as really worthy of office are coming to the conclusion that no good results will follow from such a course, that to follow a course of this kind is simply to confess that their own party is at fault and that they themselves are not above suspicion.

A great many things have been said during the last campaign which would better have been left unsaid; but, after all, so far as we have been able to observe, it has been one of the cleanest campaigns we have ever seen. Why? The people are realizing that there are certain offices which involve no political principle whatever; for example, the board of supervisors, state and county superintendents of schools, railroad commissioner, judges of the supreme court and the circuit courts. What difference does it make to what political party a man elected to any one of these offices belongs?

Again, they are beginning to realize that this abuse of the opposition rather disgusts sensible men; that it is no argument; that you harm yourself as well by calling in question the motives of the opposition or by misrepresenting their position on public questions. The reason politics are becoming more decent is that the people themselves are getting to be more decent, beginning to take broader views on public questions. They are beginning to regard political parties as simply tools and instruments with which the people work in carrying on the great purposes of government. The people are reading more, thinking more. The son forms his own opinions on political questions. He does not necessarily vote the way his father did.

In short, we are gradually beginning to realize our possibilities and obligations as citizens. Most men now rather pride themselves on taking the crooks out of a ticket before they vote it. There was a time not very long ago, when the average man prided himself on voting a straight ticket, without the least regard to the candidates on that ticket. All this is changing, and in the course of another quarter of a century we shall be able to vote with a full sense of our responsibility as citizens of a great republic, in which is bound up the possibilities of the establishment of a government of the people for the people on the face of this earth—a true republic or a true democracy, whichever name you prefer, for both words mean the same thing—a government by the common people instead of a government by an oligarchy or plutocracy. It's a great pity that political parties are not always true to name.—Wallace's Farmer.

The breath of winter will distil Upon the outer window sill. The calf will hump his back And burrow deep into the stack; The hired man, with wintry spurts, Will put on both his undershirts. The plutocrat who sells the coal Will pry our body from our soul.

Buy your Christmas presents of your home merchants and keep your money here for home circulation.

Fortunately there is no suggestion that President Taft may appoint Secretary Ballinger to one of the vacancies on the supreme bench.

Edgar Howard thinks the law requiring candidates to file sworn statements of campaign expenses ought to be designated "A Law to Encourage Perjury."

Governor Haskell, of Oklahoma, has always preferred to be the foe of capital, but it is only lately that the people of Guthrie realized which capital he meant.

According to the census figures for Richardson county that county will have to abolish the office of recorder of deeds. By statutes when there are less than 18,000 people in a county, the work of the recorder of deeds is to be done by the county clerk.

If a bill proposed to be introduced at the oncoming session of the legislature becomes a law there will be hope for those towns that have long desired new railway stations. A bill will be drafted putting railroad depots and the territory adjacent under control of the state railroad and warehouse commissioners.

Strangers don't come into communities for philanthropic sport. Their game is never the game of Give-Away. It is always the game of Take-Away, and alongside of the "God Bless Our Home" motto you have hanging over the front door, every home should have this motto, "Beware of the Guy With the Good Proposition."

The Madison Star-Mail says that W. H. Thompson, of Grand Island, better known as the "Little Giant," will be a candidate for United States senator to succeed Norris Brown. Well, there are no better democrats than Billy Thompson, and he is certainly as much entitled to such recognition as any man in the party. He is always ready to do his duty when the call for help is made. Such a democrat we greatly admire.

The incoming legislature should not make the mistake the legislature two years ago did, that of introducing bills up to two weeks before adjournment and then subject them to a sifting committee. Several good measures were lost in the shuffle thusly. The first forty days should be for the introduction of bills, and no bills allowed to be presented after that time. Then take the remaining twenty days for the adoption or rejection of measures already introduced.

Some of the state papers are engaged just now in discussing the good and bad qualities of the primary election law. If there are any good qualities in the law, we fail to see them, and believe the entire measure should be repealed or, at least, greatly modified. Had it not been for this law the democrats would have elected their entire state ticket. The fact of the matter is the present primary law is entirely "too open." A democratic legislature passed the law and a democratic legislature should repeal it.

The increase either by the tariff route or the railroad rate-route has the same effect—upon the ultimate consumer. He pays the "freight." The increase may be three mills to the manufacturer, but he refuses to pay it and it gives him the opportunity to increase the price of a pair of shoes fifteen cents to the retailer. The retailer in turn does not propose to stand the fifteen cent burden and he in turn increases the cost of a pair of shoes to the consumer fifty cents, and yet, Taft says he is at a loss to know just what to say upon the subject of tariff in his forthcoming message. All others know what he ought to say, and just what they would say.

Persons who have adopted the do-your-Christmas-shopping-early maxim this year cannot fail to have noticed the provisions made by the big stores to accommodate them. The Christmas stocks have been put on sale early and they are unusually abundant and fine. The large variety of goods suitable for presents is particularly noticeable. In tableware, in jewelry, in articles of clothing, the Christmas shopper can be certain of finding something attractive at almost any price. This year's Christmas windows are a constant delight to the eye. Many of them are really works of art that must give pause to even the most hardened.

THE SUGAR TRUST AT LAST.

Another return of the recent election comes in the dispatches from New York, where an attorney for

Uncle Sam has just filed suit to secure the dissolution of the sugar trust.

Great Caesar! Has it come at last? Here is one of the oldest, the most arrogant, the most pernicious and the most exacting and oppressive aggregations of predatory wealth, long derided but never before assailed, at last finding itself pointed out as a thief by Uncle Sam and marked for banishment.

Thirty monster companies, with an aggregate capital of approximately \$230,000,000, combined for years in open and flagrant violation of law, for robbery of the consumer, and no agent or employe of Uncle Sam has ever before manifested the temerity to attempt to interfere with it.

Not content with the great advantage it has enjoyed in the way of tariff favors that were as inexorable as fate, it has actually engaged in enormous frauds against the government, the miserable system of short-weighting, to avoid payment of legitimate customs duties levied for its own enrichment.

And now it is charged that it has also enjoyed enormous railroad rebates.

Anything in the way of business methods that would swell its own profits has been good enough for the sugar trust.

The debauchery of trusted servants of the people has been a pastime with it.

The filing of this action is indication to the masses that in formulating their recent decree through the exercise of their suffrage, they build- ed better than they knew.

Let the good work go on.

Out of the filing of this suit comes the lesson that as long as they eschew partisanship in the exercise of the franchise, the people can compel official regard for their interests.

When they vote for party they simply tax themselves.

May they cling to the non-partisan impulses until the suits that have been begun shall have been pushed to a satisfactory conclusion.—Lincoln Star.

WHAT THE CENSUS SHOWS.

The returns from the new census put an end, for all time, to the old theory that the Platte river is a fairly just "dividing line" in Nebraska. The North Platte portion of the state, by far the largest in area, has come to be, also, far the largest in population. It is growing much more rapidly than the South Platte country. The population of the state has increased almost 126,000 in ten years, and 117,000 of that increase has been in the North Platte country.

The counties that lie entirely north of the Platte have a population of 624,000. Those lying entirely south of the river have 511,000. The counties divided by the river—Dawson, Deuel, Hall, Keith and Lincoln, have a population of 57,000, of which probably three-fourths live north of the river. This would add 43,000 population to the North Platte country and 14,000 to the South Platte, making the aggregate totals 667,000 north and 525,000 south. So there are 25 per cent more people in the North Platte section of Nebraska than there are in the South Platte section.

Another interesting fact brought out is that the southeastern portion of the state is gradually losing population, while other sections are gaining. The first congressional district, including Lincoln, loses 1,771 population as compared with 1900, and 12,836 as compared with 1890. The Fourth district next removed from the southeast corner, gains only 1,204 people in ten years. The Fifth makes the next smallest gain—12,260. The big gains are made in the Second, Third and Sixth districts, the figures being respectively 27,802, 21,398, and 65,611. The total population of the "Big Sixth" is now 237,775, as compared with 164,214 in the First. The Third almost as large as the Sixth, having 232,178 population. The Second district is next largest, with 190,558, the Fourth has almost as much—189,670, and the Fifth, with 177,408, is still 13,000 ahead of the First. The need of a congressional reapportionment is apparent.

The need of a legislative reapportionment is still greater. On the pres-

population, there should be one state senator for approximately 36,000 people. Yet Douglas county has only one senator for each 56,000 population. The Eighth district, in the extreme northeast corner of the state, has more than 60,000 population and only one senator, while the Thirtieth district, including Dawson, Lincoln and many other northwest counties, has only one senator for over 71,000 population. On the other hand there are three or four senatorial districts with a population of about 20,000 or even less. In this connection it might be noted that while it takes only 36,000 people to elect a state senator from Lancaster county it takes 56,000 to elect one from Douglas county.

With such a shifting in population centers, making the present apportionments of the state glaringly unfair, it is evident that the reapportioning of the state justly and equitably will be about the most important duty to confront the incoming legislature.—World-Herald.

IMMENSE IMPORTANCE OF THE RAILROAD BUSINESS

At the present time when railway rates are claiming the attention of the public it may not be amiss to consider the immense importance of this enormous industry. It is the biggest single enterprise in the United States, and a few months ago the New York Times published in detail the different phases of this immense industry.

It was stated that "if all of the railways of the country (there are 2,500 of them) could hoard from day to day the money they gather for moving passengers and freight, at the end of the year there would not be a dollar left anywhere else in the country."

The railroads earn in a year five times the whole world's output of gold, thirty times this country's gold output; they take in four times as much money as the steel corporation and five times as much money as the government itself—more money than is represented in our trade over the seas.

It's a big business that takes in \$2,600,000,000 in a year; this is \$7,000,000 a day—seven million dollars a day! And \$3,500,000 of this money every day of the year goes into the pay envelopes of the workers. For one half the money gathered in by the railroads, half of the \$2,600,000,000 a year is the workers' share of the biggest of American business enterprises. So that in two years the railway workers receive in their pay envelopes as much money as there is in circulation in the whole country.

The workers get \$50 out of every \$100 gathered in by the railroads. Every time you spend a dollar at a railroad ticket office or freight office, you are paying 50 cents for wages.

Mr. Henry Horn and son, H. J. Horn, were passengers on the afternoon train for Omaha, where Mr. Horn was called on business. His son, J. H., expected to remain over night and take the train tomorrow morning for Creighton, Nebraska, where he will visit friends for a time.

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