

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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After the resolution is adopted it doesn't usually do a great deal of hard work.

The trouble with the man who thinks he knows it all is his unwillingness to learn more.

The Mexicans have discovered that it costs them just as much to carry on a war as it does to conduct a presidential campaign.

Germany recalls diplomats who marry American girls. One theory is a fear of talkativeness, but keenness in men and measures might be an objection.

Los Angeles has voted out its municipal newspaper as too expensive. A long-felt want sometimes disappears when the purse is not long enough.

Six great powers in a concert is the latest phase of the ancient eastern question. At this rate the federation of the world is making some headway.

What about a Fourth of July celebration? Have you thought about it yet? Pretty near time you were donning your thinking thinking cap. Remember what the early bird gets.

The blue sky law, prescribing conditions under which promoters of mining properties and such uncertain investments may operate in the state, has passed the legislature.

Nature has provided the Mississippi river with ten mouths. As the big river drains more than half the states it would be a good idea to make sure that none of the mouths are merely ornamental.

One of the big fights in the present session of the legislature came to a close when the house approved the senate bill providing that Omaha may still continue to operate its municipal water plant, to the exclusion of rival privately owned corporations. The question of municipal ownership of public utilities was involved.

The bill providing for a publicity department for the state, and making an appropriation therefore, has been defeated by the legislature. The bill had many friends until a representative of the Omaha Commercial club became so active as to arouse the suspicions of the members that there were sinister motives back of his interest. It is freely stated that this one man is responsible for the defeat of the measure.

The California assembly has passed the anti-alien land-holding bill. Now hear the Japs howl.

The democratic newspapers of the state will not reap one-half as much income from the publication of constitutional amendments next year as the republican papers did last year. There will probably be but four amendments, and they will be short ones.

The corporations made a terrific fight against the passage of the Gruber anti-discrimination bill. It provides that the elevators, line lumber yards, creameries, etc., may not charge different prices at different places in order to ruin independent rival concerns.

There is no lingering doubt that Woodrow Wilson is the president of the United States, and while he has been in office but little over a month, the public has seen enough of him to know that he is his own man, and will not allow himself to be hounded by friend, foe or faction.

The United States is not to interfere with California in prescribing American citizenship as necessary land-holding in that state. Illinois did the same thing long ago and without protest from Washington or from Great Britain, where the aliens then lived. The fact is the Japs are over-sensitive.

Governor Morehead is planning to investigate the state institutions. Some serious charges have been preferred, and money spent for goods that have never been used and the articles carried away. This paper has always contended that too much of the state's money is squandered in these state institutions.

In New York the papers have already commenced to discuss the going of rich people to their summer homes. They run away from warm weather as if it were poisonous, when as a matter of fact people in real warm climates live longer. Some live so long in Arizona there is a suspicion that they just dry up and blow away.

Secretary Bartling of Otoe and Cass counties has been the recipient of several season passes from league teams over the country, and among them is the White Sox of Chicago. This is done simply in recognition of his services in the interest of Sunday baseball in Nebraska, and the bill that bears his name, which was adopted by the present legislature.

Mrs. Pankhurst should come to America on a lecturing tour and realize something on her advertising.

Congratulations poured in upon Governor Morehead on account of his veto of the heasty sterilization bill. Protests against the enactment came to the desk of the governor from every quarter of the United States.

What a glorious world this would be if some people could only be learned to keep their noses out of other people's business. But they learn when it is too late, to their sorrow and to the injury of their friends.

The city of Plattsmouth is very unfortunate in one respect. It is possessed of two or three people who are eternally trying to attend to some other people's business. Such meddling fellows don't last long in this town.

Postmaster General Burleson has issued a statement in which he says that he does not "recognize any obligation" to observe the result of postoffice primaries, but that he will receive the results of such elections as recommendations to be taken into consideration with the usual recommendations of such individuals.

Next Tuesday is Arbor day, and you don't want to forget it. Nothing could be better than to have this beautiful interest in tree culture become a fad. A tree-planting craze that would line every street and avenue with shade trees and stock every barren hillside and unprofitable field with the making of good timber trees, would at once beautify the landscape and lay the foundation of future wealth. Plant trees!

If every person would adopt and strictly practice the rule of not saying anything derogatory to others, only when truth and justice positively required facts to be told, there would soon be an era of good feeling and a joyous atmosphere of peace over every community, church, school and family. The tale bearer and gossip monger are more of a curse to a community than the smallpox and scarlet fever. The latter can be quarantined, but who can corral the former? The good book tells us where they get their start of fire from.

The Journal is in receipt of a copy of the Merrill (Oregon) Record, and in glancing over its columns we notice the name of C. S. Sherman lying at its masthead as editor. Mr. Sherman served many years as editor of the Journal, and since his removal to Oregon he has been connected with several papers in that state in the capacity of editor. Mr. Sherman is a very able writer, and like many of the old hands at the business, it will be pretty hard for him to shed the harness entirely until the final summons to depart from this vale of tears.

## AS WILSON SAW IT IN 1909.

A striking forecast of the course of political events was given by President Wilson, then of the Princeton university, in the North American Review for October, 1909, in an article on "The Tariff Make-Believes." In that same article President Wilson indicated the lines on which he believed a real tariff revision should be conducted. The article is of particular interest just at this time in connection with the new tariff bill introduced with President Wilson's approval. The Journal prints the essential parts of said article to show that he entertained such ideas long before he became president of the United States:

The wrong settlement of a great public question is no settlement at all. The Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, therefore, which its authors would fain regard as a settlement of the tariff question, is no settlement at all. It is miscellaneous wrong in detail and radically wrong in principle. It disturbs more than it settles, and by its very failure to settle forces the tariff question forward into a new and more acute stage.

It is so obviously impossible to settle the question satisfactorily in the way these gentlemen have attempted to settle it; it is so evident that men of their mind and with their attitude towards the economic interests of the country can never settle it that thinking men of every kind realize at last that new men and new principles of action must be found. These gentlemen do not know the way and cannot find it. They "revised" the tariff, indeed, but by a method which was a grand make-believe from beginning to end. They may have convinced themselves of the intelligence and integrity of the process, but they have convinced nobody else. The country must now go to the bottom of the matter and obtain what it wants.

The methods by which tariff bills are constructed have now become all too familiar and throw a significant light on the character of the legislation involved. Debate in the house has little or nothing to do with it. The process by which such a bill is made is private, not public; because the reasons which underlie many of the rates imposed are private. What takes place in the committees and in the conference is confidential. It is considered impertinent for reporters to inquire. It is admitted to be the business of the manufacturers concerned, but not the business of the public, who are to pay the rates. The debates which the country is invited to hear in the open sessions of the house are merely formal. They determine nothing and disclose very little.

Favors are obtained in two ways—by "influence," and by supplication of a kind for which there is no classical or strictly parliamentary designation. In the vulgar it is called "the baby act."

What "influence" consists of is a very occult matter, into which

the public is not often privileged to inquire. It is compounded of various things, in varying proportions; of argument based upon the facts of industry and commercial interest, of promise of political support, of campaign contributions, not explicitly given upon condition, but often spoken of by way of reminder, of personal "pressure" through the channels of old friendships and new alliances—of things too intimate to mention—though not, I believe, even in the minds of the most cynical and suspicious, of direct bribes. There is seldom any question of personal corruption. It is wholly a question of party corruption, so far as it is a question of corruption at all.

The "baby act" consists in resorting the ways and means committee of the house and the finance committee of the senate with pitiful tales, hard-luck stories, petitions for another chance, as the hosiery makers did at the special sessions. It is an act unpalatable to American pride, and yet very frequently indulged in with no appearance of shame. "Foreigners make better goods" is the burden of its cry, "pay smaller wages and can add the ocean freights to their price and still beat us in our own markets." It often seems to mean that the foreigner has superior skill, uses better machinery, adapts his patterns more quickly to changing tastes, is more practiced in economies of all sorts and is content with smaller profits. And so a handful of American gentlemen go to congress and beg to be helped to make a living and support their operatives.

If any particular industry has been given its opportunity to establish itself and get its normal development under cover of the customs, and is still unable to meet the foreign competition which is the standard of its efficiency, it is unjust to tax the people of the country any further to support it. Wherever the advantage accorded by a tariff has resulted in giving those who control the greater part of the output of a particular industry the chance, after their individual success has been achieved, to combine and "corner" the advantage, those advantages ought to be withdrawn; and the presumption is that every industry thus controlled has had the support of the government as long as it should have it.

Only those undertakings should be given the protection of high duties on imports which are manifestly suited to the country and as yet undeveloped or only imperfectly developed. From all the rest protection should be withdrawn, the object of the government being, not to support its citizens in business, but to promote the full energy and development of the country.

Existing protection should not be suddenly withdrawn, but steadily, and upon a fixed program upon which every man of

business can base his definite forecasts and systematic plans. For the rest, the object of custom taxation should be revenue for the government. The federal government should depend for its revenue chiefly on taxes of this kind, because the greater part of the field of direct taxation must be left to the states. It must raise abundant revenue, therefore, from custom duties. But it should choose for taxation the things which are not of primary necessity to the people in their lives or their industry, things, for the most part, which they can do without suffering or actual privation.

If taxes levied upon these do not suffice, the things added should be those which it would cause them the least inconvenience or suffering to dispense with. Customs thus laid and with such objects will be found to yield more, and the people will be freer.

There is no real difficulty about finding how and where to lay such taxes when once a just principle has been agreed upon, if statesmen have the desire to find it. The only trouble is to ascertain the facts in a very complex economic system. Honest inquiry will soon find them out, and honest men will readily enough act upon them, if they be not only honest, but also courageous, true lovers of justice and of their country.

There are 20 per cent more immigrants arriving at New York than a year ago. At the end of last week, Ellis island had handled since January 1 about 15,000 more immigrants than in the same period of 1912. Many of the newcomers are Italians released from military duty who have been here before. It is said that these men are beginning to use second-class accommodations instead of steerage and their previous experience in America enables them to study the labor market with discrimination. "Though the Pennsylvania and southern labor fields are clamoring for workmen and offering high wage inducements, it is difficult at any price to divert these returning immigrants from their settled destinations." The rising immigration figures this spring certainly do not forecast any business depression in this country during the present year.

Peace and harmony has prevailed to such a great extent among the business men of Plattsmouth in the past few years, and prosperity has loomed up so wonderfully in consequence, that it would be an outrage upon the community to have anything occur that would mar the pleasure of such a state of affairs. Men who have interests at stake in the future of the city should not countenance any movement that is destined to create turmoil and discord in the genuine good feeling that now exists among the people of Plattsmouth.

## MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS

By Gross

