

# The Plattsmouth Journal

Published Semi-Weekly at Plattsmouth, Neb.

R. A. BATES, Publisher

Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska as second-class matter  
\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

It requires a sterner virtue than good nature to hold fast the truth, that it is nobler to be shabby and honest than to do things handsomely in debt.—Julian H. Ewing.

Lincoln went "wet" by a good big majority Tuesday. The people of the capital city evidently prefer open saloons to a system of boot-legging. Hypocrisy and boot-legging go hand in hand.

The Burlington has decided to erect a \$40,000 depot at Falls City, a town that furnishes about half the business that Plattsmouth does.

The Jap troubles in California are still "hanging fire." And now Arizona has caught the anti-alien disease, and the Japs are ruled out in that state.

Governor Sulzer of New York must be a better governor than he was given credit for being. The New York legislature is at loggerheads with him.

Weather and crop bureaus of Nebraska railroads report no frosts through the state during the recent cold spell. At least, no damage is reported.

Some fellows up around Lincoln are perhaps wiser than they were before the election last Tuesday. There are times when some people bite off more than they can chew.

A large increase in the acreage of spring and winter wheat is reported from western and south-western Nebraska, and it is in excellent condition, according to reports received by the state board of agriculture.

Uncle Sam is daily called upon to take care of a lot of refugees from various points in Mexico, and the treatment they receive is quite different from that accorded to the Americans who are attempting to reside in the Mexican republic.

Governor Morehead has designated Saturday, May 17, as a general clean-up day for the entire state. Mayors of all the cities should join the governor in the movement, for with the hearty cooperation of local officials something tangible will be accomplished.

Nearly everybody seems to think it was just a frame-up, and that the facts will come out in time. Until then "mum" is the order.

People who have incomes over \$4,000 a year are worrying because they will have to pay a government tax, while those whose incomes are under that amount are worrying because they would like to pay a government tax if they only had that kind of an income. But you can't please all people all the time.

In defending the free wool clause of the democratic tariff bill Representative Harrison of New York said: "After this bill is enacted into law, when a man buys an \$8 or \$10 suit of clothes he will be sure there is some wool in it, and the first time he goes out in the rain it won't stiffen up like a stovepipe. Free raw wool means cheaper clothing to the American consumer."

The suffragettes in Nebraska don't seem to be quite so frisky as they were last fall. They were taken down a notch or two after the legislature handled them so lightly and without gloves. Now they want Nebraska to vote on the suffrage question, and we are in favor of it. Not because we believe in their cause, but simply to see how many of the old hens will find resting places under snow drifts.

Ever since William Jennings Bryan treated the diplomatic corps to grape juice, it has figured as one of the main beverages in Washington barrooms. They now sell what is called a "Bryan Rickey." "Pour half a glass of grape juice over cracked ice, add a dish of lemon juice and some carbonated water," and there you are. Warranted not to intoxicate, even if it does not cheer.

If the dandelion was a modest flower, it would be a joy forever. A few dandelions, scattered here and there over a soft green lawn might add to the charm of the lawn, but the dandelion is an aggressive little beast of a flower. It not only spreads itself over the lawn, as prolific as the proverbial fly, and as disreputable, but it devours all the verdure that comes in its way. It should be exterminated. Most of the lawns in Plattsmouth have become infested with the pest which makes life miserable by the insistence with which it insolently persists in blooming after numerous decapitations.

Mr. Bryan's trip to California was not a failure by any means, and the people of these United States will soon learn that it was not. Some newspapers are too anxious to write failure to anything in which Mr. Bryan is engaged. But saying so doesn't make it so by a long shot.

Great credit is due those noble women who have the courage to organize in opposition to those women who have organized selfishly for their own political self-interest. And the men who encourage them have also an eye to office-holding, in case they succeed. It is not a matter of principle with them, but solely a selfish interest.

There is a young man over in the west part of the county who will probably be induced by his friends to make the race for county clerk on the democratic ticket next year. We are requested to withhold his name for the present, but we can assure the readers of the Journal that he is one of the most popular young men in Cass county, and well qualified for the position in every particular.

We raise an awful row when there are lax quarantine laws against smallpox, cholera or bubonic plague. The health officers are doing very well, considering what they have to deal with. But the fly—the dirty, deadly fly, that kills its thousands every year—what do we do about that? Nothing, you might say. But we should begin now, and save every one that makes his appearance. Have your swatters in readiness.

Some of the latest songs are: "Is My Hat on Straight?" "Shall I Put the Buttons on the Back or Front of My Dress?" "Dad and Mam are Back Numbers," "Microbes That Make a Pathway Down Your Spine." There are a number of other meaningless songs that would make a billy goat chew the neck off of a discarded beer bottle in the back alley, but they will be sung just the same.

The passage of the anti-alien act by the California legislature will not settle the matter. It would be only a step. There may first come the referendum—if the bill is passed by both houses and signed. There may then follow the courts with President Wilson and Secretary Bryan as intervening friends of the court—representative, of course, of the federal government. And after that may come congress. There are, indeed, plenty of possibilities.

"My son, never go anywhere you would be ashamed to take your mother—never associate with anyone you would not wish to introduce to your mother—never say anything you would be ashamed to say to your mother, nor listen to stories you would not wish her to hear," is the fare-

well caution given to many a boy on leaving home. No boy ever went astray who heeded this advice from his dear old mother—the dearest friend he ever possessed.

All the clerks in the stores in East Liverpool, O., struck, and thereupon the proprietors told the customers to wait upon themselves and pay for what goods they took. The scheme has worked well. Although in the dry goods stores where women customers measured their own fabrics and selected their own dresses, there were often brought about some amusing complications, but the merchants declare that they have lost very little from the dishonesty of the buyers. They have saved the cost of the clerks, there has been no picketing, no disturbance and the striking clerks are walking around with their hands in their pockets uncertain what to do.

Next Sunday has been set apart as a day in which we honor the mothers, not only one's own mother but all mothers. We pay tribute to our military, naval and political heroes—this comparatively new holiday is designed to pay tribute to motherhood. The observance of Mothers' day is indicated by wearing a white carnation for the mother who is living. Other white flowers are used to mark the day, but the white carnation is the Mothers' day emblem. A good mother's influence is not for one day only, it is forever. Children may disregard her wishes while she lives, but when she is gone, when her loving heart no longer finds excuses for their transgressions, then her influence becomes stronger, reaching out from the grave to purify and uplift, to strengthen the weak impulses and broaden the life.

We refer the readers of the Journal to an article printed elsewhere in this issue headed "Please Do Not Publish." It is well worth perusing, and there are several reasons why we desire to have it read. In the first place the article is not our own, and yet expresses our ideas so clearly in many respects that we would like to have all the readers of the Journal familiar with its sentiment. There are so many truths touched upon and so many conditions dealt with that the entire article is of value to all. Another reason for wanting it read is because the editor of a newspaper is constantly being confronted with those very problems from day to day, from week to week, and the facts set out by this writer may give the reader a clearer view of the responsibilities that attach to the publication of a newspaper. In the nature of things men love to have their virtues extolled under headlines, and their shortcomings printed among the medicine ads, or not at all—preferably the latter. But these same men and women love to read of their neighbors' entanglements and the more exhaustive the details the

greater their need of satisfaction. Clearly, then, it becomes the duty of a newspaper not alone to assume the responsibility of its utterances, but to use its own impartial judgment in the matter of what to print and what not to print. All manner of news, rumor and gossip, reach the editor's desk, and there must be constant process of weeding out the doubtful, the objectionable and the maliciously intended, and the preservation of the legitimate. This done, the newspaper cannot draw the line because of a difference in social or business relations. Social standing is too often a mere matter of dollars and affection rather than any monopoly of the virtues. There are just as many sensitive hearts beating under the homespun of the poor as the tailor-made suit of the rich, and it is not fair for a newspaper, in writing up the news, to make the distinction. No judge in a court of justice finds pleasure in pronouncing the penalties of the law—it is a duty which is required of him. No true newspaper man finds pleasure in recording the misdeeds of his fellow men, but in a spirit of fairness and with a duty to perform no less important than that of tribunals where men go upon equal footing with justice. In the performance of this, the newspaper should not know rank or station, prince or peasant.

A matter in which the people of Nebraska are considerably interested is being quite freely discussed, is that of the proposed reduction of members of the legislature. Of course there is a divided sentiment on the proposition. Out of the discussion of the fact is easily gleaned that the number of bills introduced is too large—the subjects of legislation too varied and trivial. It would seem, therefore, that the number of bills should be limited, or that an arrangement for the publication and greater digestion, before they are acted upon by the legislators, and not a limitation of the judgments passing upon them, would be to the point. If the membership cannot be reduced there should be some system by which a limitation to the number of bills introduced could be made and the number that each one is allowed to present for consideration.

That every employe of their dining car service must show a perfect bill of health at a physical examination held four times a year is a new ruling just established by the Pennsylvania railroad system. Indications of any infectious disease in any employe will mean immediate discharge from the service. The provision is made, it is stated, for the purpose of further safeguarding the health of the patrons of the railroad dining car system. Yet such a measure may have another significance and work a reform in other directions worthy of being sought by like requirements in other lines of business. Certain infectious diseases by which the innocent public is constantly

menaced are very closely allied with evils which society is attempting to combat in other ways. The ravages of these diseases are far greater than any except those who have investigated the matter know or realize. It is not probable that any sort of legislation or regulation will ever fully check these evils, or stamp out the attendant diseases. But if an employe knows that contracting such a disease will probably mean his discharge from his position, the knowledge will certainly tend to restrain rather than encourage taking further chances. It is of vital importance that public health be as fully safeguarded as it is possible to do. It is likewise just as important that some means be found if possible to check these diseases. Apparently the Pennsylvania railroad has found an effective method of accomplishing something in both directions. The idea is worthy of general consideration.

So much unfavorable comment has been made because William Jennings Bryan treated the diplomatic corps to grape juice that he has been compelled to defend his action. He says that he is a teetotaler. So is his wife. So were their parents before them. They have never served liquor at their table, and they are not going to begin it now. When the diplomatic corps gathered he explained to them his position on the subject, and when President Wilson tendered him the post of secretary of state he told Wilson that it might be awkward at the diplomatic dinners to find wine excluded. He feels sorry that he is obliged to abrogate a traditional custom, but it is a matter of principle with him, and he doesn't propose to alter his way of living to suit the notion of other people. Lucy Hayes, when mistress of the White House, went even farther than Bryan. She gave her guests ice water, but Pufferford, her husband, was not averse to taking a drink occasionally, although his friends complained that he confined himself to a bottle of gin behind the kitchen door. The old fathers of the republic inaugurated the diplomatic dinners in accordance with the customs of that day. During the revolutionary war Washington addressed his staff, saying "Gentlemen, we must all make some sacrifices in the present condition of affairs, and hereafter you will find no Madera upon the mess tables. You must be contented with plain New England rum." Jefferson was the best judge of wine in America, and he imported a Swiss who planted a vineyard at Monticello. It exists to this day. The only restriction that Jefferson made was that no liquor should be sold at retail within ten miles of the University of Virginia, and out of respect to his memory, and with no law on the subject, the rule holds good to this day. Then why should Mr. Bryan be criticized for enjoying the same privileges as other great men?

## MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS

By Gross

