

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The Lorimer case can be "closed" only with the closing of the public career of Lorimer.

Prospective candidates have begun interviewing the "dear people" as to their chances this fall.

It looks as if Diaz might soon understand the full meaning of that American colloquialism, the lame duck.

The veto of the telephone merger bill will have a tendency to stop all that kind of business in Nebraska.

General Madero expresses his willingness to resign as "provisional president"—from which it is inferred that the provisions are running low.

Addressing a republican club in New York the other night, Chauncey M. Depew gave "an account of his stewardship" of twelve years in the senate. And it did not take long.

The Omaha Ad club failed in getting their proposition to advertise Nebraska through the legislature, but they were more successful in getting the commission bill adopted. That Ad club is a great thing for the metropolis of Nebraska.

This office has received several anonymous letters in the past two months touching prominent citizens. Anonymous letters of this character find no responses at this office. So please don't send us anything more of this kind unless you have the courage to sign your name.

Carter Harrison, elected mayor of Chicago for the fourth time, made his campaign on exceedingly progressive lines, declaring for the initiative and referendum. That these advanced principles were endorsed in a city like Chicago, not noted for its political purity, is an indication of the advance of popular education along progressive lines.

It is just as well that the telephone merger bill was defeated. Had it not been there would have been hundreds of local independent companies organized in Nebraska. There would have been an organization in every town in Cass county, similar to that recently organized in Louisville, and they would have all been in operation by the first of July.

Well, what about a "Bargain Day" in Plattsmouth? Nebraska City had its second one this season last Tuesday, and notwithstanding the inclement weather, it proved a great success. Can't someone be induced to take hold of the matter and go around and interview their brother merchants on the idea of having a day of this kind in Plattsmouth?

good order the world over it is to be hoped that the leaders of this band of murderers, anarchists and cut-throats will be given their just deserts and an organization that has terrorized Italy since the middle ages be effectually broken up.

The new game law throws its protecting wings around so many varieties of birds, fish and beasts as to cause one of our Plattsmouth sportsmen to ask for in-

formation: "If anyone knows of any bird or beast which, under the present law of Nebraska may be shot or otherwise killed for food at any season when a normal person would care to perform the operation, he can hear of something to his advantage by calling on him, etc."

Dr. Hyde, who was convicted of murdering Millionaire Swope of Kansas City and appealed to the supreme court of Missouri, has been granted a new trial. The supreme court was not very lenient in its opinions upon Judge Latshaw's rulings in the first trial. From present indications the accused will be out on bail in a few days, and he has hosts of friends who are only too eager to sign his bond.

The Cammorists, caged like wild beasts, evince an utter contempt of the law as their trial continues in Italy. It is an amazing spectacle. For the sake of suppose it were proposed to open up and admit to the Union a large agricultural state, producing, say, about twice as much wheat as Kansas, good crops of oats and hay, but no corn to speak of. Would anybody object to the enlargement of the farm area of the country, and the consequent increase in trade? Canadian reciprocity, to the degree that it lowers duties, would be equivalent to adding another star to the flag.—Kansas City Star.

Many of the members of the legislature went to Governor Aldrich with a plea to veto the telephone merger bill because they were ignorant of its containing that little joker when they voted for it. And such men sent to the legislature to make laws for the whole people of the state. Voting for a bill that they did not know anything about, and then asking the governor to veto it because they were ignorant of what it contained. Wouldn't that knock a modern man silly?

Today (April 13th) is the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth, and the event will be celebrated in many of the larger cities. Jefferson has been the chief inspiration of the democratic party since he founded it. The principles of liberty, honesty and progress he enunciated will live as long as popular government exists, and will ever serve as beacon lights for its guidance. Long live the memory and principles of Thomas Jefferson.

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE.

The first few days of the extra session of congress have demonstrated that the democrats have all the best of the contest. They have a program for the enactment of a number of popular measures and they are united and enthusiastic in the purpose to carry out the program.

It may develop later that there is a stronger reactionary sentiment in the house than now appears on the surface, but the present indications are that there will not be a serious break in the party in the adoption of all the measures promised.

On the other hand the lack of purpose or of any established policy for the session on the part of the republicans is as apparent as the aggressiveness and enthusiasm of the democrats. The progressive republicans are taking a part in the game along with

the democrats, because they favor the policies generally as outlined in the schedule for the session. But the progressive republicans are in the minority and do not control the organization of their party in either house of congress.

In the revision of the tariff schedules the democrats will have the advantage of initiating the revision because the legislation must originate in the house, where they are in control. But if the republicans are making any arrangements to help in the revision, or to accept it when the measures reach the senate, they have succeeded in keeping their program a secret. Up to the present time the only purpose of the republican organization either in the house or the senate that seems obvious is merely to oppose what the democrats do.

The old-time republicans believe in the "waiting game." That is, they are waiting for the democrats to make some mistake that will create an issue for 1912. But while they are waiting the democrats give every indication of a party that means to force the mistake upon its enemies—the mistake of opposing popular legislation.—Kansas City Star.

A "GAME" FIGHTER.

Tom Johnson was a real soldier and he died of the wounds and blows that were inflicted upon him in many a hard-fought battle. He was a successful man of the business world who sacrificed his success and his fortune in the unselfish service of the millions who go to make up the world's unfortunates. And the service it was permitted him to render was worth all of the sacrifice, so that it is natural to think that Tom Johnson, though he died comparatively poor and in one sense defeated, still died a happy man, rejoicing in his success.

Tom Johnson presented himself in two big aspects. One was as an enemy of special privilege. The other was as a fighting reformer in city government. He stood for a 3-cent fare on street railways at the expense of his own business, and though it had helped make him a millionaire he denounced to the last the protective tariff system which levies tribute on the many for the benefit of the few.

He gave Cleveland the best city government it ever had. He made it, in many respects, the best governed city in America. He was the greatest and most successful of the pioneer fighters in the struggle to purify city politics and to lift municipal government to the level of honest, intelligent and unselfish administration. In the process of his long and bitter fight in Cleveland he arrayed against himself the great moneyed influences not only of the city but of the entire state, and their conspiracy to ruin him both politically and financially was generally recognized, and in one sense it was successful. They broke him not only in fortune and power, but in health as well. But they could not break his spirits. About his last published words were these: "How are all the boys? Tell them to be of strong heart and to be game. I am game."

He was "game." All his life he was "game." He gave his very considerable fortune, not to found libraries or endowments or other charities, but to cure the evils that make charities necessary. He used it as a fighting fund. His wealth was a war chest to be used in the service of the submerged millions. He invested in an immense circus tent, and employed a whole caravan of men to transport it from point to point in Ohio while he campaigned against the hosts of privilege. At his own expense and against tremendous opposition, he gave great object lessons, on a life-

sized scale, in the administration of public utilities and great industries on a "Golden Rule" basis.

When Tom Johnson began the fight he fought almost alone among men of his class. Today there are men like him—men of wealth and position who are devoting themselves to the cause of justice and good government, and who think more of winning their rights for the masses of men than to win special privileges and immunities for themselves. He was a pioneer, and his name and fame will grow with the years.—World-Herald.

Of course you'll hear them say it is

A dear, bewitching bonnet,

But it is not as dear as that

Small price tag placed upon it.

Now then, all together—clean up.

Talk about being able to use the veto, what's the matter with Aldrich?

The March winds were delayed in transmission—that's why we are getting more than is coming to us in April.

It begins to look as though there was going to be something doing at the extra session of congress.

The anti-prohibitionists have made rapid gains in Indiana, according to the returns of the recent elections.

It is rumored that Senator Lorimer may go to Europe. If he does they will have some more innocence abroad.

Some mayors have issued proclamations designating a day for a general cleaning up. What's the matter with Mayor Sattler doing the same?

That Omaha joy rider, who got a penitentiary sentence for running down and killing William Krug, will have learned to respect city ordinances by the time he becomes a free man.

A fact not generally known is that William H. Taft and Judson Harmon, who may be the rival candidates for president next year, are both members of the faculty of the law department of the University of Cincinnati.

It is the unique thing in the life of the great civic leader, Tom L. Johnson, that, when he had attained wealth and power, he relinquished the chase for more money and gave his best years to hard and ceaseless work in the service of the plain people.

There is one thing about Aldrich that is very prominently noted—he possesses a revengeful spirit—and his rapping Omaha every time he gets a chance denotes this fact. But he failed to get consolation out of the recent investigation in that city, which cost the taxpayers of the state considerable money, and this disappointment evidently makes him still more revengeful.

Most men will be somewhat suspicious of the report of a secret treaty between Japan and Mexico and will wait for further evidence upon that subject before making up their minds. The truth is, the Taft administration is in a very tight place and something must be done to give color of justification to this great movement of troops.

The annual report of the American Telegraph and Telephone company for the last year contains these interesting statistics. There were 740,027 exchange stations added during the year, making a total of 5,882,719,

and 1,200,000 miles of wire were added to the lines, making a total mileage of 12,000,000. Some idea of what this total means may be grasped when we calculate that this length of wire could be wrapped around the earth 500 times and that it would make 50 separate lines from the earth to the moon, but there would not be half enough wire to reach from the earth to our nearest planetary neighbor, Venus.

The Omaha World-Herald is making a great hit with veterans of the civil war in its publication of incidents of that late unpleasantness. These articles are not only read with interest by those who were probably in many of the engagements there recited, but it gives those who were not old enough to remember—the serious consequences of that great civil strife an idea of what those veterans went through to save that noble emblem of liberty, the Stars and Stripes, that they might today enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness under its magnificent folds. The World-Herald is deserving of great credit for this great streak of popular accord. The school children can get more true history from these interesting articles than any of their school histories, for they are truthful incidents without any prejudice whatever.

THE LEGISLATIVE RECORD.

Since the first day the legislature met, and even before the first day, a concerted and active publicity campaign has been made in Nebraska to slander and belittle the session that has just adjourned. Though republicans have taken the lead in that campaign of abuse, for partisan purposes, they have had the aid, covert or open, of here and there a democrat animated by factional purposes. The attempt has been made to induce the fair-minded people of Nebraska to believe that, because the legislature was opposed to county option and prohibition, it was therefore reactionary, incompetent, venal, and the sum of all iniquities.

This is wickedly unjust and unfair and wholly false. The legislature made its mistakes—one or two very serious ones. The perfect legislature, like the perfect man, is yet to be discovered. But that the legislature was progressive, that it was industrious, that it was animated by an honest desire to be true to the people and to advance good government, requires only a cursory survey of its record to demonstrate beyond dispute. It made a record that, despite its blot or two, is a shining credit to the democratic party which was responsible for it, that was creditable on the whole to the republican minority, and that will prove of lasting benefit to Nebraska. More than that, it made a record for advanced progressiveness that has not been equalled, or even approached, by any other legislature that met anywhere in the United States last winter. It made a record for the conscientious fulfillment of platform pledges that attests democratic good faith and that might well serve as an example for legislatures in other states as well as for succeeding legislatures in Nebraska.

Right at the beginning the legislature ratified the federal constitution amendment authorizing an income tax.

It submitted four important constitutional amendments, all of them progressive in their nature—for the initiative and referendum, for allowing cities to make their own charters, for the creation of a non-partisan state board of control, and for biennial elections that will eliminate the odd-year campaigns.

It followed this up with the enactment of a radically progressive law for the smashing of political bosses—a law allowing the

voters of the various parties to elect their own delegates to the national conventions, to elect their own national committeemen, and to express their preference on candidates for president and vice president.

It enacted a set of fair and equitable reapportionment bills, performing a duty that has been neglected for a generation, which will give the people of all sections of the state just representation in both houses of the legislature and in the choice of district judges.

It enacted a law placing the stock yards under the control of the state railway commission.

It passed a non-partisan judiciary law, in conformity with the democratic platform pledge, which a republican governor vetoed, thus defeating the expressed will of the people.

It took the first markedly progressive step that has ever been taken in the history of Nebraska road laws by putting through, against the most stubborn opposition, a bill authorizing every county to organize in a systematic and business-like way for the construction of roads under the supervision of a county engineer.

It passed pure seed and pure paint bills that will mean a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to Nebraska farmers and home owners.

It passed a bill allowing cities to organize under the commission form of government.

It passed a bill legalizing Sunday baseball—which the governor vetoed.

For the betterment of public morals it passed a number of highly important laws, including drastic measures for the suppression of the white slave traffic, for the closing of disorderly houses, and for the abolishing of bucket shops. Along the same line it passed laws forbidding the use of tobacco by boys under 18 years old, creating an advisory board of pardons, providing for the indeterminate sentence, and forbidding the use of vehicles to haul voters to the polls.

Other important and salutary laws include measures for the support of the state medical college in Omaha, for the establishment of a school of agriculture in western Nebraska, for a hog cholera serum plant at the state university, authorizing the creation of trust companies, wiping out double taxation, and authorizing the investment of state funds in the securities of Nebraska counties, cities and school districts.

This is only a small part of the record of legislative accomplishment, but it is enough to show how faithfully the people were served, and in how truly democratic a spirit. When we look around, even to our neighbor states of Colorado, Kansas and Iowa, and compare the records of their legislatures this winter with that which our own has made, it helps us the better to realize how narrow and bitterly partisan, how mean and unworthy, is the criticism of the splendid record of the Nebraska legislature.—World-Herald.

Stallion for Sale.

Shire and Belgium grade horse. (Black); weight 1,550. Ten years old. Inquire of W. F. Moore, Murray, Nebraska.

E. H. Schulhof, piano tuner. Plattsmouth, phone 286.

DR.

Herman Greeder,

Graduate Veterinary Surgeon
(Formerly with U. S. Department of Agriculture)

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