

The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, Publisher

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And what, during the last few days has become of the theory that Providence tempers the wind to the shorn lamb?

It is all right to speak well of the dead, but why not have a few kind words to say to the living while they can hear them?

On Sunday evening, when the wind was blowing at the rate of forty miles an hour, the most essential feature of the Easter hats was the hatpins.

The dotted line on the map, along the southern border of the United States, represents the boundary line shot full of holes by the Mexicans.

Too much attention is paid as to how March "came in" and how it "goes out," and not enough to its outrageous behavior while it is here. But, thanks to the good Lord, it is about ready to depart until about this time a year hence.

Evidently the democrats in the legislature have but little regard for platform pledges. The deficit of the compensation bill is full evidence of this fact. No doubt the democratic party will feel the effects of their work in the next state election.

Governor Morehead spent Monday in Omaha interviewing the business men and Mayor Dahlman as to the condition of affairs and what was best to be done to alleviate the suffering and to aid those who were bereft of homes. The state, no doubt, through the legislature, will see that aid is forthcoming. Governor Morehead has a warm heart for those who suffer, and the legislature, no doubt, will be guided in the matter by his suggestions.

The voracious appetite of the "movies" for films evokes some strange hazards, but the New York man who agreed to be shot 3,500 feet into the air in a steel rocket so that his descent could be photographed for a film is, in the eyes of mere opinion, the climax. Unfortunately, the rocket prematurely exploded and its human contents were hurled down from a height of only 25 feet, a too short flight to make an interesting spectacle. The attempt may succeed the next time, for, it may be said incidentally, the man himself was uninjured.

Some fellows who are opposed to the jail proposition for the sole purpose, in case the same is defeated, that it will create another issue to come up in the future, are telling all manner of stories to carry their point. The latest canard is that Plattsmouth wants a new jail for the sole purpose in which to keep the city prisoners. The city of Plattsmouth pays for every prisoner that is kept in the old shell called a jail, and those who desire proof of this we kindly refer to the commissioners' report or to the commissioners themselves. But Plattsmouth is arranging to build a jail of their own, and will not ask any more favors of this kind, for which it has paid dearly enough. But some of the schemers who are opposing the jail are telling any kind of a lie that will suit their purpose. The taxpayers should be truthfully informed on the matter, and the best way to get such information is to investigate such false reports before deciding which way to vote on the matter.

Yes, we are going to have a new passenger train on the Missouri Pacific.

While Nebraska was struck pretty hard by the tornado, in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri many hundreds are lost in the floods. In the former two states the flood is terrific. The cities of Columbus and Dayton in Ohio, and Indianapolis in Indiana, besides those drowned, thousands upon thousands are made homeless.

Ex-Speaker Joseph G. Cannon says he expects the republicans to return to power in four years, although any coalition between the republicans and progressives is impossible. Mr. Cannon is almost as sanguine as young Chairman Hilles, who was confident Taft would carry thirty states last November and have a total electoral vote of 325.

The income tax worked no hardship on the rich in the sixties, and we can't see where it will do so now. They were paying a war debt then, and paid it without a blink. The millionaires of this day are more able to pay an income tax than those who done it years ago, and they should be made to "pony up." They are no better than the people of those days. Most of the millionaires at this time have come from the old countries since the war and become millionaires and they should not complain of being taxed for having the opportunity of becoming the monied sharks of the land.

An exchange remarks, and with considerable truth, too, "that occasionally a newspaper man breaks loose and goes forth to seek office, or an appointment, when lo, and behold, he finds men in his community who are ready to knock and write letters, delectatory to his character and ability. When traced down, it is always found that such opposition comes from those whom the newspaper man has helped to office and in other ways, time and again, for to these many years. Man's inhumanity to man, makes countless thousands mourn," but such is the way of this cruel world, inhabited by selfish, unthinking humanity."

When a real taxpayer throws aside his prejudice—if he has any—and votes for public improvements that are really necessary, he displays good, sound judgment, but when he lets his prejudices run astray with him, and lets a few fellows influence him by misstatements, he is doing wrong. That's the way it seems to the Journal. When you vote for a straight tax levy, which is all paid at one time when you pay your regular taxes, you are not voting for a bonded indebtedness, and the fellows who are trying to influence you to vote against the jail proposition know it as well as we do. Vote for a new jail and stop the useless expense of transferring Cass county prisoners to and from Lincoln or Omaha, where they are kept at twice the expense they could be kept for at home, if we possessed a good, safe jail in which to care for them. The opponents of the jail don't give you an inkling of what it has cost the taxpayers of Cass county in Lincoln and Omaha jails, but they do know it has cost away up into thousands of dollars, just the same. Vote for the jail and stop all this useless expense

HISTORY OF LETTER POSTAGE.

It will probably surprise some of our readers to learn that it is only since 1863 that the postage rate letters in the United States has been uniform for all distances. The first postage law, that of 1792, fixed the rates according to distance, and according to the number of pieces of paper. A "single letter" was one piece of paper. Envelopes were wholly unknown. The sheet of paper was folded and the address written on the back. For a single letter sent a distance of thirty miles or less the rate was 6 cents. This rate was increased to 8 cents for distances of sixty miles or less; to 10 cents for 100 miles or less, and so on.

The system was continued with unimportant changes which increased rather than reduced postage, until the year 1841, when part of the present system came into use. A letter which weighed less than one-half ounce was to be deemed a single letter. The postage was made uniform at 5 cents for distances of 300 miles, and 10 cents for all greater distances. In 1851 prepaid single letters were charged with 3 cents postage, and letters on which the receiver paid the postage with 5 cents for all distances under 3,000 miles; double rates for greater distances—which referred only to letters sent to and from California.

In 1855 prepayment of postage was made compulsory and the rate was fixed at 3 cents for less than 3,000 miles. Finally in 1863 the uniform rate of 3 cents was fixed, and later this was reduced to 2 cents, and now we are promised the reduction to 1 cent in the very near future.

Many farmers and others can recall the fact that when they were boys on the farm, the farmer who had two spring seats to put on his wagon for gala days was considered a fortunate and well-to-do farmer. Most farmers then had only one spring seat and the children sat behind on mere boards laid across the wagon bed. Then came the farmer who had the spring wagon, a smaller wagon with springs under it. Then the top carriage and so on. Now it is the automobile that runs not only on springs but on cushioned tires, and one automobile costs about as much as thirty spring wagons used to cost. In all this we may catch the drift of progress and also an explanation of the high cost of living. But we have to have such things now.

The Journal is not inclined to be of the fussy order, but it loves fairness in all matters that are of interest to the general public. The proposition to build a new jail for Cass county, which has been so badly needed for so many years, is a matter for the people of the county to decide. The taxpayers are the ones that are directly interested in the matter, and the issue should be presented to them in a fair and impartial manner. This paper has never attempted to present the question in any other way, and have never attempted any deception in the matter. When some of the papers that are opposed to the "levy" for the building of a county jail speak of "bonds" for that purpose they are deceiving the people, and they know it. They are evidently aware of the fact that the taxpayers detest a "bonded indebtedness," and this may be the reason why these papers use the word "bond" instead of "levy." In fact they should tell their readers that it is a plain levy and the whole business is to be paid in one year at the rate of 30 cents on the \$1,000 of taxable property—\$3 on \$10,000 of taxable property. Be fair, gentlemen, and don't try to "beat around the bush" in the matter. Tell the truth.

President Wilson was the first one to send a telegram of sympathy to Mayor Dahlman of Omaha, which demonstrates that his heart goes out to the suffering in the great calamity.

The great calamity at Omaha is no doubt the greatest that ever happened to any city in America from the storm's ravages. More lives were lost than at either San Francisco or the great cyclone that visited St. Louis several years ago.

The ministers say, "Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder." How little the courts value their admonition is seen in the report that in the United States during 1913 over 100,000 divorces were granted, and in the last forty years 3,700,000 adults were legally separated.

Champ Clark has a fatherly way of greeting new members of congress as they drift into Washington to learn about their job. His manner is much like the principal of a boys' school toward the freshmen. He says he is anxious to see all the boys get along nicely with their work and improve their minds. Champ Clark is one of the most popular men that ever presided over the house, and all members on both sides love him for his fairness.

People all over the land are offering assistance to the sufferers of Omaha. Plenty of money is being donated by those who are able to give, right at home, but whether they are able to contribute enough to relieve the distressed is to be seen. The leading men of Nebraska's metropolis are willing enough to furnish all the money that is necessary, but can they stand the whole amount that will be needed, and do justice to themselves? That's the question.

One of the New York daily papers very truthfully says: "It ought not to take the merchant of a small town long to find out that in the parcel post he has a friend and not a foe. Let him start an energetic advertising campaign in his local papers and he will soon learn that he can reach a class of patrons who were never within gunshot before the parcel post came to town. This means that rural journalism will assume an importance that was never known before."

Another one of Cass county's big farmers from the west side was in the city yesterday, and in talking about the jail proposition, said that he had come to the conclusion that we needed a new jail and that he would certainly vote for it now and settle the matter for many years to come. This gentleman is one of the largest taxpayers in the county and believes that every taxpayer should vote for the jail—that the amount each one would have to pay is but a drop in the bucket compared to the building of a new court house, especially when Cass county already has one of the finest and most imposing structures in the state.

The public in general are gradually coming to the conclusion that Woodrow Wilson is at the helm, and that he is the president. He proposes to hold fast to the principles of the democratic party, as enunciated in the platform upon which he was elected, and he has the courage to carry out his convictions. In his every move he gives the people a clearly understand that he has a hold on the reigns of government and proposes to give them the necessary relief they should have if there is any possible way of accomplishing his object. We prophesy that President Wilson will prove one of the most popular chief executives of whom the United States of America ever boasted.

Nebraska is getting plenty of free advertising, if it was only of a different kind.

And this is spring, with hoary-headed winter still lingering around the corner.

It may seem pretty hard to be getting old, but it is the only way to live long. Be comforted.

Give the parcel post credit for compelling the express companies to hop down off their high horse.

The man who can furnish a good receipt for dodging cyclones would do a land-office business right now.

A snow in March lasts about as long as a dollar's worth of sugar in a family where there is fudge-making daughters.

The automobile may be putting the nag out of business, but the women seem to be doing as much nagging as ever.

It sometimes happens, as in the present instance, that Easter bonnets should have been trimmed with ear-muffs.

The legislature done the proper thing in appropriating \$100,000 to the tornado sufferers in Nebraska, and it is ready for immediate use.

This thing of Mexican skirmishes so close to the American border that there is danger from stray bullets is distinctly ticklish to residents on the American side.

A man who keeps constantly on the fence waiting to see which way to drop, makes even the fence weary. That's about the way with some democrats until there is an office in sight.

Yes, the jail proposition is simply a straight levy for \$12,000, to be paid in one year. No bonded indebtedness or interest to pay on bonds. It is a straight proposition, and when it is paid once, that ends all taxation for a jail. See!

Indiana has just passed a law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors. There has been such a law as that in Nebraska for some years, but it don't seem to be enforced in Plattsmouth to any great extent. Minors get them some way.

A woman named May Taylor is a candidate for mayor of Topeka, Kansas, and her slogan is "Squeeze out the big jointists as well as the little bootleggers." She is a socialist, and declares that if she is elected "the golden rule and not the rule of gold" will prevail. May's ideals are high enough, but it is to be feared she is making the common mistake of promising too much.

The assistant secretary of state at Washington, when things were not running to suit him, sent in his resignation to President Wilson. Here is the president's reply: "Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to say that I accept your resignation as you suggest." The assistant secretary looked on both sides of the sheet and couldn't find anything that looked like a tear stain.

Uncle Sam is certainly trying to force his children to be healthy if experimenting and the expenditure of money will accomplish it, for, according to the report of the secretary of the treasury, there were expended by the government in 1912, the vast sum of \$19,800,086.23 for the operation and maintenance of health bureaus. Out of that sum there were paid to doctors of the Allopathic School of Medicine, for salaries alone, \$11,542,495, divided among 15,632 of them.

THE WORKING GIRL.

That the virtue of the working girl, at least in many instances, is directly dependent on whether or not she is paid a reasonable living wage for her services is the revelation made in the exhaustive vice commission investigation in Chicago, New York City and elsewhere. In a great majority of the cases investigated it was shown that lack of a living wage caused the first step in the wrong direction.

The revelations of these vice probes have raised a great amount of comment in various parts of the country. Opposition to the subject of a minimum wage for women has developed even more strongly than ever in this connection, deploring that "The womanhood of the nation be insulted by the intimation that its virtue is dependent upon the amount of money it has or earns," and feeling that "There is something revoltingly hideous in the theory that the pay of a girl in a store or factory is the line between chastity and unchastity."

We can regret with them that such is the case, but facts are too convincing to deny that it is. The only thing that can be more hideous than the theory mentioned is the fact itself, and the fact seems to exist.

To us it seems an impossible condition to think that a nation as civilized as this would even consider the advisability or inadvisability of providing a living wage for any of its citizens who give full service for such a wage. We provide, more or less reluctantly, perhaps, for the care of many who simply will not work, yet we cannot be fully convinced that we should see to it by law that the women who do work are paid a reasonable compensation for their labor.

If only 1 per cent of the money which goes into the pockets of middlemen and speculators in the necessities of life without their having in any way added value to the commodities handled or supplied labor in any form could be turned over to the working girls of the nation the wage question would be solved. Why not get busy in this direction, as well as some others?

A big business house in Chicago wants a young man who is willing to start at the bottom and work up. Some of the requirements are that if the elevator has stopped he will not wait, but climb the stairs. They want him to know how to spell, punctuate and know the meaning of words. Not a fellow who merely looks ahead to help build up the business, work overtime if necessary and become a real, active part of the business—not a girl, because if she is a good one some fellow will want to marry her. But a boy who wants to be a man in all that the term means—who can be a stenographer, a clerk, a real honest, earnest boy who can make good and is willing to do so. A thousand places are now open to such boys, but only one in a thousand for a boy who is only a salary hunter. Where are all the boys who want to make good and are willing to work to make good? The best places in the United States wait them.

Ascertaining the physical valuation of the railroads is going to be a big job. It is estimated that under the bill providing for such valuation, just enacted, it will cost the government \$6,000,000 and the railroads about the same amount.

Pneumonia, says a medical journal, may best be guarded against by avoiding hunger and fatigue—which is a case where science and inclination meet.

The taxpayers of Cass county, in voting in favor of a new jail, are voting in their own interests by saving money in so doing.