

The Plattsmouth - Journal

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The Taft supporters are on the alert in Nebraska, notwithstanding the Roosevelt boom.

Teddy says he will not contest for the nomination. He wants it carried to him on a gold platter.

Washington was first in peace and first in war, but we insist that Mr. Groundhog is first in February.

The man who says, "take my advice," seldom gives you a chance to take anything else that belongs to him.

The names of Governor Harmon and Speaker Champ Clark have both been filed by Nebraska friends for president.

These are days of mighty close competition. A man must not only take his own part, but the other fellow's, too, if he can.

Taft don't seem to be very much worried about Roosevelt running. The officeholders are the ones that are most worried.

William R. Hearst has come out for Champ Clark for president, but then we are not sure that that will help the speaker very much.

Washington's birthday will soon be here—February 22. Why can't the democrats of Cass county have a banquet on that date? What do you say, gentlemen?

The success of the government's proceedings against the bathtub trust suggests that the next step in sanitary progression should be a suit against the towel monopoly and the soap trust.

Congressman Norris says he will stick to La Follette through thick and thin. A few more such friends as that and the senator from Wisconsin will carry the state over Taft, and don't you forget it.

Don't forget the Fiddlers' Contest Friday night, February 16. More fun than you can shake a stick at. You can't afford to miss it. So make your arrangements to be at the Parmele theater on the night of the 16th.

Mr. Walters of Denver, who charges that the government overpays the railroads a million dollars or more each year for handling the mails, seems to be encroaching on Victor Murdock's preserve. However, there is probably room for both.

"Postmasters in Ohio are booming Taft," says a dispatch. Well, please tell us a state where the postmasters are not booming Taft, will you? And all the balance of the federal officeholders. They know on which side their bread is buttered.

Willis E. Reed has filed for United States senator. He is one of the brightest men in Nebraska and he would make a senator of whom any state might be proud. We think a whole lot of Willis Reed and he possesses a host of friends throughout the state.

The people down east say that Roosevelt is not a candidate for president and has never even intimated that he will be. That he is for the renomination of Taft and will work to that end. If he finds there is no show for the present chief executive then, in a pinch, he might run again.

Taft seems well pleased with his Ohio visit. We suppose Judson Harmon is also.

Taft insists that the administration has kept its campaign promises. Oh, Lord!

And the fact that groundhog day this year falls on Friday may also be regarded as ominous.

J. P. Morgan has been seen at Monte Carlo, and we hope he was not so reckless as to plank down a plunker on the green tables.

Five Ecuador generals were lynched the other day. They probably took the generals because they could not find any privates.

Mrs. Paul Sorg of New York had a \$15,000 sable coat stolen last week. Times are certainly hard when it costs that amount to keep warm.

It is inferred from the perfectly calm manner in which Attorney Clarence Darrow took his indictment and arrest that he was not entirely surprised.

February 2. The groundhog saw his shadow. Now, what about it? If we are to have six more weeks of winter, the Lord help us poor people, for nobody else will.

Sculptor Harvey committed suicide because his work was not recognized. If he had been making bricks or houses instead of statues he might be well and happy today.

A Philadelphia woman has beaten an English champion at fencing, and if the latter is not satisfied, she might see if she could have better luck with her tongue.

The government proposes to save \$5,500,000 by abolishing sixteen army posts, utterly ignoring the fact that a number of grocers supplying these posts will have to go out of business.

The beef packers say the high price of meat is due to the retailers, and the retailers say it is because hubby is no longer willing to carry a brown paper parcel through the street.

Marse Henri says he was the innocent bystander in the Wilson-Harvey row, but like other innocent bystanders, he seems to have a genius for being on the spot when something gets started.

Forty American immortals are appointed by the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and John Franklin Baker, who made two home runs in the world's series for Philadelphia, is still denied just recognition.

Mr. Bryan's name has been withdrawn as a presidential candidate in Nebraska. But in the Kansas City Star's voting contest it shows that down in Missouri he is making a good run. He is next to Clark and ahead of Folk.

The effect of the Wilson-Harvey-Watterson incident has been to strengthen Governor Wilson's candidacy, and the old man from Kentucky, who always tries his hand at something sensational in presidential year, has gone to his winter quarters in Florida, where it is hoped he will remain until he gets all the soreness soaked out of his head.

Democrats of Nebraska will be in a bad row of stumps to pull through if they don't do something in the way of organization by the 19th of April—primary election day.

Aldrich wanted to run, first, for the senate, then for delegate to the national convention, but now will be content with a renomination for governor. How the mighty has fallen!

The National Piano Dealers' association is to burn 300 square pianos at their coming convention, but we believe you can keep the neighbors awake equally well with an upright.

Big Bill Edwards was turned out of a New York restaurant because he was not clad in evening dress. It certainly is tough if you must spend \$50 for a dress suit before you can be permitted to pay 15 cents for a piece of pie.

The democratic house of representatives saved the nation \$50,000,000 Monday night by eliminating from the appropriations bill in caucus a \$16,000,000 public buildings measure and a provision for two new battleships.

The democratic house of representatives is making history for efficiency and economy. If it will just keep up the good work Teddy Roosevelt nor any other republican will be able to beat the democratic candidate for president next fall.

The democratic house of representatives passed the Underwood metal schedule Monday night. If this bill, revising the tariff downward on all steel and iron products, is permitted by President Taft to become a law, the saving to the people of America will run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Journal would like to see the democrats of the state unite upon a ticket composed of candidates whose records will bear the very closest inspection and who can command the support of every democrat, populist and all liberal republicans.

At the next session of the legislature there should be a law passed compelling railroad agents to tell the truth about the lateness of trains. The most of them will report a train a few minutes late when they know it is nearer two hours late, and have people lay around the depot all that time. Compel agents to tell the truth when asked about trains.

Hon. John H. Morehead is gaining many warm supporters in every section of the state in his campaign for governor. After once seeing the present lieutenant governor they know that he is a gentleman of excellent qualities, and has the ability to preside over the destiny of Nebraska in such a manner as to not only reflect credit upon himself, but also will demonstrate to the people of Nebraska that they made no mistake in his election.

The next important event to occur in Plattsmouth is the Fiddlers' Contest. This is an event that will be looked forward to with great delight. It is given under the auspices of the Red Men, the same as it was a year ago, and everyone who attended at that time will no doubt be on hand at the Parmele Friday night, February 16. There will be a larger number of contestants and a much more interesting time than before. Don't forget the date—Friday night, February 16.

They say Hon. John H. Morehead carries out the duties of governor with great dignity and ability. Of course it is not just exactly like assuming authority as though he was governor in

reality. But if democrats do their duty in nominating him he will be governor in reality by this time next year.

The gravest mistake the democrats can make in the ensuing campaign is in nominating candidates who are not fit for the positions and have no records to commend them to the voters. We have aspirants for nominations at the primary who cannot command even respect where they are best known. Do we want such candidates?

Hon. Herman Diers of Gresham, Neb., has filed for lieutenant governor on the democratic ticket. Mr. Diers has served in both house and senate and is a gentleman of considerable ability, and a genuine good man. He is a brother of the Diers Brothers, the merchants, who own so many stores in Nebraska, and a business man from the word "go." Yes, we can all consistently support Herman. He is all right.

There is always something wrong in the administration of the affairs of this government, when combinations can make prices so high that poor people are unable to buy the real necessities of life. There is something rotten in the management when such conditions exist, and combines are allowed to put up prices on all the necessities of life whenever they feel like they needed more money in their business.

Mr. Brandeis shows that 65 per cent of the steel employees in the Pittsburg district, by working 12 hours a day, 365 days in the year, can just about earn what the Associated Charities estimates to be the bare cost of living. The high tariff "for the protection of the American workingman" seems to work out in the Pittsburg district in much the same way that it does in the Lawrence, Mass., woolen industry.

DIRECT ELECTION SENATORS?

The election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, instead of by legislatures, as at present, is one of the great constitutional changes long demanded by the people. It has, however, never been able to run successfully the gauntlet of legislative enactments necessary to bring it to the vote of the states for adoption.

It is now pending before congress, with very slight chance of its being passed by both houses, at least during the present session.

Both houses favor the general proposition and have so voted, but they find themselves at loggerheads as to the Bristow amendment.

This amendment reserves to the federal government control over the time, place and manner of holding the elections. This, southern democrats think, may be used to interfere with the suffrage laws of their states—laws that are rightly deemed necessary to the preservation of Anglo-Saxon civilization therein.

A majority of the senate insists that this provision be incorporated in the amendment, but the house will not stand for it.

The federal government now has the power to regulate the election of congressmen, but does not use it. It is left wholly to the states. At a time when sectional feeling was rife, the Force bill failed to pass. It is not likely that another will ever be proposed.

The contention over the Bristow amendment is purely an academic one. The senate should yield, for there can come no harm from specifically granting to the states, with respect to the election of senators, a privilege which the states have always been allowed to enjoy with re-

spect to the election of congressmen.

HOW TARIFF HELPS LABOR.

Steel rails have sold for \$28 a ton in the United States for eight or ten years. The price has never wavered. But frequently during this period the same steel rails have been sold by the American manufacturers at \$22 a ton in European countries.

When asked why this discrepancy in price existed, officials of the Steel trust have said it was due to the effect of the protective tariff. Asked to justify the discrepancy, they have said the tariff enabled the steel industry in America to pay its labor the wages due to Americans and yet compete with European mills employing pauper labor.

But what a light is thrown on the beneficial effect of the tariff by a recent government investigation of the conditions under which American steel workers labor! Read this statement, made in the senate recently by Senator Borah:

"From the reports of the department of commerce and labor on the steel industry," said the senator, "it is shown that the steel corporation is paying millions of dollars in dividends and yet they have in their hell-holes men who work twelve hours a day, seven days in the week, and others who work 18 to 24 hours in one shift. No man who has taken an oath of office can ignore this."

Pending revision of the tariff proposed by the democratic congress, if it manages to pass the formidable Taft veto, will reduce the price of steel products in America, and will perhaps give purchasers here the opportunity to buy as closely as Europeans have always had.

And certainly it cannot greatly hurt the condition of the Steel trust's labor.

Some member of congress from Texas proposed a resolution in the house the other day declaring against a third term president. A republican congress in 1874, when General Grant was a candidate for the third term, passed such a resolution almost unanimously. The people do not favor any third terms. As a last resort for the postmasters and federal officeholders, they might do so.

Lew Genung, the eminent Glenwood lawyer, well known in Plattsmouth, is talked of as the democratic candidate for governor in Iowa. We have known Lew Genung for many years and a more conscientious and able man for the position of governor never appeared in the Hawkeye state. He is one of the most forcible speakers we ever listened to, and if nominated and elected, we promise him we will attend his inauguration at Des Moines.

People may think that President Taft and the Duke of Connaught discussed international arbitration, but more likely they exchanged views on the best way to prepare an old-fashioned boiled dinner.

It may be true, as a Washington correspondent suggests, that Mr. Hitchcock's boasted postal surplus is "faked." But it would be hard to make the postal clerks, who worked overtime without pay, believe it.

There are already a few grafters getting in their work on the unsuspecting candidates. It would seem to us that men running for office would soon "catch onto" these deadbeats who approach them with a smiling countenance and want to borrow ten or twenty, and never mention it again.

What about that democratic banquet? Speak up, boys. Don't be backward in expressing your opinion.

MESSAGE ON COST OF LIVING

President Asks Authority to Call International Conference.

LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT NEEDED

Rise in Prices is General Throughout the World, but Real Cause for It Still Remains Mystery—Urges Commission on Industrial Relations.

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Taft in a message to congress urged an international inquiry into the high cost of living. The president asked authority to invite the nations of the world to a conference in this city or elsewhere to make plans for the investigation of the "high prices that have so distressed the people of the world."

Mr. Taft also urged the appointment of a federal commission to make a "searching inquiry into the subject of industrial relations."

"For some years past," said the president, "the high and steadily increasing cost of living has been a matter of such grave public concern that I deem it of great public interest that an international conference be proposed at this time for the purpose of preparing plans, to be submitted to the various governments, for an international inquiry into the high cost of living, its extent, causes, effects and possible remedies.

Real Light Needed.

"There is no doubt that a commission could be appointed of such unprejudiced and impartial persons, experts in economic facts, that a great deal of very valuable light could be shed upon the reasons for the high prices that have so distressed the people of the world, and information given upon which action might be taken to reduce the cost of living.

"Those who have conducted investigations have found that the phenomenon of rising prices is almost, if not quite, general throughout the world; but they are baffled in the attempt to trace the causes by the impossibility of making an accurate international comparison. This is because, in spite of the number of investigations already made, we are still without adequate data and because as yet no two countries estimate their price levels on the same basis or by the same methods."

Industrial Relations.

As to the commission on industrial relations, the president said:

"There should be an inquiry by the federal government into the general conditions of labor in the United States, notwithstanding the fact that some of the remedies will lie with the separate states, or even entirely outside the sphere of governmental activity, in the hands of private individuals and of voluntary agencies. One legitimate object of such an official investigation and report is to enlighten and inform public opinion, which of itself will often induce or compel the reform of unjust conditions or the abatement of unreasonable demands.

"Unquestionably the time is now ripe for a searching inquiry into the subject of industrial relations which shall be official, authoritative, balanced and well founded, such as only the federal government can successfully undertake. The present widespread interest in the subject makes this an opportune time for an investigation which, in any event, can not long be postponed. It should be non-partisan, comprehensive, thorough, patient and courageous."

Alaska and Public Domain.

President Taft sent to congress his promised message on Alaska and the public domain in general. In urging the construction of a government railroad, a commission form of government and other needed legislation for the far away territory, President Taft declared there was nothing in the history of the United States which afforded such just reason for criticism as the failure of the federal government to extend the benefit of its fostering care to Alaska.

"I am not in favor of government ownership where the same certainty and efficiency of service can be had by private enterprise," said the president, "but I think the conditions presented in Alaska are of such a character as to warrant the government, for the purpose of encouraging the development of that vast and remarkable territory, to build and own a trunk line railroad, which it can lease on terms which may be varied and changed to meet the growing prosperity and development of the territory."

Reclamation Laws.

The reclamation laws of the United States should be modified, in the opinion of the president, so that a homesteader might be granted a patent at the end of five years of cultivation and three years occupation. The president also would relieve homesteaders from the requirement of occupation at a time when the condition of the land would make it burdensome and difficult.

Following a suggestion of Secretary of the Interior Fisher, President Taft declared that the control of water power sites should remain in the national government rather than be turned over to the states.