

The Plattsmouth Journal
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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.
 If earth were poured into thy bosom,
 It would be meaningless with out thy soul.
 —George Matthieson.

Last call and last day for shopping. If you failed it's your own fault.

It is good form to be delighted with your Christmas gift, whether you are or not.

What? Is the German "daschund" to be the successor of our famous "teddy bear?"

Appendicitis probably has helped the doctors more than any other recent discovery.

Did you enjoy a "Merry Christmas?" We hope so. Now for "A Happy New Year!"

Newspaper reporters need no private offices. They get kicked around on the main streets.

The man in the White House is "sawing wood" with reference to criticism of his administration.

When a man says he doesn't care what his neighbors say, you can form some idea as to what said neighbors are saying.

Strange as it may appear the sage of Oyster Bay has had little or nothing to say in the public print since the late election.

Good cheer should predominate, as it only comes but once a year. And we hope everybody will receive some token in remembrance of the "Yule Tide."

This is to warn the men that a Christmas tree should not be allowed to associate too closely with Santa Claus' cotton whiskers with a lighted candle.

Mayor Dahlman will not strain his eyes any longer in the direction of a federal appointment and will get busy on plans for his re-election next spring.

The six cents a day difference in the estimate of ratifications of diplomatists and congressmen for the Panama canal opening may be due to the relative cheapness of grape juice.

The head of the anti-saloon league at Lincoln would like to make some people believe it is pleased with the result of the vote on national prohibition in congress. But that won't wash down.

Secretary Bryan has kindly condescended to give Congressman-elect Shallenberger full sway in the government appointments in the Fifth district. Mr. Shallenberger is very fortunate to get a "stand-in."

If Congressman Shallenberger falls heir to trouble in the Fifth district, then we will all know who is responsible for that trouble. If a congressman isn't the spokesman for his own district, then who is? Pray, tell us.

The California commission on immigration and housing has issued a warning to the men who are out of work as follows: "If you are looking for a job, don't come to California." But they continue to flock there just the same as ever.

UPRIGHT MISSOURI JUDGE.

It looks as if a genuine Missourian is as ready to show as he is to be shown. At any rate a federal judge of that state bears out that theory. While sitting in a United States court in St. Louis, Judge Dyer was summoned to pass upon a defendant who was accused of stealing slices of bacon. The alleged thief was a young fellow who had a wife and aged parents to support. When brought before the bar of justice (not a misnomer in that instance) the culprit pleaded guilty and then broke into tears, telling a direful story of want on the part of his newly-wedded wife and his father and mother. Judge Dyer closely questioned the prosecuting officer and elicited the response that the prisoner had never been in trouble before.

Then the crime wearer said: "I don't believe that a boy who takes something at a time when it is necessary to keep the bodies and souls of his father and mother together is a criminal at heart. I won't send him to jail. If he had stolen a railroad the chances are they would have sent him to congress." A reviewer praising the action of the judge characterized it as a deed of mercy. But that blurs the point. It was rather a wise and righteous performance. In the nature of things the law does not contemplate classifying the mere abstraction of property as stealing. It may be wrong for a person to appropriate what does not belong to him even for the purpose of appeasing hunger, which is a divine ordinance, but it is not really and truly criminal, for which the penal code was established.

What the Missouri judge did was to show the world the fundamental distinction between snatching things under the stress of natural prompting and stealing them through a depraved habit. If that discrimination was to find a lodgment in the minds of the dispensers of justice the class of criminals and the number of jails would be greatly diminished.

The celebration of the birthday of the Prince of Peace brought no cessation in the clash of arms in war-torn Europe.

The New Year is almost here. Don't forget that new resolution to drink less; smoke less, and not swear at all. If you can't do all these, do the best you can. And for heaven's sake resolve to cease smoking cigarettes.

Booker T. Washington's advice to 1,400,000 colored families in the south as to how they can overcome financial backsets brought on by the European war, is contained in just three words: "Raise a pig." Washington is noted for saying and doing things that are practical, and that can be understood.

When the incoming legislature comes to the appropriation bills it would be the part of wisdom to cut some items off entirely and cut many others in half. The democratic party of Nebraska is pledged to retrenchment and reform. And if the house and senate follow the advice of Governor Morehead this is what will follow.

Legislative made passenger rates are to be tested in the supreme court of the state by the Missouri Pacific company. The company applied to the state railway commission for permission to raise their passenger rate from 2 to 3 cents a mile, the commission denied the request on the plea of jurisdiction. Upon the final outcome of this suit doubtless depends the general passenger tariff in the state.

PERSONALITY OF RETAIL STORE

"Did it ever occur to you," says a retail man in Boot and Shoe Recorder, "that the atmosphere of a store will always reflect the temperament of the man who is at the head of it? It may be that it is a large establishment, one in which the head rarely comes in contact with the customer; or it may be a more modest enterprise conducted with one or two assistants. The fact remains that the influence of the man at the head will be found to run all through the business and will influence every transaction down to the sale of a child's shoe by the youngest clerk.

"Let the head of the house be one of the nervous, fidgety individuals, and you will find the store one in which you feel, when you enter, that everybody is in a hurry and that they want to get through with you and have you get out. Or if the head is of the arrogant type, who feels that his merchandise is such that the public has to patronize him, you will find a don't-care attitude on the part of sales-people, an indifference whether you buy or not.

"And just as it is possible to criticize a store because of this characteristic, so is it possible to capitalize and produce a store atmosphere that will win new trade and hold old.

"Of course, few of us go into stores to buy shoes, but we do go into other establishments to buy other classes of merchandise, and so can observe the conditions I have spoken of. There are lots of stores we like to go to. It is something of an event to have to visit them to make a purchase. Would it not be a mighty fine thing if we could make customers feel that way about ours?"

"The way to accomplish this is first to govern our own attitude. Let us feel always that the object of our existence is to make our store a pleasant place for people to visit. Our attitude will influence our directions to our selling force, maybe not as a matter of direct instruction, but as an influence. We will observe that our clerks and salespeople will become imbued with the same spirit, each in accordance with his ability, and the result will be found in a better store atmosphere. With merchandise right, this is certain to mean better business and more loyal customers."

GOOD ROADS.

If it was a good thing for our government to give in cash and land grants over one billion dollars, (\$1,000,000,000.00) to our few railroad companies to promote their work across this United States of ours, would it not be a good thing to make the same size appropriation for a system of highways that will amount to about 2 per cent of the present amount in daily use, yet a system that will serve directly over 77 per cent of the entire population in the United States?

Should we build the bridge across the Potomac river at Washington, D. C., at a cost of \$5,000,000.00 that will serve Washington's 330,000 population, or rebuild the old Cumberland trail from Washington, D. C., to St. Louis, Mo., at the same cost, a road that will directly serve over 17,000,000 people? Think it over. Which way should our congressmen vote?

We have bought, built and are going to maintain the Panama canal, it has cost us nearly one-half billion dollars, it serves us as a nation very much, but directly serves only a few shipping concerns, why not get an equal amount for the building of a system of hard surfaced roads, that will permit the people to travel and to market their produce any day of the year regardless of weather conditions, and when market prices are highest, too.

It is the getting together and working along concrete lines in a concerted manner that gets the definite results.

Thousands of people in all the western states are signing petitions to be sent to Senator Hitchcock encouraging him in his efforts to prohibit the sale of armaments of war manufactured in the United States to the warring countries of Europe.

Wheat has almost reached a record price in Chicago.

Better commence practicing, and get used to writing it "1915."

If the new year is to be one of prosperity, let's push it along.

There is but three more days to complete that set of resolutions you have no intention of keeping.

Whatever else may be said about the holidays, the weather has been ideal. That helps a good deal.

We are right upon the threshold of the New Year. Now, do you propose to turn over that new leaf?

Provisional President Gutierrez has given orders that summary executions in Mexico must cease.

The Thaw case will probably go on like Tennyson's brook till the Thaw fortune or Mr. Jerome is exhausted.

Government reports say there is four million acres more of winter wheat this year than last, in the face of which the market keeps going up.

The Germans are said to be reinforcing their ditches with concrete in Belgium. This means another permanent relic to the great war of 1914.

The Russians are intrenching themselves for defense, no doubt hoping that Generals January and February will arrive in time with their reserves.

Now it is said that President Wilson is endeavoring to wield the "big stick." Not so much, however, as some of the members of his cabinet. And now is the proper period for the president to put on the brakes.

The house voted down the dry amendment to the national constitution Tuesday. The Nebraska members voted as follows: Sloan, Barton and Kinkaid (all rep.) voted for; Maguire, Lobeck and Stephens (dem.) voted against.

The Journal is opposed to the contract system for paying rural mail carriers, as has been suggested by Postmaster General Burleson. The contract plan is the same as was in use when the old star route carriers gave half of their receipts to the middle man.

Reports about the acreage and condition of winter wheat in Nebraska have been published and the acreage is showed to be largely on the increase. The acreage now in what is given as 3,637,000 for Nebraska, and in condition at this time is reported to be 90 per cent good.

There are some partisan politicians who are almost praying for hard times, panics and dire distress in order that they might say, "I told you so" before the election. They would rather see sufferings than be eyewitnesses of democratic efficiency. But so far as the administration is concerned they are doomed to disappointment.

Senator Hitchcock has recommended James R. Swain, of Greely, for United States marshal and Milton L. Corey, of Clay Center, for district attorney. We know nothing about the former, but we do know that Mr. Corey is one of the most brilliant attorneys in the state and a rock-ribbed democrat.

It is rather doubtful that Secretary Bryan will consent to the appointment of John C. Byrnes as internal revenue collector. He is a good man and a good democrat, but it is probable that at some time or other he has ruffled the feathers of the secretary. In that case there are other good men in Nebraska, and Senator Hitchcock need go no farther than Plattsmouth to find one of the best men in the state, and one of the most competent for the position.

LOVE LETTERS.

The divorce courts of Chicago, after some inquiry, have discovered that a great many of the cases before them arise from the fact that the dissatisfied wife or husband, seeking a separation, have discovered that somebody has been writing love letters to their faithless spouse. In commenting on this fact an exchange declares that: A Krupp cannon or a few tons of dynamite dropped from a dirigible are as harmless and safe as a package of love letters carried around on the person. Two-thirds of the divorces and other tragedies are summed up like this: "He found some love letters in her room," or "She discovered letters from another woman in his coat pocket." Why any fool wants to carry a lot of love letters around seems incomprehensible — especially love letters that are inclined to get him shot. A love letter is embarrassing and dangerous enough, even if there are no complications. The man whose wife hangs onto the letters he wrote her before he gave her the ring is handicapped all through life. Just as sure as he comes home with a good, robust grouch on the whole, wide world and wants to plunk down in the old rickety chair and be as ugly as sin, that sure will his wife drag out a bunch of those letters and weepingly demand why he does not talk like that any more. And for the woman who is silly enough to marry a man, until she has made him burn all the letters that either she or any other girl ever wrote there is trouble enough ahead to make her long for a Red Cross job. But the unspeakable folly of folks carrying around love letters they have no right to, can be accounted for on no other basis than that it is one of the rapid promotion schemes of the devil to increase the population of one of his new suburbs. The only absolutely safe love letter is the one that is cremated the moment it lights.

A Michigan sheriff has been compelled to arrest and imprison his own son on a charge of manslaughter. A very painful duty that must, be, to be sure!

Ignorance is the mother of suspicion; and hate, back-biting, lies, slanders, and the whole family of evil imaginations are things that keep people apart.

Christmas day was a veritable winter day and all that could have been desired in this section of the country. It was purely white, and according to the old saying, 1915 will be a healthy year.

This is the first time in fifty years that the postoffice department has had a surplus of funds after paying all expenses. Postmaster General Burleson is making a record for himself, as well as the administration.

CONFIRMED PROOF

Residents of Plattsmouth Cannot Doubt What Has Been Twice Proved.

In gratitude for complete relief from aches and pains of bad backs—from distressing kidney ills—thousands have publicly recommended Doan's Kidney Pills. Residents of this vicinity who so testified years ago, now say the results were permanent. This testimony doubly proves the worth of Doan's Kidney Pills to Plattsmouth kidney sufferers.

Mrs. Zink, Weeping Water, Neb., says: "I suffered from lumbago and kidney trouble and often my back and head ached. When Doan's Kidney Pills were brought to my attention, I got a supply and it wasn't long before they restored me to good health. I endorsed Doan's Kidney Pills some time ago, and at this time I take pleasure in confirming my former endorsement."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Zink had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

Sell your property by an ad in The Journal.

CASTORIA
 For Infants and Children.
 The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of
J. C. Fletcher
 In Use For Over Thirty Years
CASTORIA
 THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY

TOO MANY LAWS.
 The movement that was started some time ago in the east to declare laws after a certain number of years void unless re-enacted, seems to be spreading. Careful investigation shows that about 15,000 new laws are enacted every year by congress, the state legislatures and city councils, while the courts make a whole lot more by their interpretations and very seldom are any laws repealed and that has been going on for many years. In hundreds of cases these laws conflict, in thousands they are not enforced and yet they remain on the statute books. Sometimes an old law suddenly revived works very great harm before the legislature can repeal it.
 There has been great damage done in several states by a law that refused the right of appeal where a state court held that a law was invalid because it conflicted with the constitution of the United States. The state court of New York held that the workmen's compensation act was in conflict with the Fourteenth amendment of the federal constitution. That ended the matter for no appeal could be taken. At the same time the state court of New Jersey decided that an exactly similar law passed by the New Jersey legislature did not conflict with the constitution and was a valid law. Here was a law that had been on the statute since the government was established, the effect being that it permitted certain legislation in some states and prohibited it in others. Congress the other day remedied that matter by enacting a law that allows either side in such cases to appeal. This is an example of the difficulties that arise on account of outgrown laws that have never been repealed.—World-Herald.
 Be sure and note the ad. of John F. Gorder in this issue of the Journal as it is well worth your time to do so.
 Mrs. M. A. Dickson returned to her home in Omaha this morning after a short visit here with her many friends in this city over Christmas.

TWO RANGES IN ONE

The Duplex Alcazar is a single range that does the work of two. With it you can cook in comfort every month of the year.

Burns Coal and Gas separately or both at once. You can burn coal in the winter and keep the kitchen warm; gas in the summer and keep the kitchen cool.

DUPLEX ALCAZAR
 The Housekeeper's Delight

Burns Coal Same Oven is used for both Coal and Gas Burns Gas

G. P. EASTWOOD

Sell your property by an ad in The Journal.