

The Plattsmouth Journal

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NAUSEATING EUGENICS.

The eugenic idea never received a more staggering blow than is dealt by the Philadelphia Bulletin thus: It is about time to put a handkerchief to the nose, if not to cover the blush of the cheek, when scientific eugenicists go as far in their lamentations of the fate of the human breed as did Dr. Kellogg at the Race Betterment conference at Battle Creek, who is quoted as saying: "We have registered for horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and even cats and dogs. If a lady wishes to establish the standard of her pet poodle she can do so by appealing to an official record and the puny canine may lift its head above its fellows as a born aristocrat, but nowhere on earth, as far as I know, is there to be found a registry for human thoroughbreds."

The doctor thinks the time has come when a eugenics registry office should be established in which may be recorded the names of infants born under eugenic conditions and perhaps also pedigree measures up to eugenic standards. Why stop there? If the propagation of the human race is comparable to that of the lower animal kingdom why not go the limit and borrow the whole system of scientific breeding by which the regal strain not only way be protected from contamination, but also properly disseminated for the general betterment of the race. In other words, is the next step to be the establishment of a system of department of human stock-farms?

One of the finest pieces of irony we have read in many a day was from the pen of William Allen White, editor of the Emporia (Kansas) Gazette. A convention of progressives passed a resolution endorsing William Allen for governor of Kansas. In reference to himself here is what William Allen says of himself: "Without desiring to speak disrespectfully of this man, we know that he's not the man either to run for governor, or, if such a grotesque thing could be imagined, to serve as governor. He can't make a speech. He has a lot of radical convictions which he sometimes comes into the Gazette office and exploits, which are dangerous. He has been jawing politicians for twenty years until he is a common scold, and he has set up his so-called ideals so high that Angel Gabriel himself could not give the performance that this man White would have to advertise on the bills. So, in the words of the poet, nix on William Allen."

If St. Louis gets one of the regional banks, why should Kansas City get one? The two would be entirely too close, and both serve about the same territory. Missouri shouldn't have but one.

This paper never supported George W. Berge when we didn't take great pleasure in so doing. There are no cleaner, better or more brilliant men in the state. Then why wouldn't he make a good governor?

Why Tom Allen and Charley Bryan should oppose George W. Berge for governor we are unable to perceive. Mr. Berge is a good, clean man, able and conscientious, and has always proven his fidelity to W. J. Bryan. This must be a rumor in which there is no truth.

Three terms is sufficient for any ordinary man to serve in congress. No man has ever yet had the gall to ask for more, and we have had some very able men to represent the district.

Kansas City Star: Wall street apparently has decided to acquiesce in President Wilson's anti-trust reforms. If he were a mere president it might oppose him, but the street does not care to tackle a president who is backed by almost unanimous public sentiment.

A Chicago man has solved the problem of the high cost of living by eloping with \$5,000 belonging to his bride-to-be and leaving the lady behind. A man guilty of such a dirty trick should be shot on sight.

With all of his reported faults, Judge McPherson has held the Blue Sky law of Iowa to be constitutional and it is further reported that the fellows who desire to continue the mauling of Iowa people in rotten schemes will appeal the case to the supreme court of the United States.

There must be a suffragist conspiracy back of the plan of the style-makers to force men to wear overcoats with kimono sleeves. And they are not going to stop at that. Just wait till the husbands have to wear the dresses and wash the dishes, then the poor fellows will know more about the suffragette movement.

Clyde Barnard is a candidate for the republican nomination for secretary of state. Clyde is altogether a different kind of a man to that man Addison Wait, who has already served two terms as secretary, and the Lord only knows how long as assistant, and still wants to stay longer. He has had enough, and should step aside and give Clyde a chance. But we opine that the next secretary of state will be a democrat.

Some of the republican papers are lamenting over what they fear will come to pass, when corn, wheat, cattle and beef are shipped into this country free of tariff. There is no need of alarm on this score. The common people can stand at the least a half reduction on such necessities of life, and will rejoice in doing so, our alarmed brothers with the rest of the human family.

Many cities are taking up the new fad of the election of a town manager. Others are going back to a reliable and time-tested and approved standard system—the town meetings. The beauty about the latter is that if it is large enough, and fairly conducted, it furnishes the residents power for any system of government. But as the commission form of government is proving a great failure, we guess we had better not make any changes at present.

Many of our neighboring cities and towns are agitating the paving question, and why wouldn't it be a good idea for Plattsmouth to get in the swim, also. Let the city council and Commercial club think of this and get a move on them in favor of paving Washington avenue and also Chicago avenue this summer. Don't let us step behind our neighbors. Some taxpayers may kick, but a man who will kick on durable public improvements should move out and make room for citizens who are public-spirited.

TRADE SITUATION IMPROVES.

The business situation this week shows marked improvement both in sentiment and demand, according to reports of correspondents of the New York Commercial. Chief among the factors is the ease in money rates by banks, which is making it possible for merchants and manufacturers to provide for their needs both present and future. Another indication of the better trend of business is found in the improvement in iron and steel, many mills having resumed operations and buying having expanded. Mills in other industries are starting up again after their annual tuning up and complaints of idle labor are less in evidence. Retail trade has had a fairly satisfactory week, while wholesalers and jobbers are active filling orders for immediate delivery. Interest in future commitments is keener and hesitancy in placing forward contracts is rapidly disappearing. Cottons, woolen goods and raw wool are in demand. In the raw wool market the large sales of recent weeks are making inroads into stocks and prices are tending higher. Crop conditions are excellent for winter wheat, while preparations are being made in the south to put a larger acreage into cotton.

The dry goods markets are more active. Retailers are taking spring goods ordered for early delivery and cancellations are less than normal. Steady purchases are being made of cloths for printing and converting purposes, and prices have recovered somewhat from the recent low point. A broadening of the export demand for cotton goods is noted. The price reductions on men's wear have been drastic, and have been attended by improvement in demand.

Slight advances were recorded in the grain markets during the week, especially noticeable in wheat. There was nothing of particular importance in the news to influence active operations on either side and the upturn was looked upon as due mainly to technical conditions. Wheat gained 1 to 1½c, corn ½ to ¾c. Oats are ¼c lower to ½c higher. The speculative coffee market was active and prices gained 11 to 35 points. Sales for the week were 402,250 bags. The better tone to the east and freight markets, higher European cables and the belief that the Brazilian movement will soon decrease, together with rather prominent bull support, were the principal factors for the upturn.

Ray sugar showed a firmer tendency during the week just passed and advanced to 3.30 cents, which is a net gain of 7 cents per 100 pounds. Porto Rican sugars are also much stronger and are now held fully up to a parity with the supplies from Cuba. The refined market was steady on an unchanged basis all week and at the close a better demand was noted from the west and south.

Business in grocery lines was on a good scale. There was a fair demand for all kinds of dried fruits and with spot stocks light, prices ruled firm. Trading in canned goods was moderate, but inquiry showed steady improvement. Dealers are generally optimistic as regards the outlook for spring business. There is more activity in the tea market, and prices are steady. Demand for spices has been moderate. Some improvement was noted in the rice market.

Dunn's says: "Changes in business conditions have been mainly in the direction of improvement and confidence is further strengthened."

Bradstreet's says: "Improvement is the keynote of this week's dispatches. Much of the betterment is sentimental in character, but at the same time considerable of it is actual and substantial."—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

Our friend of the Nebraska City Press needn't worry about Governor Morehead being a candidate for congress. If he concludes to run there will be a lot of fellows disappointed, because he is a race horse of great magnitude, and never lets grass grow under his feet when he gets started.

As between Lincoln and Omaha in locating one of the regional banks, everyone knows that the metropolis of Nebraska is the largest, more than twice over, and if Lincoln gets it will demonstrate to a dead moral certainty that it will be political influence that does the work, and it will never be disputed.

Lyford is the name of a Falls City man who has announced himself as a progressive republican candidate for congress in the First district. Mr. Lyford is a regent of the state university, a merchant at Falls City, and a fine citizen. Wouldn't it be funny if the democratic and republican candidates both come from Falls City—Morehead and Lyford?

Lieutenant Governor McKelvie, who wants to run for governor, will soon know his fate. The matter is in the court and will soon be decided as to whether a man already serving in one office can be a candidate for another during his term of office. We hope the court will hold that the principle laid down will be a good one for we believe that it is. It provides a break in office tenure and where a fellow has a big job on that he wants to pull off by a continuation in office, it permits a break in his plans and we hope that the court will so hold.

Republicans are not very slow in announcing themselves for state offices. It would seem that they have more courage than the democrats who want the positions bad enough, but are slow in saying so. Well, in looking over the situation at this distant date, the chances for party success are about equal. The republicans are split in two, and the democrats are not as harmonious as they might be. With a united effort on the part of the democrats victory is more probable than possible. But will someone kindly tell us how this harmonizing is going to be brought about? It is time to view this matter seriously. And when any democrat tells you that the party needs none of this sort of work, tell him to just watch coming events, and any man with common-sense judgment can easily forecast the result.

Reports from Mexico indicate that Huerta will leave the comforts and luxuries of the national capital, desert the realms of diplomacy in which he has been a distinct failure, and take his place at the head of his army. Huerta is a fighting man and as such properly belongs where the bullets are flying. While his action on his part would perhaps delay the ultimate obliteration of the Huerta regime, yet it is barely possible that a strong hand at the head of the army, and a central authority strong enough to combine the opposing ambitions of the hundred and one generals who are at present essaying to lead, would be able to reorganize the federal forces and make headway against the brigands who are leading the rebels. Such action on his part would at least gain for him the admiration a victorious leader in the field would elicit. His past and present acts have so far brought to him only the contempt the world feels for the skulker. Death at the head of his men would be a more fitting finale to a reign of bloodshed and rapine than would be a cowardly retreat, with the loot of the treasury, by way of Vera Cruz.

BOYS WILL BE MEN.

We need a Boys' club in Plattsmouth—such a club as they have in the town of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where the men of tomorrow are massed into an active organization and every day repeat the American oath, as follows: "We will never bring disgrace to this our city by any act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks. We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many. We will revere and obey the city's laws and do our best to incite a like respect and reverence in those about us who are prone to annul or set them at naught. We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public sense of civic duty, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us." These boys at Winston-Salem will be voting men soon. They are being trained today for the duties of citizenship tomorrow. Such training will not go far wrong in bringing into being a stronger, more patriotic and better citizenship, a force for good and for progress and prosperity. When this Boys' club marched down Pennsylvania avenue at the inauguration of President Wilson last March they won more attention and more comment than the armed troops, the blaring bands or the carriages of dignitaries, and their fame continues to grow. They represented them and represent now a brand new idea in citizenship training and in civic building for the future. Theirs is no false foundation. Winston-Salem's Boys' club is not as other boys' clubs. It is neither for amusement nor military mimicry. It is a club of civic ideal worthy of being copied by every other American community. They are learning democracy, instilling into their own minds the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. They are developing the idea of better things in the public life and fitting themselves for self-government, whether it be as the governed or the governing. They are the protege of the city's board of trade, with whom they are co-operating and doing work, studying their city and collecting statistics. The Boys' club deserves a place here.

The campaign in Nebraska next fall will prove one of the warmest ever pulled off. This is not only the case so far as state candidates are concerned, but means candidates for county offices also. And it also means that if the democrats expect success the must put forth men who can be elected, and not stumbling-blocks who think that a nomination is all that is necessary. Let democrats throughout the county think about the candidate proposition while they have the opportunity, and maybe they can find a neighbor in their own vicinity who will make a good candidate for for some county office. There is nothing like taking this matter up in time and thinking it over.

The estimates for running the federal government the ensuing fiscal year are \$1,107,000,000. It is also true that about 70 per cent of this is for past wars and preparations for wars.

After all the moderate weather, the winter doesn't seem to make much difference with the coal bills. The ash pile already begins to look like Mount Pelee, lifting its snow-capped summit in striking grandeur.

A provision permitting the proposed Interstate Trade Commission to exempt corporations from specific requirements of law might at some future time raise the question as to the administrative tests of good and bad trusts.

There are many things that should come to Plattsmouth next summer and a good live president and secretary of the Commercial club can secure most of them.

Kansas City wants to adopt the commission form of government. After they try it for a year they will find more trouble in their municipal affairs than ever experienced before.

In the country at large the three great questions to be solved are, the tariff, currency and trusts. In the rural districts the big three are good roads, cheaper fuel and more eggs.

If President Wilson's administration continues as successful to the end as it has from the start the democrats will arise in one solid mass and demand that he accept the nomination for a second term. It would be suicidal to attempt to frustrate the voice of the people in such a demand.

Eggs is eggs. James E. Wetzel, the Chicago egg king, has been in the habit of buying eggs in the spring and selling them in the winter. He has now amassed a fortune of \$500,000, and he announces that he is going to spend his entire time with his family and his books, and in traveling about. He retires from the egg market.

The Missouri senators are much perturbed over the United States marshalship. Isn't it just too wearing for any use to be a statesman and have to decide such great public questions?—Kansas City Star. That's just the situation in Nebraska. The appointee, whoever he may be in Nebraska, should be inducted into the office right now. But who will it be?

A former citizen of Cass county, who was here visiting last week, remarked that anyone who had been away from Plattsmouth for any great length of time could see at a glance that the old town had made great strides for the better in the past three or four years. And that also we are going right onward with the good work as soon as the building season is open.

There should have been no hesitancy on the part of the city council in accepting the proposition advanced by the light company to replace the gas lights with electric lights at the same terms. The gas lights are very bum at times, and with right kind of electric lights it would prove a great improvement on the light question, and we know the citizens in general will be better pleased.

Omaha's chances for a regional bank are increasing materially, according to financiers who have been in close touch with developments. Competition lies among Omaha, Denver and Kansas City. The latter's chances are weakened by the fact that it is pretty well established that St. Louis will get one of the big banks. Business men do not believe that Missouri will be able to land two banks, so gloom is prevailing among the Kansas City bankers. In fact, they have been trying to make combinations with both Omaha and Denver. Omaha has asked that Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, the southern half of Montana, the southern part of South Dakota, the western part of Iowa and the northern part of Kansas be included in its district. The combined capital and surplus of the national banks in this region totals \$78,000,000, considerably more than is required under the currency bill. Omaha is the logical point to serve these various states from. Its railroad facilities, with 171 trains, make it an ideal location.

THE ORIGINAL RED MEN.

Former expositions have shown wild men and women from the Antipodes, but it has remained for the San Diego exposition to find a whole nation of wild men within the borders of the United States, a whole vast area where nothing has progressed since the invasion of Mexico by Cortez in 1517. This area is in northeastern Arizona, and the Santa Fe railway will cover ten acres of ground at the exposition with as close a copy of this country as is possible to produce. This locality is known as the Painted Desert. It is a land where no white man has dared attempt agriculture or mining, where there is nothing but the Indian, his ancient civilization unaltered, living in six-story houses of 100 rooms without an outside door, doing the same thing in the same way his forefathers did for centuries before white men came to America. Comparatively few white men have penetrated this district. None have remained there. At long intervals a scientist has penetrated the fastness of the red and yellow hills. Indians emerge from it occasionally, but they invariably return. Their homes are the identical buildings erected many centuries ago. Their pottery is the same, used for the same purpose and in the same rude manner. Their customs and tribal laws remain unchanged since when no man knows to the contrary. They irrigate small patches of grain just as did their forefathers. The country repels even the hardy prospector. Trees, except those petrified into stone, are not seen. No two hills are of the same color. The very rocks are variegated in hue. The pitiless sun scorches all vegetation encouraged by the winter and spring rains. Members of the Santa Fe exploring party declare the Painted Desert rivals the wonderful Grand Canyon of Colorado in grandeur and beauty of scenery. A second party has been sent into it to gather material for the great exhibit the railway will install at the San Diego exposition, to contain everything possible to bring from that region, a territory that seems to have been forgotten by Nature herself.

It would be interesting to know whether the Italian duke who married an American woman thirty years his senior, inherited more or less money on account of the disparity of ages.

Secretaries McAdve and Houston seem to be enjoying their visit in the west. They are finding out also that there are numerous great cities and plenty of "regions."

Steamship owners should not become too discouraged over Mr. Wright's prediction that the Atlantic will be crossed with an aeroplane in twenty-four hours. Wait till Senator La Follette writes a bill regulating airships, will you?

Charley Bryan for governor! Well, what do you think of that? The man who has engendered more strife and discord in the democratic party than any man in the state. The democrats must nominate a man who will stand some show of being elected.

Some of Mr. Metcalfe's intimate friends seem to be somewhat worried over the condition of affairs in Panama. Met is about to be removed to make room for Col. George W. Goethal, the man who done so much toward the building of the canal. The colonel is said to be an able man, and knows more about the country down there than any American living. But don't worry, gentlemen, Met will find a soft place to light, even if it is in the Commoner office at Lincoln.