

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.
"Blessed are the happiness makers; they represent the best forces of civilization. They are to the heart and home what the honeysuckle is to the door over which it climbs."—Selected.

Some little winter still lingers in the lap of spring.

Thank heaven, one can sneeze without a war tax stamp.

Fourth of July orators are now in demand—that is, good ones.

Plattsmouth will have Saturday afternoon entertainments this summer.

Do not talk so much about your misfortunes, and your misery will grow less.

When in doubt boost yourself. When times are dull whoop it up for the city.

Here's hoping that Italy will not acquire a new set of ruins, to add to those the Romans left.

Perhaps reckless auto drivers are not so numerous as they seem to the pedestrian who is dodging them.

The white shoe is in evidence again this season. If the boys and girls can sport a pair of white shoes, it doesn't matter what else they have on.

An extra session of congress is now being considered. Very naturally in case of danger. But the country would rather risk the president awhile yet.

The June bride now faces the duty of writing letters of jubilant enthusiasm in return for gifts of seventeen cold meat forks and only one or two teaspoons.

Coin collectors, get busy. The design on all silver coins will be changed shortly in accordance with the ruling of the treasury department that a change be made every twenty-five years.

The citizen who stands up for his home town "through thick and thin" is a noble man. And the man who fails to do this, and is always knocking on everything that is proposed for the betterment of the city, is not a very desirable citizen.

The Lusitania incident was deplorable and why should your son and mine put their lives in jeopardy to avenge the death of Vanderbilt and a few other hot-headed people who boarded the Lusitania when they were warned that the vessel was doomed?

A good way to assure the safety of American shipping when it is approaching the other side would be to have the band play "Yankee Doodle" and "The Star Spangled Banner," and the German submarines fitted with audiphones so they can hear them.

There are some politicians who are always finding fault with President Wilson because he does not plunge this country into war. If war was declared on Germany, or England, or Japan by this county these same political whelps would be the first to condemn the president. As a rule they do not want war, and their criticisms are for purely political purposes, and to prejudice the minds of others. This and nothing more.

THE FARMER AND PACKER.

Hereabouts the political and legislative atmosphere is usually charged with a resonant spirit of hospitality between the farmer and the meat packer.

Common understanding among farmers and producers of live stock is that the packers somehow control the prices at which the producers must sell, and somehow manage to fix the price at what the consumer must buy.

Nobody has even conclusively disproven that view of the conditions that surround the packing business. But in a recent issue the editor of a leading farm paper, Farm and Fireside, rather repudiates this understanding as fallacious. While admitting that the packers make a great deal of money, this editor insists that they "give the farmers more of the consumers' dollar, and more for the stock compared with the prices of meat, than any other system ever devised."

An illustration is given in this connection which is interesting:

A few years ago a promoter of a co-operative meat packing company in the Missouri valley made the stockmen the following offer:

After the farmers had put up the money to put the packing house in operation, he would operate it and give the stockmen every cent derived from the sale of their beef and pork. In other words, he proposed to give the farmers a hundred cents of every consumer's dollar.

All he asked was the by-products—hair, horns, hoofs, hides and offal generally.

The co-operative packing house, for one reason or another, never was opened.

An investigation in Minnesota is referred to as disclosing that, while it is not the rule, the packer often gets less for the beef than he paid for the steer, that the selling price of the meat is always close to the price on the hoof and sometimes under it, and that the stockman actually gets about 60 per cent of the consumers' dollar when he ships direct, and even counting out buyers' profits, he gets on an average of 57 to 58 per cent of the consumers' dollar.

What this editor finds to complain about is the failure of the packers to support the market at critical times, and the making of certain days of the week big days in the markets, instead of having buyers for all grades of stock on the market every market day. They are able by their system to put up prices on the off days when they buy scarcely anything, and drop them when quotations bring in heavy shipments.

"All through the month," says this writer, "live stock will rise and fall at the yards, but the packers will sell for a fixed price to the butchers. They always know what they are doing, and knowing this, they make money."

One gets from this an impression that it is because they know their business that the packers wax rich, rather than that their great success is due to any advantage they take of either the producer or the consumer. It is doubtful if many, either of the producing or consuming class, share that belief.—Lincoln Star.

Here it is the 8th day of June, and no real warm weather yet.

Some republican papers evidently think it is necessary to declare war against Germany in order to defeat President Wilson. Stop your foolishness, gentlemen. You can't excite the president to rush matters. He has a cool head on his shoulders and he would rather do right than be president. But he will be president for four more years, war or no war. Please put that in your pipes and smoke it!

The light proposition in Plattsmouth is a mystery that will prove hard to solve.

Glenwood is to have a big Fourth of July celebration. Plattsmouth will have nothing, as usual.

There are several ways of wasting time, but that devoted to the upkeep of a grudge is most hopelessly lost.

The possessor of an industrious case of rheumatism has a fine regard for the forecasts of the weather bureau.

A few of us are still hanging on to the good ship The Hague, but she is listing badly and her rudder is a mere piece of tripe.

If a woman is stingy enough, she can win a reputation as a good manager, whatever that may be worth in her line of endeavor.

Our people want light bad enough, but the day is past when they propose to pay two prices to some eastern company to get the necessary dope.

The weeds are getting the best of some places in town. Even the ward school yards need some attention in this direction. Whose duty is it to care for the school house surroundings?

UNCLE SAM WANTS MEN.

Your Uncle Sam is recruiting in a big way right now. He needs more men; and he is going to get them. Already he has laid in a plentiful supply of uniforms and arms. Maps and plans of campaign have been all drawn out. Everything is ready for the big battle. And when the necessary recruits are enlisted—this war starts! The weapons? They are pitchforks, scythes, binders and wagons. The uniforms? They are jeans pants, decollete shirts and gallsuses; shoes may be or may not be added, according to taste. The battlefield? Out in the mid-west where wheat is ripe and ready to be bombarded by an army of harvest hands. The recruits wanted? Any able-bodied man who can handle a pitchfork, drive a team, run a binder, carry bundles of wheat, etc. Apply to—Most any farmer in the wheat belt in the mid-west is looking for recruits, reports from there say. Warning—Nobody will be killed or wounded, but good, hard work will be fired at every man from 99 c. m. guns from sunrise to star time. And wages will be pretty good.

Having once made up his mind to embark upon the sea of international difficulty, President Wilson is apparently inclined to make the most of his opportunities in that direction. Dispatches from Washington indicate clearly that his reply to the German note will embody these features: "An insistence that Germany discontinue the use of submarine warfare against unarmed vessels, without providing for the safety of the passengers." "Upon satisfactory assurances that American lives and property will be immune from further attacks by German warships and submarines." "A declaration that the Lusitania was not an armed merchant ship when it was sunk, and was not in service as an auxiliary British cruiser, and that it carried no guns mounted or dismounted below decks." "That the carriage of munitions of war by the vessel was privileged by international law and did not warrant the destruction of the vessel."

OUR INFLEXIBLE PRESIDENT.

Let us hold fast to our faith in our country's welfare, and believe that these United States will always stand for the highest idea of peace and good will, even though we are obliged to fight for the principles we represent. Let us believe and look forward with expectancy to a mighty work for this country as a pacificator of the world's troubles.

The citizens should be consulted in reference to a municipal light plant before any initiatory steps are taken in that direction. The city has had some experience running a municipal plant, and they desire to be thoroughly advised before going into something they know nothing about. We are paying more than other towns of like size for our lights, and if the present company will not come to terms, let them speak up. But the people are not in the humor to be monkeyed with any longer.

AMMUNITION CARRIERS.

The American government, we trust, sees the need of accepting the fact that sea law must be progressively modified to conform to the course of mechanical development. It would require a wise statesman to say where our interests lie, but one of ordinarily perceptive intelligence can see that conditions have changed and that law must be modified to meet the change.

We thing it is the desire of Americans to deal with all people as fairly as prejudice will permit. The force of prejudice has to be conceded, and it will warp the thought; but so far as it can be recognized as a factor it is thus far minimized.

What we must grant the Germans if we are to maintain a position morally defensible is the right to stop the shipment of ammunition by any means at their disposal. It would be hideous in justice if we were to assert on one hand the right of American manufacturers to sell any contraband that a purchaser could come for and then deny the Germans their rights of stopping such shipments.

If anything seems plain and clear in this war it is the fact that the decision will rest with the forces able to supply themselves with the most ammunition. Whichever force can get the most shells will win. It is not a question of men. It is a question of explosives.

By our rightful insistence that American manufacturers may sell whatever a purchaser wishes to buy we have put ourselves in the position of becoming a deciding factor in the war. We must not directly or indirectly, and cannot, guarantee the delivery of the ammunition.

That would be a sin against international fair dealing. Boats carrying explosives must not have the protection of passengers for whose security this government holds itself responsible. We must admit that a submarine cannot conform to sea law formulated before submarine were used. A change has been made by mechanics.

The United States must meet Germany fairly on this question. We have no right to say that Germany shall deprive herself of the use of her only effective sea weapon in preventing the delivery of ammunition which may be the deciding factor in the war.

We must recognize that the movement of military supplies of this character is a military movement. In easily demonstrable fact it is a more dangerous military movement than that of sending a regiment of troops. No one would deny the right of a submarine to sink a transport, and if we are to maintain the morality of our position we must not insist upon the acceptance of principles of international law which governed before the mechanical change made by the submarine.—Chicago Tribune.

Actuaries estimate that after two years of war the belligerent countries would have on their hands 2,640,000 cripples of reduced or totally destroyed earning capacity as a burden for them to support. The problem of their support will not be an easy one. It cannot be solved along the hand-organ line.

Let us hold fast to our faith in our country's welfare, and believe that these United States will always stand for the highest idea of peace and good will, even though we are obliged to fight for the principles we represent. Let us believe and look forward with expectancy to a mighty work for this country as a pacificator of the world's troubles.

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Some real warm weather would help the farmers out.

The Main street lights were turned on Monday night.

Life is a grind, but make it grind a grist worth while.

Meanwhile we shall have to refrain from calling it a steel trust.

We are to have street lights for another month at a lower rate.

Spring onions may be enticing, but don't breathe it to a living human being.

Anybody else needing a "sharp note?" President Wilson is in the proper mood.

The king of England and the king of Italy have odd notions about grounds for felicitation.

There is an abundance of human kindness, though too many people who discover it seek to skim it.

Secretary Bryan is now a doctor by grace of the University of Maryland, but his enemies will continue to consider him a quack.

Huerta is living in grand style in this country, which indicates there is money in being president of Mexico if you can get away with it, as he did.

The International Harvester company's sales in foreign countries dropped off 12 per cent last year. Another kind of reaper is in use in most of them now.

King Emmanuel of Italy is, like King Albert of Belgium, doing some of the actual fighting. If more of the kings would do likewise there would be less fighting.

If you meet a man before June 30 who is firmly convinced that the country is headed straight for the demerition bow-wows, it is a fair guess that he has been assessed an income tax of \$4.98.

Secretary McAdoo announces the receipt of \$3,700 conscience money from a man in a small Wisconsin town. Reports from Philadelphia and Paterson and a few other cities are awaited with curiosity.

Congressman Reavis said this in his Decoration day address at Lincoln, and we think it will be approved by all: "If the president should feel it necessary to call congress together I will throw my influence toward barring the gates of the republic against the dogs of the European war. We don't have to go to war to prove our courage. There are no issues involved in the European war which call for our participation."

RURAL DELIVERY SERVICE.

In 1898, the year of the war with Spain, there were in the United States only 148 rural postal carriers, covering a daily mileage of 2,900, at a total annual cost of \$50,241. Five years later the number of rural carriers first crossed the 10,000 line. In 1905 it passed 30,000, in 1909 49,000, and last year was 43,052, with a daily mileage of over 1,000,000, at an annual cost of \$47,377,070. This service has been of incalculable advantage to the rural population, and goes far toward making life on the farms more attractive.

It is said that according to the figures of formal bookkeeping rural delivery has returned only 20 per cent of its cost. But the general postal department is nearer established self-support than before the great army of rural carriers got to work.

The 43,000 rural carries who faithfully make their daily rounds have rendered possible the immense expansion of the parcel post, which has brought in a new era of rural transportation. This system is in its infancy, even now, but there is no one engaged in business on the soil who fails to see that it is full of valuable new opportunities.

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Christopher Columbus "saw America first," but didn't get as much out of it as John D., who saw it much later.

Leo Frank won't hang. This is not official. It has no foundation beyond what is evident to everybody. The American spirit of fair play has cut the rope. A majority of the people are either convinced that he is innocent of the murder of Mary Phagan in Atlanta, or they are not certain of his guilt. For these reasons they want to see his sentence commuted. Sentiment in Georgia, where it was formerly all against him, is changing, so he won't hang.

Brother Bewby of the Custer Democrat sizes up the matter about right in speaking of the women voting, and it is good, common sense, too, but you will not find any of those head-strong women agreeing with him. He also advocates the theory that women should vote if they desire it upon attaining the age of 45 years. Here is what our old friend says: "Man's first duty is to his family and woman's first duty is to motherhood, hence we conclude that after her first duty is performed, then she may safely enter the dirty political pool, where the way is open to all kinds of chicanery and questionable manipulations, and not take her time and attention from the more important first duty she owes to the young. She is the mother of the race and all depends on the way she cares for the little ones. Voting is secondary to several other things."

That Iowa is a farming state is reflected in the names of many of the streams that flow through it. First, there is Farm creek, so that Farmers creek is not out of place; then there is a Chicken creek, a Duck creek, a Goose creek, a number of Turkey creeks, as well as Pigeon creek. There are Fox, Hawk and Rat creeks to devour the domestic animals, and some Crow creeks, while there is also a Fly creek and Mosquito creek to worry the summer boarders. Milk and Cold Water creeks are present, likewise a Hog run and a Mud creek, so that Bacon creek is not strange. It is fitting that with a Bee creek and a Bee branch there should also be a Honey creek. There are a couple of Cherry creeks, a Crabapple creek and plenty of Plum creeks, and for wild animals we have Bear, Beaver, Buck, Raccoon, Skunk and Wolf creeks. With a Keg creek there is a Whisky creek and a Whisky run. Finally there is a Purgatory creek.—Geological Survey.

A BROAD CHOICE OF WESTERN TOURS

Besides the low \$50 California excursion rate basis, from June 1st there is a \$60 excursion rate with limit of December 31st. This will be a big season for Yellowstone Park. Join the throng! All kinds of circuit tours through the different gateways; inquire about the tour to Spokane, one way via Glacier Park, the other way via Yellowstone Park, also about the Mountain and Park tour, one way via Colorado and Salt Lake, the other via Gardiner or Cody. Then there is Glacier Park with its incomparable scenery. You have always near you, Colorado resorts and ranches, including beautiful Estes Park; no western resort has so increased in patronage the last few years as Estes Park. Naar also are the Black Hills, with their famous pine forests, Hot Springs, Sylvan Lake and scenic auto drives. In the Big Horn Mountains are the summer ranches near Sheridan and Ranchester; in the Big Horn Basin is Thermopsis Hot Springs, famous for its rheumatic cures. Look over the Burlington map; it will suggest some tour to you, then make inquiries and ask for descriptive publications of any locality you have in mind. R. W. CLEMENT, Ticket Agent. L. W. WAKELLER, General Passenger Agent. 1004 Farram Street, OMAHA, Neb.

