

# The Plattsmouth Journal

Published Semi-Weekly at Plattsmouth, Nebraska

R. A. BATES, Publisher.

Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

Will a county option bill come up before this legislature? And will it pass? Don't all answer at once.

A bill in the Oklahoma legislature forbids the use of wooden Indians as cigar signs. Wooden Indians in Oklahoma do seem to be a waste of money.

If the bill introduced by Gault, of Clay county, happens to become a law, stories about candidates will be more freely used, and it will be a good bet that some people will not want to be candidates under any consideration.

If Evangelist Martin can demonstrate to the lawyers by means of "both Blackstone and the Bible" that there is a hell some of the legal profession may be led to seek other employment.

In another six weeks Senator Julius C. Burrows, one of the principal defenders of Lorimer, will have ample leisure in which to write a treatise showing that there was not one scintilla of evidence against the Hon. Satan when he was cast out of heaven by the holler-than-thou element.

The Oregon plan worked out in Nevada the same as it did in Nebraska. Nixon, who carried that state at the general election for United States senator against his democratic opponent, was elected by the democratic legislature the other day. And thus the wishes of the people are being carried out in the election of United States senators.

While the author of the Evans primary bill is a republican, it is a foregone conclusion that the measure will not be supported very extensively by leading republicans. They don't take to the idea of the masses of the party selecting delegates to the national conventions. Let the people have a say in everything of this kind, whether republican or democrat.

What! Corruption in Uncle Joe Cannon's balliwick, too? It is almost unbelievable, of course, but according to charges made before the grand jury, the county of the distinguished, to-be extinguished, speaker of the house has long been debauched by vote-buying. And we had always thought the big majorities for Uncle Joe were a tribute to his charming personality!

The legislature will have to hurry up, and not waste so much time in junketing around, if they get through with their work by the first of March, as Aldrich says they will have to. The man who says he proposes to "do things" will have the hardest task of his life to get the legislature to adjourn by the first of March. Remember, February is the shortest month of the year, and then here is January almost gone, and nothing to amount to anything done.

In speaking of the death of Paul Morton, the New York Post recites this incident, which is said to be a true one: "Upon the death of Paul Morton's mother, J. Sterling Morton erected a monument at their home, 'Arbor Lodge,' in Nebraska, bearing this inscription: 'Sacred to the memory of Caroline Joy Morton, wife of J. Sterling Morton, and mother of Joy, Charles, Edward and Paul Morton.' When the monument was erected the father took his four sons to the spot and said: 'Your mother is gone, and I don't expect to be able to bring you up as well as she would have done, but if you ever do anything to disgrace her memory I will chisel your name off the tomb-

stone."

Lincoln News: While the Nebraska legislature is working hard to make up its mind whether it favors holding the Panama canal exposition at New Orleans or San Francisco, the majority of the house committee at Washington has decided that the honor should go to the gulf coast metropolis. There are a good many reasons why New Orleans should be chosen, and if the verdict of the people on the street is taken it will be found that most Lincoln people prefer it held there. The truth is that out in Frisco they are taking up with the exposition scheme in the hope that it will help revive the drooping business energies of that city. The competition of Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle has been playing hob with the city by the Golden Gate. One of the current magazines quotes figures to show that industrially it is much poorer than before the earthquake, while Los Angeles has trebled her industries. The mayor who served just before McCarthy tried the experiment of strict enforcement of law, what out there they call a closed town. Business was poor. When McCarthy got in, he turned things wide open, but they tell us that business has failed to grow better. The hopeful ones say that the tide is bound to turn, while some of the knockers lay all the blame to what they call labor union tyranny. Where the real truth lies nobody this far away can tell.

## DECLARED THEIR FREEDOM.

The west can control the financial situation if the men of the west have the courage to do it. They need only to remember and act upon the old economic axiom that all wealth comes from the earth. It is from the fertile soil west of the Allegheny and east of the Rocky mountains that most of the wealth of this nation comes. That wealth is the basis of commerce, banking and transportation. By the machinery of Wall street it has been made to pour in a great stream into the city of New York, and has not been handled for the public welfare, but to accumulate fortunes for a few men, greater than the world has ever before known, and at last to become a threat to the stability of this republic. There are some signs that this domination is to cease.

Heretofore at periodical intervals these men of massive fortunes forced prices of securities as high as it was safe to push them, then unloaded them on unsuspecting purchasers. Then by calling a few loans and advancing interest rates, which they could easily do, for they owned the banks, they brought about a reaction and bought back the same stocks and bonds at far less than their true value, thus adding millions to their swollen fortunes. The last attempt to do that failed and the Wall street brokers have done a very small amount of business for the last few months. The people would not buy at inflated prices nor sell their holdings below the true value. That was brought about through the declaration of freedom by some western bankers, who refused to play the part assigned them by the big interests. The result has led these bankers to believe that they can exist and do business independent of the big interests of Wall street. When the next demand is made upon western bankers to cease cash payments, the order will not be so universally obeyed as in the past.—World-Herald.

## MAKING PROGRESS.

Two years ago the first bill introduced in the session of the Nebraska legislature was the Oregon plan of electing United States senators. It became a law, and the working of

that law has met with approval of nearly all the people.

The first bill introduced at the present session of the legislature is the initiative and referendum measure, another democratic platform idea, which is sure to be adopted, and likewise meet with the approval of all parties. The bill as it now stands 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 election, of which at least two-fifths of the counties of the state shall be included. The full text of the measure must be spread upon all petitions circulated. The same measure shall not be brought before the people for their consideration oftener than once in three years, except where petitions contain not less than 20 per cent of the qualified voters of the state.

The reference of any act of the legislature may go to the people on a petition containing five per cent of the voters of the state, the filing to be made ninety days after the final adjournment of the legislature which passed the bill referred to. If the measure so referred has no emergency clause attached, its operations shall be suspended until the people have acted upon the measure at the general election. If an emergency clause is attached the bill shall be operative until the people repudiate it at the next general election. The governor, under the bill now before the house, is prohibited from exercising his veto power on measures acted upon by the initiative and referendum. A majority of all votes cast upon the measure up for consideration shall cause its adoption.

Thus, the democratic party is making progress in carrying out the will of the people. Two great advances in the path of good government must be credited up to that party, for the battle for the principles above referred to have been steadily, consistently and loyally made, and after long years of effort those who have borne the brunt of the strife will reap the reward in popular commendation by honest and progressive citizens.—Fremont Herald.

## NEBRASKA.

Collier's Weekly, which for months gave its undivided attention to politics, muck-raking and kindred subjects, has turned its attention to advertising Nebraska, and in a recent issue has this to say of the Antelope state:

"Nebraska in 1909 produced more valuable than all the gold mined in the United States and Alaska, and worth more than our total tobacco crop. She produced wheat worth more than the total sugar production of the United States; live stock, grain, poultry, butter, eggs and fruit worth more than the coal in the United States, outside of Illinois; hay worth more than all the gold and silver produced in Alaska; cereals worth more than the product of all our copper mines; grass and grain and live stock worth more than all iron ore. This is according to the report of the committee of the legislature and the report made to the bureau of labor and industrial statistics. To be a little more frivolous, if the eggs laid by Nebraska hens in 1909 were placed in a double row end to end they would reach three times as long as the railroad mileage built in the United States in 1908. If the permanent school fund in Nebraska were converted into dollar bills and laid end to end the line would reach from Omaha to Salt Lake City, but it would probably not be left very long. Less than half of the tillable land in Nebraska is under cultivation and forty years ago the region which is now Nebraska was frequently designated upon the maps of school geographers as part of 'The Great American Desert.'"

Taft's tariff commission is now in the hands of its friends—Aldrich and Dalsell.

Sometimes, it is said, that people "bite off more than they can chew." And this may be the case with Governor Aldrich in his charges against the Omaha election board.

It should be called by its proper name. Instead of "New National," it should be, the party of centralized power.

Secretary Ballinger may be remaining in office on the theory that the public is already so deeply shocked that a little more won't hurt.

We note with pleasure that diamonds are coming down in price. What an untold blessing this will prove to the poor people? Eh?

A Plattsmouth man says he is in favor of the hobble skirt because his wife can't kick when she has one coming. There is an eternal fitness in all things.

The time will soon be here when the hens will begin putting out their product in competition with the cold storage products. And their products will beat the cold storage stuff by three blocks.

Governor Aldrich didn't get a very large vote in Omaha when he was elected. Maybe this has something to do with his anxiety to punish the election board in that city. The board is republican, however.

The coming month of February will have three important events, namely: Ground Hog Day, the 2d; Valentine day, the 14th; Washington's birthday, the 22d.

"Shocking doctrine," is what Dr. H. W. Rogers, dean of the Yale Law School, calls the policy urged by President Roosevelt to extend the national power through judicial construction. And the doctor is about right.

The State Historical society will present Speaker Kuhl with a gavel February 2 and arrangements have been made to give a portion of the afternoon of that day to a presentation program. The gavel will be made of wood having associations connected with the early history of the state.

If he is able to direct the next house, and if under his direction it makes a good record Mr. Clark will certainly be reckoned as one of the formidable presidential candidates—and this whether he becomes avowedly and actively an aspirant for the honor or not.

The capital removers seem to be organizing, and one of these days, not far distant, Lincoln will be invaded by hundreds of people from the various sections of the state to implore the legislature to take action on the matter. But have they decided upon a point to which they want the capital removed? Would it not be well to decide upon that first?

Efforts are being made to have President Taft convene congress in extra session to have another revision of the tariff downward instead of upward, as was done in the last extra session. Even many prominent republicans are joining in the movement. Evidently the tariff isn't as sacred as it used to be even with republicans. But it took a whole lot of people a long time to get out of the protection enclosure.

The legislature is called upon by the members of that body from Douglas county to investigate the charges made by the present governor against Omaha in his recent message. If these serious charges prove false then it is the legislature's duty to proceed against the governor. No one, either in or out of the chief executive's office should be allowed to make such charges without he has the proof to justify him in so doing.

Produce men in the big cities where Grim Want is stalking on almost every street and in every alley, are beginning to clamor for a removal of the tariff off of eggs and butter shipped in from Canada. The demand for these products is so great that the home market is not adequate to meet it, hence the demand for an enlarged market in which to buy. That was the keynote of President McKinley's Buffalo speech.

It is well said that a rule that won't work both ways is of no value. We are satisfied that the statement is true. Let us illustrate. If you get a carload of lumber or other product you are given a specified time in which to unload it or demurrage will be charged. But you may order a car in which to make a shipment and you've simply got to wait until the powers that be give it to you. No matter if the delay seriously handicaps you, there is no appeal. So here is a rule that works only one way and it is always against you.

Lincoln News: One of the new bills introduced in the Nebraska house provides for a state reformatory, an intermediate detention home between the reform school and the state penitentiary. This is intended to be for the incarceration of prisoners who are between the ages of sixteen and thirty years. The need of such an institution is patent to all who have made any investigation of conditions. It is recommended by the late warden of the state penitentiary, who saw many instances of young men hardened criminals by their association with the habitual law breakers. The state association of penologists is also in favor of the law. Other states have such institutions, and they are found to be instrumental in saving to useful lives men who have made a wrong start. A movement like this is usually met with the suggestion from many that "It is merely another scheme to saddle another lot of officeholders on the state," but that is a poor way of meeting our obligations to our fellows, and an easy way of shirking our duty.

The sitting legislature can not exercise too much care in the matter of appropriations. A combined assault will be made on the treasury by the state's institutions and when one counts their number he will understand the influence they exert on members of our legislative bodies. In each county where a state institution is located the senator and representative is expected to use all of his influence to secure a large appropriation. To accomplish his end he will enlist the aid of other members who have institutions in their counties and in that way a system of log-rolling obtains that is hard to overcome. But one thing the legislature should positively not do, and that is to establish more state institutions. The burdens of taxation are now heavy enough and to add additional expenses would be a betrayal of the principles of economical state government as pledged by all parties. Even now the demands on the revenues of the state exceed the income by more than a million dollars. Let the legislative pruning knife be applied vigorously all along the line.

## WEALTH AND MORALS.

If the economist was questioned concerning the basis of wealth he would at first say, a good climate, a fertile soil, natural resources, mines of coal and the various metals, streams and water power, access to the sea and an industrious and intelligent population. But there is something more than that—something as absolutely necessary as the things enumerated. That population must be moral. A nation devoid of honesty could not long continue wealthy. The basis of wealth can well be summed up in the one word "morals."

Looking at present conditions in that light, we find that wealth and happiness is overhung with a very dark cloud. The immorality of big business threatens the welfare of this nation, for when the rich become immoral the remainder of the people gradually follow their example.

The men of big business began their downward career by grafting, that is, stealing under the forms of law. That naturally led to stealing outright. The men managing the sugar trust stole millions from the government and now the tobacco trust is accused of stealing millions more. The woolen trust began grafting by means of the tariff obtained through false representations. Then it descended to stealing by selling partly cotton for all woolen goods, and the thing has gone on until in all

big business, fraud is found everywhere, from buying franchises to the stealing of land and mines.

For this deterioration government is responsible and especially the executive department of government. It has not enforced the law. It has compromised in a thousand instances with dishonest and unscrupulous "malefactors of great wealth." It has inflicted no adequate punishment, too often because it was a party to a politico-business alliance with the very men it should have restrained and punished.—World-Herald.

Lincoln News: There was a time when the intimation that congress proposed to reduce the representation of Nebraska in the national house would start a burst of indignation from every throat. We doubt if just now there will be much of an inclination to quarrel with Congressman Norris when he says: "I do not believe that the people of Nebraska should be concerned about losing one representative. A moment's reflection will convince them that Nebraska will have equal representation whatever plan is adopted." The politicians who were confidently looking forward to filling the offices once had us buffaloed so that we were demanding everything in sight and grew angry if we were denied anything we wanted in the way of additional representatives. As a matter of fact, so long as we are treated on the same footing as the people of other states, we have no valid grounds for objection, and it won't make much difference whether we have five or six congressmen, so far as each citizen is individually concerned. We simply don't like it; that's all.

Minneapolis attorneys are preparing a bill which the legislature will be asked to pass, providing that a murderer may not share in the estate of the victim. As the law now stands a husband may murder his wife, and still inherit her property, or vice versa. The statute was so interpreted in the case of Mrs. Mathilda Gollnik, of Little Falls, convicted of murdering her husband. An attempt was made to keep the property from her, but the supreme court in November held that the homestead must pass to her.

The re-election of Senator LaFollette by the Wisconsin legislature marks the end of a triumphant fight by the most advanced of all the progressive leaders for a seat that has been acutely coveted by the special interests. No doubt more money was expended in fighting LaFollette than was paid in any other three senatorial contests of the past year.

Mr. Martin Steppat went to Omaha this afternoon to accompany his daughter, Miss Anna, from the hospital, where she went to have her ears treated.

## 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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