

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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

I think if the Hebrews, the Catholics, and the Protestants should get together on the question, the reading of the Bible in the schools could be brought about.—S. Parkes Cadman.

It's easy to quit and just as easy to stay quit.

What was it the groundhog predicted, anyway?

Playing the other fellow's game is no way to beat it.

Who's got the best of it so far? The lion, of course.

Don't shout for war until you are ready to go yourself.

Every politician is a statesman, if you take his word for it.

"Man is a worm"—and woman is the early bird that catcheth him.

The robin and redbird, harbingers of spring, have been muffled by snow drifts.

History says that George Washington loved often and deeply. Evidently he was ahead of his time.

He is a benefactor of the age who learns to make one pound of flour do what two have been wasted on before.

A new counterfeit \$20 gold certificate is said to be in circulation. There ought to be twenties of some kind going around.

We have no complaint to make if the old saying holds good, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

Norfolk has just decided to lay five miles of pavement during the coming season. How much will Plattsmouth lay this summer?

Germany accuses the United States of having no army, and if that fact will keep us out of trouble we shouldn't feel a bit sore.

If plenty of snow is an oman of a good wheat crop, evidently Cass county will be among the leading counties in this cereal this year.

Most of those statesmen who are shouting for a larger navy, would neither enlist nor permit their sons to do so. Which reference, of course, is to the army in peace. Most men are patriotic enough to take a chance when trouble really comes.

Prohibition in Iowa again? How many times has Iowa tried to enforce prohibition in the past twenty-five years and made a failure in its efforts? Let some of the politicians of the Hawkeye state, who have gained notoriety for themselves and slid into office on this false issue, please answer—if they can.

Mayor Harrison of Chicago made a grand-stand play of not entering the race for renomination until his wife gave her consent. The question was properly and scientifically mooted, and duly advertised and discussed in the daily press, with a weather eye always to leeward for the woman vote. And the women did vote—and Carter will return to the bosom of his family, the worst defeated candidate who ever jockeyed for feminine favor.

We can look for more snow any time, day or night.

Trying to be neutral on the liquor issue places a legislator in a most uncomfortable position.

Woman's waist line is to be restored by fashion. However, no one is bold enough to predict where it will be.

Professor Taft says profanity is conducive of low golf scores, and there are equally good reasons for not swearing.

The trains are running again on time, which is good news to those of our citizens who patronize Omaha merchants.

There don't seem to be very much excitement over the city election. It's pretty near time for candidates to be getting a move on themselves.

Here's a bully idea: Let's have a law requiring every senator and congressman who votes for war to enlist and go to the front. Then there'll be no war.

A California grafter has been ordered to confine his reading to the bible for a month. If like punishment is to be given all grafters there wouldn't be enough of bibles to supply the demand.

clerical positions. In the east, it appears, there has been a decided falling off of receipts, on account of slower business allegedly due to the European war. Whether the decrease has been from this or from other causes, it appears, that the service in the west, showing no material decrease in receipts, is also to come in for the pruning hook.

The campaign against the house fly was inaugurated a little earlier last year than ever before and it had its effect in noticeably decreasing the number of pests later on. It is astonishing how many thousands flies a single pair will breed if let alone during a single season. The time to get in effective work is early in the season and with a concerted effort their number can be greatly reduced. Swat the fly and swat early!

Mrs. W. F. Cockrell, of Dehay, Virginia, jumped into the elevator shaft of the Washington monument at Washington, D. C., near the top, on Tuesday of last week, and fell to the bottom, more than 500 feet below. Her body was crushed by striking the sides of the shaft on the way down, and she was dead before her body reached the bottom. It was the first time that the towering obelisk, which was opened to the public in 1888 and has been visited by millions of Americans, had been the scene of a suicide. Ten years ago a painter working in the shaft accidentally fell to his death.

Again the Journal reminds its farmer readers—in case any of them need reminding—that all seed corn should be tested. It is not the Journal's opinion—it is the testimony of agricultural experts and practical farmers—that it pays to test the seed corn. It stands to reason that the crop will not be good unless the seed is good—that if half or one-fourth or one-tenth of the planted grains fail to germinate, there will be missing hills, or hills with fewer stalks than each hill should contain. Planting untested seed is taking chances. It is neglecting a precaution that may make a difference of bushels to the acre in the fall. Men that know more about it than anybody in the office of the Journal agree that it pays well to plant the best and make sure that it is the best. Test the seed corn!

"Tailors are putting additional money pockets in men's trousers," says an exchange. For heaven's sake, what for?

Fashion has decreed that women must reduce in weight in order to wear the latest gowns. What a calamity to those who cannot reduce, and yet refuse to wear an out-of-date gown!

The postal authorities at Washington are evidently determined to introduce very decided economies in the management and maintenance of the department. All of the large offices, it seems, are to be subjected to such an inspection relative to the efficiency of the force, from the assistant postmaster to the most recently appointed substitute, as has been made in the Omaha office in which several material reductions have been made in salaries and changes in the more

There are always two sides to a genuine political politician—before election and after election. Before election he is very conservative in his expressions, but after election, in one instance that we know of, his remarks before election are certainly forgotten, and his standpatism is as brazen as that of Old Joe Cannon. He received many democratic votes on account of his conservative declarations in the campaign, but he has evidently lost sight of his utterances before the election from his utterances at the present time. That man is C. F. Reavis, who was elected to congress last fall and who condemns himself as a political mincompoop who seems to care but little what his utterances may bring forth. But one thing certain, Mr. Reavis can come to the conclusion that he will remain at home after two years' service.

A MILLION MEN FOR PEACE.
The Army and Navy Journal favors an army of a million volunteers to augment our present regular force. One can't blame a trade journal for boosting its line of business, and an additional million in the army would mean many more officers who would read the journal mentioned, and be in some measure influenced by its teachings. Part of its teachings is that a large army at this time will help us in maintaining peace. Give Germany the once over and see how well that theory works out in fact. Germany also had an army of nearly a million men, with other millions ready to get on the job at a moment's notice. So, for that matter, did France and Russia, although far short of the German standard of preparation, and you have observed how it maintained peace for them.

There is, however, the other angle to the proposition; the idea that we are inevitably to be drawn into this world war. We don't believe it, and you and the army and navy publications are entitled to your guess, but if it must be, the army of a million men should be raised at once, and then augmented with another million, and another, until we are prepared to fight a regular power, which no one contends for a moment that we are today. But militarism is as distasteful to the men of this administration as war is, and the chances are we won't have the marching legions nor any occasion for marching them forth to slaughter. Which would be the better way, if it can be worked out accordingly. No man can lift the veil and view the future with any degree of accuracy, but if this war is to be of real worth to the world, it will be in proving the folly of powerful armament, and lead to some system where other nations will decrease their forces to something like the American standard, which is low enough for police purposes. But, if it is to be our war, which it isn't now, all haste should be made to prepare, unless we would cut a sorry figure when the time comes. Our military strength is pitifully weak when compared to other countries, but it has its commendable features for all that; it makes us hesitate, and bear some insults which are fighting words between nations which are ready to fight.

CONFISCATING THE PRESS.

In reference to house roll No. 736 the Fremont Tribune voices the sentiment of the Journal in every utterance in the following editorial:

The instigator of the proposed measure is John O. Yeiser of Omaha. The public could easily have guessed as much. He wants to get into the editorial columns of other people's papers without having to be bothered with buying and successfully running one, which he could not do.

The proposed law is not a libel law. Already there is a law on that subject that is air-tight and one-sided against the newspaper. As a rule the newspapers are now much more careful and considerate than they ever wear. The oldtime policy of "personal journalism" has been very largely abandoned. The old belief in editorial rooms that men must be attacked merely to get editorial attention has well-nigh passed. It cannot be denied that there are still some violations of a prudent regard for the rights of others. But mainly personal attacks are confined nowadays to exploiters of the public, and this kind of publicity is the public's surest protection against the big malefactors.

The bill proposed, known as house roll No. 736, will make legitimate criticism very difficult. It will be a great boon to sharks, charlatans, freaks, frauds, mountebanks, who want to put something over on the public. It will be an attack upon the freedom of the press which, say what you will, is one of the most potent safeguards of our republican government.

Mr. Yeiser does not come with good credentials to demand such legislation as he asks. He is a lawyer. In his profession none ever hesitate in framing a petition in a suit at law to make any and all kinds of charges against the person sued. Every crime in the calendar may be freely and recklessly charged with the idea that so much as can be proved will be proved. Failure to prove the more flagrant allegations is merely to weaken the suit. It never sends a lawyer to prison, as it does a newspaper editor when he makes any kind of a charge that he cannot prove, always with the legal presumption of malice against him. And the lawyers in their forensic pyrotechnics in court may freely bespatter a man without becoming liable. "Physician, heal thyself." If Mr. Yeiser wishes to proceed logically and with proper sequence let him use some legislative carboic acid on his own business. Not one time in a hundred is a person barred by a newspaper from offering such defense as the personal honor and standing demand. Not much oftener than that do the lawyers fail to take advantage of their legalized immunity from the penalty of attack others.

Gossip is a great evil, even when, as often happens, there is some truth in it.

Remember: "Boost and the city boosts with you; knock and you knock alone."

The groundhog is a pretty fair prophet. His six weeks of winter closed Monday.

The main purpose of the allies in reducing the Turkish forts is to reduce the price of wheat.

The blizzard predicted for Sunday night has failed to materialize, and we hope it will keep on failing.

The kaiser is said to be looking for peace, but one can hardly see it in Europe, even with the aid of a telescope.

Another argument against making two states out of Texas is that it would increase the visible supply of Texas senators.

The legislature has properly killed the bill designed to prevent communities from engaging in their own ownership and operation of such public utilities as water, electricity, gas, etc.

Secretary Bryan has told both Great Britain and Germany where to head in, so that neither should get osre about it.

Courtesy is not confined to the United States senate. In the closing hours of the house all fines of absentees were remitted.

President Wilson warns Carranza that he must protect foreigners in Mexico or the United States will. That's the way to talk, and we believe President Wilson means what he says.

Colonel Goethals has been made a major general. That is what he gets for building the canal. On the other hand the average citizen gets only wet feet and a lame back for digging a tunnel through the snow.

Soil conditions and all present prospects indicate another bumper wheat crop for Kansas, but so much may happen between now and harvest that spare time should be devoted to knocking wood and other preventive measures.

If the members of the legislature were drawing ten dollars a day, with no limit as to time, we know of some members who would want to continue in session the entire year. As it is, they get paid for only sixty days, and after that they get nothing.

Senator Mattes' taxation measure lost out in the senate by a vote of 14 to 10. This bill was to change the revenue system of the state so as to make the value of property for purposes of taxation equivalent to the value as given for insurance.

Congress has been adjourned several days, and still no appointments of the big offices due to Nebraska has been announced. Maguire has not even mentioned an appointment for the Nebraska City postoffice, and several applicants are lined up for the position.

We reprint in another column of this issue an editorial from the Fremont Tribune in relation to a bill now being considered in the legislature that newspapers shall be made common carriers and that whenever one has anything to say about anybody that person shall have the right to an equal space in the paper to defend, explain, fulmanat and promulgate. When the public understands that the instigator of this bill is John O. Yeiser of Omaha, it is not to be wondered at. He has run for office so often and never was successful, on account of newspapers telling the truth about him, that he has hit upon this plan to counteract the opinion of the press in regard to such fellows. If a man wants to run for office and is possessed of a clean character and his record is a good one, he need not fear the criticisms of newspapers. But it is not clean, able and upright men who are demanding such a law.

With the Sick Folks.

Leland Briggs was among those placed on the retired list yesterday by sickness and was reported as suffering from the common malady of the gripe at his home, but it is thought that he will be able to conquer the disease in a few days, but it kept him confined to the house yesterday

J. H. Becker was down town yesterday for the first time in several weeks, since he was stricken down with the gripe, and does not yet feel as well as he might. His appearance was mighty pleasing to his many friends, who have greatly missed him during his illness.

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Talk about impeaching Governor Morehead! What for? Come on with your charges, or forever hold your peace. We are anxious to see what port of charge can be trumped up against such an efficient and faithful official as Governor Morehead. Bluff is cheap, and a bluffer never could "show down" when "called."

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