

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

You can help your fellow men meet by being the noblest and best man it is possible for you to be.—Phillips Brooks.

We are getting ready for Christmas.

What will Christmas be without the "beautiful snow?"

The strategy of retreat usually is to keep from getting licked.

The new federal reserve system seems to be running smoothly.

Then comes the Happy New Year, the time to turn over a new leaf.

Arizona seems determined to outdo California in legislation against aliens.

Zapata has abandoned his outlaw habits and is maintaining order in the Mexico capital. Good for Zapata.

Even the unspeakable Turk can find enough English at his command to apologize when it becomes necessary.

People who live in glass houses ought to smoke the glass, or it might help some if they went to bed in the dark.

The only difference between the professional crook and some other is that the crook isn't afraid to take a chance.

The fact that American railways kill fourteen trespassers each day of the year should arouse the interest of conservationists.

The law presumes a man to be innocent, but the average jury wants him to prove it. Nothing wrong about that, is there?

This is also the season for fires. Preventives fight now may save trouble later on. Look after chimneys and stovepipes.

The statement of George Lloyd that the United States owes Great Britain five billion dollars, is a statement in which there is not a spark of truth.

But some ingenious actress will select a mascot that will be more unwieldy than a bale of cotton. The opportunities for such rivalry are boundless.

Thanksgiving was a most beautiful day, and everybody seemed thankful that they could enjoy the privileges granted them by a kind Providence, and they were out in full force to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and fine weather.

During the session of the legislature this winter the primary election law should be modified somewhat. The ballot is too bungleome and should be shortened in some manner. The ballot two years hence is liable to be one of greater length.

Mr. Bryan's paper, the Commoner, says Congressman Stephens' plan of electing postmasters was a success. Then why would it not have been a success in other districts? Simply because those who had the right did not have the say-so. It is not too late to try this plan in Nebraska City, however, and it should be done.

THE DOWTRODDEN FARMER.

C. L. Edson, "The Man from Arkansas," who writes flapdoodle for the New York Evening Mail, is a retired farmer who is always bewailing the sad fate of the tillers and toilers of rural regions. He retired early from his agricultural career, and admits that about all he got out of it was to get out of it. Therefore he is sympathetic, and devotes considerable space to setting forth the hardships and poor pay of farm life. Accept it from him, about 75 per cent of the farmers make less than the farm hands they are sometimes forced to employ in the busy seasons, while there are plenty of others who make nothing at all, and merely stick around because there is no chance to get away. To prove his theory, he tells of certain New York state farmers who are thus sadly situated, furnishing figures to show the futility of breaking the stubborn globe in that section. He also narrates events around Half Moon mountain in Arkansas, where his brief sojourn near to Nature occurred, to show that old Gehenna probably is in the open country. There are shiftless farmers who would do better as section hands. And a farmer is liable to tricks of nature which even good management might not overcome. Lowlands may be flooded, or greenbugs or hot winds wither his wheat. These are the chances of the game. But that is no indictment of farming. There are newspaper men who never accomplish anything more than losing money in the business, and these hard-luck stories may be applied to all fields of endeavor. Yet the fact remains that here in Nebraska, and it is true to some extent of other states, prosperous farmers, who make more than the average professional man in town, are common enough. And despite the long hours and drudgery of certain seasons, we aren't sure that they make it under as pleasant circumstances. Like Hon. Edson, our early agricultural career was an impediment to quit it, but since we have had opportunity to observe that a good farmer does well, and comes to town in a motor car, and has more time to devote to amusement, not to mention more money, than many of us who toil in town. And there are a great many farmers' sons in our state university, and other institutions of higher learning. It may be treason to suggest it, but it is possible that the farmer who fares no better than his hired hand may have principally himself to blame.

We have been enjoying a seizure of damp, dismal weather, which, according to Hicks, will change to much colder.

An exchange asks "how long is long enough?" We are at a loss for an answer that might be satisfactory to this worthy journal, but here in Nebraska the voters decided that in the case of Secretary of State Wait "long enough" had been "too long." They removed him with as good grace as was possible and it will be "long enough" before he gets back.

Four brothers, members of the Boys' Corn club of Georgia, produced 224 bushels of corn on four acres of land this year. Luther Alfred of Pickens county, one of the brothers, won first prize at the state fair for the greatest yield from one acre. He produced 227 bushels from one acre. Clarence Alfred raised 220 bushels, Elmer 210 and Arthur 187, according to the announcement of the judges. Walker Lee Dunson of Alexander City, Ala., holds the national record with a yield of 232 bushels on one acre.

Will we have a white or black Christmas?

Christmas will be here before you know it. So don't delay your Christmas shopping.

What would Christmas be without a Christmas tree? For the children, nothing at all.

Gage county voted three to one at the last election to abolish the county assessor. Several other counties also made this office vacant by a majority vote.

Do your Christmas shopping early, if you want the pick and choice. And be sure you patronize those merchants who advertise. They are the most liberal.

Owing to the cold, dry atmosphere in Greenland not a single infectious disease is known on that island. But who in the h-l wants to live in Greenland?

Democratic gains in the senate have made the present tariff a certainty until 1919, and by that time the people will be so well pleased with it that they will want to take another slice off.

General Villa has prohibited papers from the United States in Mexico. The ignorance down that way is dense enough now without shutting out what little light they might get from the average American newspaper.

The British government seems to have fully realized that they have no small job in defeating the Germans, if they ever do, and parliament has provided for a million more soldiers, which makes an army of 3,000,000 men, exclusive of territorials. One wonders, however, what for.

The Anti-Saloon league are now enjoying a vacation. Carson and his gang should be putting in some time now in trying to earn an honest living. Ranchmen and farmers need help now, and maybe they could earn their board, if nothing more.

Out of two hundred and eighteen national banks in Nebraska, two hundred and five have signed a petition to be placed in the Chicago district and out of the Kansas City district. The Nebraska interests in that direction have always been more or less identified with Chicago, and it was a great mistake, undoubtedly, to place us where we do not desire to go.

F. M. Broome of Alliance will prove a lively candidate for speaker of the Nebraska house of representatives. Anyone, oh Lord, but a man without honor, principle or character. Mr. Broome is an attorney, and a gentleman of considerable ability, and it is said that there is no false pride about him, and if elected speaker it will not become necessary to put an iron band around his head to keep it from bursting.

A lot of fellows will soon be coming home from all parts of the country to sit at the tables of the "old folks" and enjoy a good Christmas dinner, and it is a treat to be able to do so. Father and mother are getting old and not many years hence they will be no more on this earth. Christmas comes but once a year, and it shows a loving spirit to thus remember the "old folks" while they can do so in person and make them happy while life lasts.

Even a country newspaper man can't afford to give up his business to accept the deputyship in the state auditor's office. We can't see how the auditor-elect, W. H. Smith, who runs a newspaper at Seward, can afford to accept the position of auditor, if he had any business to amount to anything in his print shop. State offices, as a general thing, should be filled by those who can't make a living at anything else. Mr. Davis of the Ord paper done the proper thing when he declined the deputyship.

LOOKING TOWARD PEACE.

Nothing else is so miserable as a conquered nation and nothing else is so great a source of peril to its conqueror. Adversity resulting from the acts of a known enemy brings to body and mind the strength of hatred that bides its time. Conquest that grinds a people into the dust wins for the conqueror the distrust of the whole world. To be so powerful and so implacable as to become a menace to others is merely to invite one's own destruction.

Not one of the nations that are now joined in a death grapple can afford to permit its chief enemy to be crushed. The nations are fighting because fear of one another drove them to this desperate course. They have given so good an account of themselves in the battles of recent weeks that they need fear no longer unprovoked attack provided they can contrive to make a fair and honorable peace with their enemies.

The dream of easy victory has faded out of every jingo mind. The fighting men of every nation have won the respect of their enemies by their courage and endurance. The war has heaped horrors on horrors and has advantaged no one. On the contrary, it has contrived to discredit itself not only in the court of humanity, but in the councils of the military commanders and of the boards of strategy. War of aggression is played out.

The old cynical diplomacy that was based upon lies is played out also. It failed miserably last July. Its bluff and bluster must bear much of the blame for the present hideous conflagration in Europe. It has gone to its reward pursued by countless thousands of ghosts of the slain. Profiting by their present calamities, in their future dealings with one another the nations should rely upon truth and fair play.

Europe wants peace. The stricken peoples of Europe are entitled to peace at the hands of their rulers. It is time for neutral peoples to urge upon their own governments the desirability of making every effort to bring about a state of things that will induce the warring nations to enter into negotiations leading to a lasting peace.—Chicago Daily News.

KEEPING MONEY AT HOME.

It is estimated that the war in Europe, if continued another year, will save to the United States at least \$100,000,000, spent annually in that country by American tourists. The Daily Oklahoman declares that 100,000 Americans returned to this country after the outbreak of the war. Some of these were living in Europe; the great majority of them, of course, were touring. Many of them had their own automobiles, and had made other arrangements for a protracted stay in Europe. The outbreak of war, however, sent them hurrying home. The desire to go abroad comes as an irresistible impulse to the average person after he or she has accumulated an income above immediate needs. What it is that impels wealthy Americans to go Europe year after year, ostensibly to see scenery, when the scenery of the United States is infinitely superior, is a mystery. For years American lecturers and writers have been advising the public to "See America First" but it has had very little effect on the wealthy classes. Possession of wealth usually carries with it an affectation and snobbishness which impels its owners to go where they can display it to the best advantage. This probably accounts for the enormous exodus of Americans every year to Europe.

The democratic party cannot afford to support prohibition in the election two years hence. The majority of the democrats in Nebraska are opposed to prohibition, and it will be a sorry day for the party leader who attempts to foist this question upon the party. Prohibition is a separate and distinct question, and does not belong to either party, and the party that adopts it will soon see that the voters cannot be solidified in that direction. The days of following a leader, whether right or wrong, are past.

Business is greatly improving throughout the entire country.

General Zapata seems to be doing well in his novel role of protector of life and property in Mexico City.

Should war become general throughout the world, the north pole explorers will become more numerous.

Nearly all the American ambassadors in Europe represent so many countries that they feel like pooh-bahs.

It costs a good deal to live in America, but think what it costs those people in Europe, and then they don't half live.

"Eat an apple a day and keep the doctor away," is a popular expression. Eat an onion a day and keep everybody away.

Now that the season for prairie chickens has closed, and ducks are scarce, what will the hunter do now, poor fellow?

Those fellows in San Francisco think the proper way to see America is to see the exposition first. They need the money.

Former President Taft urges that the American army and navy should now be strengthened, and that both arms of the service should be increased, at least to a defensive limit. Even Teddy Roosevelt will heartily concur in these suggestions.

President Wilson believes military inquiry now is untimely, and will express himself as opposed to the resolution of Congressman Gardner for an investigation of the military strength of the United States, if asked for his opinion.

The people of Arizona still believe in the death penalty, having voted down an amendment at the late election to abolish it. They live so close to the Mexicans, however, that they doubtless feel a strong statute is at times necessary for emergency cases.

A Nebraska City democrat says that it is more than likely that a postmaster will be selected there by the voice of the patrons at the ballot box. Since Mr. Bryan has expressed his satisfaction with the result in the Third district he will probably not oppose such a move.

A freight agent of a Nebraska railroad says that the apple growers are not making any money out of the sale of the fine apples we have been getting. Which puts up to us a perplexing question, as to whether we would rather go without the apples and have the growers make money or munch the fruit at the growers' expense?—Lincoln Star.

One thing about the American people that makes this the greatest country on earth, is in the general helpfulness, one for another. When the situation became such that it was impossible to move or market the great crop of cotton that was raised in the south steps were taken to hold it, and the "buy-a-bale" movement has grown nation-wide. The cotton market has loosened up and there is general good times in the south. Whenever there is a flood, an earthquake or an epidemic in this country, there is always a rush on the business men everywhere to send money and provisions for the relief of distress. Yes, the United States is the greatest nation on earth. We are, in a word, all members of one great family.

WILSON AND CLARK.

The following is from the Washington correspondent of the New York Herald:

That a firm friendship has been established between Speaker Champ Clark and President Wilson which may have important political results during the next two years is the information that has been conveyed to prominent democrats in the capital. The president has written the speaker

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A letter in which, according to this information, the president says that he appreciates the speaker's services to the party, the country and himself, using language of such a character as to make it certain that if ever there was a barrier between the two men it has been completely demolished.

It is stated further that the speaker regards the president's kindly expression as a substantial token of genuine friendship that will insure a lasting bond between the executive and himself. As the letter is a personal communication its contents could not, of course, be ascertained in detail.

It was further stated that if ever the president had not entertained a proper appreciation of the speaker's importance in the councils of the party this was due to misrepresentations made to the president regarding the speaker. The speaker's friends do not charge any specific person with having made these misrepresentations, and are content to let bygones be bygones. Among those who have heard of the president's letter there is keen speculation about the effect of the new situation upon the relation of the president and William J. Bryan, secretary of state.

Mr. Bryan fought Mr. Clark at the Baltimore convention, and it is pretty certain that the speaker's close friends will never forgive Mr. Bryan. They are inclined to infer that Mr. Bryan will not relish suggestions from Mr. Clark about the national policies of the administration.

The new alliance between Messrs. Clark and Wilson may mean much to the president in future legislative battles in congress. While the house is now overwhelmingly democratic, the majority of the party will be slim in the next house, and the speaker's active assistance in legislative matters will be a great asset to the president.

Mr. Wilson is said to be highly appreciative of Mr. Clark's able efforts for the administration in the last campaign, and whatever doubts he may have had of the speaker's wholehearted enthusiasm for the success of the administration were swept away at that time.

The president has previously relied upon Mr. Bryan in part in regard to the control of the party representatives in the house.

A speculation on the probable effect of this alliance on Mr. Clark's future presidential ambitions is somewhat vague. Democrats say it is too early to predict whether Mr. Clark will seek the democratic nomination in 1916.

Letter files at the Journal office.

The home-run hitter is taking a vacation.

It pays to advertise and the Journal stands ready to prove it.

Uncle Sam cheerfully waives his guardianship of Colombia.

Look out for night prowlers, and keep your "pop-gun" in shape.

Did anybody ever hear of an Indian girl that was not a princess?

If it wasn't for the coal bills most of us would be O. K. for Christmas.

Edgar Howard has been hobnobbing with Old Joe Cannon. Oh, Lord!

War has put a crimp on immigration, but after it is over there will be a remarkable increase. Those who live through it won't care to have their children repeat the performance.

The liability law is giving employers some uneasiness as to how to proceed in the matter. It is about as uncalled for a law as was ever put before the people. But we suppose it will have to have a "lyout" before the people see the ridiculousness of the intents of the law.

The state and national authorities announce that there is not a case of the foot and mouth disease among the stock in Nebraska, and never has been; however, there seems to be hog cholera enough to make up for it, and there seems to be no way to stop its ravages.

When a grasswidower on a farm up at Madison advertised for a wife and got her he doubtless readily agreed that advertising pays, and it was only when, three weeks later, she demanded that he deed his farm to her that he began to have such doubts about it that he is now trying to break loose. That is a case in which his advertising paid the lawyers.—Lincoln Star.

Governor Morehead is going to have his say in selecting a speaker of the house of representatives. The democratic members should have respect enough for the governor to select a presiding officer that would be in keeping with his administration, and not a professional deadbeat who has always had his mitt extended for anything in reach. A good, clean-cut gentleman should preside over the next legislature.

Tyewriter ribbons at the Journal office.