

## MUSINGS DEDICATED TO GROUNDHOG DAY

Also to the Abuse of High Schools of the State by Normal School Engineers.

For the Plattsmouth Journal. Speaking of birds, many of the early spring songsters have made their appearance among us, but we fear they have been deluded by some false prophet. We have made some effort to establish the fifth one. Schools are a good thing, but absolutism is not desirable, even in good things of a public nature.

The High schools of our state are now suffering from too much dictation by a so-called "High school inspector." (Appointed by what authority?) Again, too many state schools, widely scattered, furnish an excellent means

Speaking of candidates for state offices, the legislature, et al.: There are a great many things upon which we should like to know their views, not the least of which is their attitude toward state normals and other state schools. It is our judgment that we have too many state normals now, though our last legislature for log-rolling appropriations through the legislature on the plea that it is for a very commendable purpose. We believe in giving private schools and denominational schools an opportunity in our state, and that we should not endeavor to crush them out by legislation dictated by our state schools for that purpose. Too much education from one source is apt to become poorly balanced. A little competition tends to eliminate many hobbies, and new fads are more likely to be mentally aired before assimilated.

Speaking of groundhog day calls to mind two years ago, when the king of the day kept his face completely shielded from this part of terra firma during the whole of the second of February. But Hally's comet stood in the heavens, which might have had something to do with the results that followed. We went to Texas about the middle of February and remained there during the spring and summer, but some comments on the weather sent us in letters from our wife, who remained in Nebraska, elicited the following effulgence from our muse:

**The Groundhog's "Shadder."**  
If the groundhog sees his "shadder"

On the famous groundhog day, And sulks to his den much sadder For six long weeks yet to stay, We're told by our seers and sages As they wisely scratch their pates, To beware of early planting, For the spring will sure be late.

But if on that day when sages Have kept wind and weather wise, Down from ages unto ages, With their keen eyes fixed toward the skies, The groundhog stalks forth stealthily,

Sees no "shadder" by his side, Since the king of day his visage From the earth has chose to hide, Then they tell us, "plant 'er early."

For the summer's coming on; For the groundhog saw no "shadder," And the frost will soon be gone.

Then we, who are of years more tender,

As we wander down the glen, Ponder deeply, long for wisdom Like our old gray-headed men, But we get no consolation From the seers of ages past; We've no chance to grow in wisdom— Just a simple lad or lass.

So we've lived in breathless silence, Never doubting groundhog men; Thinking all they said was gospel, Till we struck our nineteen-ten. Now their wisdom all is shattered, Makes us think it's all a bore; Something's wrong or Hally's comet's

"Busted" all their groundhog lore,

Sure the groundhog saw no "shadder" On this present groundhog day; Still we're having frost and freezing

Away up nigh the first of May.

Fruit's all killed, no flowers blooming,

Farmers back in every line, Hands all at home, nothing doing, Waiting for the sun to shine, Still our sages we respect them, Just because they are old men, But groundhog day and Hally's comet Doesn't hitch in nineteen-ten.

And then Easter was so early That some young men did predict,

Now's the time to all get busy, Make a jackpot slick and quick, Sure, they said, that if the sages, By the groundhog, grown so wise,

Just from ages unto ages, With their keen eyes fixed toward the skies,

Now when Easter, too, comes early, Gushing truths of groundhog lore,

We young men must grow in wisdom, Spring will early be most "shog."

Yet the groundhog saw no "shadder?"

Early was our Easter day, Still we're having freezing weather

Nigh up to the first of May, Fruit's all killed, no flowers blooming,

Farmers back in every line, Hands all at home, nothing doing, Waiting for the sun to shine, Still our sages we respect them, Just because they are old men; Yet groundhog day and Hally's comet Didn't hitch in nineteen-ten.

E. L. Jones, M. D.

## TWO GRIPS STOLEN FROM WAGON

The Stolen Property Found Later on Winterstein Hill Broken Open.

From Wednesday's Daily. Last night, after Conductor Bert Waugh and his crew had arrived from Sioux City with No. 88, Extra Conductor Barrett, who was braking on No. 88, left the wagon and was in the Burlington station about six or seven minutes. When he returned to the car two grips were missing, one belonging to Barrett and the other to Brakeman Harry Crawford. Two hoboos had been noticed about the station and in the yards late yesterday afternoon, and they were at once suspected.

Night Policeman Henry Trout at once struck out to locate the "hoboos" and found one of them asleep in a boxcar. While rounding up the cut south of the station, Trout ran across a man, halted him and searched him, but found nothing on him belonging to the trainmen. After letting this party go the policeman heard a dog bark on Winterstein Hill, and immediately went to that locality, where the two grips were found, one of them open, with the contents lying about on the ground, and the other slashed with a knife and open.

No. 81 left the station about this time, and the man arrested and released in the cut, hopped on this freight and left town. After he found the grips in the condition they were, Policeman Trout concluded that the man released was the party who had stolen the grips. The Omaha police were communicated with by phone, and notified to watch 81 and arrest the man, but he did not show up at Omaha.

To Patrons of the Journal.

Complaint from subscribers of the Daily Journal on the Murray and Mynard mail routes that they do not get their paper as early as formerly has reached the publisher. The matter was taken up with the postoffice authorities in this city and we learn that an order has been recently issued to the postmaster at Plattsmouth to send no mail to Murray and Mynard on train No. 106, which leaves Plattsmouth at midnight. The matter has been taken up with the postmaster general at Washington by the publisher of the Journal and no doubt the former service will be re-established soon.

Costumer Here February 17.

Bear in mind that a leading costumer of Omaha will be here all day February 17th, with headquarters at the Eagles' lodge rooms and will supply you with costumes at the right price for the mask ball to be given by the Eagles on the evening of February 17th.

## Dies in Omaha Hospital.

From Wednesday's Daily. If a rumor which was current on the street yesterday is correct, Humphrey Bates is no more, he having died, it was said, in an Omaha hospital yesterday morning. The deceased had been sick for several weeks, and his acquaintances in Plattsmouth have been expecting to hear of his death. He was a son of Mrs. Bates, who, in her lifetime, resided west of the L. A. Moore greenhouse. Humphrey was a single man about 40 years of age. He had not been much in Plattsmouth during the past three or more years. He leaves a brother, Joseph Bates, who resides in Iowa.

The remains were brought to Plattsmouth this morning, accompanied by Joseph Bates of Thurman, Iowa, brother of the deceased; Bert Crissman and wife of Perry, Iowa, and Mrs. Hamilton, a sister of the deceased, and daughter, Pearl, of Omaha. Another sister of the deceased, Mrs. Owens, could not be present. Mr. Crissman informed the Journal that Humphrey died of a complication of heart and liver trouble and that he was 42 years old. Mr. Crissman was formerly a Plattsmouth citizen. Interment was made in Oak Hill cemetery.

## A WARNING AGAINST WET FEET.

Wet and chilled feet usually affect the mucous membrane of the nose, throat and lungs, and in grippe, bronchitis or pneumonia may result. Watch carefully, particularly the children, and for the racking, stubborn coughs give Foley's Honey and Tar Compound. It soothes the inflamed membranes and heals the cough quickly. Take no substitute. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

## GREENWOOD. (Special Correspondence.)

Andy Christensen is quite sick this week.

Mrs. James Jeffrey is seriously ill at this writing.

A. D. Welton's baby is quite sick with a bad cold.

A. C. Taylor and his daughter are very sick with the grippe.

Miss Eva Helms has been on the sick list for several days.

Mrs. Carper, from Kansas, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. James Stevenson.

Miss McClellan was down from Ashland Tuesday and spent the day with friends.

J. W. Barr, who has been sick with the grippe, was worse the first of the week, but is better now.

Revival meetings are being held at the Christian church by Rev. Henry, former pastor, assisted by the regular pastor.

Mr. James Stevenson is suffering from a severe cold. Mrs. Stevenson's mother, Mrs. Abbott's condition remains the same.

Arthur Stevenson was sick several days last week, not being able to continue his work at the bank from Thursday to Tuesday.

Mrs. Kenison's niece, Mrs. Charles Williams, who had been visiting here since Sunday, returned to her home in Council Bluffs Tuesday.

Mrs. Onis Marshall has just returned from Kansas, where she attended the funeral of her sister-in-law and baby.

There was quite a large crowd at the Woodman supper last Saturday evening. A short program was given before the supper.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Barrett are the proud parents of a baby boy, born January 31. Dr. Houston Jones reports all doing nicely. Mr. Barrett is working for Clayton Bouck and has moved into Mr. Bouck's place.

## FIRST LA GRIPPE, THEN BRONCHITIS

That was the case with Mrs. W. S. Bailey, McCreary, Ky. "My wife was taken down with a severe attack of la grippe, which ran into bronchitis. She coughed as though she had consumption and could not sleep at night. The first bottle of Foley's Honey and Tar Compound gave her so much relief that she continued using it until she was permanently cured." For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

Try a sack of Forest Rose Flour the next time you need flour. Ask your dealer what he thinks of it.

## CASTORIA For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Gifford*

**Now is the time to buy Overcoats!**

Don't wear the old overcoat any longer. Come in and buy a new one at less than wholesale prices. We are going to close out every single coat. Only three coats left in one size, but that may not be your size. Come and see before they are all gone.

**\$5 \$7 \$10 \$12 \$14 \$18**

**C. E. Wescott's Sons**

ALWAYS THE HOME OF SATISFACTION

Another shipment of Ladies' Shirts just received this week—\$1 to \$2.25

## LOCAL NEWS

From Wednesday's Daily.

John Gauer of Cedar Creek visited the county seat today, where he was called on business for the day.

John Schoeman of Louisville was a Plattsmouth visitor today, having been called to the county seat to look after business matters for a time.

Henry Thierolf and wife of Cedar Creek were in the city today looking after business matters for a few hours between trains.

John Gilbert of Weeping Water transacted business in Plattsmouth last evening and this morning, departing for his home via Omaha.

F. G. Olenhausen of near Cedar Creek, was a Plattsmouth visitor today, coming down on No. 4 for a few hours' stay in the county seat.

George M. Hild drove in from Mount Pleasant precinct and boarded the fast mail for Omaha this afternoon to attend to some business matters.

J. F. Wehrlein and W. H. Wehrlein shipped hogs to the South Omaha market last night and themselves left for the market on No. 15 this morning.

H. G. Todd of Murray was a Plattsmouth visitor last evening and registered at the Riley hotel, while looking after business matters at the court house.

C. E. Noyes, who has been serving his country by doing jury duty for several days, was excused by the court yesterday and left for his home the same afternoon.

H. Deaver, Bert Reed and W. M. Lefler of Elmwood were summoned on a special jury to act in the case of the State vs. George Lytle, unless challenged by the defendant for having knowledge of the case.

Attorney William Delfes Derriner and Banker Floyd Wolcott, both of Elmwood, arrived in the city last evening and were overnight visitors in the city, having some business matters in the courts demanding their attention.

Louis Crabtree, a prominent farmer of near Murray, was a Plattsmouth visitor today, looking after business matters, and while in the city called at the Journal office and entered his name on the list of subscribers for this family necessity.

Fred Bornman and F. A. Creamer of South Bend and J. C. Lemon of Greenwood came in this morning on a special invitation of the sheriff that their names might be considered in selecting a jury to try George Lytle for safe-blowing.

Eddie Collins in Town.

Eddie Collins, who has not been in Plattsmouth since the eventful 15th of October last, the day of the Fort Crook wreck, arrived last night on No. 2 and will visit his grandmother for a few days. He has not recovered the use of his leg, which was broken at that time, and is compelled to go on crutches.

D. L. Amick Returns.

D. L. Amick, who went to Hot Springs, Ark., a short time ago to take the baths, returned last night, having derived no benefit from his trip. In fact, Mr. Amick could not stand the baths in his weakened condition and will seek relief elsewhere.

For Sale.

One of the best 80-acre tracts in Cass county, located 3 miles from two good markets; 50 acres of it in winter wheat, 15 acres in timothy and clover, every foot of it under cultivation; good improvements; land lays good. If sold by March first this tract can be bought for \$125.00 per acre. No better tract anywhere. See Falter & Pollock, Plattsmouth, Neb. 1-30-14w-d&w.

Forest Rose Flour. The next time you need a sack of flour try a sack. You will find it the best on the market.

**Don't plant seed corn that won't grow**

Men from the state experiment station who have examined samples of the best seed corn exhibited at the local corn shows, short courses and farmer's institutes all over the state say that only from 10 to 60 per cent of the samples submitted will grow.

**Corn for seed purposes is in a worse condition than has ever been known.**

A grave situation exists. If we are to have a corn crop next year, every ear of corn should be tested to see whether it will grow, before it is planted. Suppose one dead ear is planted. The planter fails to get one thousand stalks of corn—almost twelve bushels of corn lost.

Leading corn authorities say that no man can tell whether corn will grow or not, without making a germination test. Particularly this year, corn that looks good on the outside may be dead in the germ, and positively will not grow. The business men of Omaha appreciate that business prosperity depends upon the success of the corn crop, and are therefore making this effort to arouse the state to the necessities of the case. If in any community there is more than enough seed corn to plant your own farm, please let us know, that we may secure the additional supply for other parts of the state.

Address, PUBLICITY BUREAU, COMMERCIAL CLUB, OMAHA.

**How to test seed corn**

Enough ears to plant twenty acres can be tested in a single day with home made tester. Take a box six inches deep and about two or three feet in size. Fill the box about half full of moist dirt, sand or sawdust. Press it well down so it will have a smooth even surface. Now take a white cloth about the size of the box, rule it off checkerboard fashion, making squares one and one-half inches each way. Number the checks 1, 2, 3 and so on. Place this over the sand, dirt or sawdust.

Take the ears to be tested and either lay them out on the floor and mark a number in front of each or attach a numbered tag. Now take off about six kernels from each ear (not all from the same place, but at several points on all sides.) Put these kernels on the squares corresponding in number to those placed on the ears of corn. Be careful not to get them mixed. Keep the ears numbered to correspond EXACTLY with the numbers on the squares of cloth.

After the kernels have been placed carefully on the cloth which covers the moist sand, dirt or sawdust, cover them with another cloth, considerably larger than the box; cover this cloth with about two inches of the same moist sand and keep the box in a warm place. It must not get cold.

The kernels will germinate in four to six days.

Remove the cover carefully to avoid displacing the kernels. Examine them carefully. Some will have long sprouts but almost no roots; others will not have grown at all, but the kernels from ears which will produce corn if planted will have both sprouts and a good root system.

Compare the numbers on the squares with those on the ears. Put back into the feeding corn bin the ears which correspond in number to the numbers on the squares where the kernels did not grow or where they showed only weak roots.

The ears numbered corresponding to those on the cloth which showed strong signs of life are the ones to preserve for seed. Every kernel from these ears should produce a stalk, every stalk an ear.

A number of more convenient seed corn testers are manufactured for sale. They are all good—any implement dealer or seed house will know where to get them.