

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

We need a revival of the individual. The question is not, What are they doing?—but, What am I doing? Not, Why do you not do this, that or the other?—but, Why am I doing this, that or the other?—Jeken Lloyd Jones.

The jinty and the dude are so much alike they ought to go together.

The fall acreage of wheat is the greatest in the history of the country.

Speak well of the dead, and if you can find time, speak an occasional good word for the living.

How many people do you know, including yourself, who can repeat the ten commandments?

Recent figures give the number of pleasure and commercial automobiles registered in this country as 1,735,369.

The next interesting collection will be the war talk slang from the bleachers. A little more neutrality, Mr. Umpire!

It is a good idea to take a little clean-up intoxicant at this season of the year. It will also refreshen your appetite.

Omaha will vote next month on the question of permitting Sunday base ball in that city. You only need one guess as to the result.

In figuring out whether one can afford an automobile or not, it is customary to include the amount one can borrow on a mortgage as part pay.

Caruso is now said to be getting a salary of \$7,000 a night, not counting what he cleans up writing testimonials for smoking tobacco and such like between acts.

If Huerta gets back into Mexico and begins to raise more hell, either army should capture him and hang him to the lamp post. The United States don't want him hanging around. His presence bodes no good.

The short ballot bill was defeated in the Nebraska house Saturday. This is the bill that also extends the term of all county officials to four years. So the boys will have to run again next year if they want their terms extended. However, we believe in the four-year proposition.

In all reasonable probability, with interest on what he already has tucked away, "Bills" Sunday will be a million dollars better off at the end of a year to come. Sunday never was a great ball player. In fact, he was a rather indifferent one, but he has won fame and fortune and has won it by using the methods of a base ball coach in evangelistic work.

The Lincoln Trade Review, in an article on cleaning up, makes the following wise suggestions: Commercial club organizations in the hundreds of towns and cities of Nebraska, cannot do a more important work in the next thirty days than to inaugurate in their different localities, clean-up and paint-up campaigns. There will come from this kind of work a sure satisfaction and the better the job is done, and the more that new paint is used, the more attractive every town will be to those from outside who visit it. Clean-up-time means good health, good appearance and good advertising.

IF A BREAK COMES.

If a break comes between Mr. Bryan and the president it is likely to be occasioned by the prohibition proclivities of the secretary of state. President Wilson hitherto has held the ground very firmly against doctrines which Mr. Bryan seems disposed now to make his own.

Undoubtedly the secretary will find a large response from democrats to his recent appeal in behalf of prohibition, but it will be by no means a general response. The old doctrines of democracy are too ingrained in the fiber of a large body of its disciples to permit them to extend hospitality to a doctrine at cross purposes with its essential spirit, which is indeed a clear denial of the very essences of that democracy, for if democracy means anything it means individual avoidance of evil. Mr. Bryan would adopt the argument of authority and impose upon the individual such morals as the majority may choose.

And, of course, if the majority may impose one set of morals on the minority it may impose any other set of morals at will. There is no place where the line may be drawn, once admitting the right or the authority of the majority to deal with moral questions. From morals it is a short and logical step to religion; and when morals have been regulated to suit the majority, the regulations of religious opinion and modes of worship will follow in order. There is no escape from the logic.

In none of the writings of the president which have come under our notice do we find any indications that he is hospitable to the notion that the regulation of morals is any part of the duty of the state. Certainly it is no part of the duty of the federal government. He has everywhere manifested the keenest sympathy with the spirit of free institutions and the largest appreciation of individual liberty and responsibility. And so he must have undergone a very great change indeed if since quitting the cloister for the forum and the seat of executive power he has become sympathetic with the doctrine which flatly denies all he had before taught and sincerely believed.

It is on this issue that we may fairly expect the president and his secretary of state to reach the parting of the ways. The president is perhaps as strong an advocate of sobriety as Mr. Bryan. He is as earnest in his desire to abate the evil of drink. But he is likely to be unwilling to pay the price for the abatement of the evil that Mr. Bryan seems more than ready to offer. —Johnstown Democrat.

While the good roads talk may help some, a road drag is more essential and efficient.

There are many needs to help Plattsmouth out this season, and the Commercial club should get busy.

Now they are going to investigate the bread trust, and the defendant in the investigation will probably be John "Dough."

International marriages are claimed to be the cause of the war. The allegation, however, could be much more general.

If the United States should get into this war, it is believed that our warships would at least be useful to haul coal to our allies.

Senator Hitchcock has been secured to deliver the address to the graduation class of the Plattsmouth High school on the evening of May 26. Prof. Brooks has been very fortunate in securing such an eminent statesman for this purpose.

Well, the legislature has finally adjourned.

You don't enjoy pleasure when you get tired out chasing it.

It is hard to forget the hospital sound of that word "intern."

Is it not the psychological moment to spring Mr. Willard's presidential boom?

The United States has accumulated almost enough material to get out a red, white and blue book about the war.

The past winter was of the well known hard variety, but much more so in Europe than in this home of the brave.

The man who confessed to poisoning eight people has been discharged. He must consider it a humiliating reflection on his reputation for veracity.

There is something strange about the story that Monsieur Jack Johnson sought an American passport at Havana. Is he afraid of being captured by the Germans?

Mr. Wilson says that no man is wise enough to pass judgment on the European war. Is the president trying to make enemies of the folks who have passed judgment?

It seems to be hard work for the members of the legislature to get away from Lincoln. After setting several days for adjournment they have finally made their departure for their various homes.

If it is essential to have the sewerage done on both Chicago and Washington avenues, why do one before the other? If the work is needed, do the work on both at the same time and save any dispute or trouble among the councilmen.

Huerta says he don't intend to return to Mexico. He is in the United States attending to some important private business and will return to Spain the first of May. The old man has a very reasonable excuse for not returning to Mexico.

There are a great many things that can be done this season that will add to the beauty of Plattsmouth. Let all join in the procession. There is certainly something about your home or your place of business that can be done to add tone to the place.

It is said that Speaker Jackson is using the steam roller on some of the bills. If he had had his steam roller out from the beginning of the session perhaps it would have been better for the taxpayers, as there are numerous bills that should never have passed.

The rumor that the snow banks in the western part of the state are rapidly disappearing is good news in this section. Maybe after they are gone we will enjoy fine, balmy spring weather. Stoves are a real necessary article here yet, and the coal supplies are getting very low, in view of warmer weather.

William R. Nelson, one of the greatest newspaper men in the United States, and for many years editor and owner of the Kansas City Star, is no more. He had been ill for several months, and passed away at his home in Kansas City Monday morning at the age of 74 years. He leaves behind him a fortune of several millions, and one of the finest newspaper plants in America.

Last Sunday's State Journal contains a picture of both Senator Mattes and Senator Saunders, as probable candidates for governor next year. Mattes on the democratic ticket and Saunders on the republican ticket. Senator Mattes has the ability to make a good governor, and if he should be nominated and elected he would prove a good man at the head of the state government. Like Governor Morehead, he would be governor in the fullest sense of the term.

"LOBBIED TO DEATH."

"Several causes contributed to the defeat of the insurance bill when it finally came up on third reading in the house yesterday. The deciding factor, in the opinion of some well informed sentiment in the gallery, was that the bill was literally lobbied to death." Lincoln Journal.

That is the plain and simple truth. Our Lincoln contemporary should have been frank throughout and named the lobby that opposed the bill and killed it.

It should have named the big line elevator companies, and the big line lumber companies.

It should have named the Standard Bridge company and its astute chief, Mr. "Bob" Drake, one of the cleverest and most resourceful lobbyists known to the legislative history of Nebraska.

It should have named our good brother in democracy, Mr. Charles W. Bryan.

Nor should it have allowed modesty to restrain it from naming as one of the contributing factors, the Lincoln Journal and its adjunct, the Lincoln Evening News.

It was the powerful combination thus captioned, with the assistance of many able and determined lieutenants, that misled the busy lower house of the legislature, in the closing days of the session, to stick the knife into the progressive and reform measure that would have enforced the square deal in the insurance field in Nebraska.

The motive of this lobby was plain. It was actuated by that most powerful of all incentives, self-interest.

The big line elevator companies, thanks to influence, large volume of business and keen bargaining, are entitled, under the present discriminatory system, to buy their insurance for about half what their competitors, the farmers' elevators, pay.

The big line lumber companies are enabled, thanks to the same system, to buy their insurance for about half what their little local competitors pay.

Lincoln and other favored communities are enabled to buy their insurance at a much lower rate than is exacted in other communities—which accounts for the keen activity of Brother Charles and the Lincoln Journal, eager to retain for their city the benefit of a special privilege.

And the unfavored buyer, the unfavored community, pay the fiddler. They pay the fair cost of their own insurance, and in addition are loaded with a part of the cost that should be charged to those enjoying special favors.

If there was a genuinely progressive measure considered by the legislature, if there was one that would have worked a real and needed reform in Nebraska, that measure was the anti-discrimination insurance bill. It would have put every buyer of insurance on an equal footing with every other buyer. It would have assured the weak the same treatment as the strong. It would have reduced the fire risk and the total fire losses. It made for economy as well as for fairness. It would have put the insurance business under public control and equalized rates, while at the same time guarding against any increase in the sum total of insurance charges. Eventually it would have resulted in materially lower rates all around.

More than one meritorious measure is defeated, in the last few hours of a busy legislative session, in all innocence and good faith so far as the harassed and preplexed legislators are concerned. So it has been with this measure. The house has been misled by as cunning and adroit a lobby as ever camped about a legislature. But the reform is only delayed—not defeated. It is as sure to come as the people of Nebraska are sure to stand for the square deal—for equal rights to all and special privileges to no one—once they understand the issue. —World-Herald.

The senate adopts resolution commending President Wilson, but goes no farther.

Many men would be glad to get up and see the sun rise these lovely spring mornings, were it not that their wives might find something for them to do before breakfast.

The legislature passed 398 bills, which is a sufficiency for all practical purposes.

The house of representatives spent a wild day, following the formal close of the session.

Senator Hitchcock gave a fine talk to the legislature. He's just the man who can do that.

What has become of the old-fashioned suffragette in England? Evidently war has some comforts.

Who says education doesn't educate? A graduate of a university almost always "knows it all."

Headline says: "Colonel Roosevelt Shares Day With Violets," and the contrast must have been awful.

The legislators were doing business at the old stand Sunday, in order to get through Monday and go home.

Several building lots have changed ownership in the past week, which indicates the erection of several more new residences this season.

King George is willing to quit strong drink if it seems desirable, which it does, but it is more important that those who have the real work on hand should get on the wagon.

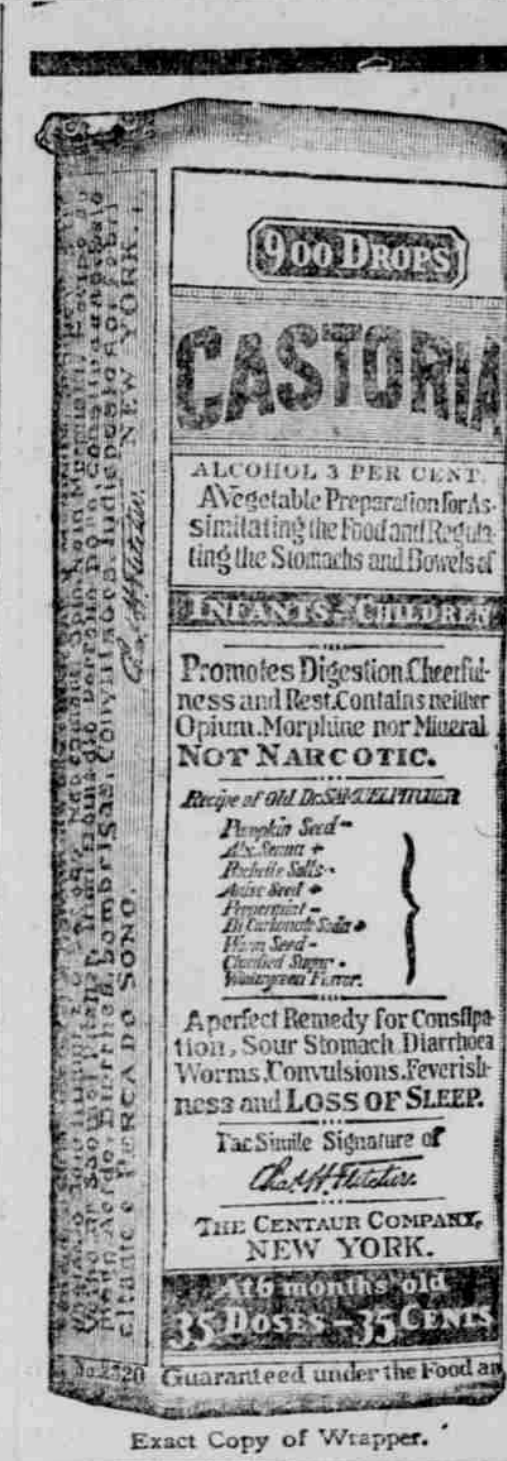
The bakers in many places have generously and gracefully yielded to the popular demand by reducing the price of bread again to 5 cents per loaf, the loaves being quite two ounces smaller.

Although it is claimed that the salaries of public officials are pitifully low, yet most of them would be willing to accept even a longer term of reelection, possibly, even if their salaries were reduced.

It is reported that a dozen applications have been filed with Mayor Richey for the appointment of chief of police. The mayor cannot be too careful in his selection, as it isn't every man who can fill the position successfully.

FIFTY YEARS AT APPOMATTOX.

The fiftieth anniversary April 9 of the surrender of Lee at Appomattox was not observed much by public celebrations. It is one of the great historical events of American life. Yet few northern men care to "rub in" these memories. They can only have sympathy for their tragic desolation of the south. To the older people the memories of that portentous day will never grow dim. The gulf between the two sections seemed as high as heaven and as deep as hell, ghastrly with skeletons, ruined homes and fortunes. Yet time heals all wounds. There are scars visible, but flowers have grown over the graves and the ruins. Perfect harmony can never be expected between widely separated sections of any large country. The fact that differences exist does not prove that the relations are not cordial. The east and the west have their sharp conflicts, almost as much as the south and north. A nation that spreads over so vast an expanse as the United States has many divergent interests to reconcile. It can never be as harmonious as a small and compact country. It gains all the power and freedom of bigness, but pays for it with the diversities of ideas and points of view. These diversities are often sharp, yet they need never be serious or threatening. If it was only possible for the great mass of the people to travel freely all over the country, friction between sections would be reduced to a small minimum. Most of the differences referred to result from a lack of personal understanding of the people and problems of other sections. The heroism of the two armies that finally joined hands at Appomattox is the joint heritage of all the people. Their endurance and their daring are an expression of the idealism and determination of American character. Any man who had an ancestor on that field has a right to rejoice in the glory of his blood, regardless which side he fought on.



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Many of the members of the present legislature want to take a long, lingering look at the seats they occupied, for they will never occupy them again.

No doubt Governor Morehead will feel great relief when the legislature adjourns. It has been a strenuous three months for him, but he has proved equal to the emergency.

Emmeline Pankhurst refuses to join Jane Addams and other peace-loving women in a session at The Hague. Emmeline, it will be recalled, has something of a reputation for militancy.

One in twenty women in Chicago smoke cigarettes. There is where a welfare board is badly needed, as the cigarette nuisance should be abolished totally when it comes to women smoking them.

Vice President Marshall is being criticized for addressing himself at the Panama exposition to the mooted subject of making good with Colombia for certain alleged injustices done to her in our acquiring the Panama canal zone rights. Still the matter will have to be adjusted one way or another sooner or later, and the public discussion of it might just as well proceed.

If we were only as good as we would have others to believe us, what a grand old world this would be.

Jitney service is also proposed in New York, which still has horse cars in spots, although possessed of all other forms of transportation, including the well known high rollers who don't know where they are going.

This world is on a trot, and it is some trot. We have the fox trot, the turkey trot, the dog trot, the gold trot and the silly trot. And everybody's rotting. If we don't trot for one thing, we trot for another. The young man trots along in the wake of the dainty maid. The bald-head trots around hunting for any kind of a skirt. The millionaire trots in harness with his affluence. The dude trots in the halo of his own silliness. The miser trots after his gold, and the grafter trots the road to hell. The politician trots in the limelight of publicity, and the voter trots at his beck and call. The hypocrite trots around in the cloak of religion, and the godly man trots after the souls of men. Death trots in the trenches of Europe, while misery and starvation trot over the hearthstrings of the women and children left at home. Everybody's on the trot, and it is a fast and furious trot, with every man for himself and satan take the hindmost trotter. If you would succeed in this life you must trot, for only the trotters reach the goals of today. It is the day of the trot, and we are essentially a people of today. For we trot.

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