

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?—Thoreau.

Every sign directs to plenty of private improvements in Plattsmouth this season, together with a liberal amount of street paving.

The day in Nebraska that doesn't produce a few fatalities from automobile wrecks is seldom. The moral is "to slow up!"

Considering the fate of those who have gone before, surmise is that down in his boots General Huerta entertains a shaky feeling.

The Iowa legislature has passed a "daylight" saloon law that opens 'em at 7 and closes 'em at 7. That is one hour worse than the Nebraska law.

The Bollen bill has gone glimmering among the things that were, the same as he will go soon after this session of the legislature.

Evidently there are some old sports in the house of representatives who do not care half as much about base ball as they do about playing poker.

It now seems to be a fixed fact that there will be no election next fall. We know some fellows around the court house that will smile at this news, and they are not all democrats, either.

Deposed rulers in Mexico shot down while being conveyed from the national palace for confinement in the penitentiary. It would seem that Madero was fated to be killed. And the revolution still goes on.

Washington and Lincoln were two men given a great opportunity. They "made good." Perhaps they did so because they were eminently fitted to cope with the situations with which they were confronted, but if so this fitness was a matter of credit to their own efforts.

There is no disputing the fact that there is a telephone lobby in Lincoln to defeat the bill to allow counties, by a direct vote of the people, to issue bonds for the construction of publicly-owned telephone plants. The presence of lobbyists should be conclusive evidence that the bill should become a law.

The State Journal is warning the house of representatives of the pledges made at the Grand Island democratic convention. "The house is democratic, and even if this warning does come from a republican source, it will be well for democratic members of that body to stand up and take notice" before it is overlastingly too late.

C. A. Ellis of Sterling, recently appointed by Governor Morehead as commandant of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Island, died last Friday at Grand Island of pneumonia, following an attack of the grippe. Mr. Ellis had been in Grand Island but a week or ten days and had not yet taken charge of the home. The remains were taken to Sterling for interment.

Wheat is given a lift on the markets. Good!

Considering that Madero was reared in Mexico his fate does not seem so unkind.

The automobile show is on in Omaha. Good time to see what you want in that line.

Another brief cold spell. Thermometer down to 6 degrees below at the Burlington depot Sunday night.

Seven tragedies have marked attempts of would-be rulers to govern Mexico. And probably others to follow.

According to H. R. 196, bloodhounds must be pedigreed to hold down a job. No more fake bloodhounds.

Several state legislatures demand intervention in Mexico. Our own legislature remains silent on the matters.

April 4 has been fixed by President Wilson for the extra session of congress. A long, hot summer stares the new congress in the face.

Weather prophets assert that moisture conditions generally equalize themselves. Wherefore we may adduce that the spring will produce some good roads argument.

"Make haste slowly" seems to be the motto of the present legislature. They are moving so slowly that we need not be surprised if the doubled salaries for the members also bring a term of double length.

A Hartington woman was acquitted of a murder charge because she was insane, and now she has just been acquitted of the charge of insanity, which releases her from the asylum. Certainly she can find no complaint to make of the flexibility of our criminal laws.

Uncle Sam is testing the newest device in field weapons, a rifle that shoots 652 bullets in a minute. One pull of the trigger shoots thirty shots, and with an expert at the gun 90 per cent of the 652 shots may be put into a 17-inch target at 500 yards. Inspectors say it is the most deadly arm ever made for any government.

There seems to be a great sentiment in Nebraska in favor of publicly-owned telephone systems, and if the Fuller bill fails to become a law, and telephone rates ascend higher, the sentiment will have gained such strength that the next legislature will be compelled to enact such a law as will give the people a telephone system of their own if they want it.

There is now a new Iowa idea—that of meeting the demand of a number of women for the right to vote. "The majority rules," is the answer of the Iowa legislature and it appears to have agreed to arrange for a vote on the question among the women themselves. That's just the question that should be settled in Nebraska. Let all the women in the state have a voice in the matter. A few headstrong old women want everything their way, but they never will succeed if all noble and endearing housewives can have their say.

Open season for ducks and accidents.

The Lincoln Star, edited by John Cutright, who, like the Journal editor, has been there, says: "Those who are preparing to spend several hundred dollars in going to Washington to hear President Wilson's inaugural address will probably not be able to get near enough to the stand to see the president, and besides it is predicted that the inaugural address will be less than 2,000 words long."

Our friend, Mont Robb, former steward of the penitentiary under Governor Aldrich, has bought a hotel at Sulton, Neb., and has taken charge of the same. There is not a more genial fellow on earth than Mont Robb, and his legion of friends in this city, as well as in Cass county, will join the Journal in wishing Mr. Robb an abundance of success. He will make an ideal landlord, being a most sociable and entertaining gentleman.

Those who go to Washington to attend the inauguration and to see the sights will be all right, but those who go there with the purpose of doing business will find everyone busy and they will fail to get in a word edgewise with those they would most delight to see. We have been in Washington to attend two inaugurations and know whereof we speak. About two months after the inauguration is the proper time to go if you want to do business.

President Wilson arose from his seat in a crowded car a few days ago and gave the place to a woman. The act itself is not uncommon. It has become uncommon, however, in recent years, that a president or president-elect rides in a car in which others than his own party are riding. The act was one of a perfect gentleman, of which the new president possesses all the genial qualities, and firmness in his official duties is destined to be one of the most popular presidents of which this country ever boasted.

The most varied displays of automobiles ever offered greeted the visitors at the Omaha Automobile show, which is being held this week. Cars of every description, from the aristocratic limousine to the little roadster, often referred to as a "road louse," stood side by side vying with each other for the attention of the possible purchasers and those who attend through curiosity and whose pocketbooks are not commensurate with their desires. The merits of the cars are being put forth by representatives from the factories and the Omaha jobbers are taking a back seat and letting the easterners do the work. More than 5,000 attended the show on opening night. It was the largest crowd that ever inspected an auto display in Omaha.

There is no doubt that the country is full of fake reformers. A fake reformer is nothing more than a hypocrite, and a hypocrite is nothing more than a "wolf in sheep's clothing." The vulgar saying that "money makes the mare go," outlines the true definition of the meaning of a fake reformer. He is after the money, and that is all there is to his purpose. A man may be poor, but if he is honest in his convictions the community finds him out and his standing will double discount that of the man who pretends to be a reformer for the "money there is in it." Now, every honest person believes that, even if they are too timid to say so. If the people generally were more outspoken in their beliefs we all would be happier, the community better off, and the fake reformer the country over would be out of a job.

Dead men tell no tales. Neither do they start any revolutions.

Mr. Bryan will be at head of President Wilson's cabinet. That is a foregone conclusion.

Mexico has only slight hopes for immediate peace, as rebel activity in the northern part of the country seems to be increasing.

Congressman Stephens of the Third district has introduced a bill to legalize postoffice elections, though the measure is not mandatory, but permissive in its provisions. "They may be held" and "shall not be held."

This indeed has been a winter of delights. When the balm of spring and the drouth of arid California has prevailed we have basked in the sunshine and rode in automobiles. And when it has snowed it has benefited the wheat crops. Oh, great is Nebraska.

Now let the anti-tobacco societies go away back and sit down. One of the rescue parties sent out to look for Captain Scott and his men at the south pole, reports that its greatest suffering was caused by the exhaustion of its tobacco supply, forcing the use of seaweed to raise a smoke.

Aluminum hats for women as a solution of the high cost of living are advocated by John F. Benyon, Boston writer and publisher. He says they would save \$100,000,000 every year in this country and shatter the high cost of living. These hats, says Mr. Benyon, would be durable, artistic and inexpensive. With a simple turn of the wrist they could be bent into the shape prescribed by the latest dictators of fashion.

Lincoln Star: An Iowa farmer woman "cussed" her neighbor over the telephone because the neighbor's cattle broke into her field, and the Iowa supreme court has just held that the farmer who got the dressing down cannot recover damages because of "fright, shock and humiliation." While it may be true that an Iowa woman's cussing may not be supposed to frighten any man, it does look as if he might be slightly shocked by it.

The board of control as it stands now is Henry Gerdes of Falls City, C. H. Gregg of Kearney and Charles Graff of West Point. Two democrats and one republican constitute the board. If the senate confirms these three gentlemen, Mr. Grede will serve six years, Gregg four years and Charles Graff for two years. There is some doubts expressed as to the confirmation of Gregg and Graff. The Journal's opinion, however, is that Gerdes will be confirmed. There is no question as to his qualifications and his record in public life stands at the head of men in Nebraska.

Voting by mail has been approved by the Nebraska house. The bill provides that anyone proposing to cast a ballot by mail must first secure from the county clerk in his home a certificate attesting his residence and qualifications. This must be presented to the election board where he offers to cast his vote, and he must take an oath that he has not voted elsewhere. When he votes, the man away from home encloses his ballot in a special sealed envelope and hands it to the election board. It is sent to the county clerk of the same county and by him forwarded to the clerk of the county where the voter lives. All such ballots are held by the county clerk receiving them and are turned over, still sealed, to the canvassing board of the county when it meets. These votes may be challenged on the first day of the board's session, but not thereafter.

From Lincoln comes the report that Nebraska will be without a governor or lieutenant governor for two or three days, beginning February 28. On that date Governor Morehead will leave for Washington to attend the inaugural ceremonies and Lieutenant Governor McKelvie will be absent on a trip to Indiana. If it becomes necessary in that time to attend to business of the state as far as an executive is concerned, President Pro Tem Kemp will be called upon to perform the duties of the office. Should he be absent the work would devolve upon Speaker P. C. Kelley of the house of representatives. In the event that the latter should also be out of the state the line of succession would end there and the state would have no official constitutionally entitled to fill the gubernatorial position.

The Mexican situation is a far different one than that which prompted the United States to her last interference—that in Cuba and the Philippine islands. No European nation was seriously disposed to question the justice of American intervention at that time. It is not so certain that the same attitude would prevail in the present case. The United States should certainly protect the lives and property of her citizens in any foreign country, but the precipitation of the sort of a war which would be certain to result from armed intervention is not a matter to be hastily decided on. While no one would question that the United States could eventually cope with the situation in the event of an armed clash, it is a much more serious question what would be the final solution of the problem. If we once get into this matter we might very easily find ourselves in the same situation with the boy who wrestled the bear—we would need a lot of help to turn loose. From the viewpoint of a disinterested outsider it might easily be admitted that American control would mean a great thing for the development of Mexico. But American control, even if we desired it ourselves, would probably not be willingly permitted by the European powers. Moreover, with the revolutionary spirit so nicely instilled into the Mexican minds at present we would probably be laying up never ending trouble should we attempt to establish permanent order in our neighboring republic. But with all these considerations against it, we are still in favor of taking a hand if conditions in regard to American citizens do not grow suddenly and permanently better.

Public high schools fared rather badly in a debate in the senate at Washington one day last week which arose over a small item in a local appropriation bill. Senator Hoke Smith, who had held that "a large high school was unwise from both an educational and economic point of view," and that the small country schools produced the best results, was supported by Senator Works, who declared high schools "have been warped out of all proportion as a means of giving to the children of the country the useful education that should be imparted through the public schools. I think there is a very general protest in the public mind against the extension of the education that is imparted through the public schools at the present time," Mr. Works said, "and it is perfectly evident to every observing man that a very large proportion of the education for which we are paying millions of dollars is absolutely worthless to a large proportion of the children who are taught in the public schools. I do hope that some time some restraint, some restrictions will be placed upon expansion of the public schools through the influence of the teachers who are allowed to have their own way." Senator Smith

proposed a commission of two senators and two representatives to make a general study of high school conditions in cities, and determine the relative merits of large and small high school buildings. It was not adopted, however.

When a public official endeavors to please everybody, he makes a signal failure. The popular official is he who runs affairs according to his own notion and if he pleases it is alright, and if he don't it is just the same. Governor Morehead is doing his duty as he sees it, and we glory in his manner of performing that duty. He is the governor and if his appointments don't suit you, hold your tongue, at least, till the administration gets in good working order.

The chief affliction of Mexico, whose population is composed mostly of uneducated and submerged peons, seems to be systematic graft on the part of the nation's leaders. The revolutions that have been succeeding each other with kaleidoscopic rapidity are but secondary. In a nation governed by loot, where the ignorant masses feel the result of their exploitation, but are unable to divine the cause of their economic ills, they become ready victims of rival leaders who proffer remedies for the conditions that be. Thus it was that Madero persuaded the Mexican people that Porfirio Diaz was the author of their distress, and on this representation he was able at last to ride into power on promise of alleviating economic conditions. Madero failed to make good his promises, an opportunity the Diaz party was quick to seize upon. The seeds of the present revolution have been sown for months. The mutiny among the troops and the release of Felix Diaz was the climax. A people in whose hands lies the power of self-help without the knowledge of how to use it presents a sorry spectacle. Such is Mexico.

BETTER PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

The sentiment for better public highways has so crystallized in certain portions of the country that already wonderful improvement in the roads has taken place without resort to the use of costly methods. In localities where the necessary material for so-called hard roads does not abound the cost of building such roads has offered a serious difficulty. Pending the solution of the problem, better methods of dirt road building have been stimulated in the hope that the more ambitious scheme may thereby be indefinitely staved off.

If the advocates of hard roads have done nothing more, they have concentrated public attention on poor roads and induced local communities to improve them. It is now proposed that the building of good permanent roads be aided by the state and national governments. The last regular session of congress appointed a joint committee to study the road question and to make a report at a subsequent session as to the conclusions reached. Various schemes have been suggested, none of which appear entirely feasible. Out of the study that is being given to the problem, however, will likely issue a solution practical and satisfactory.

State and national aid, as has been pointed out, is not only necessary to relieve thousands of rural communities of road building burdens under which they would stagger, but it would distribute the cost of constructing and maintaining a general public improvement more equitably among all the people instead of fastening it upon the people of rural communities alone. Justice as well as the exigencies of the case demands state and national aid.