

The Plattsmouth Journal

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SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

An aspiration is a joy forever—to have many of these is to be spiritually rich.
—Stevenson.

A strong man is weak if he lacks personal confidence.

The Mexican idea of reform is to go out and execute somebody.

It was a tough old turkey that was able to hold over another year.

The size of a man's shoes does not indicate just how well he is "heeled."

Warehouse legislation will be one of the chief matters to be taken up by the present legislature. The farmers are mostly interested in this question.

If some people we know had the opportunity of getting \$10,000 a month for simply minding their own business, they couldn't hold the job a minute.

New York is being criticised for spending an amount estimated at \$2,130,000 in welcoming the New Year. In that city they claim you can't get a respectable jag for any less.

Members of the legislature are in outy bound to assist Governor Morehead in carrying out party pledges. He who refuses to do so will never come up again for re-election with the least assurance of success.

When some other man's wife does anything, a man will say, "How womanly!" And when his own wife does anything he will say: "That's just like a woman!" Can you detect any difference in the expressions?

Governor Morehead recommends a state printing establishment at the penitentiary. If it is expected to have the work done by convicts, where is the printers to come from? There are no printers in the penitentiary.

The president of Mexico says he believes he can see early peace in Mexico. We hope he hasn't been looking through smoked glasses. And this is followed with a pledge from Villa that there will be no more Mexican border fighting. This is all good to read, but we prefer to await further developments in that direction.

T. DeWitt Talmage, the great preacher, of Brooklyn, back in the eighties, had a lecture that made him famous, on the subject: "Looking on the Bright Side of Things." When one listened to this lecture he felt like he wanted to think everything about him was good and nice and sweet. What a happy frame of mind this would be to cultivate.

The Nehawka News hits our congressman-elect right between the eyes as follows: "Frank Reavis is out with a rap at the primary system because newspapers have developed backbone enough to make would-be officials come across for their publicity. Mr. Reavis looks on the whole thing as a hold-up in which nobody profits except the newspapers, and when we recall the w k race for a congressional nomination in this district last fall we are forced to admit that the newspapers did make something out of it. However, we do not recall that anyone had to be hog-tied or chloroformed to get them into the race. Neither did all of the papers hold him up."

No man ever had his really true friends come in bunches.

An ideal may be all right, but a square deal beats it a mile.

The fact that you think it ought to happen is no sign that it will.

The pensive person who always feels he isn't understood should cheer up and say something sensible.

Officials at Washington seem to be pleased with the tone of the reply to the protest made to Great Britain.

Teddy, the tiger hunter, don't cut any ice in the government these days, and most people are glad he don't. We want to save our boys.

It is a fairly safe bet that the patriot who is tearing his shirt for civil righteousness has hopes of being rewarded in the sweet bye-and-bye.

The legislature will probably get down to business this week. Many bills will be introduced that will never get any farther than the committee room.

Of course there are Democrats all over the country who would like to see President Wilson re-elected—principally federal office-holders, of course.

Perhaps the most difficult juggling feat is conveying water on both shoulders, and there are some in this town who can perform the feat to perfection.

Righteous living pays in the long run. All history shows that those who gain by cunning and deception enjoy a fleeting and transitory prosperity. It is the good that lasts.

There have been miriads of so-called solutions to the problems that affect the body politic today. The best solution we know, however, is for everybody in these United States to go to work and pull together and stop fighting one another.

It is a very safe proposition that many members of the present legislature are serving their first and last term. They are those who have nothing to say, and couldn't say it if they wanted to. The people are not careful enough in selecting their representatives, and some counties will scarcely know they have a representative in that body from a standpoint of notoriety and taking part in legislative affairs.

We never for a moment expected that man Richmond to be elected speaker. We thought there would perhaps be a sufficient number of old members in the present house to defeat him. Mr. Jackson, the successful candidate for speaker, is a man of ability and with a clean record as to character. We think his election was fortunate for the democrats of Nebraska.

A few democratic politicians getting together and agreeing upon who shall be candidates for office in Nebraska did not pan out to their liking this year. Not one of their gang got in, and Governor Morehead, whom this gang opposed, was elected by a very large majority, both in the primary and the general election, but they missed their calculations and they are doomed to many more disappointments. Democrats do not believe in grafters.

Senator Quinby, the single-taxer of Omaha, is determined to introduce two bills on the taxation question. One is to assess real estate every year instead of every four years, as at present. The other bill is to make the levy on the full valuation in place of one-fifth, as at present. Quinby's friends expect him to make such a record in the present legislature that he may be an available candidate for governor two years hence. The man from Omaha should remember that "there is many a slip betwixt the cup and the lip."

CONTROL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Governor Morehead has recommended to the legislature that all public service corporations in Nebraska be placed under the jurisdiction of the state railway commission. President Wilson, at Indianapolis last week, laid down the doctrine of party solidarity and team work. Do the two circumstances mean that all good democrats in the Nebraska legislature must work and vote for a bill to carry out the governor's recommendation?

The World-Herald does not think so. Neither, it has no doubt, does the president or the governor.

The doctrine of team work is a good one provided it is not carried to extremes. The legislator, too, has his duties and responsibilities. Among them is that of thinking for himself and giving fearless expression to his honest conclusions. Our government is co-ordinate in form. It is for the executive to recommend laws and for the legislature to enact them. In all matters they should work together as nearly as possible, especially in those involving platform pledges. When they do not agree it is unfortunate. But it is not so unfortunate as for the legislature to surrender its beliefs, its conscience and its duties unquestioningly into the executive keeping, even when the executive is as wise and patriotic and reliable as Woodrow Wilson or John H. Morehead.

It is usually the good fortune of the World-Herald to be able to agree with Governor Morehead in matters political. In this instance, while it cannot agree with him; it has not the slightest sympathy with efforts to cast aspersions on his motives. Such efforts, whether made by Mr. Derge or others, are silly as they are unworthy and will meet no popular response. Nebraska knows John H. Morehead to be an honest man and an honest governor. He recommends that control of local utilities be taken out of the hands of the cities and towns whose streets they occupy, and vested in the state railway commission, because he believes in it. So do many other good and progressive statesmen. Such well governed states as Wisconsin and New York are operating under the system Governor Morehead advocates for Nebraska, and it has many supporters in this state.

The World-Herald, however, is not among the number. There is so much that appeals to this newspaper as wise and judicious and well considered, in the list of Governor Morehead's recommendations, and with which it is thoroughly in accord, that it is not surprising if on a few points, such as this one, there is disagreement. The World-Herald believes that each city, each little town, that charters a public service corporation for its own uses, and that permits it to occupy its streets and alleys, has a natural and just right to control that corporation.

It believes that to take that right away and vest the control in a state board at Lincoln would be contrary to good public policy. It believes, furthermore, that the state railway commission is already loaded down with more work than it cares to attend to. To add to that work the additional monumental task of regulating the management, service, rates, etc., of all the local public service corporations chartered in hundreds of Nebraska cities and towns would be, it seems to us, to swamp the commission and to leave the people without an adequate means of asserting and defending their just rights.

We are aware there is much to be said, and said forcefully, on both sides of this question, and would not for a moment dispute the right of any member of the legislature to act upon it in conformity with his best judgment. Indeed, that is precisely what it is the business and duty of every member to do. No convention has declared in favor of state control of local utilities. Particularly the convention that adopted the platform on which a democratic legislature was elected did not declare for it. It is not a question of party policy and no

effort has ever been made to make it such.

But it is a very important question—a question of great moment to the people not merely of Omaha and Lincoln and the larger cities, but to many scores of smaller cities and towns that have franchised corporations and that are enjoying, however haltingly, the rights to regulate them. The question at issue is whether that right shall be taken from them and vested in a state board at Lincoln. Every legislator should consider that question thoughtfully from the viewpoint of the best interests of his constituents and of the entire state. He should allow no other consideration but that one to influence his vote.

That the present system of regulation is full of imperfections, and that it is in large part highly unsatisfactory, this newspaper readily admits. It is susceptible to very great improvement. It may well be that Governor Morehead and the legislature, working in harmony, will be able to effect an improvement. But we cannot believe that, to do so, it is necessary to go to the extreme of taking out of the hands of the people of Omaha, or Fremont, or Hastings, or Chadron, the right of control over their own local utilities, in which other portions of the state are only very remotely and very indirectly concerned.—World-Herald.

Be loyal to your city and always be happy.

It's easy to become polished after you get the money.

It is quite possible to be broad-minded without falling off the water wagon.

Is forgetting the date of groundhog day an indication of a lack of patriotism?

A man who has a wife and two daughters understands the meaning of triple entente, all right.

Speaking about resolutions, men like to make 'em because there is so much fun in breakin' 'em.

It is also fortunate a man is not afflicted with all the things he imagines are the matter with him.

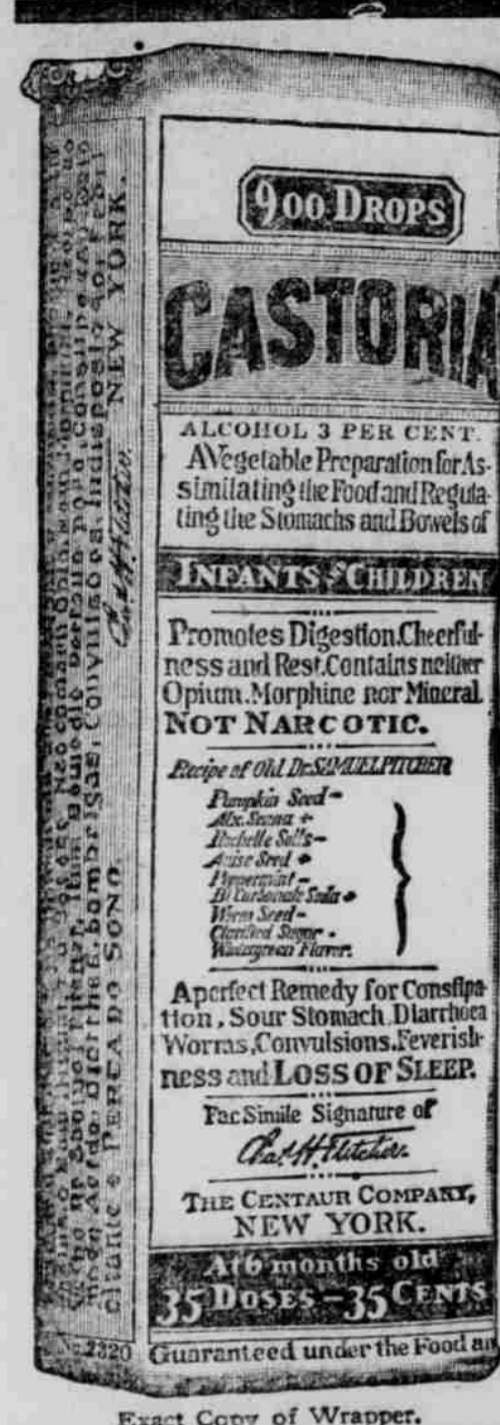
The Kansas City bandits have begun robbing each other. Honor among thieves is apparently largely fiction.

Where a soldier deserts the standard in Mexico it does not mean that he has turned against the national emblem of his distracted country, but that he has taken a sudden and violent dislike to this or that general commanding on one side or the other.

German Ridder, the great German publisher of New York City, gives notice in a learned article that the Germans are not alone in the blame for the present bloody war that is going on in Europe. True, there are very few questions but what have two sides to them.

At Indianapolis, on Jackson day, President Wilson said: "The democratic party is still on trial. We have not finished our work. We are going ahead. If any man or set of men should try to break up the solidity of the democratic party they would gain an unenviable position for themselves. This party must and will stand together." The president, evidently, is striking at some fellows not very far from Washington.

Germany begins the new year with nearly 600,000 prisoners of war on its hands. Prisoners of war are well treated, as a mistreatment would invite swift reprisals on the prisoners held by the enemy. This fact led Bernard Shaw to make a shrewd suggestion. Observing that millions of Englishmen are in want, he advises them to join the army and get captured. That will insure them a comfortable home. In addition it would be a form of foraging off the enemy.



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The suffragettes get another black eye from congress.

Turkey occasionally shows that it still needs a guardian.

It's tough to be on the ragged edge, but that is better than war.

A peace dove hovering over Mexico, seemingly, doesn't mean much.

It is possible that "the woman with a mask" wears it in kindness.

Next to a woman scorned, an irate husband is apt to be the most dangerous person.

The woman who marries a grouch should demand a hero medal instead of a wedding ring.

Back in 1830 the average American had one wife and six children. As time passes, style changes.

Sometimes a great genius devotes his talent to making a living from a political pull, which is a most uncertain source.

The American who has to be officially warned not to tour Europe in these days must be a mighty keen hunter for trouble.

There is, you may have observed, less genuine maple syrup since the pure food law went into effect than ever before. And it is so with many other articles on the market. If we have a pure food law, enforce it, or take it off the statute book.

The report that Mr. Bryan declined to listen to Judge Wiley's views of Mexico is plausible. And there are several reasons why.

All that Plattsmouth has to do to show a fine development in 1915 is to keep up the pace that the past three or four years have set.

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