

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

The endowments of the mind form the only illustrious and lasting possession.—Sallust.

It takes Italy a good while to determine just where the band wagon is.

People demand justice sometimes, when about the best they can expect is a hung jury.

Forty automobiles burned the other night at North Platte, and so many people want one.

Be like Billy Sunday—ask no quarter from the devil, and accept all other contributions.

If Bethlehem steel should go to 300, probably the lambs would think it was about time to buy.

Divorces are becoming so common that they no longer receive headlines in the newspapers.

Not a word has been heard from the peach crop, but the dandelion crop is coming on in fine shape.

It may be a good thing to forget the past, but not for the merchant who does a credit business.

Now is the time to swat the fly, and not wait till he becomes more numerous, along about jelly-making time.

Repeated horrors apparently have not succeeded in properly emphasizing the necessity of building safe dams.

When a man finds spring weather so enervating that he can't work, he is frequently able to walk some distance to a ball game.

A Dodge City, Kansas, husband returned to his wife when he learned from the filing of a divorce suit that she thought his affections were worth \$10,000.

The corruption of Bethlehem into Bedlam was shocking enough, but naming a war munition plant after the village of such tender memory seems worse.

Many families will clean up by painting the front porch chairs, and a few will observe it by painting the garbage barrel that is so visible in the back yard.

The sale of liquor in the English house of commons is to be barred. But Washington abolished liquor from every part of the capital, except in committee rooms, several years ago.

Some little, one-horse politicians are still condemning Governor Morehead for some little thing that occurred during the late session of the legislature. The governor's shoulders are broad and such fellows cut precious little figure in politics. Governor Morehead has done his duty to the people, and the people know it.

Cider ceases to become a soft drink three weeks after it has been made, according to a ruling just made by Fred O. Blue, prohibition commissioner in West Virginia. He holds that the sale of cider after that time is a violation of the state's prohibition laws. Cider, according to Commissioner Blue, accumulates more alcohol weekly and by the time three months have passed, becomes true applejack.

KNOCKING OUR NEUTRALITY.

Germany's latest note to the United States, knocking our policy of selling arms and ammunition to the allies, and otherwise finding fault with the brand of neutrality of this nation, was not unexpected. That Germany is displeased with the attitude of this government toward the war has been fairly apparent since it started. Americans, because they speak the English language, have been subject to unpleasant treatment in German cities, even our ambassador to Berlin has not escaped such treatment, and the offender didn't let up when he learned it was an American instead of an Englishman he addressed, saying the Americans were worse than the English, which wasn't a polite thing to say. And German press and German officials have complained that our notes of protest to Great Britain were conciliatory in tone, while those to Germany are unfair and unduly firm. The latest note along that line is in accord with the others, and doesn't come as a shock or surprise. But for those who are inclined to favor neutrality, and most of us are, there is hope and consolation in the fact that this country has also failed to give general satisfaction among the allied nations. Great Britain has told us in a nice way that she couldn't comply with our requests concerning neutral shipping, and France has said Great Britain was right about it. To the charge of selling arms and ammunition to the allies, the only answer is that even the Germans admit it is permitted by all international law and agreements, but there is still greater reason why the United States shouldn't violate a precedent. In case of war, this country would most certainly look toward alien and friendly lands for a large portion of its supplies, and inability to get them would be a handicap we shouldn't care to face. Meanwhile, the fact that neither side is satisfied with the position of America should be considered the best evidence that the nation is maintaining neutrality in a fairly successful manner as it should. We didn't start this war, and aren't likely to get into it, and possibly the best method of keeping out is to keep both sides of the controversy a little sore at us.

Teddy and Barnes—one an ex-president of the United States, and the other the "Great I Am" of the republican party in New York, are having a round at Syracuse to determine who has lied. Barnes has sued Teddy for libel and places his damages at \$50,000, and Rosey will have to prove his assertion or pay the damages. This is a sort of Kilkeny affair, and as both are has-beens, the scrap is not exciting very much comment among either faction of the party.

American slang and Yankeeisms are rapidly being incorporated into the speech of the people in England, owing to the vogue of American variety actors, ragtime songs and American books and plays. Newspapers have borrowed largely of its slang from the states in "story," "write-up," "thrown down," "cub," "live paper" and the like. American business men have popularized in England such phrases as "make good" and "back to the woods," and "quick lunch" restaurants have sprung up. Even on the underground railways the conductors say "step lively" instead of the old "please hurry up." Other hits of current slang attributable to American influence, ragtime and otherwise, are: "The glad eye," "I don't think," "some peach," "make a date," "freeze to," "makes one tired," "aest thing you know," and kindred expressions.

No newspaper ever made the farmers drag the roads.

The fruit crop is in splendid condition all over eastern Nebraska.

This community has been blessed with several fine showers this week.

Mr. Barnes may experience considerable difficulty about proving actual damages.

This time of a year a married man feels that if he were not married he would migrate.

American tourists are going to spend \$250,000,000 at home this year that formerly went to foreign travel, and yet many railroads and hotels are afraid to advertise.

Why is it that so many parents are indifferent to the children's garden movement when after the children plant the garden all dad has to do is to keep the weeds out?

Someone asks what has become of the garden that almost everyone used to run in the back yard to reduce living costs? Well, in many homes now the space is taken up by the new garage.

The building strike in Chicago doesn't look like good common sense from any point of view anyone may take. Now is the very time when carpenters and builders should be busy at work in Chicago.

Philadelphia is announcing a translation of languages found on tablets 4,915 years old. But it cannot find anything written prior to the middle of the last century to support its liberty bell myth.

We are pleased to note that the Commercial club brought up the matter of a Fourth of July celebration in Plattsmouth at their meeting Thursday night. The Commercial club can aid in this matter wonderfully if they will only do it.

In Chicago a man has just left a hospital whose inner works are all topsy-turvy, and yet the world is exceedingly bright to him and his good nature radiates sunshine wherever he goes. His heart is on the right side; his liver is on the left, when it should be on the right side; his spleen is on the right, when it should be the opposite, and his stomach is farther over to the right than it should be. He has excellent digestion, is happy, 43 years old, and has never been in love. He is grouch-proof.

THE DANGEROUS HOUSE FLY.

If flies were as big as they are dangerous they would be larger than mammoths, the huge beasts that roamed this earth in prehistoric times, destroying everything that came within their path. You would not let a man-eating tiger have free access to your home—not if you could help it, you wouldn't. Nor would you let lions or tigers come charging from their jungle lairs into your kitchen or baby's bedroom and then merely shoot them away, saying: "Oh, they're such a bother!" Yet the common house fly is more dangerous than these most dreaded wild beasts—is, in fact, the most dangerous animals on earth. Flies slay more people than the most ferocious denizens of the jungles—because they carry disease-breeding germs from sick people to well people, from impure and decayed food to pure food. And when they do this the well person turns sick, and in many cases dies, and pure food begins to decay and then, when eaten by well people, it makes them sick and often kills them. The fly is born in filth and grows up to be nature's scavenger and a messenger of death. In addition to the fly's two claws, each of its six feet is supplied with two sticky pads. Disease germs by the thousands stick to these pads, and when the fly walks over your hands or face, or the face of your baby, a trail of deadly disease germs is left on the skin. That is why you should swat the fly!

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The celebration of one hundred years of peace between Great Britain and the United States comes this year. It would have been a very great affair indeed, if it had not been for the European war. It would have given the younger folks an idea of the difference betwixt the world one hundred years ago and now, a world so far as civilization is concerned, almost entirely different, says Wallace's Farmer.

Then it was a great, big world, and it took a very long time to get around it. It took six weeks, and often longer, to cross from New York to Liverpool, which can now be done in six days and less. So slowly did news travel that the treaty of Ghent was signed and sealed, but not knowing anything about it, the great battle of New Orleans was fought about two months afterward. It was a "long way to Tipperary" those days.

When the older folks tell the youngsters that in their early days the women made rag carpets, made their own soap, spun wool from their own sheep into yarn, knit stockings out of it for young and old, spun the flax to make "tow" pants for the boys, which they thought never would wear out, and which were worn until they had outgrown them, and then handed down to two or three of their successors, these young folks think they are "drawing the long bow." Life was slow in those days, and there was no railroad and no turnpike across the Alleghenies. Even the salt was brought over on horseback to a section of the country that was veined with salt wells. They had to pay 25 cents postage on a letter, if sent 400 miles, but might get off with 8 cents for thirty miles, or 10 for eighty miles. We can well remember when we had to pay 25 cents on a letter, if the postage was not prepaid, 3 cents if prepaid.

This was a slow-going country a hundred years ago. It took three days by stage to go from New York to Albany, twenty-four hours by steamboat. If you went from New York to Boston, it cost you sixteen dollars, which was at least as big as fifty dollars now. The farm boy who is accustomed to automobiles can't see how in the world they get along without them. The farmer's wife and daughter, perhaps the young man, would think it a mighty slow world without the telephone. The daily paper seems now to be an absolute necessity. And yet people lived and loved, struggled and overcame or failed then, just as now. Human nature was just as lovely in the lovely, and just as unlovely in the unlovely. There were mighty eaters in those days, because the life was hard, and lived mostly in the open. The vigorous exercise made greater waste in the system, and there was greater need of food to repair it. Clothing was expensive, and food took the place of clothing more than it does now.

If anyone had told our grandfathers that the time would come when there would be no bars at the taverns, and a tax on liquors of seven or eight times the cost of production, or that churches would refuse to admit drunkards to their communion or keep them there, they would have been incredulous. Do you know that there was not a temperance society in the United States until 1808? It was five years before another was formed, and twenty years before a third, and the members of this third temperance society bound themselves not to drink more than a pint of applejack a day! Those who imagine that the world is growing worse should recall the fact that the grandfathers of some of them took up arms against the United States government, and even against General Washington himself, because he put a small tax on whisky.

We have made advancement in another direction: In those days the different denominations regarded each other in the same light that the Jew did the Samaritan and the Samaritan the Jew. The Presbyterians looked down on the Methodists, and the Methodists regarded the Presbyterians as aristocrats, a sort of mod-

ern Pharisee. Even the different schools of Presbyterians and Methodists looked askance at each other. The idea of the brotherhood of man was not really grasped or accepted, notwithstanding the Declaration of Independence.

And this advance that has been made in most lines, although there may be retrogression in some, gives us assurance that a hundred years from now our descendants will look back upon us and our times much as we look back upon our ancestors of one hundred years ago. It's a great, big problem the Lord is working out in this world, bigger than any of us realize, and it's a great satisfaction to know that He is boss of the job.

Annexation election will be held in Omaha Tuesday, June 1.

Swat the garbage heap, and save trouble for yourself and neighbors.

Some people believe in placing the blame where it will do the most good.

A mean man says a doctor cut open his appendix and extracted his bank account.

Why is it that when a woman gets a new hat or dress she is so anxious to go to church?

The enthusiasm of Wall street indicates that once more the public is willing to lose some more money.

Why is it that so many parents are indifferent to their new spring clothes, when they can't afford ten minutes to sweep the kitchen.

Plattsmouth always draws a big crowd to a Fourth of July celebration. Let's have a whopper this year. What say you all?

Instead of tipping the Pullman porter for the services he renders, many people would be glad to tip him to keep out of the way.

Sunday, May 9, has been set apart as "Mothers' Day." All should and no doubt will remember their dear old mother, dead or alive, on this day.

American people would feel more confidence in the ability of General Carranza to maintain a stable government if he would have his whiskers cut.

When the European war first began, after a man read the horrible news about the thousands killed and wounded, he would become so nervous he'd lay awake half the night thinking about it. Now he goes to sleep in his chair while trying to get interested in the war news.

There seems to be a belief in the minds of many people who have read the stories of the Leo Frank trial that the man is a victim of prejudice and a "frame up," and that the supreme court of the United States, while perhaps taking a legal view of the case as their basis for a decision, wholly forgot the psychological effect of fear, which no doubt obscured justice in the original trial. A great deal has been written of the Frank case. The magazines and papers have been full of it, and the whole atmosphere of the stories points to prejudice against the man of such a nature as would constitute a violation of justice such as has never before been seen. Suppose Frank is hanged, as decreed by the supreme court, and then suppose again that time would prove Frank's innocence. The evidence is circumstantial and if he is placed in the penitentiary, there would be some show for him in time to prove his innocence. The governor of Georgia should at least commute his sentence to life imprisonment. Then in the future should he prove his innocence, the governor of Georgia would not have the blood of an innocent man to answer for. There have been too many innocent men hung through prejudice and circumstantial evidence. If we were governor of Georgia we most assuredly would assume the benefit of the doubt.

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THE WATSON COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Yes, the people of Plattsmouth favor a Fourth of July celebration.

Well informed people say a tree will grow whether planted on Arbor day or not. Try it.

The motions of many of the Plattsmouth girls indicates an intention to intern at some of the ice cream and soda stands.

It is surprising how much money can be cleared when you make an old-fashioned church supper sound wicked by calling it a "cabaret."

Having solved all other problems the Carnegie institute is trying to find out why men eat from 5 to 6 per cent more than women.

These alienation suits are discouraging to the time-honored practice of rural beaux, whose chief joy is to "cut the other fellow out."

The president evidently feels that his recent experiences in diplomacy have fitted him to address the D. A. R. convention without violating neutrality.

A man smokes cigarettes, while a woman's corset interferes with her deep-breathing exercise. Still we talk a good deal for a short-winded people.

After tipping a Pullman porter so he can earn \$4 a day, many wealthy men return home and hand out to a bright salesgirl a pay envelope containing \$6.00 per week.

There is a growing feeling all over the country that when a motorist runs down and kills a child or an elderly person he should be punished at least by a fine of \$5.00 and costs.

The question is asked what's become of the Plattsmouth boy who used to be awfully pleased by the gift of a wheelbarrow? Well, he has grown up and his boy might possibly be contented with the latest coaster brake bicycle, but nothing but a motorcycle will make him truly happy.

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