

The Plattsmouth Journal

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A patriot lately rose to remark that the crying need of the nation is more holidays. Those who came late, remain seated, and we will amplify in measured accents, as follows and also to-wit: This nation needs more holidays to keep it going good, so let them in several ways, as this man says they should. A day in honor of John Brown, whose soul goes marching on, and one for Grant of great renown, who is also past and gone; another for our Pilgrim dads, who crossed the raging main, and one for him who gathered seeds from oil wells' gushing gain. In honor of the woman's vote, take one or three or four, and for T. R., a man of note, add to the list one more. One may not seem enough for him, but let it go at that, and if this list seems rather slim, let others come to bat. 'Tis easy to select a man and add another date, which patriot and base ball fan will gladly celebrate. Thus postal clerks and banker men may go a joyous way, while others toil for scanty 'yen.— (*Jap talk for meagre pay.)

A teacher gets a five-day week, short hours and a long vacation, and yet one who knows children may marvel occasionally that so few teachers perish of nervous prostration. It seems to this outsider that the vacation should be on full pay, that the teacher might not have to wait to gather the reward due in heaven. And, despite modern methods and improved buildings and better pay, in some ways the teacher's lot is worse than it used to be in the days when our young ideas were taught how to shoot. The rod as a righteous weapon of discipline has been largely eliminated, and teachers are imposed on by pupils more than they used to be. Parents also are different, and the o. f. parents who administered further chastisement at home, after punishment administered at school, is a grandparent now, or gone on to his or her honorable ancestors. The modern parent instead finds fault with the administration of discipline, if any, and the teacher's lot is as happy as a hare. We object to a grouch taking it out on the children, but it might, as some one—the name doesn't matter—suggests, be better for the children if there were a little more discipline in this home of the free.

There is no solid foundation for the claim that Nebraska is certain to vote in favor of woman suffrage next fall. There has been no poll of the voters, and all claims must be purely speculative. The Telegram does not claim to know what the result will be. We do know that if the advocates of suffrage are expecting to get the votes of all men who have signed their petitions, then they will certainly be fooled. It is difficult to understand why any man opposed to woman suffrage should sign a petition to submit the question to a vote at the state election, but the fact is that many men have done that very thing.—Columbus Telegram.

Some United States senators are calling attention to the fact that unless the postmaster general is checked "bales of hay and bushels of potatoes" soon will be going through the mails. It does seem that there should be a let-up some time on this parcel post business.

Gus H. Hyers has announced for another term in the sheriff's office of Lancaster county. Gus has made one of the best sheriffs in the state of Nebraska, and should be re-elected as a fitting tribute to his close attention to the duties of the office and his sterling qualities as a gentleman and scholar. Here is another former Cass county boy, whose father, Rube Hyers, was one of the most daring officials that ever trod over Cass county soil.

"Billy" Thompson, chairman of the democratic state committee, has been in Washington this week, ostensibly on other business, but principally to bring the appointive powers to some understanding as to the giving out of the patronage that should have been dished out to Nebraska democrats long ago. The longer this matter is delayed the worse it will be for the party in this state.

The republicans of Cass county will meet in convention at Weeping Water on Wednesday, March 11, for the purpose of selecting a county central committee, a chairman and secretary thereof, and transact other important business. Delegates to said convention will be selected by the various wards and precincts on Saturday, March 7.

Former President Taft, in an article written for the Saturday Evening Post, says if the republican party expects to live, the progressives must be administered a crushing defeat. Mr. Taft can tell from bitter experience what has been done in the past. But is he not looking through a dense mist when he even suggests life in future for the republican party?

Governor Morehead has hosts of friends in Nebraska who are still urging him to become a candidate for re-election. Don't do it, governor. The democratic voters and many republican voters, also, are insisting that he come out boldly for congress, knowing full well that he is the proper man for the place.

The cruelest blow has been struck, the bitterest and most crushing adjective has been said. A London paper characterizes President Wilson's Mexican policy as "shilly shally." President Wilson simply treats such references with silent contempt, and goes right on with his work.

Uncle Sam will go from the Panama canal to the Alaskan fields, there to build a railroad for the development of the territory and the good of all mankind and to the injury only of Mr. Guggenheim and a few others. Let the good work proceed.

Los Angeles is certainly having a time with the water. The total damage so far amounts to about \$4,500,000. Every section gets it in the neck one time or another, and balm California is no exception to the rule.

And Ross Hammond still holds the fort as collector of internal revenue, and continues to draw the big salary attached to the office, which should be going into the pockets of Chris Grunther or some other good democrat.

A congressional pork barrel is the surest way to put the cause of good roads on the hog.

SOW TESTED SEED.

Whether we sow grass or plant corn or any other seed, common sense should teach us the importance of knowing whether it will grow or not. If it won't grow, why sow or plant it? Why sow or plant it without knowing whether it will grow or not? If you plant or sow anything, you don't want to plant with it anything that will hinder its development. For example, if you sow clover, you don't want any noxious weeds, such as plantain, or Canada thistle, mixed with it. You are aiming to grow grass, not weeds. You don't want to increase the amount of common weeds that you already have. You have plenty of them as it is. Why pay out good money in increasing the number?

We speak of this because every year farmers sow hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of grass seed that has no growth in it, and because they do themselves a vast amount of damage by sowing seeds that grow with the crop and pollute the land for years, temporarily depreciating the value of the land itself.

Wallace's Farmer says all this can be avoided if they will only test the seeds both for viability or germinating power and for purity. Every year farmers plant corn that does not grow and cannot; plant corn that is not adapted to the locality; plant corn that will not produce an ear at all. Of course, this cannot be determined by testing, and the variety is not a matter subject to test; but they can test for ability to grow and for uniformity. Corn costs so little for seed per acre that no man ought to commit the seed to the ground without knowing that it is the kind he wants, a variety adapted to his locality, and knowing certainly that it will grow, so that if he plants a hundred grains at least ninety of them will grow vigorously, so as to be proof against even adverse circumstances and conditions.

Some of our readers have their own grass seed. They ought not to sow it unless they know that it is pure. They ought not to sow weed seeds while sowing grass. They ought not to sow it unless they know it will grow. We need not tell farmers how to test grass seed. They know all about it, and it is easily done.

Corn planting is a good way off; but a little time spent now in giving seed corn a preliminary testing would be well spent. If it is properly cared for, there is but little doubt about its growing next May; but the time taken for the second test is time well spent. If the farmer does not know what kind of corn he is going to plant, he had better find out pretty soon. It is a great mistake to put off buying seed corn until April in the central part of the corn belt, or until the last of March in the southern part of it. Get it now; and be sure you get the kind you want, a kind that is adapted to your climate.

Many of our readers do not have their own grass seed. We hope the seeding will cover a much larger acreage this year than last; for we must get ready to grow more stock; but first we must get the grass to keep it. That is a matter of a year or so; but before we get it, we must sow it; and before we sow it, we must buy it, if we don't already have it.

The safe way is to buy your seed now, either test it yourself, or have your state dairy department test it, or have your county adviser test it, or send it to your state agricultural college and have it tested there. Don't take the risk of sowing seed that you are not sure will grow. We would not buy any grass seed without knowing it will stand the test. We would buy it subject to that condition. You will have to pay more for it, of course—but the man who buys seed because

it is cheap is the man who is likely to buy land in some out-of-the-way country that he knows nothing about, and without seeing it. In either case, the idea is to get something for nothing, or a great deal for very little; and the long experience of mankind has shown that this cannot be done successfully. Don't buy seed because it is cheap; for cheap seed bought from a dealer is always dear seed. We would not take any dealer's word for it, though there is less danger in buying high-priced seed than the cheap seeds. Dealers always have on hand seed which they know is inferior, and of course they want to sell it. To do so, they put the price low enough to enable them to get rid of it.

Grass seeding will soon be here. It begins in February in the southern part of our territory, in March in the central part, and in the early part of April in the northern. Therefore, there is no time to be lost in definitely making up your mind how much land you are going to seed down, what grass seed is necessary to give a good stand. See that you sow plenty of it; but first have your seed tested and thus insure a good stand, so far as this matter is concerned. Then be sure that you give it a chance to grow—for much seed is wasted through not providing conditions that will favor germination and growth.

From the way they are starting out the Lincoln voters may expect a warm battle of the ballot in that city at the spring election. It is warming up to a considerable extent already.

How's this: "She could swing a 6-pound dumbbell, she could fence and she could box; she could row upon the river; she could clamber over rocks; she could golf from morn till evening and play tennis all day long, but she couldn't help her mother, 'cause she wasn't very strong!"

It is said that the health item department of one of our favorite magazines is edited by a consumptive, and that the pages devoted to religious news are in charge of an escaped convict. What do you think of that? Then, again, there are democrats editing republican papers and republicans editing democratic papers. But right here is where we draw the line.

If President Wilson does not demonstrate to the people of these United States that he is the greatest chief executive the country has been favored with in the past forty years, we miss our guess. Every move he makes meets with the general approval of two-thirds of the people, and by the time his term expires, if this pace is kept up, nothing on earth can prevent the people from renominating him, and the man does not wear pants that can beat him. Mark that, will you?

The Modern Woodmen of three of much discord on account of the increased rates, there being many camps in Cass county that are opposed to the increase. Of course, not being a member of the order, we do not profess to know whether or not there is any justice in the de-American are just now in the mand, but it seems that the order needs an advance in the rates to make it a more solid institution, and those camps that have not taken any action in the matter should at least study the question before acting for or against.

If the insurgents are victorious, it looks to us as though the order would be wonderfully crippled. There is no doubt in our mind that the head officers have declared for this increase because something of this kind must be done that in the future will result in good for every member of the M. W. A.

FARMS FOR RURAL TEACHERS.

P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, has shattered the theory that his initials were borrowed from music by appearing before the New York State Association of District Superintendents and proclaiming the necessity for every rural school teacher having a farm of twenty or thirty acres on which he should live and which would be the agricultural and social center of the community. He compared such arrangement with the clergyman's parsonage and suggested that it might be called a "teacherage." But if his idea should be generally followed, no such simple name would be used. It is not the custom of the country. Even the teacher is called professor. Some fancy name would have to be given a place of so much local consequence.

Mr. Claxton's argument is that this would make the teacher's position permanent and respectable. In proof that it is necessary to make the teacher's place permanent, Mr. Claxton clinches the argument by simply stating the fact that it is so in Switzerland. Switzerland furnishes us fashions in government and education, even as Paris devises styles of personal adornment. One other argument is added: The teacher to be effective must familiarize himself with the hereditary influences in the lives of the children whom he teaches. Mr. Claxton overestimates the time necessary to acquire such information in a small community. Salient features should be learned within a month, by combining what the folks say about themselves with what the neighbors say about them. The teacher's place, under the scheme, is to become a model farmer. This implies that the teacher must not only be skilled in pedagogy, employing even the information gleaned in researches in heredity, but he must know more about farming than the best farmer in his district, who has followed it all his life and not bothered about heredity, except insofar as it affects his live stock.

Mr. Claxton takes it for granted the teacher is a man and that he has chosen teaching as his profession and that he will be willing to stay in one school all his life. Experience is superior to all three conclusions. While old teachers complain of ambitious young men and women using the profession as a stepping stone, it has availed little. The most successful men and women in business and the various professions have at some time in their careers been school teachers. Some of them were good teachers, too, and planted seeds of inspiration in hundreds of lives. If every community could find a man possessing all the virtues and all knowledge, and all accomplishments and willing to spend his life in that community, as a farmer, teacher and expert on things in general, Mr. Claxton's plan might work. But rural high schools and a multitude of other practical reforms will precede his scheme a few centuries.

Where will that quadrennial reformer, George W. Norris, find himself when the republicans of Nebraska refuse to join hands with the bull moose-ers? The senator has proved himself a gay deceiver, carrying water on both shoulders, even though he refused to declare himself a stand-patter in the last election.

Don't think that because the weather kept you away from church last Sunday that it will do so again next Sunday.

There will be no tampering with the tariff by congress until it has been thoroughly tried out as it stands at present.

There seems to be a chance that Colonel Roosevelt and Judge Taft will go through the Panama canal on the same ship, and we are in doubt as to whether to predict republican harmony or an earthquake.

Billy Sunday has long been a red rag to this department, which abhors unwarranted abuse and grandstanding, but we see by the statement of his income that the birthrate of those who fall for that line remains about the same.

The Church of England has been wrestling with the question of omitting the word "obey" from the marriage ceremony. They might just as well omit it for the women do as they please over there, the same as they do in this country, anyway.

Many little boys envy the Swiss lad who has been found to have two stomachs. But while it might be a great advantage at Thanksgiving and Christmas, just think of the capacity of stomach-ache when the green apple season comes around.

Someone has invented a machine that will register the number of blows struck by each contestant in a prize fight. The next thing in order will be a machine to tell the number of fish the average fisherman catches, which will cut out all lying.

The Standard Oil company have at last received permission to explore the oil fields of the province of China, and if they are found to be productive a large company will be formed with the Standard owning the controlling interest of the stock.

The question of removing the state university is a matter that must surely interest every taxpayer in the state. And it should be fully understood that it will cost them fully two-thirds more to remove it to the state farm than it will to make the needed improvements where it now stands. This is something to think about.

What the bull moose party in Nebraska ought to do instead of holding banquets, is to apply for a receiver. It is a party without an issue of any kind in this state, and is most thoroughly out of joint in the nation. But the most of them will not join hands with the republican party, as Teddy Roosevelt won't let them.

If the new currency system, as some predict, will make every merchant give a note for his purchase and do away with the open account it will also make the merchant do away with the indefinite open account with his customers, and that will be a mighty good thing for many merchants.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

Three thousand trainmen of the Burlington railroad were granted an increase in pay recently at a conference held in Chicago, which means an additional distribution of \$100,000 annually to them. The arbitration committee had been working for three months to reach a conclusion in the matter. Under general conditions prevailing the men can count themselves as being very fortunate.

The approaching senatorial fight in Illinois will be of national interest, because men of national interest and reputations are making it so. President Wilson seems inclined to the view that Illinois should settle its own affairs, especially in view of the fact that the people of the state have a primary election for United States senatorial-candidates. Here is where President Wilson shows wisdom in refusing to take any hand in the matter.

SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS.

The Wilson administration is facing a serious complication in Mexico. Watchful waiting seems to have come to an end, and the United States, which has been asserting its rights to be the umpire and decide when something should be done to restore peace in Mexico, and which reserves the right to take any action, may be forced by other civilized nations to do something. America stood against years ago when the Turk was committing barbarities in Europe. While lives and property were being sacrificed, we expressed the utmost enthusiasm for interference by the British government or other foreign powers to check the disorders there. Now America stands in the place that foreign powers did. It is a terrible thing to engage in war, but it may be one of the responsibilities of the United States to step in, intervene and put an end to the fighting in Mexico. It will mean the cost of millions in treasure and perhaps thousands of lives. It will mean that the United States must exert all its statecraft to establish in Mexico a stable government and to suppress the bandits who are parading as patriots. There seems to be no choice among the Mexican factions. All are cold-blooded, heartless, designing murderers, and if the United States should intervene, it certainly should not take the part of any of the contending factions who are merely fighting for what loot there may be in it.

Even though there was no religious and spiritual significance to the Lenten season, there is no doubt that a forty-day abstinence from many forms of indulgence is a good policy to give the human body a complete change, both in the foods and drinks that are partaken as well as in the amusements. Rest for the stomach and rest for the mind come with the Lenten season to those who deserve it. Undoubtedly there is great benefit in the contemplation of the spiritual side of life during the forty days.

Hating Huerta has long been a favorite indoor amusement on this side of the riotous Rio Grande, but it is becoming increasingly apparent that the world, America nor Mexico, will gain much when the valiant Villa triumphs over the present provisional president. Coming from different walks of life—one a trained soldier and the other a bold bandit—they seem so much alike, viewed in the light of recent events and at this distance, that choice between the two is difficult. Carranza may be a better man; one hates to think there are three as bad as those. But Carranza, the nominal leader of the constitutionalists, has been overshadowed by Villa almost from the start. That Villa would kill him without compunction when it seemed an opportune thing to do, is in accord with the bandit leader's policy. So viewed from any angle, it looks like a hard winter in Mexico, with worse out ahead as the days lengthen, giving the journeymen butchers more time to work at their trade.

A bill appropriating \$25,000,000 for use on public roads has passed the house of representatives. It is now up to the senate. If passed \$500,000 will come to Nebraska.

There is some curiosity to know whether spring styles in men's hats will be equipped with feathers or tassels; the limit in bow arrangements has been reached.

Well, have we forgotten all about our free mail delivery in Plattsmouth? For some cause or other we have been silent about the matter for some time. Wake up!