

The Plattsmouth Journal

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OUR BOYS.

A commissioner having caught a lot of youthful thieves in a neighboring city said to a reporter: "The worst thing about the boys nowadays is that they don't want to work unless they get a man's wages. When they are put to work they are dissatisfied because they don't get more pay. Nowadays the first question a boy asks when he applies for a job is: 'How much pay do I get?' It used to be, 'Can I get work?' They are encouraged in this by their parents who are unwilling to see their children go to work unless they can get big wages from the start."

This is all well, but the greater evil comes from the fact that the boy of today is not allowed to learn a trade, and consequently he drifts about seeking odd jobs and naturally with him the question is, "How much can he get?" The age limit debars him from learning a trade at a time when his faculties are most susceptible and so he drifts into mature life only half educated. Here is the trouble with too much legislation. We have so protected the youth of the country by laws, that we are turning them out wholly incapable of making a living, and without the ability or capacity to master the details in any single calling. A boy can be a telegraph messenger or a district messenger, where he learns more villainy and rascality than in almost any other department of life, and then we expect him to grow up into sober and decent citizenship.

To us it looks as though the trade of the country is so scattered that the town which puts forth the most effort in that direction will eventually succeed in landing far more than her legitimate share of business. At present, while time hangs on the hands of the average man, he takes time to look around and then spends his money where it will go the farthest and to us it seems that the merchant who offers him good values for his money, will eventually reap golden rewards in the way of his future trade. This fact we would impress upon the minds of the people and we would also ask them to aid us in establishing the fact that in our town can be found as good bargains as in any other in this section.

Taft has joined the boomers of Elihu Root for the republican nomination for president in 1916. He compares Root with Alexander Hamilton. The ex-president is right in his comparison, both as to the man and the principles of government. Hamilton tried to inculcate in his time, the same as Root is endeavoring to do now. Alexander Hamilton was not a true American, and was a better friend to England than he ever was to the United States.

Plenty of sunshine, according to that philosopher and friend of the people, John D. Rockefeller, induces more people to attend church. True, perhaps, but John D. should learn that men are versatile, and that the weather is but one excuse among many; but one among many.

Unless you are striving each day to make your life better, and make your town more beautiful, you're not much of a citizen—just a common old stand-around. Such persons deserve to be roasted. Make the stand-arounds sit up and take notice.

Democratic economy experts plan to abolish free telegrams for congressmen and senators. Let this and many other privileges that are furnished these servants of the people be cut out. Soon they will want the people to pay their board.

How the English premier must envy the tact of President Wilson. He received a delegation of suffragettes, denied their petition, shook hands all around and sent them away satisfied. But maybe the difference is in our suffragettes. It is hard to beat an American woman by any test.

There should really be no unnecessary excitement on either side of the river over the finding of human skeletons in close proximity to the river, since the wholesale finding of human bones right in Plattsmouth. There are no doubt Indians buried all up and down the Missouri, and have lain there ever since the Indians were very numerous, and white men were almost as scarce as hen's teeth a hundred years ago.

As a nation, we cannot very well complain of hard times or the high cost of living. It is shown by the progress of the diamond industry that we imported \$57,000,000 in diamonds last year, as compared with \$14,000,000 in 1906, the former high record year, and Americans own over one-half of the diamonds in the world. Uncle Sam's seems to be stronger than any other country in the world for the sparkler.

The suffragettes in Washington quarreled among themselves. The Illinois delegation made an appointment with President Wilson to discuss the question of constitutional amendment with him granting women the right to vote. The national association wanted to confer with the president on the same subject, but Grace Wilbur Trout refused to give way and the result was that the president had a convenient cold and refused to see any of them.

One of the best things said at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor was the utterance of President Gompers when asked to endorse this organization: "I have heard enough about Industrial Workers of the World charging the American Federation of Labor with not doing its duty. It will be a sorry day for labor when we stoop to meet the frivolous, purposeless charges made by that sort of people. Every time they have made a row we have been called on to pay the fiddler and the piper. I don't think we should be disturbed by what they think of us."

"I do wish your parents would stop teaching you this Santa Claus foolishness," snarled a school teacher to her pupils a few days ago. She knows it is a myth, but whoever heard of a child being ruined by it. The Santa Claus is not the only myth grown folks discover as they grow older. The writer of this used to believe he could eat raw dog and get away with it, but that, also, has proved a myth. Men believe they can fool with booze without injury to themselves. Another myth. Children get a lot of innocent pleasure out of the Santa Claus idea and the school teacher who tries to upset them is just a little out of sympathy with children.

NOT BIGNESS, BUT BADNESS.

An authentic report from Washington represents that President Wilson is not opposed to big business because it is big, but at the same time he is unalterably opposed to monopoly and will not "mother" huge trusts. The report puts him in emphatic antagonism to the progressive proposal for a commission to license and regulate trusts, but says he will not object to the institution of a commission or agency charged with advising big corporations what they can and cannot do under the law. He favors strengthening, not weakening, the Sherman anti-trust act.

This report is significant for the reason that no press association would make it without authority. Therefore, it may be accepted as if the president had sent it out over his own signature.

The policy outlined is sound and wise; it is just what the sober thought of the nation demands. There is no objection to the bigness of a business; there is only the apprehension that by strength of its bigness it may become bad, and the apprehension is well grounded in the fact of experience that individuals or collections of individuals are prone to abuse power whether it be power in office or power in commerce. The reason for legal restraining, however, is not as to bigness, but as to badness.

There is no sound objection in ethics to a large corporation. There are circumstances under which mergers of firms or corporations are economic adjustments. There are circumstances under which competition becomes destructive and therefore injurious to the whole community, because there is no general good in waste or loss. Much more might be said to the same effect, but it all would be commonplace and more or less platitudinous.

These statements of primary economic fact, though, do not affect the larger and more important fact that in practice, under human greed, most mergers are effected for purposes of monopoly by restraint of trade and that when corporations or firms become large enough to exercise a dominant influence in a particular line of trade they use their power to destroy wholesome competition and to oppress their patrons.

Since the law cannot discover commercial motives, it must so define the operations of commercial enterprises as that their methods will reasonably imply their motives. The result may be to prevent some desirable combinations, but that is the necessary incidence of the universality of the law; it is the penalty which the righteous few must pay for the sins of the unrighteous many.

President Wilson's policy is a fair reflection of what we believe to be democratic sentiment, and we are glad to see him thus advise the country of his views. The publication will serve to quiet any fear of radical action upon his initiative and at the same time it will tend to discourage that seductive suggestion of the Rooseveltians for the government to license trusts and limit their profits, for that means ultimately for the government to fix the prices of all primary articles and the means of their production.

Omaha is about the only city that is getting along peacefully with its commission form of government. And the outside towns predicting all manner of trouble when it was adopted. Compare the moral, peaceful town of Lincoln with Omaha, will you? Ain't they having a jolly time up there?

The two soldiers' homes are in excellent shape, and since weeding out, the other institutions are also in fine shape, much to the credit of Governor Morehead.

The g. o. p. will make the campaign next fall on the issue of sound money.

A Chicago preacher says the American woman spends 90 per cent of her husband's earnings. This being the case, she at least has within 10 per cent by right.

Have you done your Red Cross shopping yet? A little good work of this kind may at least have the effect in the next world of causing them to let the gas burn low under your oven.

An Illinois judge holds that a husband who enlists in the regular army is not guilty of wife desertion. Nevertheless, an enlisted man cannot contribute very much to the support of a family.

There is not a dope fiend in the penitentiary now. Quite a different state of affairs since Warden Fenton took charge. Good warden is Tom Fenton, and the people of Nebraska praise him loudly.

The Recording Angel never makes a mistake. And you should not make the mistake of not remembering those whom you should remember, and especially those who are too poor to remember themselves on Christmas day.

Everybody who doesn't live in Brazil ought to be happy. Eggs are selling there for a dollar a dozen. They are high enough in this country. "Raise more hens!" will have to be added to the "Raise more hogs!" advice to the farmers.

Perhaps, after all, prison reform begins at the right end of a vexatious human up-lift problem. Failure to reform man by statutory laws and regulations, suggests making prisons so comfortable, quiet and monotonous that delinquent citizens will quit in self-defense.

Twelve thousand Chicago club women, it is reported, are boycotting eggs in an effort to reduce the prices. Twelve hundred thousand speckled hens are boycotting the nest, supremely indifferent to the boost in prices. The country never lacks for great outbursts of fuss and feathers.

The evacuation of Mexico by Huerta may be momentarily expected from now on. A tyrant cannot rule very long anywhere. His government has been on the decline for some time, and it is intimated that the first good chance the old cut-throat gets he will "fly the coop," and out of the country.

John D. Rockefeller has been indulging in praise of sunlight. If he secures control of this the time may come when a poor devil will have to drop a nickel in the slot to get enough sunbeams to find the way home in the daytime, and the city gardener will have to stand over his garden and coax the sprouts out of the ground by striking steel against flint.

Every loyal democrat is hopeful that the affairs of this government will be conducted with such wisdom that the opposition will not be able to present a formidable front in the next election, and there is no justice in one element of the party seeking to discredit another, and such a policy is not calculated to increase the democratic ranks. President Wilson is well versed in governmental affairs. In the theory of government he is perhaps more learned than any man who has accepted that station in years, and every man who is in a position to aid him in carrying out his policies should rally to his support. This paper has great faith in President Wilson, and believes he is nearer to the people than since the administrations of Washington and Jackson.

FRUITS OF SUFFRAGE.

Since woman suffrage has come to be an actual political issue, as undoubtedly it is in every meaning of the term, we submit that it should be discussed in the light of practical results as well as theoretical philosophy and abstract right.

This is one case in which principle is not the first consideration. We may grant that woman suffrage has a sound foundation in political philosophy; that is to say that there is no reason of sex why a woman should not vote and a man should vote, yet there may be other reasons why women should not vote. So we may say that there is no reason of sex why a woman should not practice law or do a banking business, while there is a reason of sex why she should not be a carpenter or a blacksmith, or a soldier. Yet it need not follow that woman should practice law or conduct banks. There are negative reasons and there are affirmative reasons touching the question of suffrage as it relates to political activity, and there are considerations in woman suffrage that relate to other affairs than political activity—domestic affairs especially.

But at this juncture the important point to be determined is the practical effect of suffrage in state affairs alone. If it can be demonstrated that woman suffrage will contribute to the efficiency and righteousness of civil government, then it will remain to be decided whether it will cost anything in the domestic and social welfare and if so whether the gain in one respect is greater or less than the loss in the other.

Woman suffrage has been in practice in one or two states for some forty years and in others for periods ranging from twenty-five to five years, not to mention those that have lately adopted it. Now in twenty-five or forty years woman suffrage ought to be able to show fruits of its civic value. What are the achievements of the equal suffrage states clearly attributable to the votes of women? In what respect do they excel the states of manhood suffrage?

We recall a series of articles published in a woman's magazine two or three years ago comparing certain laws and consequences in equal suffrage states. The laws compared related chiefly to the social welfare, to schools, health, woman's property rights, women's and children's labor, the social evil, etc.—in brief, those particular affairs of state which are presumed to concern women more than men, and as to which there are the largest promises of reform through the instrumentality of women's votes. The comparisons were rather unfavorable to the equal suffrage states; in no particular did they show more progressive laws or more satisfactory results, and in some particulars they showed less progressive laws and less satisfactory results.

We were much impressed by those articles and we have never seen evidence or even representation that they were incorrect or unfair. On the score of practical demonstration they made out a rather strong case against woman suffrage.

We agree that a philosophy is not to be discredited by one or a half dozen unsuccessful experiments, but surely in the face of unsuccessful experiments its advocates are called upon to await the outcome of other experiments before they should grow impatient with unbelievers.

And if men would consider practical results as well as abstractions of theory and emotions of gallantry they would more justify their own efficiency as sovereigns of the political commonwealth.

It is said that Americans spent more for automobiles last year than they did for household furniture, but when one has an automobile he doesn't need the furniture.

One of these mornings the people of the United States will awaken from their peaceful slumbers to find that Huerta has gone glimmering among things that were—presidents of Mexico.

Farmers are worrying about wheat. It is full of sap and a hard freeze would be disastrous. Reports from Texas are that farmers are mowing wheat to prevent its jointing; fields have been too soft for grazing. There are reports of wheat jointing in Missouri, not far south of Kansas City.

President Wilson is very long-headed, and as we have repeatedly asserted, we have great faith in him. If he has made any mistakes we have failed to realize just what they are. He has watched closely congress' action on the currency bill, and if it is finally passed as he would have it we believe it is right in every particular, as regards to the best interests of the country at large.

Henry Spencer has been sentenced to be hung next Friday for murdering Mrs. Allison Rexroad. The murder was unprovoked. The assassin is a degenerate and better off of the world than in it, but now comes Miss Belle Buzzell, a member of the Law and Order League, who is now attempting to secure a commutation of his sentence from death to imprisonment. If ever a man deserved death it is this infernal scoundrel, Spencer.

Every democrat and every republican has a right to his own opinion in regard to the currency bill, as well as other measures of public interest, and no one has any business in condemning that privilege. We believe Senator Hitchcock is honest in his views on the currency question, no matter how much we may differ with him thereto. There is too much of this questioning the right of democrats to differ with other members of the party on matters of public interest. It is the right that every American citizen possesses, and when this right is taken from him, this is no longer the land of the free.

The Papillion Times certainly gives Senator Norris a jolt in the following he justly deserves, and is the truth in every particular: "Senator Norris—now says that the organization of the bull moose party was a mistake. However, he did not make this statement while riding into the United States senate on the popularity of the bull moose party a year ago. He accepted the nomination of that party and advocated its doctrines and received the vote of its members without protest. But since he has landed in the senate he has seen a great light, has voted with the stand-pat republicans and against the progressive party principles, went to Massachusetts a few weeks ago and campaigned for the stand-pat republican nominee for governor. It is a shame that the people will have to wait five years before they have a chance to convince Senator Norris that they also have seen a great light and that they believe they made a mistake. When Norris does come up for re-election, should he have the temerity to do so, he will be convinced that his flip-flop tactics are not relished by the people of Nebraska."

You can now count the shopping days almost on one hand.

The report that American capitalists are loaning Huerta large sums of money has been greatly exaggerated. The average Yankee is too smart with his money for that.

A "beast" is the man who will go down town a few days before Christmas and buy himself a pair of house slippers, deliberately spoiling his wife's plans to surprise him. Don't be guilty, gentlemen.

Even the hens read the newspapers. Out in the west part of the state the women threatened to boycott the egg market until the prices came down. The matter was given wide publicity, the hens began to cackle and the egg market was soon relieved.

At a great expense this interesting publication has ascertained that the approximate weight of the world is 6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons. Although that is a large figure, we assure our readers that the coal man's scales were not used.

According to statistics, deposits in Nebraska banks are greater than they were a year ago, which shows the state in a prosperous condition, and should go far to shame some of the calamity howlers who stated that there would be a "panic" when the democrats got into power.

Occasionally we hear some people bewailing the present and wanting to go back to the "good old days" of long ago. The good old days had their advantages, of course, and they had their disadvantages, of which we hear little, but even living at present has much in store for the man or woman who wishes to get the maximum of happiness out of life.

The busiest people in the world about Christmas time are the couple with their first child. No matter if he isn't quite a year old, elaborate preparations must be made for Christmas, and, for ten days before the event both parents are carrying bundles home to make decorations and supplement whatever Santa Claus may bring. On Christmas eve the father has to make two or three trips to get some things that were overlooked, but finally, about midnight, everything is arranged, and they retire. When the morning arrives the young son and heir or daughter and heiress is carried to the room that has been visited by Santa, and the parents are breathless as the youngster is shown the wonders. He—or she, if he's a he—seems interested, and, when placed in the midst of the toys, selects an empty box that some of the things were packed in, or a rubber ball that has been about the place for six months, and shows every evidence of enjoyment until it feels it is about time to cry. With the second child the preparation is somewhat less elaborate; with the third, everything can be arranged in a week, and when the ninth or tenth arrives, the father gives the mother a half dollar at noon on Christmas eve and tells her to save all she can out of it. Most children make a great mistake by not being the first child. The parents think just as much of the last as they do of the first, but they have learned through experience to demand their own rights, and the child who delays his appearance until the last will find it more difficult to boss the household than the first one did. If a man's first child gets a black eye the father is ready to scold from the union. If the tenth comes in with one he will tell him to tie a piece of raw beefsteak over it, and go to studying his lessons with the one he has left.