

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The legislature will not get down to business proper until about next Tuesday.

Every few days a blizzard comes along to merely repeat the theory that Nebraska climate has "modified."

Friends of good government, seeing from West Union, Ohio, should warn their wives not to look back, remembering the fate of Lot.

Alfalfa is to be served at a banquet in Denver this week. Colorado may progress to the point where every citizen will have a silo in his kitchen.

If the present legislature will do as well as the last one did by the people, they can return home and their constituents will rise up and bless them.

Senator Lorimer must wish sometimes that he had been elected to some other deliberative body, where his innocence would be more appreciated.

Isn't there some fancier in the vicinity of Plattsmouth that has grit enough to tackle the poultry show proposition? The business men will assist liberally in the matter.

Mexico may have an excellent army, but it seems to be surrounded by generals who are so busy "getting ready" to do great things that they haven't time to do anything worth while.

While business is a little slack after the holidays, our merchants and business men generally should be maneuvering for the coming spring and summer.

Governor Harmon is right—the democratic party believes in a republic that is a republic; the case against the republican party is that it is European and rotten rather than American and honest.

The right way to choose United States senators is, of course, to elect them as a governor or any other state officer is elected—by direct vote of the people, the highest man getting the office regardless of party. That cannot be done until the national constitution is amended.

Every farmer you meet wants a new road law, one that will make good roads. They are tired with monkeying with the roads we have. Enough money is spent but the people don't seem to realize the benefit they ought to, and they demand a law that will do the business.

John Kelley, of Furnas, could not be re-elected from his county by the people, and feeling the necessity of sojourning in Lincoln this winter, he prevailed upon his being elected sergeant-at-arms of the house. John always wants to be among the favored.

The meetings of Organized Agriculture will be held at Lincoln, January 16th to 20th, 1911. Eighteen state organizations participate in this annual meeting. In the discussion of animals, Tuesday will be devoted to horses, Wednesday to swine and Thursday to cattle with full discussions on the silo on Friday morning.

The democrats are not lacking in material for president. There is Folk, of Missouri; Harmon, of Ohio; Marshall, of Indiana; Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, and who knows—Champ Clark may conduct himself as speaker in such a manner as to rise to the front as the most popular candidate.

School teachers, it would seem

from the following from the Lincoln News, are needed in Nebraska:—"Many Nebraska schools are in need of teachers, according to reports coming in at the office of A. A. Reed, state high school inspector. Numerous reasons have combined to make a shortage in the ranks of capable teachers and Mr. Reed has had many opportunities during the past week to fill places over the state. Several of the leading high schools are among the applicants for teaching material. Failures, marriage, and the need of increasing the force the second semester are the chief causes of the demand."

Should congress refuse to admit the murderer of Gov. Goebel, as a member of that body? If a man has twice been convicted of murder by a jury composed of people of his own state, is he a fit man to enter the halls of congress as a member of that body? Not any more so than a horse thief or a burglar. He killed Governor Goebel, and it was proved that he did, and we believe the new congress should refuse to admit him. It is not the intention of the American people to reward murderers and horse thieves. The first thing we know, Taylor, the fleeing criminal of Kentucky, now in Indiana, will be returning to be rewarded for murder.

Governor Shallenberger should feel bigger and better after the decision of the supreme court than he would had he been re-elected governor of Nebraska without opposition. The bank guarantee law having been sustained in his efforts to have the measure passed by a democratic legislature, passed on by United States District Judge Van Deventer, of Wyoming, who declared it unconstitutional and then to the supreme court, where Van Deventer's decision was reversed, the measure becomes a law. He sees the fruits of labor accomplished just as he steps down and out as chief executive of Nebraska, but it is with one acclaim that the people rejoice and send the following message to the greatest governor of which the state ever boasted: "Well done thou good and faithful servant—go up higher."

EMBARRASSING ALTERNATIVE.

The subcommittee having in charge the Lorimer investigation made a report of more than seven hundred pages. When the committee as a whole voted to exonerate Lorimer the subcommittee had less than two days to read and digest the evidence. Senator Beveridge, for one, declared that he could not vote until he knew what he was voting on. He has used the holiday recess to study the transcript of evidence, with the probable result that he will oppose the majority report. Senator Borah declares that if there is no minority report he himself will offer a resolution declaring Lorimer's seat vacant, for Borah, too, has been studying the evidence.

It is quite certain, therefore, that the Lorimer case will go to the floor of the house and be put to a record vote. If it does, the members of the committee who had not served on the subcommittee will have the embarrassing alternative of declaring that they knew what the evidence was when they voted without reading the evidence. One horn of the dilemma is likely to be about as embarrassing as the other before the friends of decency get through with their work in this case.

THE FREAK SEASON.

The season of freak legislation is hard upon us, and advance notices are already being received. One of the early announcements is from New Jersey and bears upon a topic that is not entirely new, to-wit: the matter of branding married people in some

way that will identify them before all the world and thus prevent them from making pretensions of singleness. The law, as proposed and drafted by a certain woman's club, would require every married man to wear a particular kind of ring and would impose a penalty of two years in state's prison for its violation.

No doubt in a short time we shall have the others. Somebody will want a law to discourage roosters from crowing, to forbid the making over of father's pants for the boys, to compel fat men to travel by freight, to prohibit corn from growing on Sundays and holidays, and a dozen other wild and disordered legislative dreams. If it were not for the sustaining hope that some day one of them will lapring something that will be really funny and thus will compensate us for the pain of the rest, we should be in favor of a law prohibiting the introduction of freak bills and making it a crime for newspapers to report them or advertise the names of their authors.—World-Herald.

A SLICK TRICK TURNED.

The Lincoln News has unearthed a scheme by which the whole country was "buncoed" as neatly as it was by Dr. Cook and his north pole discovery. It calls to mind the denatured alcohol question. We were told by eminent scientists and others who were not scientists but were schemers that if we took the tax off alcohol a wide field of usefulness would be opened up to replace gasoline as a fuel for engines, lamps and other things. You have noticed that while the tax has been removed nothing of the kind predicted has happened. Denatured alcohol is 45 cents a gallon on the market and this is more than twice as much as gasoline and entirely too high to make its use profitable. The support of the farmers to the plan to take off the tax on alcohol was secured by a showing that it would lead to the utilization of much of the waste products of the farm. They have not received any benefit, nor has the general public, but the manufacturer gets cheaper alcohol. To make alcohol requires a still American inventors have not responded to the need for small stills that may be set up on the farms for the using of rotten apples, corn stalks, small potatoes and the like. Many of these are in use in Europe, where they are manufactured, but when farmers came to investigate the still question they found a tariff of 45 per cent is levied on them, enough to make their importation practically prohibitive. There is no doubt that a wide field of usefulness waits on denatured alcohol, but the gate is closed now.

FENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

Breathes there a man with soul so dead who does not believe that he is a part owner of this government of the brave and free? But the sense of proprietorship gets several hard knocks when one considers the numberless devices there are to keep the government aloof from him and the rest of "the rabble."

"Here is something that Tom, Dick and Harry and I want our government to do right away," says this brave and free citizen. If he says that of his state government he finds that its agency for doing it is 178 men, split into two divisions and about 104 committees and having only sixty or so days to attend to all the needs of Tom, Dick and Harry and him.

If his demand is to his national government, he likely finds in the way a senate which was not elected by the people; a constitution which neither he nor his ancestors nor anybody else's ancestors ever voted for; and possibly an obstruction comes from a court which no "populace" has created and with the naming of whose judges he has had no more to do than with the naming of the courts of Europe.

If he has in mind his municipal government, he finds that groups of ward aldermen and of aldermen-at-large and a mayor and several subsidiary boards must hold committee meetings and conferences and generally confound confusion in the process of doing so simple a thing as adding two and two.

Finally, if his appeal is to the In-

itiative and referendum he finds that the proceeding is so expensive that one might suppose there was a conspiracy to discourage the people from taking a hand in their own affairs.

Government of the people, by the people, for the people has not perished from the earth. It is more conscientious and self-assertive than ever. But it needs to get rid of a lot of barbed-wire fencing.—Kansas City Star.

Reports from Washington indicate a certainty of Nebraska retaining her six congressmen. Good.

It is now Governor Aldrich. May he do as well as his predecessor. We know he can't do better.

Governor Shallenberger's address upon retiring, is one of the finest documents ever delivered in the state house.

If the democrats Harmon-ize in 1912, there won't be a grease spot left of Taft.

The talk of war with Japan has again taken precedence in Washington. How much money do they want for the navy?

Dave Mercer, former congressman from the Omaha district, has been heard from. He says Japan never did have any love for America. Well, who cares?

The legislature adjourned Thursday afternoon until Tuesday at 10:30 a. m., at which time it is expected the boys will get right down to business.

The president has got all he can do to hold down the Ballinger load, without adding Lorimer. The fact is they both ought to be "fired" bodily. But will they?

Two years out of office in Nebraska makes a lot of hungry republicans, and they are scrambling over one another to see who can get to the pie counter first.

Doctor Cook may have been sincere in his hallucination. On such a day as Monday almost any citizen could imagine that the North Pole was just around the next corner.

A \$16,000 hen and several valued, at \$5,000 each, are on exhibition at the poultry show in Topeka, Kansas, this week. They evidently belong to the almost extinct species that used to lay eggs.

It is reported that an Ohio man has a beard that reaches from his chin to the ground. However, since that Adams county affair, we are not surprised at anything we hear from the Buckeye state.

Warden Tom Smith is to be congratulated upon the excellent condition in which he leaves the state prison. No warden ever left it in better shape, and we doubt if ever one left it in as good shape.

It will soon be Senator Hitchcock in reality. Then the state of Nebraska can boast of a senator who will do something for his state and his people, and not use the high position for the purpose of building political fences.

"He who is not for us, is against us," is a true saying, and will hold good with reference to several who are trying all the time to give Plattsmouth a black eye. But all they can do is talk, and that is like chaff thrown to the four winds.

Don't sit down and hold your hands because the holidays are over. Begin the New Year by hustling. Begin to hustle right away. You did a lot of good work for Plattsmouth last year, which is bearing fruit, now see if we cannot do as much, or more, this year.

Bank robbers have gotten away with over \$100,000 in Kansas within the past few months, and none of them captured. Evidently the officials down in the Sunflower state are

endeavoring to make a record something similar to the Nebraska officials—in letting them all get away.

The Lincoln Star calls Burkett down good and plenty on account of his assertion that the people of Nebraska want Taft for another term. They want Taft about as much as they did Burkett last fall—and you know how hard he got hit. Burkett is a sort of a joshier, anyway, and he is feeling around the president to see if there is not some place for him.

It may not be generally known that the term "alma mater," which is universally applied to colleges and universities where men receive their scholastic training, is of purely Catholic origin. It had its source at the University of Bonn, and drew its inspiration from the beautifully-chiseled statue of the Mother of Christ—known as the Alma Mater—placed over the principal portal of that celebrated seat of learning.

The republican managers who persisted in having Mortensen's name placed upon the ticket last fall for railroad commissioner, knew that it was simply an attempt at bulldozing. The legislature did right in refusing to declare his election along with the other state officials. Governor Shallenberger when he appointed Mr. Fauce to fill out the unexpired term of the late Mr. Cowgill, knew that he was to serve to the end of Mr. Cowgill's term, which expires January, 1912. But then the thirst for official pie makes some fellows use all kinds of bluff to get their bellies up to the pie counter.

WORKERS AND LAWYERS.

A Yale college professor engaged in sociological research work says that most of the modern laws have been written and forced through congress and the legislatures by wage workers and farmers and the consequence is that we have a mass of legislation, sometimes contradictory, sometimes unenforceable, often unconstitutional and in many instances producing exactly opposite effects from those intended. The end sought in most of these laws was highly commendable and some of them have been of great benefit, among them factory inspection, child labor laws, regulating the hours that women may work, fire escapes, ventilation of factories, pure food laws, liability for accidents and requiring safety appliances. All such laws he claims were originated and their enactment secured by wage workers and farmers.

This professor says he has been searching for facts and those are the facts, but the work has been most bunglingly done. He, however, points out the terror that always hangs over the law maker—the fear that his work may amount to nothing, because the courts may declare it unconstitutional. Then he chides the courts for interpreting the constitution in favor of wealth, and against the wage workers, and in the spirit of the ages that have passed. He even expresses a doubt concerning whether the courts should have such power.

If that professor will start some research work concerning the laws that have been secured and drawn by lawyers he will find the same state of affairs. The lawyers have not been able to draft enactments that stood the test of the courts any better than the wage workers. Some of their most important laws—the Sherman act, for instance—have been in the courts for years, millions of money has been spent in trying to get the courts to tell the people what they mean and the courts have not yet said what they mean. The imperfection of language, the various meanings that may be attached to words are as great a stumbling block to the lawyers as to the wage workers. A thorough research will convince the professor that the wage workers have done quite as well as the lawyers at law-making.—World-Herald.

SCARED TARIFF BARONS.

When the electorate of the nation manifests a determination to protect itself, it is time for someone to get scared. Sometimes it is the representatives elected by the people, who have betrayed their trust in their am-

bition to please those who profit from the special legislation. Whenever the representatives of the people begin to get scared, then it is time for those who have enjoyed special benefits at their hands to begin to get scared.

In the recent election the people gave the high-tariff promoters in congress and the executive branch of the government something of a scare. They disclosed their indisposition to longer submit to the extortions that have been practiced upon them for the benefit of the mythical infant industry. Congress accordingly got promptly scared, and now it is claimed that the president has experienced something or a change of heart also.

It is now the turn of the beneficiaries of the tariff to get frightened, and we are told they are. The American Protective Tariff league, a combination of interests seeking protection for themselves, is greatly alarmed lest the president should succeed in negotiating a satisfactory reciprocity treaty with Canada. He is suspected by this league of an ambition to negotiate a reciprocity treaty if only for the purpose of mending his position before the people.

And so the members of the league are crying out in alarm against what it terms an effort to "Cobdenize the United States." Just what it expects to gain by this is not apparent. There seems to be no room to doubt that quite a large proportion of the American people would like to see the United States "Cobdenized" sufficiently to break the grasp the members of the American Protective Tariff League have upon the popular throat. No citizen who stands in the attitude of a consumer is going to be frightened by this cry, and the tariff beneficiaries are manifestly already sufficiently frightened.

The immediate effect of reciprocity with Canada would be to open that country's markets to American manufactures and the consequent retention of American factories in the United States, as well as to provide a great and convenient market for American food products. Even on the theory of the protectionists such results could only prove of benefit to the United States.

If the president should succeed in the negotiation of a broad and liberal reciprocity treaty with Canada he will have done much to better his standing among the people who are aroused against the already high and growing cost of living.—Lincoln Star.

In his message to the Indiana legislature Governor Marshall said: "The fellow who wants to show you a good time the day after he is introduced has an ax to grind, and he intends to chop his own wood with it." Also, "The man who flies high in office has someone holding the string to his kite." Well, aint that about the truth? Of course it is.

If we were in Secretary of State Wall's place, we would feel like we were filling out someone else's time and taking pay that did not belong to us.

Probably Senator Lorimer is not surprised to find that Senator Beveridge favors unseating him. Beveridge has more than once showed himself to be rather "cranky" on the subject of public morals.

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