

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The weather has started again and no more stops until Ground Hog Day.

In view of the Lorimer disclosures, the present Illinois legislature may be expected to be careful, if not good.

Hon. W. H. Puls has been made chairman of the committee on internal improvements. This is quite a recognition for a new member.

There will no doubt be general relief when Dr. Cook returns to the practice of medicine, a profession in which it is unethical to advertise.

In the east the hobble skirt has become so unpopular that it is feared the reaction may result in a return of the hoop-skirt. For the heaven's sake, we hope not.

Under the proposed reapportionment neither Missouri, Kansas nor Nebraska is given increased representation in congress. However, there are many other things those states need worse.

"The candidate is not on trial; the election is on trial," said Senator Beveridge, in his speech against the approval of Senator Lorimer's election. And more particularly still, the senate is on trial.

We haven't heard anything lately about raising the Maine. This for a long time was one of the chief industries in America, but it flourished chiefly in the great reform city of Washington.

A report comes from the state capital that Poulson has about "shot his wad" and will be removed. His own intimate friends say he has overplayed his hand, and has hurt the interest of the Anti-Saloon League.

Senator Beveridge says Lorimer should be expelled from the United States senate, and he is backed by all the people, except a few senators, who do not know how soon their time may come, if Lorimer is asked to step down and out.

It is very much feared when March 4 finally arrives, that Secretary Ballinger will resign on that date the same way he did on September 1. If an opportunity is given the democrats in the next congress they won't do much to Taft's pet—oh, no!

The politicians of the east are tickled to death because the eastern states increase their representation in congress, while the western states barely hold their present number of congressmen. It is political manipulations for the trusts that got in their work on this census taking. They fear the west.

If Walter I. Smith, of Iowa, is given the district judgeship, which rightfully belongs to Nebraska, what will the republicans of the state do then? But, maybe, Taft thinks he has a sure thing in Iowa for a re-nomination, and he hasn't in Nebraska. Well, he simply isn't helping the matter by giving the judgeship to Iowa.

A great many people overlook the fact that this country already has a general parcel post system, limited to four pounds. The real question is whether that system shall remain as it is, or whether in response to the demand of the mail order houses and the mediums through which they advertise, it shall be radically changed to conform to their ideas.

The Anti-Saloon League is in a quandary, since the big bluff they tried to run on the legislature in its

organization. Poulson, the imported superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, may mean well, but he has pursued a very indiscreet course. The people of Nebraska like to run their own affairs, without any outside interference, and they intend to do it. The edict has gone forth that Poulson must go.

A new pension bill has passed the lower house of congress, which will meet the approval of all veterans of the civil war. At the age of 62 they will be allowed \$15.00 per month; at 65, \$20.00; at 70, \$25.00, and at 75, \$30.00 per month. The old soldiers are passing away at the rate of about 400 a minute now, and it will not be long, at this rate, until the last of the survivors of the great struggle will have answered the last roll call.

Some people are wondering if there was any significance in the fact that Henry Bartling, of Nebraska City, was made chairman of the senate committee on deaf, dumb and blind institutions. Bartling is still playing the role of the Sphinx and nobody knows, except perhaps himself, how he stands on the county option question. He has been deaf to questions, dumb to his friends and blind to the situation, etc.—Omaha Bee.

Several new road bills have already been prepared, both in the house and senate. The average legislator is always trying to get next to the farmer. But nothing yet has been prepared that is destined to pass either branch of the legislature. One of our prominent farmers remarked the other day, "We are very well satisfied with the present road law. They are good enough for all practical purposes, so the legislature need not fritter away any valuable time on account of the farmers."

NON-PARTISAN JUDGES.

Non-partisan election of judges is not especially a Nebraska fad. It has found, and is finding, favor elsewhere. The great state of New York has long been committed to it. In many states judges are not allowed to be elected as partisans.

Only a few days ago the Cook County Real Estate board, realized its vital interest in the retention upon the bench of well-tested and experienced judges, started a campaign for taking the election of the Cook county bench out of partisan politics.

Toward that end it recommended that the names of candidates for the bench be placed upon separate ballots, to be deposited in a separate ballot box on election day, that such ballots shall not contain the party circle, that party designations shall not be attached to the names of candidates and that the names of such candidates shall be rotated.

It would seem as if the time must come when no citizen will be so interested in the success of any party that he will be willing to stand sponsor for partisan judges.—Lincoln Star.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

There can be no doubt that the physicians of this country and England are greatly worried over the increase of insanity. It is a constant theme of discussion at the meetings of medical associations in both countries. After the most careful examination of the statistics on this subject there is no denying the fact that in the last two decades the increase has been frightful. It is more dangerous than consumption and has been so declared by many eminent authorities. The search for its cause has, in the main, been fruitless. The most common cause assigned is the rush and pressure of modern life. But may there not be another con-

tributing cause of vast influence that has not yet been mentioned, namely, our educational system. The pressure upon children kept in our schools for twelve years of their growing life and all those years, years of stress, must produce a mental strain that is injurious. There are many teachers who break down under this strain. Not so much from teaching as from the work in preparing reports and conducting examinations which occupy many hours outside of the time spent in the school room.

Many teachers declare that examinations as now conducted should be abolished altogether, the strain upon the pupil and the teacher being almost unendurable. Next week in Omaha the teachers and pupils will devote from Tuesday until Friday to this work, and many of the teachers assert that it is not only the most exhaustive work of the semester but absolutely useless, for if a teacher is competent to fill her position she knows in advance all the pupils that ought to be promoted before the examination as well as she does afterwards. It is that sort of work that breaks down the brain tissue and the sadness of it is that it accomplishes no good purpose.—World-Herald.

N. J. Ludl, editor of the Wahoo Democrat, aspired to a position in the present legislature, but got knocked out. He does not know how it happened, but is of the opinion that "he was too wet for the dries and too dry for the wets. Well, he is better off at home.—Nebraska City News. Now you're shouting. When a man quits his business at home and goes to Lincoln to serve in any capacity in the legislature, he's a loser. The legislature is for those who haven't anything else to do, and have money to throw at the birds. We know what we are talking about—we've been "thar."

Any measure that jeopardizes the business of the local dealer jeopardizes just as strongly the business of the farmer, who depends upon the dealer not only to furnish his necessities but to take his produce. If the local rural parcels post bills passed, the small town will be eliminated and the farmer will be materially injured; the value of his property, which depends upon his proximity to a town and accessibility to the railroad, will be decreased. All the money will go to the large cities which are not interested in the welfare of the local community, and our whole present system of development will be changed for the worse.

The trust robs the consumer of about 60 millions a year under cover of the protective tariff. No one has yet computed the loss to the beet sugar men in having only one buyer for their product.

Senator Burkett's boiler inspection bill, after passing all sorts of antagonism, especially from the railroads, has passed the senate. Mr. Burkett has been two years getting this bill through. We can all see nothing wrong in government inspection of railway locomotives, and think the proposition a correct one in every particular.

The landowner who improves his property is doing a service to the community. The speculator who is depending on other people to increase his property's value is only a pull-back. There is no surer way to block the development of a street or a neighborhood than for the property owners to inflate prices and then to sit back and wait for somebody to come along and buy.

Congressman Norris, of Nebraska, has suggested a more pungent congressional reform than has been brought forth for many years. He wants it made the law that the vote of every congressman cast upon a measure in the committee room be made a matter of public record. In the committee room is where the best laws are smothered to death, its assassins escaping because his crime is concealed by secret collusion of his associates in the committee room.

One by one the republicans in the United States senate are coming to the front, and will demand whitewashing. The legislature of Wisconsin wants the record of Stephenson of that state investigated, and claim that he spent over \$100,000 for his election, and want the whitewash brush applied along with Lorimer. Is it any wonder that the people are demanding the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people?

Many years of persistent popular demand were required to induce both houses of congress to submit to the state legislatures a resolution for an amendment to the federal constitution permitting a federal income tax. Now that the resolution is pending, the legislatures of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska at present in session, should ratify it. The resolution is in jeopardy, at best. It must have the approval of the legislatures of at least three-fourths of the states, thirty-five, if acted on before Arizona and New Mexico are definitely admitted to the union; thirty-six if the two territories first become states.

In speaking of the messages delivered by the retiring governor and the incoming governor, the Kearney Democrat says: "And the other message. Have you read it? It was presented to the legislature by Ashton C. Shallenberger's successor, Chester H. Aldrich, who is a republican. Did you ever read such another 'old grandmother' recipe for 'cold feet' or a 'swelled head'? It is either the production of a 'braggard' or a 'bluff.' He offers nothing except a few threats of what 'I' will do if the democratic legislature attempts to enact any manner of legislation that is not up to the 'republican' idea. He rehearses a number of his campaign 'stump speeches,' but has no word of advice to suggest to the legislature and 'just dares' the legislature to 'kick the ball' his way."

THE BIENNIAL CHANGE.

Much has been written and said about the change in the management of the various state institutions and almost every time a change is made the people condemn it. But it is politics. The incoming governor does not want the appointee of the outgoing governor to remain and a great deal of political influence is brought to bear on him to make the change. "To the victors belong the spoils," and the change, regardless of how it affects the various institutions. We have experienced this at the institute for the blind, and so has Beatrice and other towns. On this question the Lincoln News says: "The biennial change of heads of the penal and charitable institutions of the state is now in progress. After having trained at state expense a number of men so that their services are really valuable, we turn them out and install a new set, who will, if nothing happens in the way of new legislation, step off the plank in two or four years. When you come to think of it, isn't that a really foolish thing to do, especially for a people who pride themselves on the possession of a fair amount of common sense? Ask those whom you meet about it and nine out of ten will agree that it is absurd. The trouble is that we have let the politicians utilize these positions for the purpose of rewarding their friends, building up their machines or taking care of somebody who is related to a man with a pull. We have done it so long that nobody protests very much. The platforms of both parties contain a promise that an amendment to the constitution shall be submitted creating a non-partisan board that shall control these appointments. If this be supplemented by a provision, such as Governor Shallenberger suggested, that would prevent a majority of this board from removing them without cause, it will be a reform worth while."—Nebraska City News.

THE FIRST BILL.

The first bill to be introduced in the house yesterday when the introduction of bills first became the order of the day was an initiative and referendum measure, sponsored by Hat-

field, of Lancaster. Two years ago house roll No. 1 was the Oregon plan of electing United States senators, drawn under the direction of W. J. Bryan and introduced by Fred Humphrey, member from Lancaster county. The initiative and referendum bill introduced by Hatfield has the sanction of a bi-partisan organization called "The Direct Legislation League."

In substance the bill provides that any constitutional amendment may be initiated by a petition containing 10 per cent of the vote cast for governor at the last preceding state election, of which at least 5 per cent of the voters in two-fifths of the counties of the state shall be included. The full text of the proposed measure or constitutional amendment must be spread upon all petitions circulated. The same measure may not be brought before the people in this manner oftener than once in three years except where the petitions contain at least 20 per cent of the qualified voters of the state.

The people may cause the reference of any act passed by the legislature to a vote of the people by filing a petition, containing 5 per cent of the voters of the state, such filing to be made not more than ninety days after the final adjournment of the legislature at which the act was passed. If the measure so referred has no emergency clause attached its operations shall be suspended until the people have acted at the general election. If an emergency clause is attached the measure shall be operative until the people repudiate it at the polls.

The governor is expressly prohibited by the terms of the resolution from exercising the veto power on measures acted upon by the initiative or the referendum.

A majority vote of all votes cast upon the measure up for consideration shall be sufficient to cause its adoption. The vote shall be canvassed the same as the vote on presidential electors, and the governor shall declare the law in effect within ten days from the time the official canvass determines its passage. Special elections to vote on such measure are not provided for in the resolution.—Lincoln News.

Murray Real Estate.

I have a number of choice pieces of Murray property for sale. See me if you wish to purchase. A. L. Baker.

Wood For Sale.

One hundred loads of wood, cut into stove length, for sale. Also, a lot of hedge posts and corn crib posts for sale. James P. Latta, Murray, Neb.

Horse Shoeing.

John Durman desires to inform those who need his services that he has opened a shop at the Ora Dawson place for shoeing horses. Satisfaction assured.

Legal Notice.

State of Nebraska, county of Cass, ss. In the matter of the estate of John George Hansen, deceased.

To all persons interested: You are hereby notified that there has been filed in this court by John Wunderlich, administrator of above estate, his final report together with petition for final settlement thereof and praying therein that said report be allowed and approved, and that a decree of distribution and assignment be entered and that said administrator be discharged and his bond exonerated.

You are further notified that a hearing will be had upon said petition and report before this Court in the County Court Room at Plattsmouth, in said County on the 31st day of January, 1911, at 9 o'clock a. m., and that all objections, if any, must be filed on or before said day and hour of hearing.

Witness my hand and the seal of the County Court of said County this 7th day of January, 1911. (Seal) Allen J. Beeson, County Judge.

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OIL KING GENIUS, SAYS MILBURN

Attorney Addresses Supreme Court in Behalf of Standard.

BOUGHT PLANTS IN KINDNESS.

Says Many Were Practically Worthless and Smaller Competitors Were Saved From Losses by Selling Out to Trust—Dissolution an Injustice.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The Standard Oil company, through its attorneys, argued before the supreme court of the United States against the proposed dissolution of the Standard Oil company of New Jersey. For three hours John G. Milburn of New York addressed the court. Frank B. Kellogg of Minnesota will present the government's side of the controversy. The arguments will not be concluded until next Tuesday.

Mr. Milburn's task was to present to the court the facts in the case, but he departed from the facts now and then, to show what alleged wrongs the affirmative of the dissolution decree of the lower court would incur.

In his history of conditions in the oil business between 1860 and 1910, due, he said, to an overproduction of



JOHN G. MILBURN.

refining capacity, Mr. Milburn introduced to the court the character of John D. Rockefeller.

Rockefeller a Genius.

"There was out there in Cleveland," said he, "a young man in the early sixties with a small amount of money which he had saved, who possessed the gift of genius. He had the genius for business, and there is a genius for business just as there is a genius for war, or painting, or poetry. That man was John D. Rockefeller. He saw that this overproduction of refineries was to be met by volume of business so as to withstand the lower profits."

He then told how Rockefeller allied himself with Andrews, a practical oil refiner, and how with the exercise of Rockefeller's genius for business and their consequent good standing among financiers, they grew rapidly.

Mr. Milburn dwelt particularly upon the period of acquisition, which, he said, closed in 1879, the trust agreement of 1892 and the new agreement of ownership in 1899. Acquisition never had been made, Mr. Milburn told the court, with an intent to restrain or to monopolize interstate trade. Most of the purchases were made, he said, before 1879.

Bought Competitors' Plants.

"We thought that it was only the decent thing to do if a man came to us," said Mr. Milburn, "with a proposition to sell out, to buy his plant at its appraised value. Often it was practically worthless, and we could have permitted it to dry rot in his hands."

He denied the charges of the government that because the Standard Oil had the advantages of alleged preferences from railroads during the period of acquisition that it should now be punished. The contracts between the railroads and the company were not in restraint of trade, he contended, "when viewed in the light of the days in which they were made."

PEARY'S REPORT APPROVED

Arctic Explorer May Be Retired With Rank of Rear Admiral.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The report of Captain Robert E. Peary, Arctic explorer, was formally approved by a subcommittee of the house committee on naval affairs. The subcommittee at an executive meeting, from which the two principal opponents of Captain Peary, Messrs. Roberts and Macon, were absent, adopted a favorable report to the full committee on the Bates bill, which extends the thanks of congress to Peary and retires him with the rank of a rear admiral in the engineer corps of the navy.

Captain Peary now is fifty-three years old and the action, if approved by the full committee and agreed to by the senate, will place him immediately on the retired list with about the same pay—\$6,000—as he is receiving as captain on the active list. The report probably will arouse a lively discussion when it reaches the house.