

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Just to be good, to keep life pure from degrading elements, to make it constantly helpful in little ways to those who are touched by it, to keep one's spirit always sweet and avoid all manner of petty anger and irritability—that is an idea as noble as it is difficult.— Edward Howard Griggs.

It does seem hard for our good German neighbor to keep out of the Panama exposition.

The shortage of mistletoe, it is believed, is to be most deplored in Christmas decoration announcements.

The one who thinks that Governor Morehead will be a candidate for re-election has another guess coming.

One bottle of wine caused the death of a Denver man the other day. It fell from a window and struck him on the head.

Kansas democrats are getting in shape for the battle in that state next fall. And the republicans are lining up also.

The enactment of the currency bill is a great triumph for popular government, and signalizes a new era in our financial development.

We hope there will not be a kid in Plattsmouth wake up Christmas morning with an empty stocking. It would be a very sad Christmas greeting for those who do.

Why not agitate a chautauqua in Plattsmouth for next summer? The winter season is the proper time to do the work. Let the Commercial club get busy on the proposition the first meeting after the holidays.

Tom Pratt is determined to run for congress if the republicans will give him a chance. He has been a resident of Lincoln for many years and has held several very responsible and honorable positions, including a two-year term as mayor of that city.

The Journal takes pleasure in wishing every reader of this paper "A Very Merry and Happy Christmas," with the hope that they may live to enjoy many such remembrances of the happiest season of the year. And may the ever welcome "Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Man" reign supreme in every household in the land is the prayer of the Journal.

After January 1 the country housewife can call up her favorite grocer and order a sack of flour sent out by the rail carrier on her route, or the man of the house can order an article up to fifty pounds in weight and it will be delivered by the faithful carrier. After January 1 the weight limit for parcels in the first and second zone will be fifty pounds, and the postage rate in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth zones will be reduced quite materially. The changes in the regulations have been approved by the interstate commerce commission and will go into effect New Year's day.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox says "no earnest effort is ever lost." She ought to try to stretch our income over our expenses, and see for herself.

A Boston court holds that a man's home is where his wife is. A mean contemporary suggests that according to the ruling most men live in department stores and bridge whist clubs. Not most, but a few.

It was a master stroke of the democrats in the senate when they voted unanimously for the currency bill. That's the way to stand up with President Wilson in his efforts in behalf of the people.

It might be well for the cabinet member that carries the key to the powder house to stick around Washington—at least until Mexico becomes more quiet than it is at present, before undertaking any promiscuous junketing. We might need the key in a hurry.

One-cent letter postage is to be an extremely live issue in this session of congress. It is one of several big questions pertaining to the postoffice department which is to take much of the time of congress. Others include the taking over of the telephone and telegraph systems by the government, to which policy Postmaster General Burleson is understood to be committed; modification of the parcel post law, and changes in the existing laws and regulations regarding the weighing of mails.

In one sense Christmas is a sort of game which the grown-ups play with as much zest as the children. Santa Claus is not the only deception. Everybody pretends to enjoy buying presents and to be delighted with those received from others. Yet these little white lies are amiable and are forgiven, let us be sure, because of the spirit behind them. Besides, it is just such innocent pretending that makes social life possible and that keeps the heart young.

While we are for sanitation, ventilation, eugenics and all that, an old timer dies every few weeks who sets us to wondering if there isn't a lot of rot about these modern precautions. There are exceptions to all rules, but a lot of people live to be four-score years or more who went to old-fashioned schools, who wouldn't have known an individual drinking cup if they had met one in the road and who got along with a midwife, when their children were born. How do you explain it?

The egg boycott has produced its results. M. E. Pennington, a woman expert in the egg department of the national board of agriculture, declares that frozen and dried eggs will solve the question of the high price of this commodity. There is just as much nutrition in the frozen and dry products, she says, as in fresh eggs. Eggs that are kept in cold storage for more than ten months are not wholesome food. The Chinese discovered this important fact years ago. They bury their eggs, and they don't pretend to use an egg until it has been under ground three or four months. The older and blacker the egg, the better, and yet they manage to get nutrition out of them.

RIGHTS OF PEDESTRIANS.

The automobile has become a necessity. The number in use may be expected to increase and likewise the number of accidents will increase until the rights of automobilists and other users of highways are more closely defined than they are at present. Before the days of motor vehicles the law gave pedestrians right of way at street crossings. This law has not been changed, but conditions having changed the automobilist thinks, even if he does not dare say so, that the law should be changed and motor cars be given the right of way. He reasons that it is easier for the pedestrian to step back or hasten forward out of his way than it is for him to bring his heavy and rapidly moving car to a standstill whenever there is a pedestrian on the crossing. He reasons, also, that in approaching a crossing he cannot know if a pedestrian will step out in front of him too late for him to stop unless his car is traveling at what he regards as an aridulously low speed. Motor cars, he reasons, are used to save time, and if they are to stop at every crossing, they would cease to be time-savers. Thus reasoning, the average driver of a motor vehicle does not give pedestrians right of way, and feels that he is clearly within his rights when he travels at a pace which will give observant pedestrians a fair chance to get out of his way.

The pedestrian, on the other hand, slings to his right under the law and swells with indignation when regard for life and limb compels him to surrender both his right and his dignity by a leap for life. The automobilist takes the right of way because he can and because he thinks he should have it, and the pedestrian yields because he must.

If the pedestrian is to have precedence over motor vehicles, as he has heretofore had over horse-drawn vehicles, the law must come to his aid, for he cannot contend against a swiftly moving automobile. If changes in traffic brought about by the automobile justify a change of the law, if under modern conditions the motorist is entitled to right of way, then the law should be changed so as to confer that right under proper regulation. At present the motorist goes ahead expecting the pedestrian to get out of the way, and the pedestrian goes ahead expecting the motorist to stop. The result is an increasing number of accidents and a growing prejudice against automobilists.

Round out a Merry Christmas by joining the Good Fellow club.

A burglar broke into the home of a citizen of Omaha the other night, stole three eggs, boiled them on a gasoline stove and ate them. If caught he will no doubt be sent to the state prison for life.

When Governor Morehead steps down and out of the executive office he will do so feeling that he has been in truth governor of Nebraska. He has never been guilty of letting any ring or clique run him.

There are some people who are so radical on the temperance question that they would hang a saloon man if they had the power. Such people will never get the power—they are not human beings, much less Christians.

Let us try to imagine what a scene the world would present if all men the earth around could have and enjoy one perfect Christmas—one day in which the Christmas spirit should manifest itself in every human heart in all its happiest, truest, largest meaning. What a fore-taste of the millenium such a day would be.

The happiest man in the United States today is President Wilson.

While the Navajo Indians danced all night, the tango was barred.

Come with Christmas advertising and let the early shoppers know what you have.

Secretary Daniels defines a progressive as a man who has started and can't stop.

Saturday was a great day for the Christmas shopper, and our merchants all did well.

There are plenty of Christmas hints in today's Journal, and they are as good as they are strong.

At this season of the year a cruel man has difficulty convincing his wife that building fires is a household duty.

There are so many generals in Mexico that Huerta may not miss the seven that have quit and hiked to the border.

Argentine beef has begun to arrive in American markets, but some time will elapse before the retail butchers get the news.

People who feel that President Wilson is handling the Mexican situation admirably are those of us who want to stay out of the muck.

We see by the papers that "anonymous philanthropy is greatly increasing." Sure. Give it away early and avoid the income tax.

Shop every day from now on. If your money has given out take part of the things back and exchange them. Nothing pleases a dealer so much as doing this, especially during the busy season.

The mints of the country are working overtime coining money for Christmas, and it will be needed without a doubt. In most cases the old money is getting woefully short—with us.

According to Secretary of Agriculture Houston, less than 40 per cent of the farm land of the United States is under cultivation. He also declares that less than 42 per cent of it is properly worked. Apparently, the field for agricultural development is practically unlimited. Two things are required to bring about this development—money and competent men. A little more liberality in the extension of farm credits and additional facilities for securing capital to work the idle land, will solve the money question. The human factor offers a more serious problem. Congress is preparing a scheme by which it is going to be made easier for the farmer to get money with which to conduct his business and improve his plant. In the meantime, the educational forces will do well to get busy with the allied subject of farm labor. They have been backward in this respect and, in consequence, the scales of human activity are poorly balanced. There is an overplus of first-class talent in the professions—too many lawyers and doctors and the like. Husbandry needs that talent, and its demand for high-grade ability is going to grow with the increased investments in farming.

Money in the east seems to be plentiful. Eastern capitalists want to loan money on real estate in Nebraska. We know plenty of farmers in Cass county who do not need any eastern money. There was a time when they jumped at a chance to secure a loan on their farms—but not any more, thank you!

WALL STREET'S CALAMITY.

Champ Clark, speaker of the house of representatives, left his desk the other day and took the floor of the house long enough to rebuke the republicans who seem desperately bent on creating a business depression in this country by decrying and misrepresenting existing conditions. This he did, as he usually does such service to his country, in a most signal and striking manner, says the Lincoln Star.

Speaker Clark's rebuke may not deter Mr. Mann, the republican leader, and his associates in the calamity choir, from preaching their assertions that the country is going to the dogs, but his utterances will challenge the attention of the country to what they are doing and why they are doing it. He disclosed that if it were within the power of these prophets of evil to create a depression, they would not hesitate to do it for purely partisan reasons.

This is the season of the year when there is always some casual industrial depression, and in many over-wrought localities there is a scarcity of work. But the only existing real and unusual depression is in the immediate vicinity of Wall street. The stock exchanges have been hit hard. Gambling in stocks has been robbed of its charm and the brokers are having a hard time of it to keep their heads above water.

The brokers are bearing all the burdens of the depression in Wall street. It has been computed that Santa Claus will distribute in that street and thereabouts just after the arrival of the New Year earned interest and dividends in financial, industrial and other enterprises, including the railroads, \$248,025,434. This will exceed the similar distribution of last January by something less than \$5,000,000.

The vexing thing for the calamity howlers is the fact that the distribution the coming year will exceed that of the current year. The fact does not forecast a calamity period in any way. On the contrary it is perversely indicative of reasonable progress and prosperity, and must prove a stumbling block in the way of those who will seek to attribute the temporary ills of commerce and industry to the lower custom house taxation so repugnant to the standpat element.

It is conceded that business is wretchedly discouraging in brokers' offices where gambling in farm crop prospects and securities of the big corporations has been so feverishly carried on for generations, but the figures disclose that legitimate enterprises have perversely continued to show increased profits.

The recent death of Phoebe Couzins recalls an incident in her career here in Nebraska twenty-five or thirty years ago, when she was an ardent women's suffragist. We refer to a joint debate between herself and Gilbert M. Hitchcock, now United States senator, who had but recently returned from college and set up in Omaha for the practice of law. The debate occurred at Blair, Neb. Miss Couzins was quite an orator, and it is related that young Hitchcock held her level in the discussion in that early date of her career.

Only eight more days till we write 1914, and swear off at the same time.

So many fires have been started by candles on Christmas trees that in many states laws have been passed against this form of illumination. In those states where the practice still prevails a hose or buckets of water should be kept handy to put out any blaze that may start.

The house stands pat on any changes in the currency bill.

No one need go back to the farm in order to worry about the weather.

Bank-made panics are now a thing of the past, since the passage of the currency bill.

New York national banks have decided to accept the currency bill with good grace. They are wise in their conclusions to be graceful.

Villa, the rebel general, shoots his soldiers who try their hand at looting rich Mexicans. That's one way of preventing disorder and looting.

The bureau of agriculture at Washington has sent out a warning against the consumption of raw or uncooked pork products, which is said to cause trichinosis.

Evidently Nebraska contributes her share toward the expense of maintaining the general government. Ross Hammond, internal revenue collector for this district, collected the sum of \$2,697,049.76. Some money!

We do hope the passage of the currency bill will stop some of the calamity howlers. It will probably shut up some of them, but there are some who are always with us, no matters how prosperous the country.

Warden Fenton's administration is a great credit to the people of Nebraska, and demonstrates to a dead moral certainty that Governor Morehead made no mistake in his appointment. Visitors who have gone to the penitentiary on numerous occasions say that institution was never in as fine shape as it is at the present time.

More trouble. Women of history are not given fair play, in fact virtually are ignored in the histories used in schools today. The college of women's equal suffrage hath said it. And they are right about it. This country of ours has been so busy regulating human nature that careless, indifferent, unpatriotic folks have been permitted to edit the histories as a sort of side line. But a nice new law will fix all that. Pass the petition for signatures.

The Christian Science Monitor tells us that down in Missouri there is a complaint in journalistic circles because the editor nowadays is forgotten in the distribution of wedding cake. It was better in "those days." All the editor had to do was to sit up all night, selecting quotations of poetry, and writing a column article congratulating the groom on winning "one of the country's fairest flowers," and the bride on her selection of a "prominent citizen and worthy partner to accompany her through life's eventful journey." And then he gave a list of the presents: "Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hen, sterling silver pin tray; Miss Liza Hardzig, imported tooth brush; Pearson Smudge, hand-carved rolling pin, etc." And then the editor spent half a day getting the wedding bells article in type, for all of which he received a slice of the wedding cake, brought to him by the bride's little brother, who often ate all the "whitening" off before he found the printing office. But then those were happy days, when we got more wood on subscriptions than we knew what to do with, and no one ever thought of killing a hog without bringing the editor a lot of backbones and spareribs, enough to last for several days. They may not have had so much ready money in those days, but the "high cost of living" was not thought of then, and the editor's family always had plenty to eat, that was one thing certain.

GREAT AMERICAN HEN.

The great American hen has always been a great bird. Nevertheless she is growing fast. Twenty years ago she required assistance from the hens of the world to meet the American demand for her products. Today she not only supplies almost the entire American market, but is a big factor in supplying the world. Big dealers and storage men who are denouncing the boycott on eggs and explain the high prices of eggs say the American hen has gone out of business to a large extent. While there may be a temporary slump in production, which is more than offset by the eggs in cold storage bought when the hens were busiest, the facts do not justify the exorbitant prices demanded on this account. Figures just published by the department of commerce show that during the fiscal year 1913 the United States exported over 21,000,000 dozen eggs, against 1,500,000 dozen ten years ago and 153,000 dozen twenty years ago. The 1913 exports included 20,409,390 dozen of whole eggs, valued at \$4,391,653, and of \$67,854 worth of yolks and canned eggs, making a total of a billion eggs exported during the year. The great American hen still receives a little assistance from the outside, but comparatively little. We imported during the fiscal year 1913, whole eggs, 1,271,765 dozen; yolks, 227,457 pounds, and dried eggs, 20,281 pounds. The imports of 1892 were 4,000,000 dozen eggs.

The great majority of the people are just as happy as President Wilson over the passage of the currency bill.

A New Yorker who had quarreled with his wife agreed to let her take all the household goods except his mother-in-law's picture. Now, what do you think of that?

Christmas not being more than ten rods off, and rapidly coming in this direction, it is incumbent on everybody to get a hustle on and attend to his holiday shopping without further delay.

As we grow older, let us be more thankful that the circle of our Christmas associations and of the lessons that they bring expands! Let us welcome every one then and summon them to take their places by the Christmas hearth.

A mild note of regret has been sounded by the Lincoln bankers because the bank guarantee feature was cut out of the currency bill. We believe if such a feature was good in state law, it would also result in good in a national law.

Senator Hitchcock voted for the currency bill. This paper has been satisfied all along that he would when it came to a show-down. Senator Hitchcock is one of the ablest men in the upper house and no one man has more friends in the state.

Senator Root declines positively a nomination for the presidency, and declares that he would not accept it if elected on account of his age. Elisha, if the facts were known, feels that he could not be elected if nominated, and don't propose to take any chances.

The fellows who talk so much about the prosperity of the country being at a low ebb are the ones who cause so much unbusiness among the people. If such blow-hards would go along, attend to their own business and let others do the same there would be no discontent. Half the trouble in the country is always brought about by those "who blow—to make their neighbors happy."