

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Did the ground-hog see his shadow?

Well, what of it, if he did go back in his hole?

Some people don't go very much on Mr. Ground-hog, anyway.

Sometimes a tempest in a teapot serves the good purpose of showing which way the wind blows.

America wants no monarchy or one-man government. That's the idea of the single six-year term for presidents.

No more bills will be introduced in the Nebraska legislature after this week. The time limit of twenty days will be up.

Weather is a lot like people you know, in threatening more than it really does. And the semblance extends further into the realms of uncertainty.

The fight on the removal of the state university is getting red-hot up around Lincoln, and if it becomes much hotter somebody is liable to get their fingers burned.

Governor Morehead will attend the inauguration of President Wilson, attended by twenty-five members of his staff, who will participate in the parade.

A lady writes to know whether babies may come by parcel post. They may, but we doubt it very much. It is hard to break people away from old-fashioned notions.

You never saw a community in your life that did not possess a few people who always opposed public sentiment. But generally speaking, they are a class of people who own no property and here only temporarily.

Plattsmouth needs harmony among its business men, but we can't have it with people endeavoring to create a turmoil among them. Plattsmouth is prospering well enough. And we say, "Let well enough alone."

The claim is made that it will cost \$2,500,000 to remove the state university. Just as well expend this amount in removal as to expend it in purchasing ground in the vicinity of state buildings as they are situated. See the point?

The Nebraska legislature is truly on record as favoring the government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines. Hon. Fred Reuter's memorializing congress to pass a bill to this effect, has passed both house and senate almost without a dissenting voice.

Every time the English law-makers indicate that women should not have the right to vote, the women start out to smashing up things, and making themselves felt in this way, if they can't make themselves felt at the ballot box. Poor way to accomplish their purpose.

There is no question about it—W. J. Bryan can be President Wilson's secretary of state if he wants to be. And who is there in the broad land that can fill the bill more efficiently? Experience of travel in foreign lands has assisted very materially in fitting Mr. Bryan for this most important position.

First call: Have you tested your seed corn yet?

What about a chautauqua for Plattsmouth next season? Can't we get up one? Think about it and agitate it.

Some people are wondering why eggs sell in Plattsmouth at 25 and 30 cents and in Omaha at 23 cents per dozen?

Nebraska is a rich state, but that is no reason why the legislature should squander her money on unnecessary appropriations.

If P. C. Johnson, chaplain of the penitentiary, is as good as he looks, Governor Morehead made no mistake in reinstating him to the position from which he stepped down and out under the Aldrich administration.

We will see by the last of the month how much the ground-hog knows about it. The chances are that he is in and out of his hole every day from now on, no matter how cold it gets. The ground-hog is a fraud, anyway.

Omaha, during 1912, upheld her reputation as being the greatest creamery butter producing city in the world. More than 20,000,000 pounds of Nebraska butter were sent out of the state, much of it being exported. Nebraska butter has gained a reputation which gives it entree to the very best in the world.

It must be admitted that the discussion of the postoffice question between Dr. Hall and Congressman Stephens has not changed the views of either on the matter. Mr. Stephens expects to resort to the local primaries to settle the postmaster question in the various towns and villages of his district.

Everybody in Nebraska wants our state university to measure up with the best in the land, and why not remove it now to a place where it can have plenty of room to grow without being hampered upon a few town lots in Lincoln? The state university belongs to the people of Nebraska, and if the matter cannot be decided any other way, let the people vote upon the question. "Let the people rule!"

The man who introduced a bill in the legislature to have the constitutional amendments printed in pamphlet form instead of in newspapers of the state, is an enemy to the newspaper fraternity. If a few more such freaks are found among the membership of either house there is no telling what they will do before the legislature adjourns. But, thank the Lord, this week ends all introduction of bills.

A single page in a single issue of the Century Magazine taken for advertising purpose costs \$500; in Harper's \$400; in other prominent magazines from \$350 to \$100. A yearly advertisement of one column in the Chicago Tribune costs \$26,000; in the New York Tribune \$2,000 is for the lowest and \$5,950 for the highest rates; in the New York Herald \$36,204 for the lowest, \$349,000 for the highest priced column. These papers are never at a loss for advertising to fill their columns. These figures will doubtless be of interest to the man who invests \$10 and flatters himself with the idea that he is a liberal advertiser.

The mere submission of any question by the council to the people for their decision, does not, of course, commit any member one way or the other, but usually when the people thus decide a matter by ballot the councilmen take it for granted that they must do as thus requested.

The legislature has no more right to permit passes on railroads for state officials than they have to permit passes to newspaper men. There can be no distinction made. If railroads are permitted to grant such favors to state officers, they can also issue passes to any other office-holders they see fit. Out upon such class legislation as the Foster bill.

President-elect Wilson is succeeding remarkably well in his determination to refrain from discussing possible members of his cabinet. This is a matter personal to him, although every citizen has an interest in the selections to be made. Mr. Wilson, however, is the one that is most interested in selecting the very best men the nation affords for his advisers.

Over \$10,000,000 in appropriations is the estimated demand from the legislature. This is more than the income, away yonder, for two years. It is estimated that this amount exceeds the income in the next two years by \$1,000,000. The present legislature has a big job upon its hands and it should go slow on the appropriation business. In the language of Davey Crockett: "Be sure you're right, then go ahead."

When a person serves on the petit jury all they have to do is to demand their fee from the district clerk and he issues a slip directed to the county clerk, who in turn issues a warrant directed to the county treasurer. This calls for cash, under the new law and the jurors do not have to wait, as under the old plan, until the county commissioners meet and allow the claim and then wait ten days for the warrants to get ripe.

There is a movement on foot in the Missouri legislature to make a law prohibiting the killing of quail for five years. That is a very sensible idea. No bird is so good an insect-destroyer. Moreover, the severe winter a year ago thinned out the quail family until there are comparatively few left. A bill of this character should be passed by the Nebraska legislature, but instead of making it five, make it three years. The quail family in Nebraska were thinned out almost to extinction last winter.

By a vote of 47 to 23, or one more than the requisite two-thirds vote, the United States senate decided in favor of a six-year presidential term, and makes the president ineligible for another term. The resolution now goes to the house, and if there passed by a two-thirds vote it will then be acted upon by the state legislatures, and must be carried by three-fourths of the states. It is believed that all the provisions will be complied with before the expiration of President Wilson's term.

To show you the size of our supreme court, we only have to call your attention to a recent decision declaring that a city council can convey the title of our public streets and alleys to those who wish to buy or get possession of them. According to this decision, we are not safe in the possession of our public thoroughfares. We may wake up any morning and find the streets in front of our houses transferred to someone who wants to use them for pig lots or build stables upon. We need a new court.

A good rain would benefit the farmers more than anything else right now.

Home rule for cities is becoming more popular every day and is bound to succeed.

And now Senator Bartling wants to increase the salaries of all the state officials.

Even a brave man may be afraid of a miracle or other enemies he can't see.

No story is good enough for a busy man to appreciate when he's busy. Just think of the editor.

If you are a good citizen you will keep boosting for Plattsmouth. Boosting is what brings prosperity.

If General Sherman had not defined war the Turkish cities on the fighting line would be ready to fill the gap.

Russia and Austria have large armies mobilized, a situation that is almost as expensive as war, and often compels it.

Castro finds the United States, as well as Venezuela, closed against him. He has a chance to say that he likes Paris best, anyway.

The Turks are more sensitive about giving up their mosques than they were about capturing Christian temples several centuries ago.

The Fuller bill in the house for the county ownership of telephones has attracted considerable attention from other states, and it may possibly become a law in Nebraska.

There is only one way that a party can expect to keep in power and that is to keep its pledges to the people. Will democratic members of the legislature please bear this in mind?

There is a bill before the legislature to give cities of 2,000 inhabitants the right to change to the commission form of government, but there is no assurance that such a bill will go through.

The legislature has hit upon the right plan to settle the question of the university removal, and will probably refer the matter to a vote of the people. That's the proper way to settle it. "Let the people rule!"

It is to be feared that in case the one-term presidential resolution becomes a law, the bull moose party will be dealt a fatal blow. Or will it be possible for the moose to continue agitation just for the love of publicity?

Did you ever notice there are 365 spots on a deck of cards, 52 cards in a deck, 12 face cards in a deck and 13 tricks? Which should remind you that there are 365 days in a year, or 52 weeks, or 12 months, and there is a new moon 13 times a year.

President-elect Wilson announces that he has completed his plans respecting men and policies, and that there will be no more party conferences for the next thirty days. In the meantime the policies will be allowed to cure and the men to speculate as to what is coming.

Missouri is not to be outdone by the Oklahoma boy who got \$100 from an acre of corn, but Robert Belford, a farmer near Hannibal, has just taken \$200,000 from only a small part of an acre of his corn-field, where bank robbers left it. This is suspiciously near the scene of the boyhood and early inspirations of Mark Twain's stories, but there is enough proof to relieve the story of its Colonel Sellers flavor.

His Hogship's prognostication will surely hold true this year if yesterday's snow is any indication. And only a few hours after he witnessed his shadow. Brother Groundhog is evidently onto his job.

The Tariff Reform club in New York is warning the people that the promise of tariff reform is in danger of not being carried out. There is no need of worrying over the matter. The democrats are pledged to certain measures and they will prove true to their promises. And woe be it to the congressman or senator that deserts the party in the time of need.

The members of the legislature want to watch the interests of their constituents and vote against any outrageous measures that are calculated to fraudulently eke money from the state treasury. Necessary appropriation bills are all right, but watch those bills that are liable to slip through under the title of appropriation that are nothing but purely graft measures.

Nebraska has all the normal schools she needs, and if the legislature has any money to throw away on the purchase of another private normal school let it reconsider the matter. Spend the money you would thus appropriate to installing a binder-twine plant at the penitentiary. This would bring in a revenue to the state, while the normal school purchase would be money out every two years to keep it going.

The moving picture shows have revolutionized the stage. Ten years ago they were comparatively unknown. Last year they took in \$102,000,000. The effect upon the regular drama has been marked. One thousand four hundred play houses boarded up their doors, or swapped live actors for films. Now, Edison declares that he has combined these pictures with the phonograph so that the patrons can listen to the actual plays.

The board of county commissioners Tuesday passed a resolution submitting the jail question again to a vote of the people of Cass county. There is not a county in the state that needs a new jail half as bad as our county, and it should have been built years ago. Cass is one of the wealthiest counties in Nebraska, and it is an outrage that we have to put up with the old bastille that is hardly fit for a pig pen. Every bonafide taxpayer has or should feel a pride in the public buildings of his county, and should know that a new jail will save them money.

The death of Henry T. Clarke closes a long and eventful life of a man well known in Nebraska. The deceased was a pioneer citizen and a most active one up to the date of his long illness. It was a pleasure to know him. The writer became acquainted with Mr. Clarke during the session of the legislature four years ago, and had numerous pleasant social chats with him. We found him to be one of the most affable gentlemen we ever met. Notwithstanding his advanced age, his death is a great loss to Nebraska.

The duties of a secretary to the president are not considered at all secondary in importance to those of a cabinet officer. He is the man who first meets the thousands of visitors to the president. He must know just whom the president desires to see or should see without bothering the president. These visitors come from all parts of the United States on all sorts of missions, some important, but mostly of a very trivial character, and they come bringing all sorts of letters of introduction from all sorts of

people. Were the president to see all these folks he would not have time for anything else, and the secretary must winnow the wheat from the chaff and send the chaff away actually delighted because they haven't seen the president. The president's secretary is a buffer between his chief and the United States senators and members of the house of representatives, with myriad axes to grind. He must be a diplomat with the most famous diplomats of the world when they call at the White house to take up the time of the president. Indeed, it has been often said in Washington that the president's secretary must be as much of a diplomat as any member of the diplomatic corps if he is to be of substantial value to his chief.

That the democrats in the Nebraska legislature must draw the line at assaults on the treasury is apparent to every thoughtful taxpayer. Under the laws as they now stand only a certain amount of revenue can be raised. The legislature must economize so as to bring the expenditures entirely within the revenue. Tentative appropriations should not be encouraged. Rather they should be discouraged. The house is democratic and the democratic members can keep down reckless appropriations if they feel so disposed. New schemes are being brought forward daily that require money to put them in operation. Salaries are being raised, about a half a hundred useless and unnecessary clerks are on the pay-roll in the house eating the substance of the taxpayers. This vicious and scandalous graft should be cut out. It would leave thousands of dollars in the treasury to be applied to legitimate purposes. The democratic members of the legislature should bear in mind that they are making history for the campaign of 1914. The party will be measured by the history they are making, just as the Aldrich administration was measured. If members are in the legislature at Lincoln merely for what they can get out of the treasury then it was a mistake to send them there. They are a positive detriment to the party and will do more to encompass democratic defeat than any other agency. The flush of victory should not cause politicians to lose their heads. Your duty is plain: Vote down all extravagant measures, and cast out all wall-flower clerks that are drawing salaries for doing nothing.

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