

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, Publisher

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### THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

If all who could themselves happy were to tell very simply what it was that brought happiness to them, the others would see that between sorrow and joy the difference is but between a glad, enlightened acceptance of life and a hostile, gloomy submission; between a large harmonious conception of life and one that is stubborn and narrow.—Maeterlinck.

But a few more days till Thanksgiving. But what about turkey?

Smiling brings sunshine into the home, and washing the windows helps some.

Only six more weeks till Christmas. Do your shopping while you have the money.

Sermons seem longest to people who have most need of 'em. Have you been kicking?

Plattsmouth takes no back seat for any town of 6,000 people on improvements for 1914.

Fremont will elect their postmaster by ballot, and the candidates to pay costs of election.

There are a lot of people who half believe things that they know are not so and still wonder why they don't make much headway in this old world.

The tobacco trust tells us that the staff cigars are made of advancing price. We infer from this that sauer kraut will be higher also.

It pays to be honest, even in politics. But in the recent election those who were dishonest lost many friends when it was found out what they had done.

It is rumored that Germany has made preliminary offers of peace to the Russian government, which have been rejected. Don't believe there is a word of truth in the report.

R. L. Metcalfe will make his home in Nebraska after the 4th of next March. His republican son-in-law, Congressman Silas R. Barton, will also make his home in Nebraska after that date.

Visitors from other towns give us the horse laugh when they find out what light rates the people are paying in this town. Whose fault is it? It is the city council's duty to find out, and give the consumers the benefit.

The suffragists will have to console themselves with the thought that they will be given another chance four years hence. But it will never come in Nebraska now. You can depend upon that.

Oh, no! There is nothing selfish about Lincoln. They were after the two regents of the university, even though they had to select one from each party—Miller, democrat, and Brown, republican.

The people of these United States have much to be thankful for this year. Peace reigns supreme, and we have President Wilson to thank for the present condition.

That high-sounding newspaper, "The Nebraska Republican," having done its "dirtiest" to defeat Governor Morehead, should now "crawl in its hole and pull the hole in after it." There is no room on God's footstool for such banterings.

### CHRISTMAS SHIPS.

We hear much nowadays about Christmas ships that are being sent across the seas, and of ships that are carrying food and clothing to the millions of human beings who have been made helpless by the savagery of the war lords of the old world. And there is dire need for all of these ships and for all of the needful things they carry. The whole world is being besought and searched for help and for things that will sustain life, and still the cry for more comes across the sea like the wail of tormented souls. The need far exceeds the supply, and the world is not and will not be able to fill all of the hungry mouths nor clothe and shelter the poor hunted and frightened mothers and babies who have been driven out into the cold by brutal war. After all is done that can be done, the cry will still come across the sea, heartrending and full of anguish and despair. The American people have always had a keen ear for cries of distress, and times without number they have answered calls from distant lands and from those whose distress came about by accident or by the unaccountable acts of nature, and was not self-inflicted. In the presence of an angry Providence men feel the need of mutual love and help, and their hands reach out across the seas and into the homes that nature may have laid waste. Christian charity as well as the natural promptings of the human heart, move men to do this, and the whole world applauds the blessed impulse. But we are not so sure about these Christmas ships and the vast stores of food and clothing that are being donated by the American people, to make good the loss sustained by the people who are at war. We do not understand how any obligation can rest upon people to follow after the destroying armies of Europe and minister to those who have been rendered homeless and helpless by the cruelties of war. The war is a calamity that Europe herself has brought upon her people, and the great battles that we read about are being fought by the fathers, the husbands, the brothers and the sons of those whom the American people are trying to help. Europe's troubles are all her own—they might have been avoided, and they might now be ended, if those fathers, husbands, brothers and sons should so decide. Outside of the immediate help that they may give, we doubt if Christmas ships will appeal very strongly to the victims of war. To these victims Christianity and Christian civilization must have their meaning, and the coming Christmas must seem a mockery of what Christ taught when upon earth. Christmas ships will not take the place of the faith, the trust and the hope that have been crushed by the un-Christian rulers of Europe. And it should not be forgotten by generous Americans that millions of our own people are needing work and help almost as badly as are the people of Europe. The charity that begins at home is the charity that put Christ in Christmas.

Get ready to do business and make money. With a good harvest, a strong improvement in export trade in the past week or two and the early opening of the federal reserve banks, to say nothing of the world's greatest war going on across the sea, there is no section of the United States where business will not show quick response. The opportunity of a life time is at hand. Get busy and make something to sell.

Hon. Henry Gerdes of Falls City and Judge Howard Kennedy of Omaha, two members of the state board of control, were in the city yesterday to view the location presented by this city for the location of the state reformatory. While here these gentlemen paid their respects to the Journal. Col. Bates served one term in the legislature with Mr. Gerdes, where we formed an attachment that will last as long as we both live.

Hon. F. A. Reuter, who has just been re-elected representative from Otoe county, will probably be a candidate for speaker of the house. If Fred should be elected, every member of that body can surely depend upon receiving fair treatment at his hands. "Equal and Exact Justice to All" has been one of Mr. Reuter's chief principles for ages, and he believes in carrying it out to the letter. Besides, he is one of the best citizens in the state. We are for Fred.

The big meat packers declare that although there is an epidemic of the foot and mouth disease, there is no present reason why there should be any advantage in the price of meats to the ultimate consumer. They declare they have not raised the price to the dealer and that he should not raise the price either. In some places dishonest meat dealers have attempted to boost prices above the already high prices, taking advantage of the publicity that is given the foot and mouth disease and relying on their ability to gull the public. There is plenty of dressed meats in the country and there is no need for any advance in prices. When a meat dealer asks more the request should be investigated.

Frederick Llewelyn Goss, inventor of the printing press which bears his name, died at his home in Chicago one day this week. He was born in Wales in 1847. It is one of the Goss presses which is now in use by the Journal, having been installed one year ago last August, and is the finest and most complete press in any city of the size of Plattsmouth in this country. The decedent learned the printing trade, and after the great Chicago fire of 1871 set up a shop of his own, but the enterprise soon failed. It was not until 1888 that he established himself firmly, when he established the firm which became the Goss Printing Press company. Of this firm he was vice president until last year, when he ascended to the presidency. He had been ill for several months. The Goss printing press stands in thousands of newspaper offices of this country in honor of one of the greatest geniuses this country ever produced.

The beautiful fall weather holds on amazingly well.

How can the European war be stopped? There really isn't any question worth considering until this is settled.

Hon. F. A. Reuter, who has been re-elected as representative from Otoe county, will endeavor this winter to have a law enacted to educate the voters in the use of the long ballots. This will probably be all right, if some means cannot be devised to shorten the ballot in some way. This would prove the easiest way out of the trouble.

Business is greatly on the improve, notwithstanding the knockers.

It is impossible for us all to think alike. But we make a mistake when we fall out with our neighbors when we cannot control their thoughts.

It's h-l to be poor, but at least one is not required to give serious consideration to the trust pamphlets on "Where to Spend the Winter," which are now coming through the mail.

Charley Pool will be secretary of state after the first of January next. This fact will be hailed with joy by every democratic newspaper in the state. It will be remembered that four years ago the present incumbent defeated Mr. Pool by a majority of 90 votes. The people do not believe in giving a life-lease on any office, and Wait has been in the secretary's office for several years.

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### THE PEOPLE AS LAW-MAKERS.

Is the citizen in the voting booth more conservative, if not more judicious, a law-maker than his representative in the legislative chamber?

Is the chief flaw in the working of direct legislation to be found, not in ultra-radical voting, but in ultra-conservative voting—a conservatism resting on lack of information and expressing itself according to the rule, "When in doubt, vote no"—or don't vote.

Do the people at the ballot box show a more marked disposition to be fair and just when legislating on matters involving corporation interests than do their representatives who, in fear of the presumed ultra-radicalism of the people, sometimes vote yes when their judgment impels them to vote no?

These are some of the questions that naturally grow out of the study of the election returns in Nebraska and in other western states where direct legislation is more or less freely resorted to.

In South Dakota, of ten laws and constitutional amendments submitted this year to popular vote, eight were rejected and only adopted by the people. Among those rejected were laws that seemed progressive and meritorious that had been passed by the legislature and then referred to a popular vote. In a previous election the same state, by popular voting, defeated nineteen laws and adopted but one.

In Missouri the legislature had, after a hard struggle, passed a "full crew" law affecting the railroads. The railroads had unsuccessfully opposed it in the legislature as unfair and unwise and financially burdensome. When the law had been enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor the railroads had recourse to the referendum. The result was that the people, voting directly, defeated by something like 150,000 votes the measure which the legislature had adopted.

Here in Nebraska the same tendency is observable. The taxation amendment to the constitution, for example, advocated as the essence of sane progressivism, had been approved and submitted by a three-fifths vote in both houses of the legislature. The people rejected it at the polls, though it had the immense advantage of having been endorsed by every political party, so that every "vote in the circle" was counted, willy-nilly, in its favor.

In all the initiative and referendum states the same rule seems to obtain, to a greater or less extent. When the people are not well informed as to the desirability of a proposed law or constitutional amendment, they show a growing tendency to vote against it. And they show this tendency quite as plainly with regard to measures dominated progressive as with regard to any others. When the electorate is flooded with proposed laws, so numerous and so important that the average citizen finds it impossible to make up his mind concerning them, meritorious laws suffer with those of no merit, and are endangered by the simple rule, "When in doubt, vote no."

Legislators have seemed more generally, in recent years, to follow the contrary rule. If the author of the bill says it is "progressive," if newspapers and promoters advocate it as "progressive," though the legislator may be in doubt—sometimes though he may believe undesirable—he "takes a chance" and votes yes. He figures that thereby he can escape being denounced as a friend of the corporations or as a "reactionary," and strengthen himself politically with "the folks back home."

Needless to say that this is a regrettable legislative tendency. The representative should be a free man, an honest man, a courageous man. Except where platform pledges are involved he should be independent, and true to his own conscience and judgment. He should ask, not "Is it popular?" but "Is it right?" He should be little concerned about the effect of his vote on his own political ambitions and greatly concerned whether he is voting wisely and honestly, with a disposition to deal justly by

all men and all interests.

The conservatism of the voters when engaged in the work of direct legislation will not prove an unmixed evil if it encourages legislators to cast votes based on honest judgment and not on a desire for popularity. If the representative is a man of good judgment to start with, if he has a sincere desire to serve the people's interests, and if then he will take the pains to inform himself as thoroughly as possible, he may cast his vote on the basis of his honest convictions without overmuch fear of the consequences to himself politically.

There is not much to choose, in politics, between the coward and demagogue on the one hand and the dishonest servitor of special interests and traitor to the people on the other hand. Each is an unmitigated evil. What legislative halls require is men of honor, or intelligence and courage who have the manhood to stand for the right as they see the right. The corporation too, thanks to the progressive advance of recent years, is being pretty rapidly weeded out. The coward and the demagogue should be weeded out also. Then we will have not only representative government, but representative government, that is intelligent and honest and fair. Then, too, we will have genuine progressivism—progress in better government that is enduring because it rests on wisdom, on equity and on true patriotism.—World-Herald.

### NEW CURRENCY SYSTEM.

On November 16 the new currency system will be put into effect all over the country. The twelve regional government controlled banks will begin business as banks for bankers. This system has the best and most valuable features to be found in the banking systems of the entire world, and it will be the beginning of the greatest era of prosperity ever known, and it will be an era that no panics will be able to puncture. The great benefit to be derived from these new banks is easily explained. For instance, suppose a bank loans \$100,000 to business men of its community, and more business men wanted another \$75,000 which the bank could not spare. Under the old or present system the last set of men would go without the loan, and so business and industry would suffer accordingly in that town or county. Under the new system, the local bank would deposit the securities it received as collateral for the first loan with the government regional bank and borrow the \$75,000 therefrom at about 4 per cent and then lend it out at about 5 per cent. So under this system no legitimate industry can ever suffer for want of money and financial panics will be impossible.

More than half our grievances are imaginary—don't you know.

Turkey seems to treat foreigners fully as well as it does its own citizens.

Remember the Christmas day and buy of those merchants who solicit your trade.

The allies are ordering winter clothing. And it sure does look like a hard winter.

So far as we have heard, everybody is getting down to business since the election.

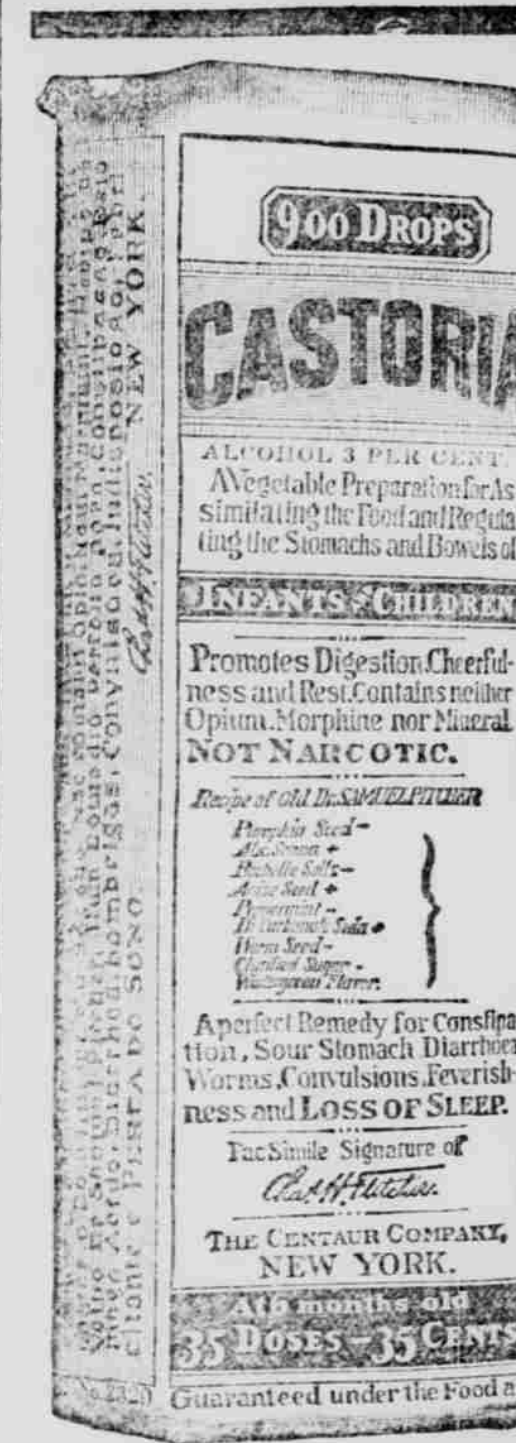
We have a curiosity to know how missionaries to the poor heathen explain the war news.

Reavis' majority over Maguire for congress in the First district is 326. Pretty close shave, after all.

The magazine writers now wish that they had studied military matters more and muckraking less.

Religious intolerance is nearly as bad as war, and there are cases in history where it has led to war.

The man who doesn't advertise because he does not know how to write an advertisement should quit eating because he can't cook.



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### IN PLATTSMOUTH FORTY YEARS AGO

Items of Interest to Our Readers Gleaned from the Newspaper Files of Many Years Ago.

It has often been contended that there lies in the hills along the Missouri river rich deposits of coal, and the following report made some forty years ago, following the discovery of what was supposed to be coal in the hills, will be of interest not only to the older residents, but to the present generation who have so often heard the matter discussed. The report is taken from the files of the Nebraska Herald:

Dear Sir: In accordance with your instructions, I proceeded on Saturday, February 11, to section 17, township 10, north of range 14, east, in Cass county, Nebraska, to examine a coal mine said to have been discovered at that place. I was accompanied by Mr. Van Horn, the owner of the property, Mr. MacMurphy and Mr. Black, the miner who had opened the drift at this place. The opening was made near the level of the Missouri flood plain, where the river comes close to the bluffs, and about fifteen feet above the water. Forty-three feet from the entrance the supposed coal was struck, from which point the drift was continued seventy-nine feet further. The thickness of the supposed coal is three feet, eight inches. The drifting was done almost entirely by blasting, the supposed coal being too compact to be penetrated by the pick. Above the supposed coal there is about four feet of soft calcareous slate, and next above an undetermined thickness of light-grayish and massive limestone containing fusilina, spirifers, producta, etc., of upper carboniferous age. Owing to the absence of exposures above the rock, no sections were obtained higher up. A few inches of fireclay underlies the so-called coal. As is well known, the deposits underneath the loess here are of upper carboniferous age. The so-called coal is of a dark-black color, with portions occasionally approaching a grayish tint. It seems to become grayer on drying, and on long exposure to the atmosphere. As before remarked, it is compact, with generally a slaty fracture. Chance blocks have some of the conchoidal fracture of canal coal. I selected some of the best specimens of this material, and on my return submitted them to Prof. Bailey for analysis. The following is the result:

Moisture	10.42
Volatile combustible matter	8.30
Carbon in coke	17.12
Ash	63.14
Loss in analysis	1.02
Total	100.00
Or, total volatile matter	18.72
Total combustible	21.42
Coke, including ash	80.26

A separate analysis made by myself only differed from the above in having 1 per cent less of ash. Good coal does not contain more than from 5 to 8 per cent of ash. The mean of 64

analyses of Iowa coals give only 6.77 per cent of ash. It is seen, therefore, that these supposed coals from Van Horn's mine contains too much ash to be classed with coals, even the canal varieties. In the reports of the geological survey of Illinois, volume I, page 262, it is stated that "there is a greater variety of composition in canal coals than other kinds, especially in the amount of ash contained, which varies from 25 to 50 per cent. In the latter case it scarcely deserves the name of coal, but is more properly termed bituminous shale, and its coke is entirely worthless. Upon the fire it retains its form and is apt to decompose, splinters or flakes being thrown about by the escape of moisture or steam."

The result therefore reached by my examination and analysis is that it is made up of shale so highly bituminous as to approach in texture and composition the proper varieties of canal coal. "As seams of this material are more variable than any others," (Illinois Reports), "it is impossible to tell with certainty what further drifting into the bluffs might develop. The chances are, however, in my opinion, against finding any true canal coals at this point."

On my way to this place I stopped over night at Rock Bluffs, where on the lower edge of the Missouri bluffs, next to the river, a drift is now being extended into a deposit which is evidently, from its stratigraphical position, the geological equivalent of the one mined on Van Horn's land. There the shale contains more bitumen, and one specimen received since I was there on analysis comes close to the requirements of the poorer varieties of canal coal. For reasons already stated, only further drifting can determine positively whether even here there is any true canal coal.

Respectfully submitted,  
SAMUEL AUGHEY,  
Agent on Behalf of the State.

### A Night of Terror.

Few nights are more terrible than during an attack of croup, and that of a mother looking on her child choking and gasping for breath nothing in the house to relieve it. Many mothers have passed nights of terror in this situation. A little forethought will enable you to avoid all this. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is a certain cure for croup and has never been known to fail. Keep it at hand. For sale by all dealers.

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