The Plattsmouth Journal

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USE THE UNIVERSITY MEN.

While advocates of the abolishment of useless state boards and commissions have been gaining ground materially in the past sixty days, the surface has only been scratched. Now that the evil has been pointed out, there remains the obvious duty of evolving some workable scheme whereby the efficiency policy can truly be instilled in governmental operations. How can duties of various boards be best combined so that the greatest amount of work, and the best, can be obtained at the last cost? What peculiar combinations can best be made to achieve great returns to the taxpayers on modest expenditures of state money? Manifestly the questions are not easy ones, but if attention is concentrated on the matter it is probable that a number of satisfactory methods can be figured out for making numerous changes.

One suggestion might be made for further discussion—that work of many of the technical divisions of the state government might be arranged in such a way that experts of the university teaching corps could be utilized in the state departments. For instance, instead of employing a state engineer on full time why not give a portion of the technical duties of that office to the head of the engineering college to work out? Why not let the mechanical and civil and electrical engineering instructors assist the state railway commission in the valuation of telephone properties and the railroads? Why not allow the heads of the department of economics to assist the secretary of state in some duties? Why not have members of the teaching of the university college of medicine serve as secretaries of the state board of health, and why not allow the state chemist to be one of the faculty members of the university? Any number of suggestions may be made along this line, all of which appear to impress the average citizen more favorably as he takes into consideration the fact that the university men can become doubly valuable top raetical life through adoption of this scheme.

It is not likely that the plan could be worked out extensively at the outset, but is apparent that headway could be made. A slight reduction in the present force would save thousands of dollars a year. The suggested change would be a virtual intensive employment of state subordinate officials and would bring about a condition that the people have long been seeking but which they never could get because of the continual creation of new bodies by the lawmakers.—World-Herald.

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In conversation with a gentleman who is well up in the political affairs of Nebraska, the other day, he argued that Governor Morehead should be prevailed upon to make the race for reelection; and also said he believed that he could easily be reelected. Governor Morehead has made himself very popular in the western part of the state, and we fail to see wherein he has lost any of his popularity in the eastern section. But the general impression seems to be that our most able and competent governor has his eye on something else. The fact is, Governor Morehead is competent to fill any position in the gift of the voters of Nebraska.

Huerta evidently is on his last pegs, and is now suing for a peace that will let him escape without punishment. Oh, you Old Butcher!

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The currency bill appears in full in this issue of the Journal. It is now the law of the land, and should be read by everyone interested in the finances of the country. Many bankers who opposed its passage are falling into line every day and striving with all their might to make the law as effective as possible. Many of the ablest financiers in the United States commend the measure as one that will be a great thing for the whole country.

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Henry W. Yates, president of the Nebraska National bank of Omaha, will probably be a member of the newly authorized federal reserve board, which is about to be appointed by President Wilson. Mr. Yates is highly endorsed by all the big business firms in Omaha, and will also receive the endorsement of Senator Hitchcock, and the democratic members of congress from Nebraska. He is a most excellent man for this important position and we trust he will be successful in securing the honor.

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New Year's is a grand, an inspiring occasion, for it is always saturated with hope. We are wont to scoff at and deride it as a day when men make good resolutions, only to break them; they merely turn them back again. They want, they hope to be better, and but few of them are so. They determine to advance, and if they do advance they slip back. Their failures are many, are continuous, and often excite laughter. But it is worthier to determine and decline, to hope and to be disappointed, than not to determine or hope at all.

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As the new year is here now, the Journal would like to impress upon the business men of Plattsmouth the necessity of united action in all matters of importance to the city. If someone starts an enterprise, and it is worthy, give it your moral support, and if need be a little financial backing. The outlook for 1914 looks all right, and with the right application of our energies it can be made just as prosperous as the year through which we have just passed. The Journal is with the people in every effort for the betterment of Plattsmouth, and let us all resolve to do our duty in this respect, and do it.

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The following from the Nebraska City News speaks our sentiments precisely, and we cannot see why there should be any hesitancy in inviting Mr. Ross Hammond to politely step down and out right away quick: "There is a spirit of unrest among the democratic editors of the state because the government has not shaken the patronage tree at Washington and permitted a few plums to fall in this vicinity. For many months Ross Hammond has been drawing the salary as collector of internal revenue for Nebraska that rightfully belongs to some worthy democrat. There are several who would be willing to accept the office, but the powers at Washington seem to be unable to agree upon the proper person. It would not take us very long to settle the question, and the 'sting of ingratitude' would cut but little figure."

THE CURRENCY BILL.

The Chicago Tribune of December 31st contains a very lengthy review of the currency law, from the pen of that very able financial writer, Eugene Hecter. He claims the new money law opens the avenue to a general business revival, provided elastic credit and elastic currency, long needs of the country, and uproots cause of panic. We herewith print several paragraphs from the review, which we believe will be fully comprehended by the Journal readers:

Enactment of the new currency law has prepared the way for revival in general business. It provides two things the business and banking interests of the country have long been asking for, that is, elastic credit and elastic currency. The lack of these elements in our banking and currency system has been regarded as the primary cause of panics, such as those of 1907 and 1893.

The new law renders available all the resources properly available of the national banks and such state banks as may enter the system for the extension of credit and increase in the circulating medium. If these two factors in banking and business life are adequate to prevent a recurrence of financial stringencies then there should be no further occasion for them unless they be associated with wider causes of disturbance.

A conservative estimate of what the national banks of the country alone may do in the way of increased credits upon acceptance of the terms of the currency bill is found in the estimate that there will be liberated under the terms of the bill at least $238,500,000 of cash now held as reserves, which becomes available for an extra volume of loans.

By liberation of cash is meant that the reserve requirements of the banks in the reserve and central reserve cities are so lowered as to require this amount less of lawful money to be held in vaults than under the old law, under which the banks are still operating. Without other considerations, which, however, must be taken into account, this reduction would mean an increase in bankable funds or expansion in credit of approximately $1,200,000,000.

But this does not mean there will be any contraction in cash or loan by the country banks. They will merely draw down their cash balances with the reserve and central reserve city banks with which the country banks as a whole have a total credit of about $500,000,000. Their withdrawal of cash to meet both reserve requirements and subscriptions to the federal reserve bank will be from their reserve and central reserve city correspondents. The reserve city banks will through release of reserves and their cash deposits with central reserve city banks be enabled to meet their cash requirements.

There were added among other provisions the following:

1. That the reserve to be held by federal reserve banks against federal reserve notes should be 40 per cent instead of 35 per cent and should be in gold.

2. That the reserve against deposits held by the federal bank should be 35 per cent instead of 33½ per cent, in gold or lawful money.

3. That a decrease in the 40 per cent reserve of the federal banks between 40 per cent and 32½ per cent should be taxed not more than 1 per cent, and that for every 2½ per cent additional in deficiency there should be a tax of not less than 1½ per cent, and in all cases the tax should be paid by the federal reserve bank and added to the loaning rates to borrowers.

There can be no doubt of the efficacy of this last provision in restraining an expansion in notes and bringing back to normal the reserves of the federal banks.

It should appear to any observer that the basis of prosperity so far as a currency system can afford such is now in the hands of the banking interests of the country. It remains with the good sense of the American banker to utilize properly these new privileges of elastic credit and currency.

The currency bill in its entirety appears in this issue of the Journal.

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The man under arrest at Tacoma on a charge of having twenty living soulmates might while away his hours in prison by writing a book on the secret of courtship.

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There are a lot of fellows who think they know more about politics than anbody else, who can't recite the first paragraph in the Declaration of Independence. But as party bosses they would like to be proficient, but lack a good deal of being perfect. They always wait for the big boss higher up to crack his whip, and then watch them hustle. Are such pretended politicians serfs, or what are they? We pause for a reply.

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Do right and do it right, and don't care a snap what others will say or do. Of course, the man who honestly seeks to do right will displease and even offend some, but who are they? A good man, an honest man and a man who has common sense will not be offended at right; or if he is, will soon apologize for his hasty temper. Fraud and hypocrisy may gain a point, but can never hope to enjoy lasting success. What the world needs is men who do right for the sake of right.

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A great deal of flapdoodle is printed from time to time about the made haste of Americans, particularly those who live and have their being and such like in the great cities. The idea that city people are in such a great hurry, and work so much harder than those of other lands or regions should be told to the marines, if it call for further repetition. As a matter of plain cold fact, much of the hurrying in cities is done to keep from being stepped on, and there is no place where a crowd of loafers will gather so readily and with so little cause. We also edge toward treason to the extent of doubting that Americans work harder than people of other countries. Americans make more noise about it.

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A Missouri editor has this sensible advice: "When a man playfully points a gun at you, knock him down. Don't stop to inquire whether the gun is loaded; knock him down. Don't be particular what you knock him down with; only see that he is thoroughly down. If a coroner's inquest must be held, let it be on the fellow with the gun." This extract ought to be pasted in the hat of every owner of a gun or revolver in the country. The man who points such a weapon at another in sport is a fool and deserves to be dealth with in the drastic manner proposed by the Missouri editor. The plan of killing people playfully with "didn't know it was loaded" weapons and weeping over it afterward has gone far enough. It were far better to turn the tables and proceed promptly against the pokers with fist or club and spare the graver casulty. Such treatment is just the thing for adults while children guilty of the same offense ought to be subjected to severe chastisement. The fool with his gun is a menace to life and should be dealt with as such.

A PURE HEART IS A PURE FOUNTAIN

We Are Learning Power of the Will, Says Pastor Russell.

STARTING NEW YEAR RIGHT.

Pure Thoughts—Two Ways of Fighting Vice, Sin—We Must Copy God's Methods—Impurity Is Devouring Our Race—Its Ramifications—In Business, In Religion, In Society, In Politics, In the Home, Everywhere—The Fight Against Impurity—Its Progress—Its Soldiers—Its Efforts and Results, Present and Future.

PASTOR RUSSELL

New York, January 4.—Pastor Russell, of the City Temple Congregation, took for his text today St. Paul's words: "Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8.) He said:

More and more we are learning the power of the will. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." The heart represents the real man, whom we are not always able to properly recognize, weigh and value. God looks upon the heart, and each man should carefully scrutinize his own heart—especially all who desire to be pleasing in God's sight. But the Apostle uses the word think as representing another process of the mind, the will. We must do some thinking in order to will properly, wisely. As a man thinketh, he will gradually come to do, because the mind, the thoughts, give us our ideals for the activities of life, just as the architect's drawings give ideals in respect to the construction of a house.

The man who does no thinking has not properly begun to live. The man who thinks upon wrong things, who has set before his mind wrong ideals, is worse off than the man who has no ideals. We must admit the truth of the Apostle's proposition that we should think upon the good, the honorable, the just, the pure, the true, the loving things, if we would have our lives just, loving, true, noble, pure, lovely and lovable.

I have chosen this subject, not because I believe that this congregation is devoid of good ideals, but because we are apt to let slip some of those noble ideals which we set before our minds and which God has set before us through the words of Jesus and the Apostles and others of His servants. We need to set our affections on that which is just, noble, true and good—the Heavenly things of Divine approval; and as they slip away to earthly ideals, we are to set them afresh. The opening of a new year is a time especially favorable for resetting our heart affections upon things that are just, noble, pure, lovely, the time for calling to our aid all the will power and resolutions which we can command. Thus we make character.

Moreover, we are all preaching, by our words in public and in private, and by our actions. Our neighbors and our friends are influenced more by our actions than by our words if the two are in conflict. As God's people we are all to be ministers of the Truth, ambassadors for God, to show forth His praises as we have opportunity. Our ordination, our authorization, is of God through the Holy Spirit. Whoever has received that has a Divine authority to preach, which is the highest, the only authority.

The World's Purity Congress.

In November last I received appointment as a delegate to the World's Purity Congress, which met in Minneapolis, November 7th to 12th. Although I hesitated because of pressure upon my time, I was afterward glad of the experiences gained. There I made the acquaintance of some noble men and women who, so far as I could judge, are laying down their lives in fighting against sin, impurity, wrong, and to uplift humanity. Nearly all seemed to be having a considerable fight against the powers of darkness in their various fields of activity; and all seemed earnest, zealous, courageous and hopeful. Some labored as followers of Christ; others labored apparently merely from a humanitarian standpoint. But, I reflected, the Lord declared that there are but two masters; so I said to myself, As between God and mammon, these dear people seem to be seeking to serve God and to fight against mammon, against sin, against vice. They are on the Lord's side, whether they realize it or not.

You will be interested respecting the scope of that Congress, and the various fields of activity of the workers. The Congress did not discuss evils merely, but rather the good, and what must be accomplished in order to have the good prevail. I was pleased to notice that even when they discussed the immoral characters whose work they seek to overthrow, there was a proper spirit of moderation and an appreciation of what I have for years been trying to emphasize, namely, that apparently more of the sin and vice in the world results from ignorance and superstition, and should not be discredited wholly to deliberate perversity of intention. Nevertheless, we must all agree that whatever the motives, there are people whose vicious conduct can scarcely be characterized as other than wicked, scandalous, foolish; and the Apostle Jude is our authority for using these terms.

The welfare of children was carefully discussed. It was demonstrated that in the families of the very poor, ideals of chastity are unknown. These children possess knowledge of sex matters beyond their years; and, mingling with others in the public schools, like an infectious plague they poison the moral atmosphere of the entire school, suggesting immoral practises to those whose parents have sought carefully to maintain their purity.

The parental duty of giving children proper conceptions of the sanctity of their bodies was set forth. The child needs, not large instruction, but simply confidence in the parent, and the information that its body is sacred, pure, holy, and belongs to God, and that whoever violates its sanctity sins against God. This much information should be given to the child before it enters the public school. Indeed, first lessons in vice are sometimes given in the kindergarten, notwithstanding the teacher's watchful eye. The child should have the assurance that the parent will give further instructions later on; and should have such confidence in the parent that it would be content to wait for the further information which every child's mind seeks regarding itself and its origin.

It was pointed out, however, that comparatively few parents know how to broach this subject in a profitable manner. Alas, what have our schools and churches done, or not done, for these fathers and mothers? If they had received useful information helpful to their lives, no doubt church attendance would be much larger than it is today. Are we to see young boys start in bad habits that will injure their health and that of their posterity? The answer is, No! Yet great care should be exercised that thorough sex instruction be not given too early, lest the very evil be encouraged which it was sought to guard against.

The age of thirteen to fifteen, according to the child's intelligence, seems to be the critical age when clear knowledge is quite necessary to save the child from the evil which has already overtaken so many. Statistics indicate that boys and girls are especially subject to temptation through ignorance between the years of thirteen and eighteen, when the forces of nature are breaking forth, just as trees bud in springtime. The parent who rules his child with loving intelligence rather than brute force should have the child's confidence at this age. The parents are the God-given instructors and protectors of their families. Nothing can excuse them from this, either church work or slum work, or even Bible study.

The Minimum of Wages.

It was brought out that five of our great states have already legislated on the subject of the minimum wage for female employees and of the hours during which they may be legally employed. Amongst these the three highest in appreciation seem to be Oregon, Iowa, and Minnesota, with evidences that the laws of the last named state represent the best features of all previous legislation on the subject.

The story of the battle to secure better regulations of vice and better hours and wages for female laborers was told in detail. In various ways the opponents of righteousness sought to circumvent the legislation so imperatively needed by the people whom they represented. And so far as we could learn, female suffrage and the active and intelligent labors of self-sacrificing women have been largely influential in effecting the rectification of the laws. We surely did rejoice in this. If the giving of the franchise to women shall mean better laws, more righteousness and purity in our nation, we surely all would agree that female suffrage could not come too soon.

Our thought heretofore has been that in God's order the family is a unit, of which the husband is the head; and that the votes of these heads should properly protect every family interest. There is another side to the question, however, well worthy of consideration; namely, the fact that sin has disordered all the affairs and interests of life. It may be that under the stress of present conditions no wiser thing could be done than to give the ballot to women. The most powerful argument to the contrary is the conduct of some extreme suffragettes who wait neither for God, order and time, nor for the ripening of human thought on the subject, but seem utterly reckless as respects life, property and principles of righteousness.

The White Slave Traffic.

Perhaps many of us have considered the expression "white slave traffic" a fiction of some over-zealous reformer; but not so. On the very best authority we learn that this immoral traffic has its agents and operatives in all parts of the civilized world. These operators control as a money making arrangement approximately 60,000 women, reaping from their immoral traffic about $135,000,000 per year. These large profits enable them to exercise great influence at the polls and in the lower courts.

Although not a corporation, they cooperate with each other in all parts of Christendom. They are constantly on the lookout for recruits, as they are continually being sent through death, disease and the ravages of age, to be as soon as these white slaves cease to be profitable to their owners they are dropped, and become the victims of the law. They are generally contented slaves, faithful to their masters, even to the extent of transfer from one to another. Many of them undoubtedly would die of despair or by suicide, were it not for the hope continually held out by their masters that soon still and money will be earned to justify them in settling down in a respectable little business.

The white slaves constitute only about one-half of the immoral women of this land who support themselves solely by immorality.

The great center of traffic appears to be each in Germany and Austria. From there white slaves are shipped with considerable regularity in all directions—to South Africa, South America, and latterly to China. Goodly numbers are coming to the United States, but finding it difficult to escape the government inspection, they are mostly brought in by way of Canada. The audacity of these immoral traders is illustrated by the fact that one of their agents recently was found on a committee organized for the destruction of the vice. This gain enthusiastically offered $250 for the conviction of white slavers. He was wealthy, had a son at college and a daughter completing her education in Europe.

Recent developments have shown that some high schools are deeply infected with vice, and every young woman, especially if attractive in appearance, is beset with dangerous pitfalls. The ignorance of the innocent respecting these things contributes to the success of the enemy. The unpreparedness of parents to do their duty seems to leave no alternative to the suggestion that sex hygiene must be taught in all grades of the high school and in the upper grades of the grammar school.

One of the most mortifying thoughts in connection with the entire matter is that there are men and women willing to sell themselves to such a vile business—to trade in the morals of the young. The matter has gone so far that not merely on account of dangers from consumptives, but also from those who have venereal diseases, drinking cups for general use are no longer permitted at public fountains. Indeed, authorities charged with responsibility for such matters are at their wits' end to know how to overtake the spread of venereal diseases and those which outcrop from them to the third and fourth generation.

Crusade In Every Heart and Home.

Surely it is time that white slavery and every form of immoral traffic shall be rooted out. To these calls from the Purity Congress people who love righteousness and hate iniquity and love their fellow men should acquiesce; and many should join the crusaders against vice in its many forms.

I speak today from a personal standpoint, and call for a crusade in your own heart, and in your own home, if you are parents. Do not allow false delicacy or the fear of being considered a prude to hinder you from doing your duty—from opposing everything in sympathy with vice. At the Congress it was clearly demonstrated that one of the serious tendencies of our time is what is termed "spooning."

Every Christian desiring the Lord's approval, and hoping eventually to hear His "Well done," should determine today that he will take a more active part in opposing vice, especially within his own home, and particularly in his own mind. God wants resolute Christians—overcomers. Our minds must be loyal to the Lord, to Truth and to Purity, and our bodies must be brought in as close harmony with these renewed minds as possible.

I am not urging you to give all your time toward moral reforms, nor so intending to do myself. According to our view, there is a still greater work than that of moral reform, good though that work be. The greater work is the one in which you and I are engaged, by the grace of God. We are preaching the Gospel, for the purpose of gathering out the Bride class, in order that, the Church being completed, the glorious Millennial Reign of Jesus and His Church may begin. In that glorified spiritual Kingdom of God we see the only hope of effectually, thoroughly, stamping out the social evil and every other evil, born of selfishness and sin, and associated with the present reign of Sin and Death.

We do not believe that present institutions will be able to accomplish the laudable desires for which we praise them. They will, we trust, however, be able to accomplish further good; and we take pleasure in bidding them Godspeed. The speaker would certainly be with them, heart and hand, in the battle against vice and for civic and moral uplift, purity, care is not that we have the still higher consideration of finding the members of the Bride class and helping to prepare them for the Kingdom. This we are working for the effectual suppression of vice and the establishment of the Reign of Righteousness, even though from outward appearance not all may be able to perceive our relationship toward these noble co-laborers who are seeking their reward now.

Let us all, dear brethren, put on the whole armor of God, and be first pure, fighting against sin of every kind, as we have opportunity, but especially serving the household of faith, as directed in the Lord's Word. Let us not give the impression to others that we are careless of their work and of the interests of the present time. Let us have a word of encouragement for them, and a hearty grasp of the hand, and if time permit let us be ready to do their part, in whatever way will necessarily with our higher opportunities of doing good to the Household of Faith. "We are come great by our divine call." (The best but through our calling to witness unworthy may obtain favor for an opportunity of righteousness, truth, purity, peace, joy in God and all the interests of His cause, great and small.