

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The open winter helps some on the coal bill.

It is now hinted that Hathaway, the author of the hatpin bill, is somewhat stuck up.

If the weather forecasts are correct, an excellent joke is in store for the flocks of geese which are flying northward.

In Mexico the rebels have taken to burning customs houses, and for once it is easy to see wherein the rebels are right.

The open primary is what the people want. If it is not too open. The present primary law needs "fixing," and the present legislature does not want to adjourn until this is accomplished.

At the time of the Hon. Joseph Weldon Bailey's trouble, Mr. Lorimer was not in the United States senate. But it is believed that if he had been Billy would have done as much for Joe as Joe is doing now for Billy.

The republicans of Nebraska are somewhat divided on Canadian reciprocity. But they will all have to come to it in the "sweet bye and bye," when reciprocity becomes general all over the civilized world.

Senator Elihu Root fears that with the election of senators by direct vote the United States senate would "retrograde." This sentiment is also shared, the roll call shows, by Lorimer, Guggenheim, Burrows, Dupont Curtis, Depew, Stephenson, Dick and Penrose.

To the Nebraska legislators: Only twelve more days and your allotted time is up. Remember the boss governor says you must get through and adjourn by the first of March. And your constituents will feel very grateful if you do.

The "Oregon plan" of choosing United States senators has passed the Iowa senate. The election of Senator Hitchcock in Nebraska last fall has made many legislators in other states don their thinking caps. The tools of the corporations in the United States senate must give way to honest men.

The county option question seems to be about as dead as a door nail. Since it was defeated in the senate and Parting of Otoe county voted against option, the matter seems to have dropped out of sight. Mrs. Heald is still at the state house with her little cart of documents and is trying to earn her salary.

England is now very apprehensive that reciprocity between the United States and Canada will eventually mean the annexation of that country. Well, what of it? Our mother country should not be so suspicious. Children become older and wiser, and they don't care to be tied to their mother's apron strings all their lives.

The people will soon have a right to vote on all questions they want and don't want. Well, isn't that the proper caper? "Let the people rule." The people are not afraid of themselves—it is the fellows who do not want the people to rule that the masses fear. The initiative and referendum is what the people want.

Originally the protective tariff in this country was based on the theory that a moderate duty on imported goods should be maintained until such time as home industries could be thoroughly established and able to take care of themselves in com-

petition with foreign manufacturers. The original protectionists were willing to have the duties removed when that time arrived. This may be called the infant industry theory. But the trusts, under the guise of protecting infant industries, have grown to be worth millions upon millions by robbing the people for years, until the time has arrived that the people demand that they cut loose of their cut-throat game.

THE PRESIDENT'S WARNING.

President Taft has never before shown so much impatience with the standpatters as he has manifested in relation to the proposed Canadian reciprocity agreement. He has fairly warned his party that if concession are not made on the tariff in these times of excessive living cost the people will kick over the whole protective system. And it is a particular credit to the president that he has taken the measure of public opinion to this extent.

Perhaps the tentative agreement with Canada is not all it should be. Senator Cummins, who favors it, says that it is not. But no agreement of this kind could be reached that would be satisfactory to everyone. Always there would be an opportunity for some leader to do as Cannon has done in this instance—to appeal to the selfish interest, the ignorant prejudice or the political policy of a class or a section.

But the country knows that there are concessions on both sides in this agreement; that we give and get; that protection on farm products is largely an empty form at best; that it has been a gold brick to the farmers for many years.

Also, the people believe that this is the most practical step that could be taken now in the direction of real tariff reform, especially as it is proposed with a contiguous neighbor, the closest of all foreign countries in blood, friendship and industrial affairs—a country with which the United States should maintain the closest possible trade relations.

But more than all, the Canadian proposition is a test on the status of the tariff in general in this country. No true tariff reformer can consistently oppose this measure.—Kansas City Star.

A WELCOME CHANGE.

Governor Aldrich never appeared to better advantage than in his speech before the Young Men's Republican club at Lincoln Monday night. He indulged in no trimming or dodging; he was candid and earnest, and at the same time he had well under control his weakness for exaggeration and half-backed invective. If all of Governor Aldrich's public utterances during his term of office should be as dignified and as worthy as this one he would finish a more popular executive than when he began.

It is not at all necessary to agree with the governor on all his various positions in order to give him this need of praise to which he is entitled. We think, however, that in his utterances concerning legislative "log rolling," in favor of the Canadian agreement, and in favor of raising the tariff walls wherever and whenever they serve as a shelter to monopoly, he has well expressed the enlightened public opinion of Nebraska. Capital removal is in no sense a party question and in his stand on this issue the governor will be approved by members of all parties and condemned by members of all parties.

As to the establishment of an agricultural school in Southwestern Nebraska, the governor is well within his rights in opposing it and could make a pretty strong argument in de-

fense of his position. There are strong arguments to be advanced also on the other side. But no argument, pro or con, can be more weighty with democratic members of the legislature than the following plank of the democratic state platform for 1910:

We favor the advancement of agriculture and pledge the legislature, if successful, to favor the establishment of an agricultural school in Southwestern Nebraska.

If platform are worth the paper on which they are written, if they are promulgated honorably and in good faith, then it would seem that this plank of the democratic platform ought to have the most solemn weight with every democratic member of the legislature who did not publicly disclaim it and announce that he would not be bound by it in his campaign for election.

The southwestern agricultural school is as much a democratic platform pledge as the initiative and referendum, and the honor of the democratic party is involved in its fulfillment. This, of course, in no wise applies to Governor Aldrich, who is not pledged and is free to take such a position as his judgment and conscience dictate.

We want to say again that the governor's Lincoln speech comes as a welcome change. Earnestness and dignity are always preferable to demagoguery and clap-trap.—World-Herald.

Some people are wondering who is president of the United States—Taft or Postmaster General Hitchcock. The latter official seems to be getting too big for his pants.

Senator Hitchcock will deliver the address at the commencement of the Plattsmouth High school. Our people have been very fortunate in securing the new senator for this event.

The great railroads of the country are now endeavoring to show the farmers how to farm. Then, why are not the farmers privileged to show the railroads how to run a railroad?

The capital removal will be up again in a few days, and the vote on the new bill is expected to result differently. One member of the house says it will go through with a whoop. But we shall see what we shall see.

The plan for a \$100,000,000 motor car trust sounds entirely plausible. Competition in the automobile business has been so keen that some cars are selling for just about what they are worth.

It would be a shame if Miss Dorothy Arnold was found to be dead, just as the detectives have discovered so many first class "clews" as to her whereabouts.

Standpatters will point to Champ Clark's declaration in favor of Canadian reciprocity as proof that the treaty ought to be rejected, and this argument may have some weight with republicans whose heads are shaped the same way.

The man who robbed a Missouri Pacific passenger train between Leavenworth and Kansas City Christmas night has been captured. He's a Chicago man, of course, but the detectives deserve great credit for picking him out from among so many others of the same kind.

That great "insurgent," George W. Norris, is the only Nebraska congressman that voted with that gang of standpatters against the Canadian agreement. This is the very same Norris that shouted at the top of his voice all during the campaign last fall for a revision of the tariff schedule by schedule. What more could be expected of a man who voted for Cannon on every occasion? Norris is a snide.

The Iowa legislature has just voted to adopt the Oregon plan for the

popular election of senators. This means that the people are to choose their senators for themselves instead of having them chosen for them by the politicians. The change ought to come through constitutional amendment. If the reactionary senators continue to prevent that, it will come through the spread of the Oregon plan. For the people are determined to get the control of government in their own hands.

As long as Omaha has John O. Yelser, there will always be a muss and a fuss, because he would rather stir a stink of some kind, it matters not what, just so long as he is doing something. J. O. Y. is certainly the champion fuss and trouble maker in the state and it is in this manner he keeps before the public eye.—Nebraska City News. Nearly every community is afflicted with one of these pests, Plattsmouth included. But it is not necessary to single him out. They all know him, and for years he has endeavored to keep the town in a broil. But everybody understands his selfish motives and are slow to listen to his wallows.

In England when the government makes a stand for a certain kind of policy and the government is turned down by the legislators and the policy is defeated, the government goes immediately before the public for vindication. In which event the government is rejected by the people the government under the existing regime is at an end and must be rearranged along other lines. Isn't our state government in this fix at present? It made its fight on the county option issue. The governor was elected, and now he has been turned down by the legislature and his paramount issue during the campaign has been repudiated by the representatives of the people. What is Governor Aldrich going to do about it? Will he submit? Or will he affix his official signature to the "Sunday base ball law" to show the people that he is willing to stand for whatever the "boys" demand?—Kearney Democrat.

PRESIDENTS BY DIRECT VOTE.

In declaring in favor of electing presidents by direct vote, Colonel Roosevelt did not make himself clear as to whether he would merely abandon the assembling of the electoral college as a superfluous formality—since its fanstions, instead of being discretionary, as intended by the constitution makers, had become a mere formality of ratification—or whether he would eliminate electors entirely and have the people vote directly for the presidential candidates. The first of these methods would make no difference in the results; the other might make the biggest kind of difference.

Three times in the history of presidential elections in this country defeated candidates have received pluralities of the popular vote. In 1824 Andrew Jackson had a plurality of 50,551 over John Quincy Adams. In 1876 Samuel J. Tilden could not have been deprived of the presidency if there had been no electoral college, for he received a plurality of 250,935 over Hayes. In 1888 Cleveland's plurality over Harrison was 98,017.

The fundamental idea of the electoral college was two-fold—to give certain electors discretion to overrule the people, if that seemed necessary or expedient—a provision denoting the distrust of popular selection on the part of the makers of the constitution—and the election of the president by states. The electoral college prevents a state or a group of states predominantly of one party from having more than relative power in the election of the president.

A SURPRISE COMING.

Some of these days the bankers and business men of the west will be astonished at a financial system that Wall street will hand out to them and they will find themselves helpless. Wall street, that is the great financial power of this country, is silently but effectually working for the Aldrich system. The master manipulators are not appealing to the country, but preparing for one of their old time coups,

when they rush a bill through congress and it is signed by the president before the country knows anything about it. Aldrich has retired from the senate that he may give his whole time to this matter. He is still the head of that monetary commission, and he is devoting all of his great ability to oiling the machinery whereby this scheme may be put through congress. He is the greatest manipulator of legislation that this country has every known.

Short items are constantly appearing in all of the financial papers of New York in regard to this scheme and once in awhile an elaborate article is printed. That would not be the case if the great financial interests there were not confident that the scheme would be put through. One of these longer articles appeared the other day in the Wall Street Journal. It was an effort to popularize the plan, declaring that the underlying principle was the same as that on which this government was founded.

Applying this principle to the banking situation, the new measure proposes that every national bank in the country, however modest its capital or remote its location, shall have a share in the choice of the delegates who ultimately choose the heads of the federal system.

That is exactly what the system would do. It would place all the power that money wields in government and economics in the hands of a few men elected by the national bankers. What would the people or the small bank have left after such consolidation of power as that? The tariff question is important and other questions are important, but our representatives must not forget this question. It may prove to be the most important question of all.—World-Herald.

"THE COW PUNGER" AT THE PARMELE TUESDAY

In speaking of the Cow-Puncher," which played at the Krug in Omaha for three nights, the Bee says:

"The 'Cow-Puncher,' a western drama, with Harry C. Bannister in the leading role of Tom Lawton, opened a three days' engagement at the Krug with a matinee yesterday. The story is the not unusual one of the handsome city girl who comes into possession of a ranch, goes to live on it, falls in love with the cowboy manager and marries him after a series of adventures, which include a kidnapping by the cattle thieves. Dynamite Ann, whose home has been with Tom Lawton since her father's death, is married to Lawton's brother after he has mustered the 'nerve' to propose. There is in the bill sufficient tragedy to satisfy those who wish an abundance and enough good comedy to prevent the audience from becoming depressed. Everything ends well. Carlos Mendoza, the greaser, is killed before he accomplishes murder, and Tom Lawton, about to hang his brother for a cattle thief, discovers his error in the nick of time.

"Harry C. Bannister makes a good cowboy and does not over-act the role. Miss Lola Lee as Geraldine Graham, owner of the ranch, plays the part naturally and with effect. Fred I. Lewis and Crystal Vizard, in the juvenile parts, do all that can be expected of them. The western atmosphere and the 'business' is better than is found in the average play of the sort."

At the Parmele theater Tuesday night, February 21.

Mr. J. W. Steinhart of Nebraska City who was in town yesterday called on Superintendent N. C. Abbott at the High school and addressed the students on character building and making the most of their opportunities. Mr. Steinhart is one of the live business men of our neighboring city and has been recommended for the position of postmaster at that place and is awaiting the confirmation of the senate.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Seybert of Cedar Creek were Plattsmouth visitors, arriving on No. 4 this morning.

Poultry Wanted

Highest prices paid for all farm produce.

HATT PRODUCE CO.

BILL TO AMEND 8 O'CLOCK LAW

Senator Reagan of Douglas Introduces Measure in Senate.

OPTION FOR LARGER CITIES.

Local Legislative Authorities May Allow Saloons to Stay Open Until Midnight on Petition of a Majority of the Voters.

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—An amendment to the 8 o'clock closing law was introduced in the senate by Senator Reagan of Douglas to give cities the right to establish for themselves a later hour for closing saloons. The new section in the law reads, after specifying that it applies to any city of the metropolitan class or any city of the first class with more than 5,000 inhabitants "the local legislative authorities thereof, may, upon the presentation to them of petitions asking such action be taken, signed by more than 50 per cent of the legally qualified voters of such municipality at the last preceding general election, change the hour limitation named from 8 o'clock p. m. to any hour not later than 12 o'clock midnight." This law would give Omaha and a number of smaller cities the right to establish for themselves a later closing hour for the selling of intoxicants.

Contest Case Delayed.

It was announced that the Scheele-Wertman contest case was to be postponed again to Tuesday morning. The members of the committee, particularly the minority members, who intend reporting for the Republican contestant, say positively that this will be the last postponement. There will probably be three reports. The wet majority will report for Scheele, the dry Republicans for Wertman and Norton, the dry Democrat, will probably offer a compromise between the two. Norton has not yet decided exactly upon his action and may sign the minority report. A meeting will be held by the nine dry Democratic members before the time comes and he will abide by their decision in the matter.

Jolt for County Assessors.

The county assessors of the state were rather rudely treated by the committee on revenue and taxation when the bill which the assessors had introduced was completely emasculated and its intention changed before the committee would recommend it for passage. The assessors in a convention agreed upon a bill which would give them the right of running for a second term, a privilege now denied, and a raise in pay. The committee took this bill as it was introduced by McKissick of Gage, chairman of the committee, and amended it to strike out both the provisions which the assessors were having offered for and adding a provision to give the counties a right to decide at the next election whether or not the office of county assessor should be altogether abolished.

Senate Recommends Bills.

After placing Senator Ollis' stock yards bill on general file, as recommended by the committee, the senate went into committee of the whole. Bills recommended for third reading and passage included the bill of Senator Tibbets fixing the salaries according to the school population of the counties, which would result in most cases in an increase, and Hoagland's bill removing the restriction upon petitions to the governor in regard to paroles.

Calls Solons Unruly.

Considerable comment has resulted among the members of the legislature over a sentence in a speech which Governor Aldrich made at the convocation of the students of the University of Nebraska at Memorial hall.

The executive was speaking on "What is Education" and though his address was entirely apart from politics, in an "aside," he uttered the following words: "I have been busy keeping my hands on the Democratic legislature and I would rather try to control a carload of donkeys, of which the party is symbolical, than do the work that it requires."

FOUR REPORTS BY PROBERS

Differences of Opinion Concerning Election Frauds in Omaha.

Omaha, Feb. 17.—Disagreement between the members of the legislative committee on the showing made at the investigation of the Omaha election are probably to result in the submission of a minority report in each committee. The investigation closed and the investigators returned to Lincoln. The membership of each committee was composed of three Democrats and two Republicans. Expressions from committee members and the attitude assumed in the interrogation of witnesses indicate that the minority and majority reports from both the senate and house committees will be divided, perhaps rather closely on party lines. One exception on each committee is possible.

Funeral of Fremont Pioneer.

Fremont, Neb., Feb. 17.—The funeral of Andrew G. Brugh, who for fifty-one years lived in Fremont, was held at his late residence on Main street. Rev. W. H. Buss of the Congregational church officiated.