

The Plattsmouth Journal

Published Semi-Weekly at Plattsmouth, Nebr.
Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

R. A. BATES, Publisher

Subscription Price: \$1.50 Per Year in Advance

LOW TARIFF RESULTS.

Some astonishing results from the lowering of the tariff are being reported. It was positively asserted by the whole standpat aggregation that if the tariff was materially lowered this country would "be flooded with foreign goods," and even those who favored lower tariffs expected that there would be some increase in importations. The result is that there has been a great decrease in importations. The official figures for February show a decrease of \$10,000,000. It was expected that there would be a decrease in revenue on account of the lowering of rates, but there has also been a great decrease in actual importations, although the rates are lower.

There has been no decrease in the consumption of goods, for trade in all lines has been up to the average. The only explanation is that the manufacturers, in making arrangements to meet the expected foreign competition, lowered their prices to such an extent that the foreigners could not get into the market, and they have done so without any disasters. This is the best evidence so far brought forth to prove that under the old high tariffs they were charging extortionate prices.

This falling off of importations has lessened the government revenues to a very great extent. It is reported by the government authorities that in the seven months of the present fiscal year the government disbursed \$27,000,000 in excess of receipts, whereas in a like period of last year the receipts were \$6,500,000 in excess of disbursements. Unless, therefore, there should be a great increase in receipts in the last five months of the fiscal year, the government will apparently run behind from thirty-six to forty million dollars.

The Wilson administration has had a run of good fortune and there seems to be more in store for it. From the latest estimates it appears that the income tax will produce a much larger sum than was expected and there will be no deficit.—World-Herald.

If Huerta does not hurry up in that little matter of taking the field in person to fight the rebels he may have to take to the woods instead.

The city ticket nominated by the democrats is one of the best ever presented to the voters of Plattsmouth, and no doubt will be successful at the polls.

The proposition to grant the use of the streets to the carnival company for one week didn't seem to receive a very cordial greeting by the city council, although a petition signed by seventy-five business men was presented.

Those who made garden during those few warm days can now have the pleasure of going over the same ground again, remembering that it is not always "the early bird that catches the worm." And that "haste makes waste," sometimes.

Plants, seeds and cuttings may go through the mails at fourth-class rates in packages weighing more than eight ounces, by a bill which passed the senate. A rate of 1 cent for two ounces was provided for packages of eight ounces and less.

The city hall clock in New York has stopped, finding it impossible to keep up with the life of the metropolis.

Last week a five-inch snow was worth many millions of dollars to the wheat crop of the northwest, which constitutes another good reason why the federal reserve bank should be located at Omaha.

Some democrats are wondering if the republican factions will amicably adjust matters and get together in Nebraska? While they are doing this it would be just as well for the democrats to do a little missionary work in their own ranks along this line.

The democrats could not have nominated a better man than John Nemetz for city clerk. He is a successful young business man, well qualified to perform the duties of the office, and no fears need be entertained on that score. Besides, he is a nice, clean gentleman.

Three candidates for councilmen have declined the nomination, as follows: Fred Wagner, in the Second ward; Ed Smith, in the Third, and J. C. Peterson in the Fourth. All good men, but just don't desire to be bothered with the position. A busy man never wants an office.

The two weeks have expired and no appointment has been made for the Lincoln postoffice. It is a matter of "I'll be damned if I do, and be damned if I don't," writes Maguire. No one could have any serious opposition to ex-Mayor Frank Brown. But he won't get the appointment.

Huerta says he will not reimburse the United States for feeding the soldiers who came across the border to escape capture by Villa. It is a small matter what he says about it. When it is all over, the bill of damages of the United States will be paid, no matter who rules in Mexico City.

President Wilson certainly has a fight on his hands in his efforts to repeal the Panama canal tolls law. We will soon know as to his ability to control congress in this matter. It may prove a harder job than he thought, but great is Woodrow when he sets his head to any certain proposition.

A petition signed by a number of voters of the county was filed for the re-nomination of G. E. Heebner for commissioner, in the clerk's office yesterday. Mr. Heebner has been a valuable member on the board of county commissioners for the past three years, and it is always customary, and in fact right, where an official has given good satisfaction, that he be given a second term. Charley has certainly done his duty.

More women should be like Mrs. Charles Mohr of Davenport, Iowa. She thought so much of her husband's jokes that she laughed herself to death a few days ago, at the age of 43 years. The jokes her husband told were related at the supper table, and she was in the grip of hysteria for six hours. A statute should be erected to the memory of Mrs. Mohr, who seemed to have been one of the few women who appreciate their husbands. More women should follow her example.

GARDEN SEED PROBLEM.

While the Washington correspondents are making merry over the rhetorical defense of the allotment of 20,000 packages of garden and flower seed to each congressional district, made by Representative Fowler of Illinois, discerning readers observe that the appropriation of \$257,000 for seed distribution, which does not include cost of carriage, went through the house. While the other members "jollied" Mr. Fowler, they did not oppose the appropriation. This perquisite is too valuable politically for congressmen to surrender it at the request of the Department of Agriculture or as a result of the shafts of satire hurled at them by the city press or city congressmen.

The value of the garden seed to the recipient is inconsequential. But to be personally remembered by the members of congress is another matter. The average citizen, even though scoffing at the practice, feels some pride when he finds that his congressman considers him of sufficient importance to try to gain his favor. And human beings rejoice in getting something for nothing, even if they indirectly pay for it through taxation. The congressman who stays long on his job never neglects these little things. He usually employs a private secretary, who is an indefatigable worker and who judiciously sends out garden seed and literature. He is careful to attend to every request by mail and to foster the belief that he especially delights to honor a particular constituent. The tenure of office of such congressmen is much longer than that of members who expect a grateful people to reward them for their fights on the floor. The members who devote much time to debate and to constructive legislation have these little things attended to by their secretaries, if they are wise.

Mr. Fowler was franker than some of his colleagues in openly defending the garden seed privilege. But there is some question as to whether he was wise in opposing the plan to have the distribution made by the Department of Agriculture directly, using lists of addresses furnished by congressmen. There might have been some advantage in such an arrangement. The congressmen could assure his constituents by an imitation type-written circular letter that he had placed their names on the list and requested the Department of Agriculture to send them seed from time to time. He could request that he be notified of any remissness on the part of that department. He could also request that he be advised of the failure of any of the seed to germinate, so that he might have the matter investigated. This would further flatter the vanity of the constituent, who would feel himself co-operating with his congressman in seeing that a great department of the government was properly performing its functions. And in event the seed failed to germinate or turned out to be something different from representations on the label, the congressman would be held blameless.

The democratic income tax will bring in something like a hundred million dollars the first year. Rich folks pay every penny of this sum. The democratic tariff will reduce the cost of sugar, clothing, shoes, woolens, etc., to the extent of a hundred million dollars the first year, and every penny of this saving will remain in the hands of the earners and consumers of this country. In taxing wealth on the one hand and relieving the earner and consumer on the other, the democratic party, like a good rule, is working both ways to fine advantage.

Only a short time now till the Fourth of July, and our people don't seem interested in a celebration. "Take time by the forelock" and talk about it, anyway.

We knew, of course, that someone would test the "constitutionality" of the income tax law. Well, here he comes: Frank R. Bushaver of Brooklyn, N. Y., a Union Pacific stockholder.

The wife of an Illinois man accused of murder, protests that he is innocent. "He never loved that girl," she said, "for he loves me." Psychologists should give us a percentage of trust, confidence and vanity in the statement.

Some of the dairymen and grocerymen of Omaha have been charged with selling impure milk. This is a matter in which other communities are interested outside of Omaha. There is a penalty attached to selling impure milk, as well as stale eggs, butter and impure food in general.

The pure food commissioner of the state promises to answer any call to any town or city of the state any day to candle out the eggs brought in by the farmers. If a few farmers in each county were fined for selling over-ripe eggs it would go a long way towards improving the general egg supply.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

Senator John Sharp Williams certainly hit the proper chord the other day in a speech in the United States senate a few days ago when he opposed the habit of the federal government buying automobiles for department heads and other high officials. John Sharp said the street cars were good enough for him, and if anybody felt like using an auto they should not expect the taxpayers to furnish it. But there was too many opposed to Senator Sharp's views and of course the practice will continue at the expense of the taxpayers of the country.

Secretary William G. McAdoo of Wilson's cabinet is to marry Miss Eleanor Wilson, youngest daughter of the president. She is 24, while the secretary is 52. He is a grandfather, but remarkably agile for his years. He danced his way into Miss Wilson's heart, for he does the "hesitation waltz" and the "tango" better than any society man in Washington. He is the father of six children, and the grandfather of two, so that on her wedding day the lady becomes wife, step-mother, step-grandmother and mother-in-law. The president at first was inclined to demur on account of the difference in the ages, but the secretary of the treasury is not a man to be lightly put down and so the wedding will take place soon after Easter. All objections, therefore, will be simply much Adoo about nothing.

The election on the school bond question takes place at the city election on Tuesday, April 7. Some people put up the plea against the proposition that it will be better to wait a few years and erect a new and more commodious school house, while there are others who are opposed to bonding the city for any purpose. All of these will vote against the proposition. Taking such things into consideration the outlook does not look very rosy for a new school building. Yet, at the same time, all these know that more room is needed to accommodate the increase in pupils. Then, how are we to get this additional room, unless in addition to the present school building is provided? The existing condition of these matters should be taken into consideration before any parent casts his vote for or against the bonds.

Whatever the merits of the controversy between the post-office department and a member of congress as to whether a particular speech he sent out under his frank was technically a public document, it is an interesting fact that he sent enough copies of the speech to require a payment of \$4,000 postage if it had not been privileged. If the speech had never been printed in the Congressional Record, that fact was a mere oversight. A member can easily get permission to "extend his remarks in the Record" by making the request. All kinds of books, speeches, documents, reports and miscellaneous literature have been read into the Record for the sole purpose of permitting them to be franked throughout the country. Divers investigations have shown to what extent senators and representatives have lent their franking privileges to the circulation of literature by organizations. Tons of such matter is carried free by the government every month.

Only rough estimates of the Attempts to check the abuse expense of this have been made. The franking privilege has been esteemed one of the chief perquisites of a member of congress. The defense of the practice has been on the high ground of enlightening the public. But the character of the matter usually sent out warrants the conclusion that the average congressman's chief purpose is his own political advantage. The law provides a penalty for misuse of the frank, but it is seldom imposed on members of congress. There have been cases where vast quantities of franked mail, containing pamphlets composed of speeches made by members outside of the halls of congress have been mailed at Philadelphia. Whether this was to evade examination by the more vigilant Washington authorities is a matter of speculation.

The proposal that each member of congress be allowed a specified sum for postage has been frequently made, but it has met with but little favor. The reason why the members opposed it is not difficult to surmise. That some limit should be placed on the amount of franked mail sent out by members of congress must be conceded by all disinterested persons. The abuse of the franking privilege is one of the chief causes of the great deficit in the postoffice department. Now that the country is embarking on new governmental enterprises, it might be well to correct this abuse before it is extended to the new ventures. While some members of congress abuse this special privilege more than others, there have been cases where even typewriters were sent through the mail under congressional frank, practically all have used the mails more freely than they would if a specified maximum sum for postage were fixed by law.

What's the use of trying to make a man run for an office he don't want? Governor Morehead doesn't desire the office of governor any longer, and why not give him something he does want, and one that a man of his ability would fill with honor and whose presence in any legislative body would be noticed and whose influence would be felt? He should be elected to congress from the First congressional district of Nebraska.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE ABUSE.

There is a great deal more truth than poetry in the following from the Omaha Trade Exhibit: We are having a lot these days about "community building," but the better term would probably be "community holding," for, as a matter of fact, communities are becoming all the time more restricted instead of expanding, and it is up to every local town and city to do some aggressive campaigning just to hold the territory now contributory. That can't be done without a real friendly co-operation among the business men.

Eilbert Hubbard, who says many smart things with stingers attached, says the doctors are not fighting the quacks for the good of humanity, but for their (the doctors') own good. Which isn't to be construed as a defense of the quacks; not all of them, at least. The sage of East Aurora points out that doctors are paid, when they are paid, for curing people and not for keeping them well. The latter method would be infinitely more sensible, and could easily be made practicable. Which leads him up to taking a crack at the lawyers, who, doubtless are entitled to several. Justice should be automatic, and you may have read something in the constitution or Declaration of Independence about the equal rights of man. But it is a notorious fact that justice is frequently a high-priced commodity. Senator Gore lately paid seven thousand dollars to prove he did not do it, although no one really believed he did, and there is a chance that the case may be appealed and the expense increased. Of course lawyers and doctors have to make a living and other luxuries, but it is possible Hubbard's suggestion affords a fairer method of payment, and better for the health and happiness of the community.

It is a mistake to put off until August or September the working of the roads. Now, when the soil is damp, the roads should be worked. Dragging now would help wonderfully. By working the roads this month and next, the ground is left in such a condition it bakes and gets a hard coating on the surface later on. Says a government report: Repairs to roads should be made when needed and not once a year after crops are laid by. Because of its simplicity, efficiency, and cheapness, the split-log drag or some similar device is destined to come into more and more general use. With the drag properly built and its use well understood, the maintenance of earth and gravel roads become a simple and inexpensive matter. Care should be taken to make the log so light that one man can lift it with ease, as a light drag can be drawn by two medium sized horses and responds more readily to various methods of hitching and the shifting position of the operator than a heavier one. The best material for the drag is a dry cedar log, though elm, walnut, box elder or soft maple are excellent. Oak, hickory or ash are too heavy. The log should be seven to ten feet long, and from eight to ten inches in diameter. It should be split carefully as near the center as possible and the heaviest and best slab chosen for the front. When the soil is moist, but not sticky, the drag does the best work. As the soil in the field will bake if plowed wet, so the road will bake if drag is used on it when it is wet. If the roadway is full of holes or badly rutted the drag should be used once when the road is soft and slushy.

The Christian Scientists at Hastings were refused a card in the church directory at the new Clarke hotel by the other denominations. That kind of advertising will help the Scientists more than having a card in the directory.

That Dolly Madison ran the White house has been generally admitted, but that she likewise conducted the government will be disputed by many.

Now is the time to announce for county offices. If you are a candidate, let the people know it. It will cost you \$5.00, either democrat or republican.

Onward, right onward, with the cleaning up campaign. Agitate the matter among yourselves, and when the first of April arrives move right on the works.

It is certainly a reflection on the literary skill of an ambassador to Great Britain when the senate demands that he "explain" a speech he made on the Panama canal question.

Governor Morehead has issued a "Go-to-Church" proclamation, designating next Sunday, March 29, as the day for all to go to church. It won't hurt anyone to observe the day. So make up your mind to go.

As soon as the two tickets are arranged, and the vacancies are filled, we shall print both democratic and republican city tickets in the Journal until election day, so that the voters can see who the candidates are.

John O. Yieser is in a pretty pickle. He wants to be governor, and since his announcement he has been indicted on a charge of blackmail by a Douglas county grand jury. Pretty tough on John just at this time. But if "misery loves company" he is fixed.

Out of the fifteen hundred idle men in Portland, Oregon, that city has provided for during the winter, eleven reported for duty when a railroad company sent in a request for one hundred. There ought to be something on the vigorous order doing at that point.

The suffrage women of Nebraska have received more than the required number of names to their petitions. But now the question arises: How many of those signers will vote outright for suffrage when the proper time arrives? Not over one-half at the most.

Down in Kansas City, according to the Star, they want to put out so-called "politicians" and adopt the commission form of government. In other words, the Star wants to put out the political politicians it cannot run and put in "home rule" politicians it can control.

Republican spellbinders who loved so well to tell the people the democrats were ashamed to look a sheep in the face, will revise their story now. Sheep are bringing record-breaking prices, despite the fact that they predicted the bottom would drop out if Wilson was elected president.

The Department of Commerce recommends salmon as a great reducer of the cost of living. The Department of Agriculture has already recommended popcorn for breakfast. Some other department will soon suggest a third meal and our only worry will then be as to wherewithal we shall be clothed.

In his reply to some accusations made against Dan Stephans, the congressman, certainly hits the bull's eye in describing a political boss, as follows: "The boss is a selfish, greedy politician, who has used his people to further his own selfish ends, and the people never knew exactly just how it was that they were represented by every political boss whom they never wanted."