

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The Journal is a home paper, published for home people and for the benefit of home institutions.

Those Mexican rebels are making so many demands that they must believe great reforms come in bunches, like bananas.

A few hundred deaths among the troops, owing to climatic conditions along the Mexican border, this summer, will serve to mark the value of mobilization.

That Plattsmouth is becoming a great Saturday town for business the immense crowd of farmers in town last Saturday was another indication of this fact.

Only nine more days and the legislature will have to do business without pay. But the members will incline to be homeward bound when pay stops.

Mayor Sattler has performed his duties so efficiently and acceptably to the taxpayers of Plattsmouth that the people, irrespective of party, are praising him highly for his present administration.

The city election is not liable to be as "warm" as a few people would like to see it. The voters will support those candidates whom they think are best fitted for positions, and are not going to let their prejudices get the better of good, sound judgment.

The legislature will give the people a non-partisan judiciary law, but it is very likely that the present intensely partisan supreme court will again declare the law unconstitutional. If such a law is constitutional in Illinois, Indiana and many other states, why should it not be constitutional in Nebraska? Answer quickly, will you?

When big business has accomplished its object in cowering the revolutionists and bringing the Diaz government to terms satisfactory to concessionaries and bondholders it is the simplest thing in the world to exchange polite diplomatic notes and say, "See, we told you so. This is nothing but a little hobby horse game of war, after all, to give our soldiers practice."

The president, in his speech at the southern congress, let it be understood that any monkeying with the sacred Payne-Aldrich wool and cotton schedules by the extra session would get the veto axe into action. This is distinctively Taftian, a swing from one end of the arc to the other; today for lower duties and tomorrow for the plunderbund tariff.

When you patronize the Journal you know you are supporting a paper that has been for "Plattsmouth first, last and all the time." The Journal is owned by the publisher, and he has depended solely upon the business men and citizens of Plattsmouth in general for its support. The citizens have appreciated our efforts to give them a good daily and we trust they will continue to do so.

The consistency of Mr. Sheehan, the Tammany candidate who is holding up the election of a United States senator in New York on the ground that he is the "regular" nominee of the caucus, is about as clear and pellucid as the bottom on an oil tank. Sheehan bolted Bryan and the Chicago platform in 1896. Now he fulminates against the New York democrats who have sufficient independence to stand aloof from the dictations of Boss Murphy. Personal interest, as well as politics, is potent in

pointing the direction of the weather vane of logic.

WIDOWS' PENSION LAW.

Kansas City is progressive. It is more so than many of the rural communities or smaller cities and towns that surround it. Not only is it progressive commercially, but in governmental affairs and in its sociological adjustment.

Why it is so far in advance of other cities in the latter respect, is not easily guessed unless it be attributed to the progressiveness of its most influential newspapers.

Following the juvenile court reform down there, they have gone a step farther in the salvation of the youth that spring from unfortunate families. Through the efforts of Judge Porterfield of the juvenile court, they have secured the enactment by the legislature of a measure known as the widows' pension law, under which the juvenile court is empowered to pay the widowed mother of a young family enough to enable her to stay at home and look after the children.

The law is founded upon the conviction that if a widow is in straitened circumstances is thus empowered to remain at home to bear more sturdily the mother's than the father's part, she will be better able to exert the motherly influence over the children which keeps them from the commission of crime.

This is a reversal somewhat of the course of procedure upon which the juvenile court was originally founded, as under that procedure the court could not assume control of a child until it had transgressed, or was about to transgress, some law. Now it can get busy earlier and provide conditions in the midst of which the child is not so apt to become a public menace.—Lincoln Star.

THE LEGISLATURE DOES WELL.

The initiative and referendum amendment that has passed the Nebraska legislature is perhaps not the best that could have been framed. But it represents, the World-Herald believes, a distinct improvement and advance over any initiative and referendum system that has yet been adopted by any American state.

The Nebraska system of direct legislation will differ from that of Oklahoma on the one hand because Oklahoma is more conservative; from that of Oregon on the other hand because Oregon is more radical. And the Nebraska system will be better than either because Oklahoma is perhaps too conservative, while Oregon is too radical.

Oklahoma's extreme conservatism is represented in the requirement that a majority of all the votes cast in an election is necessary to adopt a law or a constitutional amendment through direct legislation. While this requirement is thoroughly and fundamentally democratic, asserting only the old doctrine that majorities shall rule it is likely at times to work a hardship in the enactment of progressive laws, by counting all those careless and indifferent citizens who do not vote on it as being against the law. Nebraska in this respect improves upon Oklahoma by allowing a majority of those voting on the question to pass it, provided that majority is 35 per cent of the total vote cast in the election. As to another important provision, Nebraska follows the rule laid down by Oklahoma which makes a distinction between the enactments of laws and the amendment of the constitution. Both states require a 50 per cent larger petition to propose an amendment to the constitution than to propose a law.

Nebraska improves on the radical-

ism of Oregon by requiring a 10 per cent instead of an 8 per cent initiative petition; by requiring a 10 per cent instead of a 5 per cent referendum petition; by requiring a 15 per cent instead of an 8 per cent constitutional amendment petition, and by providing that no law shall be adopted unless it polls 35 per cent of the whole vote, whereas Oregon allows a mere majority of those voting on the law to pass it, no matter how small that vote may be.

In still another sense is Nebraska more conservative than Oregon. Oregon gives its citizens almost complete direct control of the public purse, whereas Nebraska forbids the people to resort to the referendum against the regular appropriation bills for the support of the state government and institutions.

The Nebraska legislature has done well. It has been assailed by salummy, by narrow and jaundiced criticism, by extremists from either side of this great question. In spite of it all the members have gone calmly and sanely ahead, drafting a law which will come more and more, as time goes by, to tower above any similar law enacted by another state. It is a law that will come nearer than any yet devised to serving the purpose of the theory of direct legislation; to-wit, to let the people rule; to give them the full power of initiative or veto on important matters that concern a large proportion of the voting population; and at the same time to put a wise restraint on the irresponsible use of this mighty weapon by inconsequent and fad-ridden minorities.

The World-Herald hopes that the constitutional amendment as thus agreed on will be adopted by the people of Nebraska. And furthermore, it sincerely hopes and believes that, once the power of direct legislation is placed in the hands of the people, they will very seldom have to use it. Representative government, under American ideals, is the best government. Direct legislation, direct government, becomes necessary only when representative government fails; when it breaks down; when it rises in rebellion against the people. And such a failure is a calamity, we are convinced, that will very seldom occur once the lawmakers know that the supreme lawmaking power is in the hands of the people themselves. That is the reason the World-Herald has favored the initiative and referendum.—World-Herald.

Be sure and do your Easter shopping early.

The army is playing war while Mr. Taft is playing golf.

Champ Clark refuses to wear either a crown or gum shoes.

Congressman Hobson ought to be in high feather these days.

When the Hon. T. R. contemplates the spectacular war spasm of the present administration he must turn green with envy.

What a great boom for the moving picture shows! Just imagine all the latest war views that will be seen now for a nickel!

O. C. Morton, one of the managers of the Daily News, has been nominated for mayor of Nebraska City on the citizens' ticket.

If the primary law is to be amended, or an entire new law passed, for the Lord's sake, give us something better than the present law.

Governor Woodrow Wilson is living evidence of the error of the assertion that a prophet is not without honor save in his own land.

A Boston physician advocates a month's vacation annually as a health measure. He evidently never was inside a real live newspaper office.

Judge Lovett, president of the Harriman lines, says the interests of the railroads and the people are one. Very true. The trouble is that the

railroads seem to want to be the sole custodian of the interests, while the public holds the bag.

The Journal started out about five years ago to give the people of Plattsmouth the best daily paper ever printed in this city, and we are still furnishing it to them.

Chicago now has three members of President Taft's cabinet. And what is equally important, Seattle has none. Seattle is Ballinger's home.

One main objection to woman suffrage is that when the mistress and the cook both have a ballot there will be nobody to get dinner on election day.

It is an old saying that some men grow under responsibilities; others merely swell. See if you can pick the swelled ones on the streets of Plattsmouth.

It is believed now that the Iowa legislature will elect a successor to the late Senator Dolliver before it adjourns. But how about the senatorship in New York?

Mayor Jackson of Nebraska City has issued a proclamation designating Monday, March 27, as "Cleaning Up Day." Why not have such a day in Plattsmouth?

It is said Taft is engaged in writing his message to the special session of congress. It is a safe bet that he will not require 46,000 words to advise congress what to do with the Canadian reciprocity treaty.

The south is now claiming Governor Wardlaw Wilson of New Jersey as its very own son, and is booming him for president. The south has not had a candidate since the war.

Eat, is the defiance that Dr. Wiley, the food expert, hurls at the food faddists, the no-breakfast cranks and sawdust food apostolate. Good advice. A well nourished body is the best fortress against the onslaught of disease.

A paragrapher suggests that a few words should be added to the baseball language this year. What is really needed is a lexicon and an official interpreter of the jargon of the diamond. Perhaps Volapuk or Esperanto might be substituted for relief.

Senator Banning, while in the city yesterday, said he thought the legislature would adopt the commission plan of government without a doubt, and that the bill would be changed so as to allow cities of 4,000 to take advantage of the plan if they so desired.

In Australia they have a milking machine that will milk a hundred cows in two hours. Former Republican National Chairman Cortelyou has an appliance which, when attached to corporations, has the Australian machine looking like an old horse car.

The Bryan birthday banquet Tuesday night was the largest one of its character ever held in Lincoln, and there has been some very large banquets held in the capital city. Cass county was remarkably well represented, as she usually is on such occasions.

There is some democratic opposition to Fitzgerald of New York, who is in line for chairman of the house committee on appropriations. Fitzgerald will be remembered as the Tammany congressman who went to Speaker Cannon's rescue at the time of the fight on the house rules.

ARMY AN ASSET OF FINANCIERS.

Indications multiply that the United States army and navy is being used as an asset by the captains of industry and great financial interests of Wall street, New York. The fact is developing that it is not the support of the Monroe doctrine (which in truth is not at all called into operation by the existing condi-

tion), nor primarily the prevention of the violation of laws of neutrality, nor any particular reverence for the government of President Diaz, but the safeguarding of the investments of the Morgan-Guggenheim bunch of financiers and their allies which is the real moving principle in the unnecessary spectacular extravaganzas of mobilizing a third of the standing army, a large proportion of national guard officers, and two squadrons of the navy along Mexican territory.

The mailed fist of the government of the United States is being employed to protect the financial interests of J. P. Morgan & Co. and others, in utter disregard of the principles of international law. The Morgan house and its string of European affiliated firms are members of a syndicate which conducted the refunding of a large block of Mexican bonds in Europe last July, and now the American government, with paternalistic solicitude, comes to the front with measures of extreme coercion to protect the money crowd.

Dollar diplomacy and "big business" are in the saddle, and using the war powers of the government to keep themselves safe. Thus we are witnessing a practical declaration of war against a friendly republic, an unwarranted usurpation of executive power in bringing it about, and the employment of the troops of a country which wrested its freedom from British despotism against the efforts for emancipation of men in a neighboring republic who, for aught so far explained, may be struggling for as great political ideals as did our people in revolutionary days.

The most charitable view, so far as the president is concerned, is that he has been fooled into this inconsiderate and wasteful mobilization of American arms and has unconsciously played into the hands of the men and combinations of men who maneuver politics and politicians for exclusive selfish interest. However good his intentions, he will have to stand for the consequences and the public reproach for his blunder. The subject will form one for lively and interesting discussion in the next congress.

WALL STREET'S INTEREST.

John Parr, special Wall street correspondent of the Minneapolis Journal, gives this interesting sidelight on Mexican affairs:

"It must have been noticed with more or less surprise by the outside observer that the recent startling and not wholly accountable events connected with the troubled state of things in Mexico occasioned Wall street no real uneasiness. True, representatives of banking houses having large interests in Mexico went to and fro darkly, and intimated to the press that they were as much in the dark as the public about the meaning of the administration's military activities, but the securities which stand for the interests of these banking interests in Mexico were affected not at all. There are many such securities the most prominent being those of National Railways of Mexico, which are heavily owned by Wall street capital; Southern Pacific, which has a very large stake in the Mexican game, with its costly extension down the west coast and other projects; the American Smelting and Refining company, whose interests in Mexican mining are very large, and the Intercontinental Rubber company, with its large and valuable rubber concessions. None of these securities has declined at all. This may be ascribed partly to the general insensibility of the stock market to adverse news, but not wholly. One must wonder if the bankers have been so much in the dark as they have professed to be, and whether they have not understood all the time that they could trust the government to uphold Diaz.

"Those who have the least knowledge of the ways of capital in Mexico must know that for years Diaz and his associates have parceled out the wealth of Mexico to private capital, as if such wealth were their private property, to do with as they liked, and that capital in return has made Diaz and his associates exceedingly rich. The theory that the

wealth of Mexico belongs to the people of Mexico would be a very revolutionary theory in Mexico. Capital, Wall street and others, hold vast concessions in Mexico which would not stand the test of common law in Mexico or anywhere else, and, therefore, capital is for preserving the present order of things in Mexico. Moreover, capital apparently has not the slightest doubt that the present order of things will be preserved in Mexico.

"The facts certainly will have to be mentioned, with or without malice, that a brother of the president of the United States has large ranching and other interests in Texas and Mexico; that another brother of the President of the United States is of counsel for Speyer & Co., who are the bankers in Wall street having perhaps the largest direct interest in Mexican affairs as they are; that John Hayes Hammond, who is in high esteem with the administration, and is going to represent the United States government as special ambassador to England on the occasion of the coronation, is one of the most prominent representatives of Wall street capital invested in Mexican mining. It could be easily believed that the administration, though acting with the highest sincerity, has been greatly influenced by men and advisors who have enormous selfish interests in Mexico, and who are much more anxious that the Diaz regime be preserved than interested in the purely abstract truth that if a majority of the people of Mexico are dissatisfied with the present Mexican government they ought to be able to set up a new one, without moral or military interference from this side of the border."

"I bring greetings and friendship from the Japanese people to the American people," said Y. Bryan Yamashita at the Bryan dinner. "Baron Shibusawa, who is the most influential man in Japan, told me when I left Japan to answer that unkind war talk." That doesn't sound as if the Japanese are trying to get a foothold in Mexico.—Lincoln Star.

A great many people do not seem to understand the commission form of government. One citizen remarked the other day that it would be a hard matter to get rid of it when once adopted. A city can try it, and if it proves not as represented, it will be a very easy matter to get rid of it, and if it is what other cities that have tried it claim for it, the people will not care to get rid of it. So there you are. What is best for the city is what is good for all citizens.

Both parties have been trying to play politics in the present session of the legislature. The republicans, however, principally endeavoring to keep the democrats from carrying out their platform pledges, but they are not liable to "pull the wool over the eyes" of enough democrats to accomplish anything in that line.

Now comes the explanation that the standpat and lame duck senators voted to allow Lorimer to retain his seat, not because they thought he was entitled to it, but because they couldn't break themselves of the habit of "rebuking Roosevelt."

It is quite possible that Lorimer did not personally pay a cent for his seat. But the lumber trust, or some one else, did. It is a transparent way to escape personal responsibility for bribery. Lorimer is a "hired man."

"San Francisco has had its first snow in fifteen years," says a dispatch. But no wonder it snowed out there, since Abe Rufe has been sent to the penitentiary at last.

For Sale.

R. C. and S. C. R. I. Red Cockerels, \$1.00 each. Eggs, per setting, 75 cents; \$4.00 per 100. Inquire of Mrs. C. E. Schwab, Murray, Neb. Phone 3H Murray.

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