

The Plattsmouth Journal

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WILSON VS. BRYAN.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

If thou canst not give pleasure to all by thy deeds and thy knowledge, give it then unto the few; many to please is but vain.—Schiller.

"True blue" does not apply to first-class fresh milk.

If Bulgaria joins the Germans, Greece will don its war paint.

If you are a resident of Plattsmouth always have a good word for your home town.

But it is still permissible to use the phrase, "drunk as a lord," just as we continue to say, "work like a Turk."

Villa's losses in Mexico are almost as great as the Austrian losses reported from Petrograd from time to time.

Dispatches fail to account for Nelson O'Shaughnessy's not being on hand to greet his affectionate old friend, Huerta.

A headline announces that a new submarine can stay under water one hundred days. Some are staying longer than that.

Time to bring forth the water wagon. It is somewhat dusty, and the business men along Main street are clamoring for it.

A New York typist has written 7,800 words an hour. But perhaps she cannot talk any faster than any ordinary woman.

Soon we'll have shade to invite us to its grateful embrace. There is nothing like shade and rest and the quiet joy of living.

Buying and selling votes will not be popular in Terre Haute, Indiana, by the sentences imposed on the guilty ones by Judge Anderson.

While the governor of Arizona may be shocked at the legal execution of murderers, the border patrol cheerfully hangs cattle thieves.

The Cass county farmer is suffering a two weeks' handicap in his start this spring, but he will doubtless be able to overcome it before fall.

Property is advancing right along in this city. Property that could have been bought for \$800 two years ago, cannot be purchased now for double that amount.

The police in a town not a hundred miles from Plattsmouth found some cocaine between the leaves of a bible. In some households the bible is the safest hiding place.

Dr. Eliot thinks that this country should help England in the present war because it gave us Milton. Without arguing about England's step-mother treatment of Milton, we contend that Dr. Eliot's whole five feet of books would not justify us in going to war.

A visit to any section of Plattsmouth these days would convince anyone that the people are up and doing in the way of improvements of various kinds. There were fifteen new homes erected in this city last season, and from present indications this will be outdone this season.

That if a decided and irreconcilable difference should ever arise between President Wilson and Secretary Bryan it would be on the prohibition question is the opinion of the Johnston Democrat. It is a prospect the democrat views with dismay. That newspaper is an ardent friend and loyal champion of both these great democratic leaders. Its democracy is of the radical, Tom Johnson, single-tax sort. But, like Tom Johnson himself, it is strongly opposed to the injection of the liquor question into party politics, and is opposed to prohibition as undemocratic and irrational. For the first time in its history, therefore, it is obliged to differ from Mr. Bryan on an important matter. And it declares that Mr. Bryan stands in antagonism to President Wilson's known views when he insists that in every state where the question is presented the democratic party must take the prohibition side, not only declaring for prohibition in its platform but nominating none but prohibitionists for office.

The St. Louis Republic, another democratic newspaper that is devoted to both Wilson and Bryan, takes a like view. In a Washington dispatch dated April 13 it says President Wilson does not approve of making the liquor question a political issue, and that his attitude today is the same as he defined it in a letter written May 11, 1911, to the Rev. Thomas E. Shannon of Newark, N.J., when Mr. Wilson was governor of New Jersey. In view of Mr. Bryan's new position that letter becomes of fresh importance. In it Mr. Wilson wrote:

"I am in favor of local option. I am a thorough believer in local self-government and believe that every self-governing community which constitutes a social unit should have the right to control the matter of the regulation or of the withholding licenses. "But the questions involved are social and moral and are not susceptible of being made parts of a party program. Whenever they have been made the subject matter of party contests they have cut the lines of party organization and party action athwart, to the utter confusion of political action in every other field. They have thrown every other question, however important, into the background, and have made constructive party action impossible for long years together. So far as I am concerned, therefore, I can never consent to have the question of local option made an issue between political parties in this state. My judgment is very clear in this matter. I do not believe that party programs of the highest consequence to the political life of the state and of the nation ought to be thrust on one side and hopelessly embarrassed for long periods together by making a political issue of a great question which is essentially non-political, non-partisan, social and moral in its nature."

The position taken by President Wilson in this letter is precisely that which was taken by the democratic party in Nebraska in 1910. It declared against the injection of the liquor issue into party platforms and party campaigns, and favored its separate, non-partisan settlement by means of the initiative and referendum. To that position the democratic party of the state has held consistently ever since.—World-Herald.

Nebraska stockmen who are familiar with live stock sanitary laws of other states say that as a result of the late legislature's activity Nebraska has the best live stock laws of any state in the union.

Omaha is going to make a desperate effort to secure the next republican national convention. May the effort be crowned with success. Omaha is abundantly able to take care of such conventions, and she will do it, too, if the opportunity is afforded.

Why can't we have a jitney bus in Plattsmouth?

Arbor Day next Thursday. Plant a tree or twig.

The tidy-up campaign is what the promoters would call a clean proposition.

Governor Morehead has designated Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24, as clean-up days in Nebraska.

The straw hat is late coming to the front this season. But the fly and straw hat will make their appearance about the same time.

Many men who can't name the capital of Cuba will always remember that Havana was the scene of the Willard-Johnson fight.

Some men are determined to beautify their home grounds this summer even if they have to make their wives do the work.

The river and harbor bill is not as large as was hoped, but it is believed that it will keep the politicians alive until the next feeding time.

Complaint is made that when college students come back they won't help around the house, but they are always willing to assist someone else's sister do the housework.

Benson escapes annexation with Omaha, and is left all to her lonely self. She may consider herself fortunate or otherwise. But she can be more independent otherwise.

It is strange, but nevertheless true how some men, who run for office, so soon forget their friends after their election. We have one in our mind's eye who we never thought would do us such a trick, but he evidently has. But there are other days ahead.

"ON TIME."

The Burlington railway is making proud announcement of the fact that one of its transcontinental trains was "on time" 236 days out of 242 last year.

A remarkable record, that. Most of us would be inclined to doubt the truth of the statement, perhaps, did not the railway substantiate its claim with "names and dates." Thus the record seems to be straight and unassailable.

It must be a difficult task to run a train 2,000 miles or more and have it reach its destination on the schedule. "Getting behind" is so easy—so difficult to avoid. "Being on time" is such a tremendous task—to most of us.

One reason why we are prone to tardiness is that in a very large degree our acts are dependent upon, interwoven with, the doing of our fellows. If our being at a certain place at a certain hour offers no chance of interference from the people, we are late only through fault of our own. But if, in addition to keeping that appointment, we must visit other places and see other people, the matter of our personal promptness becomes a complicated undertaking.

But the train which made such a remarkable record had to meet such conditions. At all its junction points were dangers of delays because of the lateness of other trains. Yet on all save six days of the 242 it "finished on time." It had to do it, you see, for the passengers on the way to their destination and the friends awaiting them at that terminal could not be expected to feel in the mood to waste their own time because there had been waste elsewhere by interests with which they had nothing in common.

"On time!" What a record is that! How few possess it—and how many need to have it! The railway employees must have had to strain every nerve, and be constantly watchful and constantly ready for every emergency, and constantly determined to make their schedule, or they never could have done it. The individual, we fancy, must observe like principles to be "on time."—St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette.

UNDERSTANDING THE WAR.

"If you rolled up all the battles of Napoleon into one and added to the pile all the battles of Caesar and of Alexander, you wouldn't get nearly so big a conflict as the war has made up to this time." This is one of the striking phrases from an address delivered by Former Senator Beveridge of Indiana to the Sphinx club of New York, after a visit to both the eastern and western battle fronts in Europe. "In Poland," he added, "I reached a battle line and saw just one little segment of a battle. On the side I was with were 300 guns and 120,000 men and on the other side were 200,000 men and 200 guns. That was just a little segment."

The most interesting part of Senator Beveridge's report, perhaps, is his insistence that the American people have misjudged and do not understand the war and its issue. It is worth while to quote a part of his speech as given in the New York Times:

"I went to Germany, and then to France, with the idea that we Americans pick up from our newspapers. They were all wrong ideas. My experience over there was simply a case of dropping one preconception after another.

"It is a foolish and a fake cry that this is a rulers' war. It is a war of peoples. I tried everywhere to find socialists there were practically 1, but they were all for it, and of the 1,500,000 workers in Germany who were socialists there were practically 1,500,000 volunteers to serve. But in spite of this the great gain of the war in Europe, whoever wins and however the issue comes out, will be the tremendous advance of democracy. The advance, in fact, has already come. It has come so quickly and has extended so far that the United States today, even, may be trailing in the rear as the most sordid and reactionary Christian nation in the world.

"We are too sordid and material in looking upon the situation. Here is the wonderful miracle in Germany and in France. No man or woman is thinking of himself or herself, or even of his or her family. One and all the people are thinking of how they can serve the state or help the soldiers at the front. All the sermons ever preached on peace from the pulpits have done less than this war has to produce a spirit of self-sacrifice or devotion to the common cause. Spirituality, through the war, has put materialism under its feet. And in this country our best men have almost forgotten patriotism in the quest for business advantage.

"Every idea I went to Europe with was knocked out of me. The war will not end soon. The people in every country are devoted to it, and in their devotion have built up machines to do work, the like of which were never seen in times of peace. Why, in the Poland campaigns of the Germans I found more men than are employed on the payrolls of New York City, just finding out where the good roads lay and advising the commanding general over what route he could best direct his heavy wagons and artillery. In going to a ball game in Indianapolis I would often be stopped an hour on the road because of the jam, but the great German army, cook wagons, artillery, Red Cross wagons, everything, passed along one narrow road and there was no hitch.

"There is no tinge of cowardice anywhere in Europe. In the sublime earnestness of the combatants what happens to them has quite entirely ceased to matter."

The ideas he has gleaned from the newspapers were all wrong, says Senator Beveridge. When he was able to see and understand for himself—"every idea I went to Europe with was knocked out of me." Senator Beveridge is a fairly big man; a man of education, of legal training, of wide experience, and with a deep and cultivated mind. When he frankly admits that his newspaper reading had led him wholly astray the admission may well serve as a warning for the rest of us—a warning against cocksureness, against bias and prejudice, founded on newspaper reports and on other reports such as were accessible to Senator Beveridge before he went to Europe.

It should be understood that misleading reports are not the fault of the American newspapers. With very few exceptions indeed, whatever their editorial bias may be, they have every disposition to report the war and its issues fully and fairly. But there is no news comes to them except such as

the press bureaus of the warring nations inspire or such as the censors revise and pass.

For example, the newspaper from which this report of Senator Beveridge's speech is taken, the New York Times, recently published under a London date line an article accredited to Prof. von Leyden in the Frankfurter Zeitung. This eminent scholar was quoted as saying that Germans despise and defy all neutral peoples. These words were attributed to him: "Germany must and will stand alone. The Germans are the salt of the earth; they will fulfill their destiny, which is to rule the world and control other nations for the benefit of mankind."

Some six weeks afterwards the attention of the Times is called to the fact that no such article, and no article remotely resembling it, was ever published in the German paper to which it was accredited, and that Prof. von Leyden, named as its author, died in October, 1910.

The Times frankly admits the imposition and explains that the article was obtained from a London newspaper and published, on its part, in entire good faith. But meanwhile this fictitious Von Leyden letter has been copied and commented on in numerous other American newspapers, and the truth will never overtake the lie.

This is merely one little instance. But it serves to explain why so intelligent a student of war as Senator Beveridge is obliged to admit that his own ideas, gained on the American side, were all wrong, and why he declares that the American people have judged the war in the wrong spirit and are unable to understand the nature of the conflict.—World-Herald.

Many farmers were in the city Saturday afternoon, and most of them are extensive wheat growers, and these with whom we conversed say that never in the history of Cass county did the wheat look finer, and with nothing happening to interrupt it will be the biggest crop ever raised in the county.

Decoration day will soon be here. After which comes the greatest day of all—the Fourth of July. It has been several years since Plattsmouth celebrated. Let's get in line for a good one, before other towns in the county make arrangements. They all want to come to the county seat, if we have a celebration. It is not too early to agitate the question.

Lincoln Star: The Omaha Bee saucily remarks that "the democratic promise of economy in appropriations has proved an iridescent dream." Yet at the bottom of that rainbow nestles a pot of gold containing from \$350,000 to \$500,000 of coin that was saved in pursuance of that promise. It was the only promise of economy that has ever been kept by any party in this state.

The session of the legislature is over. It adjourned on Tuesday sine die. The citizens of Nebraska always breathe a sigh of relief when the light is out. There are a lot of disappointed people who tried their best to get certain bills through and failed. There are probably a lot of bills that went through that are neither necessary nor right. This is a sure result of the session of any law-making body. There are probably many good ones, too. We have watched carefully the different bills which have appeared in the press. We have expressed many times before, that the state would benefit from a legislature that could do nothing but repeal useless laws, would be of more actual benefit than one which makes laws, is still the opinion we hold.

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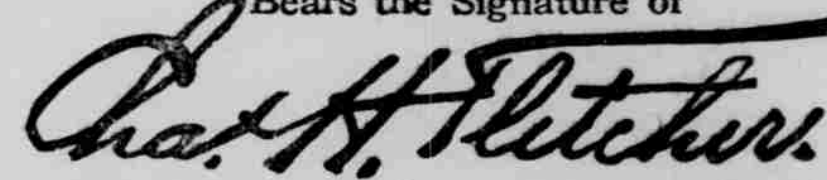
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The painters and paper hangers are pretty busy these days.

Brace up, you property owners, and see that it is cleaned up.

Mr. Redfield has now started a prosperity clipping bureau.

It is hard to tell just what those Mexicans are fighting about.

Many farmers and automobiles were in Plattsmouth Saturday.

Governor Morehead has disapproved of the efficiency commission bill.

Rumors of peace moves are declared in Berlin to be without foundation.

The probability of a treasury deficit indicates that the congressmen knew what their constituents sent them to Washington for.

With house cleaning and garden making here at the same time, the women folks are exerting every energy to accomplish good results.

The eighth annual encampment of the Department of Nebraska, United States Spanish War Veterans, will be held in Omaha Monday and Tuesday, April 26 and 27. Governor Morehead and ex-Senator John M. Thurston will be the principal speakers.

Some wisdom this, from the sultan of Turkey, in an Associated Press interview: "It has been said," the sultan is quoted as saying, "that it was the factor of luck that made our victory of March 18 so complete and great, but we in the Turkish have a saying, 'Luck is infatuated with the efficient.'" The wise ones are declaring it is old stuff, expressed in a new way, but there is a lot in it.

There are a good many ways to assist in making Plattsmouth more beautiful. Set out more trees, is one.

Someone asks what has become of the man who used to take a day off in the spring and set out a lot of trees along the highway? Well, just now he is telephoning to the local authorities to come up and set out a tree that will shade his porch, at public expense.

There is a general feeling among legislators and city councillors that if the community wishes to keep up with the progress of the age, said legislators and councillors should be sent out to view the Panama-Pacific exposition at the taxpayers' expense. But it will never be done. Put that down in the back part of your day-book.

Some more new residences for rental purposes should be erected. Houses fit to live in are very scarce. Newcomers do not care to build a home on first coming here, and if the property they should happen to occupy should be suitable to their notions, the owner would no doubt have an opportunity to sell same after the renter has been here for a few months.

Reports from the principal railroads indicate that they now have employed in the state only four-fifths as many men as they had a year ago. This means that about 150,000 persons in Illinois, also, who a year ago were deriving their support directly from the railroads today are getting nothing from them. The forced retrenchment of the railroads has also thrown out of employment many thousands who produced materials and manufacturers used by the railroads. Until assured of income increases sufficient to defray the expenses involved, railroad managers cannot proceed with plans made for construction and maintenance work which would require many thousands more men.

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