

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHTS FOR TODAY.

The thing that goes the farthest towards making life worth while.

That costs the least and does the most, is just a pleasant smile.

The smile that bubbles from a heart that loves its fellow men.

Will drive away the cloud of gloom and coax the sun again.

It's full of worth and goodness, too, with many goodness blent.

It's worth a million dollars and it doesn't cost a cent.

That groundhog story has proved no joke.

It is also well to bear in mind that Mexico is the country of bull fights.

Well, it looks now like Mr. Groundhog was a wise old guy, after all.

Only a few days until President Wilson discloses his hand. We'll bet our bottom dollar he holds a good one.

Galveston, Texas, where they are concentrating United States troops, no doubt is wholly in sympathy with the plan.

The house refused to endorse the Hoagland bill, passed by the senate, closing saloons on Labor day, and the same found its rest in the scrap heap.

All loyal Plattsmouth citizens may as well decide right now to help boost for the old town the ensuing season. Start in first by joining the Commercial club.

If all reports are true Charley Graff should not be confirmed as a member of the board of control, and it is quite likely his confirmation will be held up in the senate.

Missouri is the fifth state in population and twenty-seventh in its facilities for the care of feeble-minded. In view of recent events we just naturally hate to ask where Nebraska stands.

We have never doubted Governor Morehead's wisdom in his appointments, but we are inclined to believe he has made a serious mistake in the appointment of Charley Graff as a member of the board of control. We do not believe he is a good man for the position.

Another great difficulty in the situation in Mexico seems to be that the prolonged revolution has produced too many distinguished generals to be taken care of.

It is not the white fallen snow nor the gentle rains that come when the soil is frozen that guarantees crops, but those that come when the frost is out of the ground.

A California suffragist says women will vote as their husbands do. It might be added that the hen-pecked husbands will vote as their wives do. But what about old maids?

The trick that Huerta played on Madero by which he gained the dictatorship isn't going to help much as a consideration, in the "satisfactory" explanation exonerating himself of the murder of Madero. The Brute-us of it is bound to stick to him.

A man can always hit the mark if he has money to throw at the birds.

Do the best you can today. You can't always put it off till tomorrow.

Here is March, and the coldest weather we have experienced this winter.

Is winter lingering in the lap of spring, or is spring trying to get on top of Old Winter?

The Ohio rubber workers want their wages stretched so as to meet the demands of the high cost of living.

Perhaps the man who has been serving as state fire inspector for the past year has greatly neglected his business or the Dewey hotel would have been condemned before so many lives were lost.

It is a wonder some member of the present legislature has not introduced a bill making it a crime to establish toilet rooms on airships. This would compare very favorably with some of the freak bills introduced.

It pays to advertise. So thoroughly has the bunny hug, the tango and the grizzly bear been exploited and condemned that they have become quite the most popular dances of the season.

It is also possible that the parcel post will be a boon to the newspapers. The express companies are threatening to spend some of their hard-earned (great sarcasm) money for advertising purposes.

All is not gold that glitters and not every proposed reform will work out satisfactorily. Omaha has been trying to cast its vote by machinery in the past few years. A bill relegating the machines to the junk pile, as far as this state is concerned, seems to have no opposition.

There is no hope of the legislature adjourning until about the middle of April. But it is dollars to doughnuts that some of the members will "light out" for home as soon as their pay stops. It was ever thus with some fellows who go to the legislature for the money there is in it.

Horse trading in Nebraska will have to be on the square hereafter if Senator West's bill becomes a law and which passed the senate. This will have a tendency to put a stop on the fellow who picks up old bones that have been turned out to die and by a few good trades come out with a good horse.

Probably as the day approaches and the heap of ceremonials and duties piling up are observed, Mr. Wilson has cause to congratulate himself that a night of it at a ball is not included. Every little bit subtracted makes that much less.

The man who stays at home, who refuses to affiliate with a body of his fellow merchants such as will be gathered together in Omaha, what of him? He will probably smile, think he has saved his time and money and that things will grind along just as they have. But they won't, and that merchant will find himself distinctly handicapped in his efforts to meet the changing conditions.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

The farmers of Cass county are onto the seed corn problem.

March is here, and you can't help yourself. You'll have to take it as it comes.

The house has voted down the proposition to remove the state university.

Nebraska will have no exhibit at the Panama exposition. That seems to be a settled fact.

The legislature may be fairly satisfactory, but should not adjourn before passing a law against rag-time.

Rome and Los Angeles have been surprised by snowfall this season. Snow this winter has been no respecter of locality.

The newspapers over the country seem to be making good use of the Congressional Record. They are using it to wrap singles.

Thousands have visited Omaha this week to attend the automobile show, and the hotels have been crowded to their utmost capacity.

An expert has figured it out "eggsactly" that Nebraska loses annually one million dollars in eggs that are poiled after being produced.

A lazy man has filed complaint against the late departed month of February. He says it was too short and brings spring work on too soon. That man wouldn't be ready for spring work if February had fifty-six days.

When the sixty-second congress adjourns March 4, it will have been in session more days than any other since 1869. It might be added, too, that it passed more bills that have met the president's veto than any congress in the same length of time.

The bill to create a department of labor, with a cabinet officer at its head has passed the senate. The measure previously passed the house, but President Taft has not yet signed the bill, but is sure to do so.

It looks a little now as if the democratic house may say to the suffragists that the initiative and referendum is available and that they should permit the people to rule. And that that will be properly and commendably democratic.

Already newspaper offices are being flooded with Panama exposition advertising matter. And what are the newspapers to get out of it? The fellows who send it out get good salaries, but how about the publishers?

Chief of Police Rainey is soon to resign, when his successor will be appointed. The mayor should see to it that such successor has the ability to perform the duties of the position equally as well as Mr. Rainey has done. We want no "sticks."

Woman suffrage will not be voted upon next year in Nebraska unless its advocates take steps under the initiative and referendum to submit a constitutional amendment on the subject. The matter meets with a rebuff in the house many members claiming that their wives counsel them against it.

Lieutenant Governor O'Neil of Indiana, while presiding over the senate one day last week, ordered the minister who was invoking prayer at the opening of the session, to "stop making a political speech." The minister desisted and left the senate chamber. The episode created a decided sensation. The official declared that the state was paying the minister to offer prayer and not to make political speeches.

Hasik of Butler county has a bill in the house providing for the publication of detailed reports of district school treasurers in the newspapers. Such a bill was introduced four years ago by the writer, but failed to go through, and the present bill will probably meet the same fate.

No man is a good citizen until he takes an active interest in the welfare of his town; no man is a good citizen who regards the town merely as a convenient place in which to live. No man is a good citizen until he becomes jealous about the town and all its affairs, and especially that which is destined to make it more prosperous. Every citizen ought to stop and ask himself every once in a while: "What can I do to make the town better?"

"When the United States flag is carried into Mexico, let it be carried into that country to stay," is the slogan that is beginning to be heard. In view of the statement of a military expert, however, that to prosecute a war with Mexico successfully would require an army of 200,000 men for two years and a half and that the expense would be a million dollars a day, the calmer heads are justified in counseling against invasion unless such a step becomes absolutely necessary.

When the progressive citizens of a town start out to accomplish a purpose they should never pay the least attention to what a knocker says. A knocker is a knocker by profession. Nothing goes to suit him. He is treading in a rut from which he cannot release himself. He is one of those classes of people that will meet you on the street with a smile, and before he proceeds another block he will be giving you hell to some other man he has met. Is such a person a desirable citizen? Not on your life.

It will be a happy time for newspapers in general should the bill become a law to charge candidates for office the same for advertising that is charged for general business. The average candidate wants the entire paper for about four weeks before an election devoted to his especial interest and were you to charge him regular rates for what he wants you to publish he would declare you were robbing him the same as Senator Placek is trying to show with his bill.

When a man dies we notice that many people have so many good words to say for him and perform in an ostentatious manner many kind acts. His former competitors in business attend the funeral and perform many kindly offices for the dead, when he is fairly out of the way. Now if these kind words were said when he was alive and pulling hard against the stream, he would have appreciated it more. But we have noticed at funerals men who a few days or weeks before could not find words mean enough to use against the poor man in the coffin. You might as well stay away. The kindly offices after death are not appreciated by the man in the box, and the folks at the funeral only smile in their sleeves and size you up. Give your good words when they are needed. Do your good works when they will do good. Do not throw on the thin gauze of sympathy at the funeral—everybody can see through it.

From two outside sources possibility of trouble for the United States in the Mexican incident appears. Some of the London and Berlin newspapers are asking their governments to urge immediate intervention by the United States in that country. Governor Colquitt of Texas threatens to send militia across the Rio Grande from the Texas town of Brownsville to the Mexican city of Matamoros to protect citizens of

Texas there from outrage by Mexicans. In this direction madness lies. It was in the vicinity of Matamoros that the fighting began in 1846, which started the Mexican war, and which sent Taylor on his victorious march to Monterey and Buena Vista in 1846-47, and dispatched Scott later on in that year from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico.

The Journal offers the suggestion to the Commercial club that a called meeting be held as early as possible to appoint a committee of not less than five to visit President Bush at his office in St. Louis and ask that the merry-go-round train be placed on the Missouri Pacific again. This train was of more benefit to the farmers and those living in the towns, on the west side of the county than any train on that road. It enabled them to come to Plattsmouth, do what business they had to do, and return home in good time the same evening.

Here are some points in favor of the country merchants which they will do well to think over: With goods suited to the needs of his community, the newspaper advertisement to attract attention to his wares and prices, the rural mail delivery to take his advertisements to his customers, the telephone to transmit the order and the parcel post to deliver it, who can say the country merchant hasn't a combination that must be hard to beat. With the combination on his side the country merchant that lets the bulk of the orders from his territory go far away, catalogue houses will not be justified in blaming congress for his inability to transact a profitable business.

We had the pleasure of visiting at a home recently where there was an old-fashioned fire-place. We enjoyed it. There is something about an old-fashioned fire-place that takes a body by the hand without waiting for an introduction. It doesn't keep a man standing out in the hall till his nails turn blue, and he sighs a regret that he didn't bring his ear muffs along; but before he can tell how it is done it has made him feel right at home and is commencing with him like an old friend with whom he hopes never to part again. It puts him in the best chair and is on the day to the cellar for cider, before he can get his hat off. And as he sets there rubbing his hands with an ecstatic sort of feeling to which no word in our language can give full expression, he feels like giving the bulk of his property to the poor before he has been there two minutes. It warms him up with a glow that makes him feel benevolent from his teeth to his toe nails; quickens up his blood till he almost feels his hair grow, and takes away the fear of death, or gives a fascination to fire, which amounts to the same thing.

Charles McColl, of Beatrice, a former legislator, proposes the commission form of government for the state. He would have five commissioners elected each year of the six congressional districts, the occupations of the candidates being given instead of the names of the party nominating them or with which they affiliate, and have them meet once each year, adjourning for thirty days after the introduction of the bills, to await a public discussion of them. Considering state, county and municipal government together, each one of our councilmen and county board now represent and exercise judgment for about 3,400 people, while the 133 representatives and senators already represent 9,000 people each. Wouldn't it be beginning at the wrong end? Mr. McColl urged strongly that this plan would put the appointive officers of the state out of politics—a thing the adopted amendment establishing a state board of control is de-

signed to do. It may well be taken for granted though the Beatrice gentleman's proposition has some good points, that the board of control idea will be given a chance to make good before another sudden and radical change is made.

At Sedan, Kansas, a town of 2,000 population, there is a general merchant by the name of I. H. Edwards. The remarkable thing about Edwards is that he spends \$2,000 each year with the local papers for advertising his business. He went to Sedan a few years ago with but little capital. Now he owns a magnificent store, a fine home and a nice farm. "My success is largely due to advertising," said Mr. Edwards in a recent interview.

The "back to the soil" movement may be slow of realization and require years for its fulfillment. It is a movement, however, that should be encouraged in this urban top-heavy country of ours. Many of the city people may find life in the country a hardship in ways undreamed of by them, with changed environments and modes of living to which they will adapt themselves with more or less difficulty. But at the same time they will escape the growing hardships of the crowded city and enjoy wholesome opportunities denied in the congested centers.

For several sessions the apparent desire of the legislature has been to cut down any perquisites which the newspapers of the state may have had, and the amount of cutting is about to the limit about the only thing left being the publication of bank statements. Now a strong effort is being made to eliminate that privilege, and the newspaper men are beginning to show indications of getting back. They have lined up on the proposition that if the legislature of the state finds amusement in cutting out as much as possible from the legal printing which should go to the newspapers of the state, they will take a like position, and when the various state institutions desire publicity they will be asked to pay for the space they desire on just the same footing as any private individual. The newspaper men say they are tired of booming state institutions free to boost the state, and then in return have the legislature go after them at every opportunity. The state fair is a fair sample. The press of the state has been called upon for years to boost this institution, and have been liberal with their space, but they say that their position in the future would be that of a disinterested onlooker, and when the fair board wants anything they can pay as do all private corporations; the same rule to hold good as to every state proposition.

Not long now till the city election. Mayor Sattler will be a candidate for re-election, and as is natural in such cases, he will meet with some opposition. The question also arises where will you find a better man for the place? He has certainly done well, and has always been alive to the best interests of the city. He has been conservative in all his movements and we believe has come nearer giving general satisfaction than anyone that has filled the office in many years. The Journal is for Mayor Sattler's re-election, because we do not know of anyone who could have possibly done as well as he has. There has been more public improvements in Plattsmouth under his administration than under any other administration, or any other two administrations combined. He is progressive and is right in line with the work of the Commercial club in its efforts for everything that is good for the city. The people should not elect any other person for mayor in the present stage of the game.