

The Plattsmouth - Journal

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W. J. Bryan defends Governor Wilson and condemns Harvey.

Uncle Sam seems to be more successful at enforcing political decorum in Cuba than he is at home.

The Kentucky legislature wants Henri Watterson for vice president. What next will Kentucky want?

Mr. Taft attended three banquets in one evening, all of which helped conserve the White house butter supply.

Implement dealers think automobile buying retards improvements on the farm. Probably in some instances, yes.

Is the North American Review also forbidden to whoop 'er up for Woodrow Wilson? Colonel Harvey is also the editor of the Review.

The governor general of Canada has been visiting in New York. Rather too bad to skip out just when he is needed at home to shovel snow off the sidewalk.

The butter supply is 400,000 pounds short, and the boarding-house keeper thinks many good things can be said in favor of tallow.

Colonel Harvey has put on the soft pedal at Wilson's request, but probably the governor would be willing to let him do a few five-finger exercises.

As Dr. Wiley is sustained by the congressional committee, it would seem imprudent to put out any more mince-meat consisting of cotton wool soaked in brandy.

Otoe county may furnish a democratic candidate for state senator, according to the Nebraska City News. All right, come on with him.

The cold waves have been severe and have extended unusually far south, but why should anyone complain when you can always get warm by going to bed?

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont is going to start a woman's daily paper. The style news from Paris should be featured with the big headlines, in place of Washington news and baseball.

Senator La Follette calls the United States supreme court by its real name, instead of referring to "a certain court of last resort whose name I shall not mention."

After the school boy trick, the big boys are accumulating rosin to put on their hands in case Schoolmaster Wilson is appointed teacher and makes a free use of the ferrule.

"We do not feel that all people are fitted for popular government. Some of us don't dare say so, but I do," exclaims President Taft. And every straw poll that is taken convinces the president more and more that the people are not fitted for self government.

The supreme court of the United States has decided that the employers' liability act is constitutional and valid—that the state courts may enforce the act when state laws are appropriate.

Since either Hitchcock or Hillis must go, it would appear Mr. Taft is bound to drop an H.

The Plattsmouth Players' club is organized permanently and will arrange to give other entertainments during the year.

The minstrel show was a great financial success, and everybody was pleased with the performance.

"Stevenson is given whitewash by probers," Lorimer is no doubt hopeful that there will be some left over for his use.

Some of the presidential possibilities are learning that no High school maiden is more coquettish than a nomination.

The Yale expedition to Peru has secured the bones of prehistoric man, but the hungry Yale boys would be more interested in soup bones from the 1912 steer.

Any presidential candidate who wishes to command public confidence must visit Wall street quite frequently and throw a three-cornered railroad rock through several of the front windows.

Vic Rosewater wants to be re-elected a member of the national committee awful badly. But many republicans are of the opinion that he is rather light for such an important position, and would rather have someone else.

Throw aside factional strifes and all pull together for peace and harmony. That's what the democrats of Nebraska want to do if they expect success in the fall elections.

Our democratic New Yorkers have been running, after the Canadian Duke of Connaught and his party, and the rest of the year they spend in adulation of our Dukes of Dollars.

Senator Cummins is a full-fledged candidate for president now. Considering how hard the newspapers work to prove that all presidents are idle and disorderly characters, anyone who is willing to take the job is entitled to much credit.

In Buffalo Tuesday the Standard Oil company was fined \$55,000 for guilt on 143 counts of accepting rebates. The maximum fine should have been \$2,860,000, but the judge did not wish to be as hard-hearted as Judge Landis.

Mr. Taft says much about economy and efficiency. Is he doing his part by having the White house ashes properly sifted and can he get the hired girl to utilize the meat scraps in the hash?

Postmaster General Hitchcock is highly indignant that he should be suspected of disloyalty to President Taft. The general impression that he had deserted the president seems to have been due to the fact that everyone else has done so.

William G. Stamm, a merchant of Lincoln, has filed for the democratic nomination for railroad commissioner. It's a very cold day in August when Lincoln is not able to furnish its share of candidates on both party tickets, and then some.

A London dispatch says that rioting is feared at the elections in Ireland next month. It does not require a profound student of Irish political affairs to see that this fear is plausible enough.

Governor Aldrich is not flying so high as he was before the Taft leaders sat down on him so hard. He finds out there are others besides himself and that he is not the "whole cheese" by a long shot.

Teaching morality in the public schools by means of photographs from actual life and showing what is right and what is wrong, has been given its first taste in public schools.

It would be comforting to know that those enthusiasts who are predicting the second coming of the Messiah in the immediate future are keeping close tab on the movements of J. Pierpont Morgan.

Revision of the tariff downward is no iridescent dream of the democrats. Mr. Taft vetoed all their accomplishments last year, but the new steel schedule presented in the house Monday shows another effort toward the redemption of campaign pledges.

Kentucky still worships the star-eyed goddess, for the lower branch of the legislature of that state declared for Mars Henri Watterson for vice president. The sun still shines on the old Kentucky home of tariff reform.

People are pleased to hear that the Helen Taft rose will be a floral novelty this spring, and what a good example would be set if Helen Taft rose before breakfast to cultivate a patch of them in the White house back yard.

Great excitement was caused in the newspaper offices by the report that Colonel Roosevelt had made a statement on the cultivation of lima beans, and a corps of reporters and photographers was at once dispatched to Oyster Bay.

The democrats want to be very careful in their selection of state candidates. The primary system is liable to nominate some fellows who have nothing to recommend them for such places and who have been pap-suckers all their lives. Such fellows should be learned some sense.

The arrangement between Champ Clark and Joe Folk, by which they leave Missouri democracy to choose between them for its "favorite son" candidate for the presidential nomination, has the virtue of simplifying the work of the democratic national convention. It will eliminate one of them from the list of eligibles, and doubtless help the chances of the party's strongest candidate.

One democrat has no more right than another to boss party affairs. And the sooner some fellows understand this, and give others the same privileges they assume, the better it will be for all concerned. You may be able to convince one he is not right in his views, but you cannot drive him. It will be well for some fellows to understand this. We should all pull together.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

With the conviction of every murderer of prominence, the question of capital punishment is revived.

Maudlin sentiment finds a cover of reason by saying, "Let there be no more official murder. If the state sets an example in killing why should it expect citizens not to follow it?"

Weak sympathy seeking the support of weaker reason!

The state guarantees to all its citizens liberty and the pursuit of happiness, yet it maintains

jails and penitentiaries where with liberty is taken away altogether and where the pursuit of happiness is interrupted by a wall. Yet should the state tear down all its prisons in order to be consistent?

Certain persons affect to be shocked at the brutality of capital punishment, yet it is no trouble for them to overlook the brutality of the murderer. Fiendish deeds are forgotten while the fiends themselves are looked upon in the light of martyrs. Truly a distorted vision.

Such silly feeling and weak reasoning encourages murder, and further puts off the day when capital punishment can be abolished without disastrous results.

It is conceivable that society may reach such a perfect state that the gallows, the electric chair and the guillotine may be dispensed with and all murderers become subjects for the physician's clinic instead of for the law's punishment—but that state hasn't yet been reached in this country and will not be so long as we have our Beatties, Richesons and McNamaras.

A BEAST OF BURDEN.

Truly the editor is a beast of burden. No profession is so much imposed upon as that of the editor. When a baby is born he is expected to announce the event and declare it to be the prettiest little mite of humanity he ever saw, notwithstanding it looks like a lobster and is uglier than the original sin. And the parents never takes the paper.

If some old curmudgeon dies the editor is expected to write a column in eulogy of his life, attributing virtues to him that should make him liable to indictment if justice were meted out. But the family never takes the paper.

If some gossiping woman passes away for the good of the community, the editor must laud her as an unwinged angel, who was so good that the ordinary way of going to heaven was too slow for her and she was transported to glory in an aeroplane. But her people never take the paper.

When election time comes around the editor must jump in and help this or that man into office. After he is in office he has no more use for the editor who helped him. On the contrary, if he has work to do he will take it to the other editor who opposed him. He may take the paper, but he does it as an act of charity and not as a slight recognition of services performed. When that same man again wants an office he comes around to the editor and as obsequiously as a whipped dog licks his shoes and wants support that he should never get on account of his perfidy. And when the editor refuses support then he is branded as untrue to his party and a regular Benedict Arnold.

When the editor stands up for what is right between man and man some fellow will howl that his interests have been assailed. If he doesn't stand up for the right then he is branded as a menace to society and must be boycotted. In short, the editor "can and he can't, he will and he'll me d—d if he don't."

Gentle, unsympathetic, ironical reader, we've been down the line and have had tacks placed in our shoes, cockleburrs in the seat of our pants, chunks of ice run down our back inside of our shirt on an August day, red pepper put in our hat to irritate the bald spot on our head, been given green persimmons to eat and had lemon after lemon handed us by ingrates. Maybe some time in the future pay-day will come, and when accounts are squared we trust the ingrates will take their medicine the same as we have taken ours.

The wise leap year maid will keep both eyes on the young widows.

Charity covers a multitude of sins—when it begins at home.

The January thaw is evidently over, and now we are having somewhat colder weather.

There should be somebody smart enough to invent an insect powder that would destroy hum-bugs.

In Adam's day woman was merely a side issue, but during leap year she poses as the whole show.

Groundhog day will soon be here. It falls on Friday, but we guess this will not make much difference.

Open air concert by the Burlington band tonight at 7:30 just before the opening of the ball at Coates' hall.

The new year is sufficiently advanced to state that from observation it is much easier to break resolutions than it is to break a rock.

The distance between the producer and consumer is reduced to a minimum when he raises every thing possible for his own use on his own farm.

Since the election of Aldrich it would seem that most anyone thought himself big enough for governor of Nebraska, from the way they are coming out for the nomination.

The government prosecutors are unreasonable enough to contend that the purchase of thirteen independent packing concerns by the trust, most of which were subsequently shut down, was a Restraint of Trade.

The postmasters and federal officeholders generally want to make a sure thing of keeping in office another four years, if possible. So they think that if Taft can't be re-elected, Roosevelt can. See! No matter about the third term.

Congressman Norris is sure in the race for United States senator, and if he don't make Norris Brown travel pretty lively to keep in the senate we miss our guess. They are not very much in the habit of re-electing senators from Nebraska, anyway, and this is one thing in favor of Mr. Norris.

It is almost impossible for Governor Aldrich to keep his hands off of Omaha. He certainly does not possess a forgiving spirit and probably never forgets. Omaha doesn't have much use for Aldrich and he probably found that out two years ago, and may have an opportunity to renew this sort of feeling if he keeps up the pace he is going.

The people of Louisville want the Lady Minstrels to show in their city. They now have a fine hall at Louisville and the club will probably decide to give them a visit in the near future.

June 18, the date of the republican national convention, is also the anniversary of Waterloo. It has already been pointed out that the remarkable return of these times was not "the return from Elba," but "the return from Egypt."

Those Baconians who now assert that Bacon wrote the King James version of the bible may soon be claiming that he is also the author of the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence, the Fourteenth Amendment and the Winona Speech.

Senator Hitchcock woke up some of the animals around Washington last week when he demanded to know Mr. Taft's authority for sending United States troops into China. It was

the proper thing to do, and the people have the right to know.

Among the unclaimed merchandise which the government sold at auction in Chicago the other day were 2,266 glass eyes. Someone suggests that Mayor Harrison ought to have purchased the whole caboodle for his police inspectors, who seem to fail in seeing all the meanness going on in the wicked city.

We believe that Hon John H. Morehead is the proper man to nominate for governor, because his record as a business man and his character as a citizen are both as sound as any man's in the state, and if nominated there would be no past dark records to bring forth by the opposition. This very matter should open the eyes of the democratic voters to the investigation of all candidates for state positions. The democrats of Nebraska are in no position to carry a lot of dead weight on their shoulders, which they will be compelled to do if some fellows should foist themselves upon the party through the primary election, which would not otherwise be done.

RIFT IN INSURGENCY.

The announcement made last Sturday that Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa would be a candidate for the republican nomination for president will cause not a little speculation among those who are studying the political situation.

Senator Cummins is one of the original insurgent republicans, and, since the death of the incomparable Dolliver, perhaps the strongest personality in the camp of those self-styled progressives. Not so bold, not so spectacular as La Follette, he is generally credited with being the influence for caution, for safety, for judicial thought and action, that holds the insurgents together as a political entity. In short, it is said Cummins is their balance wheel.

For six months Senator La Follette has been a candidate for the nomination. Now comes Senator Cummins' announcement. At first thought it would seem that a split has occurred among the insurgent leaders, of the sort so common in new and uncrystallized organizations. This thought would be strengthened somewhat by the recollection that it was generally gossiped last summer that Cummins rather frowned on La Follette's disposition to hold the center of the stage to the exclusion of all others.

Yet it is hardly likely that two men so able and so ambitious for the success of their common political ideas as Cummins and La Follette should be so foolish as to split their following in twain and make Mr. Taft's second nomination so easy.

It is logical, rather, to look into the elements of practical politics for the explanation of this apparent rivalry.

There you will doubtless find as a basic fact that Iowa and its neighboring mid-western states do not regard La Follette too kindly and might perhaps support Taft as between him and "Battle Bob."

What, then, is more practical a stratagem than for Cummins, the idol of the prairie states, to hold them to insurgency by permitting his own name to be used as a candidate?

The merging of insurgent votes could be easily accomplished in the convention and a solid front be presented to the Taft forces with La Follette or Cummins or—say it softly—Roosevelt as their choice.

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