

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Don't hang a dismal picture on the wall, and do not daub with sables and glooms in your conversation. Don't be a cynic and disconsolate preacher—Emerson.

The legislature seems intent to furnish the people plenty of bills for their money.

Surely Omaha shows some evidence of being a better town. It has put the ban on boxing exhibitions.

There are still great hopes that the democrats will get two more United States senators from Illinois.

The personnel of President Wilson's cabinet still remains a mystery, although plenty of surmises are in the air.

Ex-Governor Shallenberger declines the position as member of the controlling board, tendered him by Governor Morehead.

It is said that President-elect Wilson opposes an inaugural ball. Well, what if he does? An inaugural ball is not a necessity.

President-elect Wilson is opposed to the independence of the Philippines. Here is one democrat that agrees with him. Wait a while longer.

Good things ahead for Plattsmouth the coming season keep bobbing up. All that is needed is boosting, and they will surely materialize.

There is one sure thing about the introduction of bills in the legislature—at least one-half of them will find a safety deposit in the waste basket.

When you honestly believe you are right have the inborn courage to stand by it, come what may. That will win where subterfuge and deceit will lose. By all means don't be a hypocrite.

Congressman Lobeck does not approve of the plan of Congressman Stephens of holding elections for postmasters. As yet we have not heard from Congressman Maguire on the subject.

The idea of giving George W. Norris a position in President Wilson's cabinet is preposterous, when there are so many able democrats for such places. George W. Norris, in the opinion of this paper, is one of the greatest political hypocrites of the age.

The republican papers, and more especially the State Journal, seems to be more worried about Governor Morehead's appointments than the governor's most intimate friends. Governor Morehead will prove equal to the emergency without the aid of the old State Journal or any of its ilk.

It is to be regretted that ex-Governor Shallenberger has declined to accept the position as one of the members of the board of control. He is one of the most competent men in the state for the position, and that is why Governor Morehead appointed him. The Journal is very sorry he declined.

Of course you are going to attend the Commercial club banquet at Coates' hall Thursday evening, January 30.

"Hat pins are to be much smaller," says a fashion note. And let us hope that they are to be much shorter, too.

Who will be appointed in ex-Governor Shallenberger's place on the board of control? Don't all speak at once.

Give us home rule in every city in Nebraska. "Let the people rule" who have the right to rule within their own city limits.

Jasper L. McBrien, who was called here to see the board of education in reference to the superintendency of the Plattsmouth schools, has accepted a similar position with the Harvard (Neb.) schools.

If plenty of good ice does not find its way to the various ice houses in this city it will not be the fault of the weather man and the ice dealers have no kick coming.

The fellow who remarked "that there were too many laws already," evidently was "talking through his hat," as the present legislature means to give us several hundred more.

Parson Bixby of the State Journal never uttered more truth in his life in his "Daily Drift," in as few words as in the following: "If we were governor we would parcel out the political sinecures to men in need of the money."

Lent begins February 5, and Ester will be ushered in on the 23d of March. This is the earliest that Lent and Easter have come for nearly one hundred years, and it will be eighty-seven years before they will come that early again.

Grain men say there has as yet been no serious reports concerning the condition of fall wheat in Nebraska. If the weather continues cold there will likely be greater danger, especially where the ground is left bare and unprotected.

Banker Baker's laconic remark that concentration of money had gone far enough, is agreed to by this paper. We would like to see a little of it passed around, which we know would be perfectly agreeable to a few fellows around the Journal office, and the writer in particular.

Candidates for postoffice will be subjected to a primary election in the Third congressional district. Congressman Dan Stephens has sent out to county chairmen in his district suggestions, with rules for the government of such primaries. Mr. Stephens does not desire to encounter any more trouble than is absolutely necessary in the distribution of patronage in this line.

If you think the general public does not need educating along commercial lines just ask the average postmaster his experience with the parcel post. And what has been given more prominence than the parcel post? You can't advertise one day or one month and expect everyone in your territory to know all about you and your goods from that time on.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

Signs have been unearthed right here in Cass county of a prehistoric race in Nebraska hundreds of years ago. And there is good reason to suppose that if such is the case the people on earth at that time were people of high intelligence and very artistic. Plenty of indications of this fact have come to light in the past few years along the Missouri river south of Plattsmouth.

One man in a hundred reads a book; ninety-nine in a hundred reads a newspaper. Nearly a century ago when the American press, which is now a spreading oak, was in its green twig, Thomas Jefferson said he would rather live in a country with newspapers and without government than in a country with a government and without newspapers. At the beginning of 1913 resolve to at least say a good word for your home paper.

There is a probability of a law being passed decreasing the number of saloons to one for every one thousand inhabitants in towns and cities. Such a law would decrease the number in Omaha to one-half its present number, and Plattsmouth to five saloons. Then such a law would increase the license and as much liquor would be sold as there is now. We cannot see how such a law would effect any good, and it should never become a law.

The movement seems to be pretty general in agricultural communities to utilize school houses for social as well as educational purposes, and farmers are also agitating the consolidation of rural schools by erecting large central school houses that can be used for all meetings of a public character. It would be a great help in solving the question of contentment on the farm and would materially aid the "back to the farm" movement.

Some of the postmasters are worrying about the new parcel post regulations, declaring that as the law says packages can weigh eleven pounds, there are any number of turkeys, chickens and live animals that can come within that limit, even when properly packed and crated. They are also concerned about butter and eggs, for they are of the opinion that if there is much traffic in these products it will be necessary for postoffices to be equipped with refrigerating plants, or at least with an ice box of suitable capacity.

The day of joy among the seed merchants was set for January 7 this year, when old stock was passed over to Uncle Sam. The department of agriculture called for bids for approximately 1,200,000 pounds of vegetable and 50,000 pounds of flower seed. It is a significant fact that the seed dealers never oppose the free distribution of government seeds, and the reason is not difficult to find. And congressmen and senators hardly dare kick because they are the chief beneficiaries of the plunder plan. The best seeds supplied by the government are from the experiment farms.

Ex-Congressman E. M. Pollard of Nebraska is one of the Nebraska apple growers who has great faith in the ability of this state to grow its own apples, and also establish a good market outside for the surplus. He says the dumping of all sorts of horticultural junk on the home market is responsible for the fact that large quantities of foreign grown apples are sold in this state every year. He believes that the new association (of which he was elected president) recently organized at Auburn, has a great field of usefulness before it, and the Journal is of the same opinion. Every apple grower in Nebraska should be greatly interested in such an organization and help boost it along.

The governor no doubt has his weather eye on several other democrats who would make good members of the board of control. The state boasts of many good and competent democrats who are able to hold down a position of this character.

No set of men has any right to attempt to control Governor Morehead's appointments. We do not believe that such effort will have any effect with the governor. He is too level-headed to let anyone wreak vengeance or play spite-work through him.

This newspaper, in common with other newspapers, has been criticised for not printing all the meanness that has been perpetrated in this city. The Journal is not a metropolitan journal, which papers are supposed to contain all such dirty stuff and their reporters are glad to get it. The Journal proposes to stick, as far as possible, to depicting people's virtues instead of their faults, until they become so rank as to get into the police or other courts, then such affairs become public property. A citizen recited to us the other day a case he said "needed airing," and we ought to air it, but we declined to do so. He said he would do it if he was editor of the paper. But he would do no such thing. There are certain restrictions on this business and a newspaper man must keep himself within the bounds of decency in publishing such events as are not fit for publication.

The following is the text of a bill that has been introduced in the Iowa legislature on the subject of intermarriage: "Inter-marriage or illicit relations of white persons with negroes, Indians or Mongolians is punishable by imprisonment in a penitentiary for not less than six months nor more than five years. A person is considered a negro, an Indian or Mongolian if he be a descendant of one of these to the third generation, inclusive, though one ancestor of each generation was a white person. Marriages between such persons solemnized in this state after the prohibitive act is passed shall be void. Marriages solemnized in other states, between such persons who intend to make their home in Iowa, shall be void. Clerks of district courts who issue marriage licenses to persons, prohibited by this act from intermarrying, and knowing these persons come under the provisions of the act, and persons who perform such marriage ceremonies shall be guilty of a misdemeanor." A law of this kind should be on the statute books of every state in the union.

Instead of a surplus for the past year, the postmaster general reports a deficit of \$1,781,141. He had promised a surplus of \$2,000,000 and candidly admits that in doing so he failed to estimate the large amount of franked mail during a presidential campaign. It was this that produced the deficit. If this matter had been paid for at ordinary postage rates it would have netted the government \$20,000,000. If it had not been carried at all the postoffice department would be ahead today instead of finding itself in the hole. The sending of political stump speeches and campaign documents through the mails free of cost is not only a burden to the government, but in most cases a bore to the recipient. Moreover, it is connected with a transparent fraud. Most of these speeches were never actually delivered in congress, but were inserted under the "leave to print" rule. In this process the government is put to a double expense—first in printing the stuff; second, in carrying it through the mails. Both the franking abuse and the leave to print abuse should be abolished. They serve no public purpose, and they are not honest.

Prof. Lowe of Australia has discovered another comet. We don't need any more, but suppose there is room.

Make your arrangements to attend the Commercial club banquet. Don't be a grouch, when you know it is your duty to attend.

President-elect Wilson has discovered a way to cut out zoological demonstrations at a ball. He proposes to omit the ball.

No country in the world can surpass the United States in per capita wealth, even if the per capita basis is entirely theoretical.

Some fellows go after Governor Morehead like they thought he was "easy," but they will awake some night from their sleep to find out their mistake.

More than 300 proposed new laws mark the second week of the present legislature. Now, how many of those will be adopted? Not one-fourth of them.

An editor out in the state says he is willing to wait until a man sells his hogs to pay his subscription, but that he don't like to wait for his century plant to bloom.

Senator Barling's Sunday base ball bill is liable to meet with considerable opposition from the Methodist church people in Lincoln. Already they are moving in that direction.

Lincoln property owners are not agitating a new capital building to any great extent. They will be fortunate if they retain the old one until the state is necessarily compelled to build a better and more commodious one.

Before conceding truly the entire success of the parcel post system the government will have to take into account the additional cost of enlarging buildings, extra clerks and improved delivery service. Big business always means big expenses.

According to the latest official estimate the population of the United States, without counting outlying possession, is 96,496,000. The per capita of money in circulation is \$34.72, but somehow this fails to meet the socialists' idea of a division.

Plattsmouth's needs most right now a few up-to-date modern cottages, that would readily find occupants at a good rental. Such an investment would pay big interest on the money paid out. Who will be the first capitalist to grab the bull by the horns?

A traveling man who comes to Plattsmouth once every two weeks says our city is one of the best towns in his territory, and he travels over a large scope of country in both Iowa and Nebraska. The Journal is satisfied he is telling the truth, and it made us feel good when he told us.

The removal of the state university to the state agricultural farm is still a leading matter in state affairs, and some of the real estate dealers of Lincoln are said to be taking quite an interest pro and con. It is a hard matter to keep real estate men out of such affairs. There's big money in it for those who are lucky enough to get on the right side.

If we were in Governor Morehead's place we would give the whole bunch of advisers who infest the executive office to understand that I was elected to perform the duties of governor of Nebraska and that I was plenty able to do so without any such advisers, who come to harrass me about appointments to office. Advice, like salvation, is free, especially as long as the adviser is interested in some office for himself or some near friend.

The problem of lowering the cost of living is to be settled by establishing state poultry farms and shipping eggs from the country to the cities by parcel post, the whole transaction to be upon the cash basis. It was easy enough to solve after the right plan was discovered.

statesman is an innocent personage. He ought to know that in every session of congress for the past dozen years one or more bills on this subject have been proposed, and in no case has any of them passed. Cummins' bill has not the faintest chance of enactment. Even if this were a long session the bill would fail.

There seems to be more trouble in store for Omaha. It is almost certain that the Union Pacific railroad will by lease secure the Central Pacific, and in that case the head offices, which have been located in Omaha from the very starting of the road, will be removed to San Francisco. This would prove another hard blow to the metropolis of Nebraska.

A resolution in lawmaking is proposed by Representative Busch of Otoe county, who will introduce a measure to make all acts passed by the legislature inoperative at the end of ten years. Under this plan, any law would have to be re-enacted when the ten years were up, or be automatically cast aside. Mr. Busch justifies his proposal by pointing to the large amount of dead timber now contained in the statutes of Nebraska, which is carried along from one year to another, making the printed volume twice as large as it should be and doubling the expense on the state for printing. While the scheme might have some bad features, he believes its merits in getting rid of obsolete laws would outweigh the drawbacks.



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