

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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## THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

When you hold persistently to the successful mental state, you become a magnet drawing other people to aid you as you in turn can aid them. But if you are much of the time despondent and gloomy, you become the negative magnet, driving the best from you.—Mullford.

March has marched away. Good-bye!

April is here, and no potatoes planted yet.

Thanks to the Lord! Two weeks more will finish the work of the present legislature—the worst that ever sat in Lincoln.

It is better to serve a small community well as an honest merchant than to attain the rank of "Captain of Industry" by unfair and dishonest means.

No one can blame the legislature for appropriating \$100,000 to aid the distressed in Omaha. It would have been better still had the sum been made \$200,000.

Prospective tariff reduction has not yet reduced the cost of living, as all can see without even looking. The real thing can only make graded reductions, so long as the supply is limited.

The Daily Drover's Journal and Stockman of South Omaha says that up to last Wednesday the stock yards interests had contributed \$11,500 for the relief of the Omaha tornado sufferers. Good!

President Wilson is taking some pains to prove that, in the matter of trusts, at least, he and Theodore Roosevelt are not of the same brand of progressives. Woodrow acts, while Teddy took his out in wind.

When you see a weekly paper kicking at W. J. Bryan, without any cause whatever, it reminds one of the knut knawing at the heels of an elephant. In comparison it is just about as noticeable, also.

Joe Cannon said something when he got back to his home in Danville that must have made Victor Mardock feel sorry he had put rollers under the wise old statesman: "I am not a pessimist," said Uncle Joe, "and the country isn't going to h—l simply because I am out of office."

Pick out twenty young men as you meet them and not five out of the twenty are making an effort to save money. The indications are the poor house of the future will have to be ten stories high with folding beds in each room.

The difference between an agriculturist and a farmer is that the farmer gets up at the break of day, feeds his stock and has breakfast at sun-up. After his frugal meal he hitches his team to the plow, takes the hard handles in his horny hands, calls "gee haw" to his team and plows all the long, weary day. The agriculturist gets up at 8 o'clock in the morning and after an easy breakfast, pulls on his gloves, orders his horse and buggy and drives to town.

In the path of a tornado everything that isn't raised is razed.

Facts, as well as errors, occasionally get a newspaper into trouble.

Early spring predictions seem very much disposed to change the subject.

Those who have been watching his stand feel that Mr. Wilson will do more work than Roosevelt, and do less talking about it.

English people are getting tired of the actions of the suffs, and may decide to send them to Canada to grow up with the country.

This almost reads like a prophecy: "One woe doth tread upon another's heel, so fast they follow."

The use of "scattering" in figuring up the flood losses in the east might be used more aptly in estimating the tornado losses in the west.

The Louisville Courier's arguments against the jail are not going to cut much ice with intelligent taxpayers. It is simply tommyrot and nothing else.

The democratic members of the present legislature have certainly made several great mistakes, and it is hoped they will adjourn and go home before they make any more.

The equinox is past and Easter a matter of history, and yet there are those who have neglected to plant their potatoes. Perhaps it is best to plant potatoes in the ground than in the moon, anyway.

If men are the salt of the earth, women are undoubtedly the sugar. Salt is necessary—sugar is a luxury. Vicious men are salt-peter; stern men are rock salt; nice men are table salt. Old maids are brown sugar; good natured matrons are loaf sugar, and pretty girls are pulverized sugar. Please pass the pulverized sugar.

While President Wilson is refusing gifts of all sorts, we would gladly receive the 40-pound turkey which invariably is sent to the White house just before Thanksgiving, if the president still refuses to accept. But we will not wait in anticipation, for we fear the president will make an exception to his rule about the time Thanksgiving rolls around.

W. H. Thompson, chairman of the democratic state committee, is much put out by the way the democratic members voted upon the workingmen's compensation bill. Mr. Thompson has a right to be—it was one of the principal platform pledges. But the republicans are about as deep in the mire. It was also one of their platform pledges.

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."

Oh, you gentle springtime! It looks like you are to be delayed considerable this year.

We've had a president with a big stick, one with a smile, and now we've got one with the backbone.

In the spring a young man's fancy figures that the coal will hold out, but the backbone of winter returns to fool him.

In a week or two the box scores will begin to blossom on the sporting pages. This is the only infallible harbinger of spring.

A black-eyed man is always jealous of his wife, a gray-eyed one is the most faithful, a brown-eyed one the best provider, and blue-eyed one always henpecked. Girls, take your choice.

In spite of a democratic administration the price of hogs and cattle keeps up, notwithstanding the direful predictions that were made before the election. Things are going along so smoothly that many people don't know there has been a change in administration.

Illinois will now have one democrat and one republican in the United States senate—James H. Lewis, democrat, for the long term, and Lawrence T. Sherman, republican, for the short term. This is better than half a loaf for the democrats by about four years.

The democrat who does not heed the platform pledges as a member of the legislature is not worthy of the honor bestowed upon him in sending him there. Such actions work hardship upon the party in the hereafter. This paper considers platform pledges as sacred commandments, and he who refuses to perform his duties according to those commandments is not a reliable democrat.

It has been stated in the west part of the county that the court house is in a poor condition. Now a bigger falsehood never gained circulation, and all a persons has to do is to come to Plattsmouth and see for himself. Except for the usual wear and tear, the Cass county court house is as substantial as the day it was turned over to the county. There you nail another lie.

The Illinois supreme court has ruled that fortune telling is not illegal because the seer is paid for his time and not for the information or misinformation he gives. The fundamental idea of obtaining money under false pretenses seems to have been entirely overlooked by the court. The supreme court of Illinois would do well to take a few lessons in some correspondence school.

Some taxpayers are afraid that the levy of \$12,000 will not be sufficient to build a jail. Perhaps it would not if it was built off to itself. But it is to be attached to the court house on the north, which will greatly lessen the expense in building, and also in keeping the same heated and cleaned. Another fact is, the commissioners are limited to this amount, and contractors and architects say the sum of \$12,000 will build a splendid structure complete in every way.

Mayor Fitzgerald of Boston has some sensible ideas on marriage. He says: "I'd rather see a young fellow marry on \$15 a week than hold aloof from marriage until too late in life. It's a great deal better for a young couple to struggle along together and have their little home, their little family, than it is to live singly till the man has gathered a pile. Whether the man should attempt to start a home on \$15 a week depends very much on the girl the man marries."

"On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away"—And at this season the farther away the better.

Lest we forget—what about the university removal? The legislature only has about ten more days in which to act. It is believed the house will never consent to its removal, and thereby hangs the whole story—it will remain right where it is.

The bill to abolish free lunches in saloons is a piece of ill advised foolishness. As the matter now stands a patron buys a 5-cent glass of beer and gets a free lunch. Under the law the patron will now buy a 5-cent lunch and get a glass of beer free. Where's the difference? It is simply twoedledee and twoedledum. In the first place you get the beer and lunch. Now you get the lunch and beer.

The other week a facetious newspaper writer published the statement that if the money in the United States were equally distributed each one would have \$34.72. The result has been that many letters have been received at the treasury department in which the writer ask for their shares. The money is distributed punctually as before.

The advocacy of the principle of having all things in common has a tendency to destroy individuality. Without the individual being made prominent in affairs of state the incentive to supreme effort is taken away. Representative intelligence is a better democracy than collective ignorance, however popular the latter might be for the time being.

Gradually as the taxpayers fully understand the jail proposition, they are coming out for it. They are seeing through the enemies of the jail proposition, that it is purely selfishness on their part, and that if they can defeat it they will gloat over their triumph, because it will give them an opportunity to create more trouble for the taxpayers of the county. Every taxpayer who votes for the building of a new jail will save big money by so doing—and it is the real taxpayers who should vote for it.

The big taxpayers are not going to be governed by a few prejudiced people in the matter of the county jail. They know the jail is needed, and as a farmer of Mt. Pleasant precinct, who was in town Saturday, said, "why not settle the question right now, and be done with it?" That's the way hundreds of farmers think who are running around blowing their heads off either one way or the other. They know that we should have a new jail, and that it will save them money in the long run to have it built right now.

Kansas is the latest state to pass a law providing for the employment of convicts in the building of public highways. Objections are heard here and there against such use of prison labor, the most frequent ones being the expense of the elaborate system necessary to prevent the escape of desperate prisoners and the demoralizing effect which the public employment of convicts would have on the communities where they are thus employed. As for the first objection, it would perhaps be unwise to employ the more desperate prisoners on public highways; the second is frivolous and insane. Prison reform advocates urge with reason that public road making offers an opportunity for the employment of hundreds of able-bodied convicts who are languishing in morbid idleness in the prisons. At the same time the labor of these prisoners properly utilized in the building of highways would lessen the burden of a public improvement for whose entire cost

the people are compelled to tax themselves. Thus would convicts be given wholesome employment, the public would receive some recompense in needed and better highways, and prison competition with skilled free labor would be avoided.

The Weeping Water Republican acknowledges it made a mistake in its bond statement, instead of a straight levy for one year, after publishing the proposition in its own columns for the past three weeks, as ordered by the county commissioners. But the bright and handsome young gent who presides over the destinies of that paper, says the Journal made an error when it stated the county seat removal meant an outlay of \$200,000 or \$300,000. We were honest in this statement and stick right to the text, and the taxpayers of Cass county will find out to their sorrow if it were possible to remove the county seat, and a new court house erected, when we already have one of the best in the state.

No county in the state has a poorer jail than Cass county, and the way to get one that will do credit to the county is to vote for the levy of \$12,000 for the building of one in which it will be safe to keep prisoners, and not be compelled to pay double price for their keeping in Lincoln and Omaha, besides transportation to and from those places before they are tried and convicted. Mr. Taxpayer, you are the one to be interested in this matter, and when you look at it in the right light you can readily see wherein you should vote for a new jail now and be done with it.

We have taken the opportunity on several occasions to criticize the action of our legislature for several very unwise measures adopted, and several measures that were in accordance with the democratic state platform, which have been defeated by democratic votes. Some few democrats blame us for the criticism and have taken us to task by pleading that it is a democratic legislature, and a democratic paper should refrain from criticizing it. That is a poor defense, when we see members trample upon plank after plank of the state platform, measures that they promised to stand by. Our interest in the democratic party is such that we want to perpetuate its existence, but how do you expect us to do it, when democrats in that body stand up and vote against principles that were adopted by the democrats of the state in convention assembled, with the promise that they should become laws, if the democrats controlled the legislature. How can we expect to succeed in the future when the democrats go before the voters of the state with broken promises staring them in the face. The success of today will not endure for tomorrow unless it be shown that it is deserving and gives promise for even better thing in the future. In this connection it must be borne in mind that the Journal is not the only democratic paper that views the situation with eyes of today fixed on the possible results of tomorrow. He is indeed a poor politician who believes that a triumphant victory today presages a similar triumph tomorrow. The stern philosophy of politics teaches us that members who are elected to the legislature by democrats must have respect enough for their party to at least carry out its platform pledges, which of course the present legislature has failed on several occasions to do, when it had no just cause for so doing.

The Wallace menagerie destroyed by the flood at Peru, Indiana, is one of the subjects ready for descriptive writers. Possibly some of the elephants escaped and will have more than Jumob's reputation.

When Miss Sylvia Parkhurst is in prison the officers can't get her to open her mouth; and when she is out of prison the officers can't get her to close it.

Every home in Nebraska should be provided with a cyclone cave, just as every home in Ohio, Indiana and southern Illinois should be provided with a raft.

An overwhelming majority for Sunday baseball. The proposition carried by about 500 majority. That should be sufficient to show where the people stand on the question.

Notwithstanding their long run of big crops and high prices, it is claimed that the farmers do not know how to market their products. The condition of the farmer is truly deplorable.

Yes, Mr. Taxpayer, the jail proposition is a one-year levy, with no bonds hanging over your head, bearing interest. And the beauty of it is the whole tax is paid with one levy only, and it's all over. Another thing, you will hardly miss the small amount it will cost you.

We met another substantial farmer from the west side of the county Monday, who voluntarily told us he was going to vote for the jail, simply because in carrying the proposition it will save the taxpayers further trouble and expense. He is looking at the matter in the proper light. And there are hundreds of other substantial farmers who look at the jail question the same way.

In speaking of the coming and going of the school ma'am the Sioux City Tribune says: "If a school teacher is required to take a four-year professional course preliminary to earning a salary of \$60 per month, what is the reasonable commercial quotation on an operation for appendicitis?" We intend to arrange with Miss Foster, county superintendent, to receive answers and award prizes.

The next legislature should be composed of men of good, sound judgment and intelligence—men who are able to stand the assaults of the lobbyists and able to defend the right of their constituents without fear or favor. Every county in Nebraska possesses men of this character, and they are the kind of people that should be sent to the legislature. Men creep into the senate and house who are nothing more than wall flowers, and you hardly know they are there only when they cast their votes for or against some measure.

Now watch the Weeping Water Republican come out and declare the article in last week's Union Ledger was written in the Journal office. But it wasn't. Mr. Graves brought the article here himself, as he has many other articles in the past two years, which were set on the machine for him. We do a great deal of this work for other papers, for which we are paid. Mr. Graves is not in the habit of having others do the editing of his paper—he is plenty able to do that himself.

A town that never has anything to do in a public way is on the road to the cemetery. Anyone who will do nothing for his town is helping to dig the grave. A man that curses the town furnishes the casket. The man so selfish as to have no time from his business to give to the city affairs is making the shroud. The man who does not advertise is driving the hearse. The man who is pulling back from any public enterprise throws bouquets on the grave. The man who is howling hard through all the time preaches the funeral and sings the doxology, and thus the town lies buried from all sorrow and cares.