

The Plattsmouth Journal

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The use of the road drag is needed just now worse than any other implement that we know of. Some of the roads are very rough in places leading south of town. Get out your drags and use them.

Who would have imagined ten or fifteen years ago that the railroads would ever be hustling to get themselves wholly under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission?

Corn planting was the latest this year than it has been since 1892. With the heaviest crop of alfalfa in years, and cut before corn planting is completed, we foresee busy times ahead for the farmers. Then the wheat harvest is coming on apace and probably one of the largest wheat crops ever grown in Cass county will be garnered.

Contributions for the Gettysburg soldiers are not coming in very swiftly, and it is hard to say whether there will be funds sufficient to convey the old vets to and from the celebration on the battlefield on the Fourth or not. The \$4,000 appropriated by the legislature don't seem to be more than half enough to pay the expense of the trip.

Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi has demanded prompter action of the president in appointing democrats to office. The demand has not been made of the president in person, however, the senator from Mississippi being too solicitous for the friends he wants to have appointed to endanger their chances by antagonizing a president who has been a schoolmaster long enough to know how to use the rod on boys who offend him. "Don't push, boys, don't push!" Someone might get hurt.

A town is no place to foster jealousies and nourish contentions. All should learn to know that whatever will conduce to the welfare of a town cannot injure her citizens. The disposition made manifest by her citizens point to her downfall or rise. The character of the people make the town, not her structures, towering houses, domes and monuments, and when people lose interest in the promotion of their town they need not hope to thrive. Harmony among the people of a community is indicative of its progress. Farmers cannot be at variance with one another, churches cannot, nor can any similar organization or community.

Billy Sunday bears about the same relation to theology that the bill poster does to a theater.

A Lincoln attorney wants Governor Morehead to call a special session of the legislature to impeach the railway commission for giving the 'phone company the right to raise rates, since they bought competing lines. He claims the company agreed to reduce the rates instead of an increase. And that is just the way the people understood it.

Occasionally you hear a protectionist abuse the democratic congress for placing a few articles on the free list. Evidently they don't know that today there are hundreds of articles on the free list placed there by a republican congress. Is it worse for a democratic congress to place a few articles on the free list than it was for a republican congress to place hundreds of articles on the free list? Well, I guess not!

Congressman Sloan was in Lincoln the other day, and declared, "President Wilson is a lobbyist." Sloan was simply "talking through his hat," as it were. They are not used to such a president as Woodrow Wilson in Washington, but he is giving the congressmen, senators and all others to understand that he is not only president in name, but president in the performance of his duties. And one of those duties is to clear the senate of the hiring lobbyists of the trusts—and he is succeeding admirably, too.

Japan's reply to the answer made by the United States to her protest against the alien land law of California, while courteous and not belligerent, practically demands the impossible. It raises the question of race distinction, which is something deeper than laws. Japan quite properly refuses to become a party to a suit at law in our courts to prevent what she considers a violation of the treaty. She looks to the government, the party with whom the treaty was made, for observance of its conditions. That attitude is correct, but the real question is whether the treaty is violated at all. The United States takes the ground that it is not, while the Japanese assert that it is in spirit, because race distinction creates an inequality as between the subjects of Japan and those of other countries in the United States, an inequality, however, which is racial and not national.

The flies are a little late coming, but you can have your swatter ready just the same.

A bumper wheat crop is the government forecast, and experts estimate the crop will be a record-breaker.

Saturday, June 14, is Flag day. Be sure and display "Old Glory" in accordance with the suggestion of Governor Morehead.

Don't hold post mortems over your misfortunes. There is an old saying that mills will never grind with the waters that have passed.

The English language is taught in the schools of Japan. Also all over the Philippines, thanks to Uncle Sam. It is the greatest gift in sight for the Orient.

Congress can't please all the people in dealing with the tariff, and there is no use trying, and the best way to do is pass the entire bill just as it is, and let them take what they like and lump what they don't want. That's the way.

If a child passing along the streets gets bit by a dog, that dog should be immediately killed by the chief of police, before someone else gets bit. We have too many useless dogs in this man's town, anyway.

The republicans who are now in office are, of course, in favor of civil service, because there is a chance for them to stay in under a democratic administration. It makes a heap of difference with them "whose ox gets gored" just now.

The panic starters might just as well lay down. The wrong man is at the head of this government for them to start anything funny. And then, again, the crop prospects in the west are too flattering for them to scare the western farmers.

It is the duty of the consumer when he receives state eggs from his grocer to report the same to the one from whom he buys them. And it is the duty of the merchant to keep tab on the farmer from whom he purchases such eggs and report the same to the food commissioner. And the food commissioner will attend to the rest.

Any man with good common sense should have known that the sum of \$4,000 would not have been enough to convey the old soldiers to Gettysburg. There should have been appropriated at least \$10,000. There are perhaps more soldiers who were in the battle of Gettysburg now residents of Nebraska than any other state west of the Mississippi, and \$4,000 is only "a drop in the bucket" towards paying their expenses to and from the battlefield on the Fourth of July. The way to be magnanimous is to be magnanimous.

Mr. Carnegie says the American banking system is the worst in the world, and yet it is identified with the period in which the United States became the wealthiest of nations.

The Iowa papers are insisting that the soft pedal ought to be put down on the weather. Every time a wind storm visits that state the papers dilate upon the damage. Every snow storm in winter is manufactured into a blizzard. The California papers pick up all these accounts and dwell on them, while they are very careful not to say anything about their own climatic troubles. A freeze that destroyed the orange crop is chronicled as only a slight frost, while a rain storm which produces a destructive torrent is treated editorially as a refreshing shower that insures a bountiful crop. There is much sense in this idea. The climate of the Mississippi valley always produces bountiful crops of all the cereals. A man can get rich quicker here than he can following any legitimate business in California. The great fortunes in California have been made in real estate out of the tenderfeet who buy small strips of land and enormous sections of sunshine.

RAILWAY COMMERCE.

By the United States supreme court's decision, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and the other states can regulate railroad commerce within their respective borders, subject to the rule that in each individual case the regulation must not be confiscatory.

By the statement of the court, however, this assertion of state's rights has an important string to it. The states can regulate, each on its own hook, until congress decides to assume the whole business of railroad rate regulation—both within each state and between the states.

This part of Justice Hughes' opinion was not a part of the immediate judgment. But it has all the effect of a definite judgment because it afforded the reasoning on which the judgment was founded and it showed how the court would rule if the specific case came before it. Congress had not exercised its right to regulation of commerce within the state, said the opinion, and therefore each state can act. The commission is necessarily implied, if it is not expressly stated, that when congress wishes to monopolize the field it may.

It thus seems that the several states are given every right and power to make good in rate regulation. Then if they fail, if confusion results and the people desire a completely national control of railroad business throughout the country, congress can take over the whole railroad rate business.

"State's rights with the new nationalism in the background" seems to epitomize the situation as outlined by a unanimous court.

Down in Texas they are fighting grasshoppers which are a good deal larger than chinch bugs and mostly appetite.

Stockmen deny the accuracy of the Department of Agriculture figures as to the decrease in the number of beef cattle in the United States the past five years, but they do not deny the fact of a large decrease, which is the vital thing. There are millions less cattle, and millions more mouths demanding meat. The combination is not one which promises much cheaper living very soon.

The council had a time in selecting a street commissioner Monday night, there being quite a number of applicants. The street commissioner is one who receives more kicks than any man in town and gets more cussing. When they get one who can please everybody we want to exhibit him as a great curiosity. One thing certain, he has too many bosses and its "be damned if you do and be damned if you don't" all around. A man in this position wants to do his duty the best he knows how, irrespective of the kickers. "What is everybody's business is nobody's business." Remember that.

The fact that the citizens of Lincoln are offering to reimburse the state to the extent, possibly of \$300,000, if the university remains right where it is, should not prejudice the people of Nebraska, even to the extent of one vote in favor of its removal. It is not in the least a selfish notion on the part of the people of Lincoln to have it remain where it is. But it does look like a very selfish interest on the part of a few land speculators to have it removed to a site in close proximity to where there is "big money in it" for these speculators, who have bought up all the available lots in anticipation of its removal. That is the situation in a nutshell.

When a newspaper of any pretension makes false statements in order to recall the \$20,000 appropriated for an armory at Nebraska City by the state legislature, it is certainly in very poor business. The proposition was pending several weeks before a vote was taken by the house and senate. It is most certainly an insult to members of the legislature to have the Columbus Telegram state "that it was accomplished under a cloak of mystery," and that "no member of the legislature seems to know just how it happened." Evidently, Edgar Howard has a very poor opinion of the last legislature. The armory bill came up in regular order and was voted on in open session, the same as other bills. Now, what's the use of kicking up a muss after the measure has passed and the money appropriated? The amount of \$20,000 is not going to hurt the state in the least; so let it go.

There will be no celebration in Plattsmouth on the Fourth of July, but we propose to have something that will prove more entertaining and last longer before fall weather comes on enough for frost. Mark that!

"THE PEOPLE'S LOBBYIST."

Concerning Senator Townsend's charge that President Wilson is himself the chief tariff lobbyist, with implication that he should be investigated and suppressed, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican newspaper, says:

"What President Wilson has done has been to remind democrats that it is their duty to vote to carry out the party platform pledges. He regards himself as the accredited representative of the voters who wanted certain things done. Complaint has been made that the 'people' have no representatives in the lobby that infests the national capital; that it is the 'interests' which selfishly are affected that maintain bureaus and such for the influencing of legislation. Perhaps President Wilson may regard himself as the 'people's lobbyist'—and when you come to think of it in the light suggested by the term last quoted, the people are not so all-fired badly off for a lobby agent after all.

"If the people, or a great part of the people, approve things the president is trying to accomplish, they ought to understand by the signs to date that they have a very effective worker. For the signs point to the accomplishment of the executive program as far as it has been outlined."

This hits off the situation admirably. If any farther light is required it has been furnished by President Wilson himself in his work on "Constitutional Government," published before he had entered political life. In the chapter on "The President" Prof. Wilson wrote:

"The president can dominate his party by being spokesman for the real sentiment and purpose of the country, by giving direction to opinion, by giving the country at once the information and the statements of policy which will enable it to form its judgments alike of parties and of men. His is the only national voice of affairs. He is the representative of no constituency, but of the whole people. When he speaks in his true character he speaks for no special interest. If he rightly interprets the national thought and boldly insist upon it, he is irresistible."

Under his own view the president is now the people's lobbyist. He "speaks for no special interest" but as the representative of the whole people. The lobbyist that is objectionable is the one who, speaking for a special interest, seeks to sway the people's representatives against their own judgment and against the people's will and welfare. Aside from those with a special interest under fire there is no one, we judge, who will object to the kind of "lobbying" that simply uses the power of publicity and of public opinion to hold the people's representatives true to the people's interests and to their own pledges and the pledges of their party.—World-Herald.

MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS

By Gross

