

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Christmas causes a great many useless expenditures, and it's tough when the mistletoe proves a dead loss.

A diamond was found in a Minnesota hen. An odd setting for a gem, truly—especially as it is not a setting hen.

J. P. Morgan unblushingly confesses that he has been engaged in business on a large scale and has succeeded. The wretch!

Well, how about that fiddlers' contest? The boys are getting anxious. Right away after the holidays would be a good time.

Onward, right onward, with the good New Year resolutions, and may they be of the kind that will stick to you good and plenty.

Along with the tariff, President Taft intends to turn over to President Wilson all the hard work he couldn't accomplish himself, even to settling the war in Mexico.

There was not as many who went away from home to do their Christmas shopping as usual this year, and, of course, those who did cannot celebrate as cheerfully as those who bought at home and have a clear conscience.

Well, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan have had their conference, and now we suppose the meddlers will not be satisfied till they know the result. For this they will have to be content to wait, the same as the balance of us.

Kansas sheriffs are making themselves and equal suffrage highly popular with male citizens by placing the burden of jury service on the women. Almost every jury down in Kansas now is composed of members of what was once considered the "weaker sex."

The knockers could adopt a resolution on the New Year that would be a good resolution for the year 1913, as follows: "We promise to quit knocking on every public improvement or move out of town." The progressive citizen is all right, but the knocker—God pity him.

It is a popular delusion with some people that a long and solemn face and a non-communicative tongue are marks of wisdom. Did it ever occur to you, poor unsophisticated mortal, how many fellows there are who could not in any other way maintain a reputation for having any sense at all?

The man who succeeds Prof. Abbott as superintendent of the Plattsmouth schools, we trust, will be one who will fill the position as well. We are informed there have been several applications already, and one or two have statewide reputations as educators. Our schools are in fine shape and we trust they will be kept that way.

The state of Illinois has put into effect a law enabling a widow, without means of support, to keep her children together and rear them. Under this law if a man dies, leaving his wife and children without means, the children are left in charge of the mother and the state pays the mother an annuity to bring up the children. It is one of the wisest laws yet made by man.

The Journal is pleased to note that our merchants have enjoyed a fine Christmas business.

In his campaign speeches Mr. Taft referred to him as "Professor Wilson." The president-elect can now gracefully hand the title back.

The unfortunate predicament of old General Sickness goes to show that the best warriors are not usually the best—or even fairly good—business men.

Uncle Sam is accommodating. There has been so much complaining of the "red tape" in official affairs that the government has changed the color of its tape to blue.

Don't be afraid that the parcels post business is going to come like an avalanche; the first week in January will be very much like the first week in January last year, unless, of course, you choose to make it different yourself.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

Railroad officials are watching the parcels post innovation with deep interest. The express traffic on the railroads is one of the important departments and if this is affected it will reduce the earnings of the railroads materially. There are some who think that the parcels post will work up new business that the express companies never previously handled and not affects the latter while others predict that the express traffic will be cut 50 per cent. With the increase in the mail by the parcels post, the present postal car facilities promise to be inadequate and it is likely that all roads will be compelled to add more postal cars.

The Farmers' Congress and the Nebraska Co-operative Live Stock and shipping associations endorsed by resolution and instructed their legislative committees to use every honorable means to secure the passage of the bill creating the Nebraska Development and Public Welfare commission. A tentative draft of a bill as proposed by committees from the State Association of Commercial Clubs and the State Editorial Association was explained, after which the commission was approved. The commission has for its purpose the publication of useful facts relative to Nebraska and the prevention of the publication of statements which reflect on the state.

Despite the fact that two bloody wars were waged in the year just drawing to a close, two off-setting facts redeem to a large extent the sanguinary showing. It appears more than probable that the sound of the Christmas chimes of 1912 with their refrain of "peace on earth and good will to men," will silence the guns of the Balkan war. Especially to the Christian world will this event prove cause for rejoicing; it will undoubtedly assure a far greater measure of religious freedom in the countries hitherto so savagely oppressed by Turkey. Even though the cross will not rise above the crescent of the Ottoman and the dream of mass celebrated in the cathedral of St. Sophia in Constantinople will not be realized, the Christian world has already won its most memorable victory since Tours and Chalons and has all but wiped out the stain of 1453.

Marshall, Dentist, Coates block.

Those colored people down south who are offering \$5,000 for the delivery of Jack Johnson within their borders, are not, through their implied reasons for wanting him, showing a very high regard for the laws of the country—but they show a mighty wholesome respect for the law is, or ought to be, higher than the mere statute of a state. Johnson, like the intended assassin of Roosevelt, seemed to make sure of the territory in which he was operating.

The goose bone prophet is now much in evidence. On Thanksgiving day the goose breast was carefully inspected and its tints and shades, its grill work, curves, cavities and angles, the sharpness of its ridge, the tenacity of its junction, its longitudinal proportions, its elastic energy, the various spots with which it is ornamented were all examined, with the result that Mr. Goose predicted that up to the Christmas holidays the weather will be mild. After New Year's the weather will be cold. January and February will be marked by blizzards, but there will be a spell of mild weather in February. After which blizzard weather will set in in March and we are apt to have a late spring. People, therefore, who pin their faith to the domestic goose as a prophet will be delighted to know what we are to have.

The patrons of the Plattsmouth schools regret very much that Prof. Abbott is to leave. He has proved faithful to the trust reposed in him and has greatly improved the manner of running school affairs. He is a gentleman and scholar in every sense of the term, and the Journal regrets to see him remove from our city, because in his removal it loses an earnest friend and one who has proved his friendship on many occasions. As soon as it was known that Hon. John H. Morehead was elected governor we made up our mind to lose Prof. Abbott, because his record as superintendent of the blind asylum was sufficient to commend him to the new governor as one of the kind of men he was looking for to place at the head of the state institutions. While we regret the departure of Prof. Abbott and family, our best wishes go with them for all that is good—success, prosperity and good health.

THE PARCELS POST.

The average retailer, especially in this section of the country, need not feel awed by the parcels post, or feel at all helpless or handicapped because of the law. It is not necessary for him to know all the data and statistics from foreign countries on this subject, or to have studied a long list of comparative freight, postal and express rates, classifications, etc.

All the retailer needs to know is the general principles of the law, its provisions that affect his business particularly, and then to know his own business and his own community. In fact, a knowledge of the latter two are quite essential factors in the success of any man in more considerations than that of the parcels post.

It is known local and immediate conditions that count after all. Theoretical men are all right and the world could not get along without them, and the practical men need their study and their theories as a basis for their practical action, but the practical business man, the average retailer, need not worry his head about studying out these theories, especially when he can get so many ready made, but confine his efforts to the practical side of the business and study just what effect the system will have on his community, on his business.

In his intimate knowledge of his immediate community the retail merchant has a great advantage over every other competitor

outside, and in that knowledge he can make peculiar use of the parcels post to build up his own business as no other man can use it to build up competition.

An intimate understanding of a community and its peculiar needs and conditions is a great deal better than an intimate understanding of the parcels post system throughout the world and a great deal easier and more interesting study to the average business man.

Don't let the parcels post scare you. Learn your community and the parcels post will be easy.

BOARD AS POLITICAL MACHINE.

Warning is given that there is going to be a demand at the approaching session of the legislature for the repeal of the law creating the board of pardons, and those who have observed its operations are not without some good reason to urge for its repeal.

As an abstract proposition the pardon board is a progressive institution. When properly created and properly administered it is an instrument for the protection of the people and the state from the scandals arising from abuses of the pardoning power by executives and for the relief of the people from that contempt for the law and the courts that indiscriminate pardoning creates.

It is not the fault of the system if the board of pardons in Nebraska has not proven satisfactory. It is the fault of its creator and its component material. It is not surprising that the Nebraska board of pardons has not given entire satisfaction, for it was created as a political machine. It has seemed at all times as if the members realized that they owed more to the administration that appointed them than they did to the public. The majority of the membership were recognizable as political agents of the governor.

To command public confidence a board of pardons should be composed of men who are above any ambition for political plugging. There are plenty of men available for the places. It would not be difficult to find capable citizens of Nebraska who would accept the responsibility of administering the delicate affairs of a pardoning board without recognizing any relations its work may be made to bear to the political fortunes of any man or any party.

It is going to be a shabby excuse to offer for getting rid of the pardoning board that it would be better to return to the old plan of executive pardons. It would be no better. It never was any better. Perhaps it would be better to let the judge fix sentences than to leave to a political machine the fixing of indeterminate sentences, but the scandals that have attended executive pardons have not been less repulsively odorous than those that are inspiring the promised protest against the board of pardons.—Lincoln Star.

COUGHS AND WHEEZY COLDS.

The quickest, simplest way to rid the children of dangerous, croupy coughs and wheezy, stuffy colds is to give them Foley's Honey and Tar Compound. It gives almost instant relief and stops a cough promptly. It soothes and heals. Contains no opiates. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

The Modern Woodmen of America will give their first annual mask ball on the evening of January 25, 1913. Good prizes will be given and a royal good time is assured to all. Music by the M. W. A. orchestra.

Attention, Ladies! Get your tailor-made suit at home, one that will be satisfactory; any style, and made by experienced tailors, from \$30 up. Vejvoda & Kalesk, Leonard New Building.

ALLAN A. RYAN.

Son of Thomas F. Ryan, Who Was Operated on And Sank Very Low.



COUNTER PROPOSALS WIRED TO LONDON

Porte lasists on Consular Inquiry Into Alleged Atrocities.

Constantinople, Dec. 26.—The porte telegraphed to Rechad Pasha at London counter peace proposals as decided upon by the council of ministers. The exact nature of the proposals has not been revealed, but the official view of the situation is still hopeful.

The Turkish press is unanimous in declaring that the allies' conditions are not acceptable and that the Turkish delegates were not sent to London to commit suicide.

The porte has repeated to the powers the demand made a month ago for a consular inquiry respecting the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the allies in the occupied territories.

INDIANS WIN CROP PRIZES

Results Attributed Largely to Work of Agricultural Experts.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Officials of the Indian bureau are much pleased because at the state fair at Muskogee, Okla., a number of full blood Indians won prizes over their white competitors for exhibits of corn, cotton, beans and some other products.

Joe Kelly, a full blood Mississippi Choctaw, living near Ardmore, took first and fourth prizes for his corn and a second prize for cotton, and Silas Bacon of the same tribe carried off both first and second prizes for his fine field beans. There were other scattered prizes.

ALTON BANDIT IDENTIFIED

Suspects Confronted by Engineer, Fireman and Express Messenger.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 26.—"We have 'the goods' on one of these men," said Chief Detective Cain, after Jack Hartnett of Chicago and Elmer Vignus of Springfield, held in connection with the attempted robbery of the Alton "Hummer," had been confronted by Engineer McLaughlin, Fireman Sullivan and Express Messenger Ayer of the train. Cain said that later in the day he might tell which of the two he had definitely connected with the case.

Bonfires Will Greet Wilson on Trip.

Staunton, Va., Dec. 26.—With all of the arrangements practically completed, Staunton, the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson, enthusiastically awaits the arrival of its distinguished son tomorrow night, which will mark the beginning of the celebration in honor of his home-coming. The city is in gala attire for the celebration. Probably the most spectacular feature of the celebration will be the heralding of the distinguished visitor by the glare of bonfires.

Taft Inspects Panama Canal.

Panama, Dec. 26.—President Taft spent the forenoon inspecting the central and Pacific divisions of the Panama canal, the Culebra cut and the fortifications at the Pacific end of the canal. Percival H. Dodge, the American minister to Panama, entertained the president at dinner. Last night Mr. Taft attended a ball given by President Ferras.

W. C. Heaton Hurt in Auto Crash.

Lincoln, Dec. 26.—An automobile, driven by State Auditor Silas R. Barton, congressman elect from the Fifth Nebraska district, was in collision with another machine, and W. C. Heaton of Omaha, riding with Barton, was badly injured.

CHANGE GUARD REGIMENTS

Adjutant General Reassigns Companies of State Militia.

MAKES MOBILIZATION EASIER.

Old First and Second Regiments WHI Keep Their Numbers—Short Distance to Travel to Reach One Base. Convicts Given Day of Rest.

Lincoln, Dec. 26.—For several years the adjutant general's office has been of the opinion that the two regiments of the Nebraska guard should be reorganized as far as assignment of companies to regiments was concerned, but it has never been put into effect. For several weeks Adjutant General Phelps has been working upon a plan for the reassignment of companies so that in case of mobilization each regiment could be brought to some point with as little expense as possible. He has at last worked out a plan and has renumbered the regiments four and five instead of one and two. This leaves the original regiments which participated in the Spanish-American war with an exclusive right to the number under which they were mustered out at that time.

Under the new assignment the companies of the Fourth regiment can be mobilized at Hastings by traveling 922 miles, at Fremont 994 miles, and at Grand Island 1,072 miles. The companies of the Fifth regiment can be brought to Omaha by traveling only 667 miles, to Fremont 679 miles, and Columbus 969 miles. Under the old system the shortest distance the companies could travel in the First regiment to any one given point was 1,230 miles and the Second regiment 1,376 miles.

Under the new arrangement sent out by Adjutant General Phelps there will be considerable saving in transportation in case the regiments are called upon to meet by themselves. The order will go into effect April 1, 1913.

Under the new assignment the field officers with their respective staffs is made as follows:

Fourth Regiment—Colonel Herbert J. Paul, Lieutenant Colonel Walter F. Sammons, Major Otis M. Newman, Major Albert H. Hollingsworth, Major Clyde E. McCormick.

Fifth Regiment—Colonel George A. Eberly, Lieutenant Colonel W. Edmund Bachr, Major Charles E. Frazier, Major Charles H. Johnson, Major Iver S. Johnson.

Convicts Given Day for Pastime.

The prisoners at the state penitentiary were given a day of liberty Christmas by Warden Melick, but the liberty only extended inside the high wall of the prison. It was an ideal day for the outdoor sports, in which the men indulged. Boxing, wrestling and other athletic contests enlivened the forenoon until noon, when the prisoners went to the chapel and enjoyed the minstrel show, which was put on for the special benefit of the inmates of Little Lancaster. After the show came the big dinner of chicken, potatoes, brown gravy, pickled beets, bread, coffee and pie. This was topped off by cigars furnished by Warden Melick as the usual cleanup of a Christmas dinner at the Nebraska penitentiary.

URNS CANARIES LOOSE

Released Convict Buys Birds and Lets Them Go.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—A gray-haired man, probably fifty years old, walked into Mike Connolly's shop at 527 Southwestern avenue and bought three singing canaries. A moment later the stranger turned the birds loose in the street.

"My friend," Mike said, "you're foolish. You just paid \$3 apiece for those birds."

"Mr. Connolly," the man answered, "I just got out of a cage down at Joliet. I was there fifteen years. I want the birds to enjoy the same freedom I'm enjoying."

CHICAGO FIRE CHIEF HURT

Automobile Crashes into His Buggy on Way to Fire.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Battalion Chief Thomas Hackett and his driver were seriously injured in the wreck of their vehicle while speeding to a fire which destroyed the St. Andrew's Episcopal church.

An automobile, driven at high speed, crashed into the buggy and demolished it. Hackett and the driver were buried fifty feet. Both were taken to a hospital.

The office, valued at \$50,000, was totally destroyed.

Six Firemen Overcome by Smoke.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 26.—Six firemen were overcome by smoke and damage approximating \$100,000 was done when an eight-story building, occupied by the city warehouse of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company was destroyed by fire. Crossed wires were given as the cause.

Fruit Men to Organize.

Ashburn, Neb., Dec. 26.—A meeting is called at the court house in Nebraska county on Jan. 2, for the purpose of reorganizing the old South-eastern Nebraska Fruit Growers' association.