

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, Publisher

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Senator Hitchcock stood out for free sugar. Well, didn't he have a right to do so?

There seems to be a lack of suitable tenement houses. Every day there are callers at the Journal office for residences. But quite a few of them are refused on account of their condition. The owners of some of these properties could easily put them in shape for rental purposes. And if some of them belong to outside parties and they have agents here, let these agents write for permission to renovate them so that they will be habitable. That's the proper way to improve the town.

Doc Wiley, of the pure food forces, seems to have more time to view with alarm, since retiring from his long and faithful service with the government. His latest outburst is to the effect that "its high time American women were changing their lap dogs for babies, and venting the maternal instinct which prompts them to caress a fuzzy dog on the object that nature intended them to." It is natural, of course, for a real man to develop a deep, ingrained disgust when he sees a brainless woman fondling a fuzzy poodle dog.

The best day's work that Governor Major of Missouri ever did was the day he selected Hon. N. M. Pettigill of Memphis Mo., circuit judge of the district composed of Clark, Scotland and Knox counties. Being an old friend of both Governor Major and Judge Pettigill, we take great pleasure in extending congratulations to the governor upon his excellent selection, and to Judge Pettigill upon the honor so worthily bestowed. We have known Judge Pettigill for many years and have always looked upon him as one of the ablest lawyers in the state of Missouri. In politics he has always been self-sacrificing, at the same time no man deserved recognition at the hands of his party more than Judge Pettigill. He should have been on the supreme bench of his state years ago had he not possessed so much loyalty to friends. When he professed friendship, it was indeed a lasting friendship. He never possessed a grain of hypocrisy—that's the reason we always loved him—for his manhood. He is honest, conscientious, and, withal, a gentleman, and when we first learned of his appointment it made our very heart leap with joy. Again, accept our congratulations, Judge, and may you live long and prosper.

We pity the poor senators and congressmen who can't get home to enjoy the good fresh air here in the west. But such is fate with those who insist on serving the dear people at Washington, with the thermometer ranging around the 104 mark at the capital.

As a business center Plattsmouth is becoming one of the greatest of its dimensions. Not only does people living fifteen and twenty miles west and south find it profitable to come here and trade, but they have got in the habit of coming here in large numbers on Saturday from Mills and Fremont counties, Iowa, and from Sarpy county, across the Platte. This is done by our merchants offering the right kind of inducements for them to trade here.

Illinois has put the "rage" in suffrage. Governor Dunne has signed the bill extending the ballot to the women of that state, and for the moment, at least, women have the right to vote. Attorney General Lucey of Illinois, however, believes the bill is unconstitutional, and a majority of the lawyers of the state appear to accept his view of the case, and the question will no doubt be settled in the courts. The passage of the act constitutes one of the most remarkable episodes in the history of American politics. Commended by neither of the big parties, as evidenced by their platform; never discussed to any great extent; never an issue in a campaign in the state; demanded by no one but a small band of enthusiastic workers; never passed on by the voters, female suffrage went through both houses with comparative ease. And, frankly, it went through without regard to its merits. Some of the members voted for the bill to "get even" with interests which they suspected of having taken a hand in the defeat of the initiative and referendum. Others voted for the bill because they thought female suffrage would aid the "dry" movement. Others voted for it, on their own admission, because they were desirous of winning the approval of the women. Still others voted for it to "steal the thunder" of the progressive party. And, still others, sad to relate, voted for it because there was no evidence of any money in not voting for it. For the present, at least, the women of Illinois may vote—if they have a mind to. It will be interesting to observe how many of the gentler sex will care to avail themselves of their new-found right.

Scientists say there is a possibility that the potato crop may become extinct. That'll be tough on the Irish; but imagine what would happen to the Dutch if the cabbage crop should fail.

A man who has been in the grain business for many years told us Saturday that this is actually the greatest wheat crop ever produced in Cass county.

The question of readjustment of the rates of the Modern Woodmen of America is to be left to a referendum vote of the entire membership of the society. This, it is thought, will quiet the row now going on against an increase in the rates. All the votes must be in by August 1, 1913. The order is up against it. If they vote to increase the rates the list of new members will fall off. If they vote to keep the rates where they are they will go into bankruptcy. They are in the condition of the old darkey, who said: "Brethren, there are but two roads; the one leads to universal damnation and the other goes straight to hell."

Roosevelt announces that the progressives and republican parties will merge, provided the republicans join the progressives. Here is the way one leading republican puts it: "No one cares particularly now what Roosevelt thinks or wants. He is a mere figment, a fly on the wheel of events, a man who shot his bolt and will henceforth stand on the outside of the fence and growl at the processions that go along." Teddy is not sleeping his time away, don't forget that, and by the time the 1916 campaign opens properly the progressives will find out that he will have as much to say in the selection of a republican candidate for president as any other man—either progressive or bull mooser.

A Chicago clergyman says that a man cannot be religious on a dollar a day and he is not likely to be religious on \$1,000 a day. One born into wealth is born into conditions that bring temptation to indulgence, to treat others as his tools and inferiors, and as ministers of his own pleasure. The temptations among young men born into wealth to indulge in gambling, waste, fast women and wine are frightful. The poor man needs religion in order to maintain his manhood. The rich man needs it to avoid the dangers of not being a man at all. As a rule such men are not men of thought, and care nothing for science, art and truth for themselves. They are chiefly for the money. They do not attempt to reform society. They are afraid of progress, freedom and rule of the people. Whatever puts wealth into the hands of the few is wrong. The natural resources and the increase in lands through increase in population, belong to the people. No one knows what socialism is, but what we need is Christian brotherhood.

The matter of buying a home, if one would be absolutely safe, applies to insurance and investments almost as well as to more material goods. The case of the recent Lincoln man who took the word of a foreign building and loan association for it that if he paid \$6 per month for 12 months he could get a loan of \$1,000 for the building of a home, and that when he paid \$6 per month for 80 months the mortgage on the home was cancelled, is to the point. The man paid the \$72 and applied for the loan. But he was informed that he was only "eligible" for the loan when his turn—it proved to be a sort of tontine affair—came; and now the Lincoln man can neither hold on or let go very gracefully. The outside investment scheme always looks better and rarely is.

There are some democrats throughout the land who are disposed to prophesy that with the end of President Wilson's administration ends democratic rule. We cannot see any reason for such a prediction. The democrats have been in control of the affairs scarcely four months, and we cannot perceive one move on the part of the president that would even indicate such a calamity. There are, of course, a few disappointed office-seekers who feel a little sore in consequence of the disappointment, and there will probably be more as time goes on, but when those who have been away up in the counsels of their party arise to prophesy thus early in the administration all sorts of misfortunes for his party, he shows a weak spot in his upper story and demonstrates very poor democratic patriotism.

If all the wheat raised in Nebraska was one grain, the only place to plant it would be in Grand Canyon, Arizona, the only hole in the earth big enough to contain it. If all the corn raised in Nebraska was one ear, the only way to shell it would be by steam pump pullers extracting one grain at a time from the cob. If all the cattle in Nebraska were one cow, she could browse the tender herbage of the tropics, whisk off the north pole with her tail, and supply milk enough to fill a canal reaching from Kansas City to the Gulf, on which to ship the boatloads of her cheese and butter. If all the chickens in Nebraska were one rooster he could straddle the Rocky mountains like a great Colossus and crow until he shook the rings off the planet Saturn. If all the hogs raised in Nebraska were one hog, he could place his hind feet in the soil of Cuba, his fore feet in the Isthmus of Panama, and with one root of his huge snout dig a sea level canal from ocean to ocean. If all the mules raised in Nebraska were one mule, he could plant one fore foot in the soil of Texas, the other in the forests of Maine, and with his hind feet kick the whiskers off the face of the man in the moon.

A city paper a few days ago carried a big heading, "How Trusts Are Formed." What is needed is a recipe for unforming a few of them.

The government statisticians have figured out that the cost of living is higher now than at any time during the past thirty years. Don't we know that, without being told?

When a man spends the greater part of his time in "knocking" the town, the business men and every enterprise proposed, he should be invited to pitch his tent on the outside of the corporation limits, where he can do all his knocking to himself.

The attorney general of the United States announces that no prosecutions can be brought in federal courts under the Webb liquor law passed by congress. No penalties are attached. The law was designed to give to the states the right to prevent shipments of liquor for sale into dry territory.

Wheat, oats and grass harvest all in a lump, with corn plowing hatched on. How are our farmers to get through with it all with the scarcity of help? If some of our town loafers can be prevailed upon to go out and help save the crops they will perhaps have more to live on next winter. But will they do it?

It is probably of no use to warn parents against purchasing toy pistols on the Fourth. The Journal has done so in past years, but it seems to have done but little good. More boys have been hurt by the use of toy pistols on the Fourth of July than by all other explosives combined, according to government statistics. And we take this opportunity to warn parents once more to not permit their children to use them. It may save much grief by heeding the warning in time.

Speaking of the minimum wage question and the tendency among law-making bodies to legislate against low wages: Two citizens, occasional employers of ordinary labor, were heard to say that some laborers were being overpaid. Obviously reference was had to local conditions and to this particular class of work—in the farming line. It is, of course, a nation-wide question, for the reduction or elevation of wages in one state immediately affects another state. Moreover another way of putting it is that the cost of living in these days is not high enough—if the wage earners as a class are getting too much money. Can you believe it? Russia burned eighty girls a few weeks ago because they were to be employed too cheaply. But even Russia cannot adopt that method as a regular thing! Certainly a minimum wage scale is preferable even as an artificial plan of reform, and because artificial, not the most wholesome.

The postoffice department has sent out an order requesting that all patrons on rural routes paint their boxes white and place their names on the same in black letters about two inches high. This order has been issued to every postmaster where there is a rural route.

Very few government positions are coming westward. President Wilson seems to be making only such appointments as are necessary at the present time. Just wait till congress adjourns and the tariff and currency bills have been passed and Woodrow will then make the fur on some of the republican officials fly. They will be hunting new jobs then.

## THE MILLENIUM GUILD.

From Boston comes news of a new religion which is likely to gain followers among those whose favorite indoor amusement is chasing New Thoughts of one kind or another. This new sect which is neglecting its regular chores to play for the millennium, pledges its members not to wear or eat anything produced by death or torture. This places them on a vegetable diet and bars kid gloves and leather shoes from their wardrobes, and can't expect many recruits from the packing house district. It is also their object to spread the principle of universal love, and if they can avoid church quarrels some headway may be made in that direction. But for all the beautiful uplift thoughts advanced by these seekers for the light, there isn't a great deal in a name; in other words, the millennium will not be greatly hastened because Boston has a new religion, as Boston frequently has. Possibly it is true that all efforts to make the world better are commendable to a degree, inasmuch as even a good resolution does good as long as it lasts, but a fad doesn't usually last long enough to help much, even if it is the right sort, and the difficulties of working a pleasant dream over into reality are so great that they shouldn't be tackled lightly as they are.

No doubt the world is growing better, but without violating speed limits in that direction. And those who are chasing every fool fad are not the ones who are making it better. More people are learning that good behavior means a better time than can be had along the winding primrose path. More are learning that the good jobs are most likely to go to those who do their best, and keep themselves in condition to do their best. Wise teaching, of course, helps in that direction, but at the showdown it is really up to the individual. And if he makes himself better, in some measure he improves his associates and the world. On the other hand, the New Thought faddist is likely to run largely to beautiful words and tommyrot, while neglecting the tilling and toiling and other useful occupations which might help some in general results.

## MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS

By Gross



THIS GENTLE READER WAS THE REASON FOR OUR WINNING HERBON'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE FROM THE BENIGN TO THE CALMNEOUS, AND WE DON'T DOUBT BUT WHAT YOU'LL AGREE WITH US THAT IT WAS RATHER BAD FOR MR. PECK TO KEEP BOOKS FOR A FEWER GAMES ON THE BACK OF HIS WIFE'S LETTERS