The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Blessed be he who gives to the poor, albeit only a penny; doubly blessed be he who adds kind words to the gift.—Jewish.

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Useful friends are only kind some people care for.

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Why is it that the shorter the skirt the brighter the colored stockings?

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Every tax-levying body can figure out where it can reduce taxes next year.

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Strive for logevity; by living until you're 90 you may yet see the shirt waist for men.

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An acceptance of the Pan-American peace plans is expected of Villa and others of northern Mexico.

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There are usually compensations; while people hate a grouch, they are not likely to impose upon him.

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The grass is so high in a Plattsmouth man's yard that he can't find the lawn mower where he left it last fall.

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Keep up your "watchful waiting" a little longer. Something is going to happen in Mexico in a few days. Sure thing!

—:o:—

The season is now upon us when the man with the receding chin is the envy of all others about the dinner table. Roasting ears fit him exactly.

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Manufacturers are known the world over by the labels on their goods, and the wide-awake merchants are known by their ads in the local papers.

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One of the best ways to make money is to stick quietly at work at your trade and refrain from buying something that you don't really need.

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Perhaps there wouldn't be all this growling about the baggage transportation rules, if the railroads didn't sometimes make a mistake and allow a trunk to go through on the same train with the passenger.

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Street Commissioner Lutz has issued the last call for cutting weeds along your property. He will not wait any longer for you to do it, as the time allowed by law has expired. Better get busy and do it, or he will get busy and do it for you and charge it up to your taxes.

—:o:—

Oh, but old England would like to get a grip on the United States. She isn't one-half as friendly as Germany is today. She is deceitful, treacherous and would do anything to get this country in trouble, while Germany's friendship is of a quality that can be depended upon at all times, if the United States is willing to play fair with Germany. We say the United States should show no partiality between the warring nations.

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Some politicians are very cheeky. They are sending out long articles asking for their publication, announcing themselves as candidate for state offices, attaching their platform thereto. They are very careful not to attach any "Kale seed" to their announcements to pay for their publication, and of course find a way to our waste baskets. To insure publication it is always necessary to enclose a few dollars as an assurance of your good intentions.

"HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION."

Nearly 3,000,000,000 bushels of corn worth well of $2,000,000,000. About 966,000,000 bushels of wheat, worth considerably over another $1,000,000. Over 1,400,000,000 bushels of oats, worth over $630,000,000. Then barley, rye and buckwheat, "minor grains," but worth together close upon $200,000,000 more. Food grain crops, without counting rice, totaling in value over $4,000,000,000 on the basis of average prices this year, and maybe totaling $4,500,000,000. Add other crops, all ample for our needs, and for a lot of other people's needs, among which the humble hay must be mentioned because there are 75,000,000 tons of it in sight, worth over $800,000,000; also that universal favorite, the potato, with pretty near 500,000,000 bushels of both kinds, worth about $270,000,000.

These are the foundations that America's fertile soil, the industry of American farmers and the blessings of Divine Providence have built for our prosperity in a year when all the great nations of Europe are at war. With the foundations thus laid broad and deep he is indeed mole-blind that doubts the certainty of our prosperity and its diffusion among all our people, if we but cast aside our fears and hesitations and advance boldly to grasp it. It is an old and true saying that when the tillers of a nation's lands are prosperous no other social group can long linger in adversity save by willfully ejecting its opportunities. How our prosperity will be diffused we see the moment, we think what our farmers are going to do with the billions they are certain to receive for the products of their lands. They will pay their debts, of course, those of them that are still in debt after a year already passed of bumper crops, war demands and war prices. But after paying debts, adding to equipment and reserving working capital forward they will still have several hundred million dollars. And they are not going to hoard it if given a reasonable invitation to spend it.

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We cannot see any reason for anyone who considers himself an American citizen for finding fault with the present administration. One thing certain, Woodrow Wilson is president, and as such has done nobly in looking after the welfare of the country. There are some, of course, who are disposed to criticise the president, but it is just as natural to have knockers against the national administration as it is to have people here at home who continually knock against everything that is proposed for the benefit of the town. They can't hurt President Wilson no more than they hurt progressive people here at home. So let them knock and knock to their heart's content, if they can find any glory in it for themselves.

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There will not be many cattle shows at the county fairs this fall, owing to the hoof and mouth disease, but horse races and fakirs will provide the usual course in agricultural education.

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The average farmer feels it is of no use to keep strict accounts as the courts will figure out how much he owes after he is dead, with the assistance of a lawyers.

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It is claimed the modern dances are making a lot of work for chiropodists, but probably not so much because of the exercise itself as the fact that one's partner frequently has large and heavy feet.

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"Safety first" consists largely in keeping still.

A NEBRASKA SHOWING.

A striking showing of the prosperity of the average Nebraska farmer is made in a chart and statement issued by W. D. Fisher of Alliance, secretary of the Nebraska Association of Commercial club, and republished in the Journal of the Omaha Commercial club.

It shows that there are only ten states, known as the "corn belt states," that have farm property in excess of $1,000 per capita for the people who live on farms, and that Nebraska leads all of these states except Iowa in the per capita value of all farm property, and is 56.6 per cent ahead of the average of these ten states.

Even Iowa is but slightly ahead of Nebraska, the average farmer there owning $2,424 worth of farm property of all kinds, as against $2,360 worth for the average Nebraska farmer. The other states are: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michagan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri and Kansas.

Nebraska is second in the value of the corn crop per capita, with $97.28 worth of corn for each person, which is 45.5 per cent more than the average for these ten states. She is second also in the wheat crop, with $37.97 worth for each person, which beats the average by 94.7 per cent. Kansas has $38.87 worth of wheat per capita, but Nebraska beats her 25 per cent on the number of bushels per acre, so honors are about even between the two as to wheat.

On the per capita basis, which is the basis that affords the true test of prosperity, Nebraska ranks fifth in cats, fourth in rye, fourth in potatoes, second in horses, in which she is 38.7 per cent ahead of the average; fourth in dairy cattle, leading the average by 3.7 per cent; first in beef cattle, with 129 per cent above the average; and second in swine, leading the average by 75 percent.

"Nebraska has the smallest farm population of any of these ten states," says the statement. "Her farm population is but 57 per cent of the average population of the corn belt states. A state which can make the record enumerated above has good soil and progressive people. Stand up for Nebraska!"—World-Herald.

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Every day seems like a crisis to a nervous person.

Every county, with four exceptions, went wet in the recent Ohio local option election. Who's saloony now?

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Teddy Roosevelt's nephew talks as if the family might take steps to have a political guardian appointed for the old gentleman.

—:o:—

Kansas babies are to be tested and graded and a public record kept. With woman suffrage prevailing, the grading official will give all babies 100 per cent.

—:o:—

The Mexican raiders who talk about seizing part of Texas are either trying to force intervention or they have imbedded too freely of benzeine.

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Leo Frank has "got it in the neck," as a mob has taken him from the Georgia penitentiary and hanged him. He has paid the debt, if there be one charged up against him.

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"My country, may she always be right, but my country, right or wrong," cry many Mexican patriots, and they seem to have it that way.

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In a legal case in St. Louis there have been so many continuances that a sheet of foolscap has had to be pasted to the leaf in the docket to hold them; and this is one of the reasons why it becomes necessary to beseech the people to "have respect for the law."

—:o:—

News from the summer capital states that President Wilson personally writes his extensive correspondence with Secretary Lansing on his own typewriting machine; there does not seem to be a lazy bone in the president's body. It is quite unusual to see a man of high position operating his own typewriter.

Umbrellas may yet strike for an eight-hour day.

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Mexico needs the alphabet more than it does the alphabetical league.

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Bogus cheerfulness is about the only thing bogus that people seek to justify.

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Evidently the new sleeping porches will wait till next summer to be broken in.

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If a newspaper is kind to some people they are sure to ask it to print their poetry.

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People who live in glass houses had better go to raising bouquets—as the florists do.

—:o:—

A receiver has been asked for the Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain railroads. We can't understand this, just at the time the Missouri Pacific is preparing to do a lot of improving.

—:o:—

One outcome seems inevitable: If Kitchener can't move the British army forward, he can't be expected to hold his position as war lord for another year. In war "results" are imperative.

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If mothers, our good old mothers, had the power to end the war it would soon be ended. And again, they would soon end the struggle for female suffrage, by sitting right down on the proposition.

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Hastings is doing pretty well as to state candidates for next year. They already have two republican candidates for governor and the season for gubernatorial nominations has not yet arrived, either.

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It is claimed that a cannery should be attached to every farm, and as the farmer's wife will do the work after she has cooked, swept, washed, cleaned house, and milked the cows, it is considered clear profit.

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As further evidence that Russia has not yet got her fill of the war with Germany attention is directed to the latest Russian order for war supplies placed in the United States amounting to $240,000,000. Contracts were let for 13,000,000 shells and the average cost is $18.

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Mr. Bryan thinks editors should reveal what financial interest they have in pending legislation. Since the federal reserve act failed to make it any easier to get credit at the grocer's, a lot of them undoubtedly have not had much interest in pending legislation, or politicians, either.

—:o:—

$10,000 FOR A GIRL.

Of course you have heard of Uncle Jimmy Pankhurst—everybody is hearing of him just now. He is the Illinois farmer who wants a demure little housekeeper and is willing to pay her $8.00 per week and board her the rest of his days and then leave her $10,000 when he dies. Uncle Jimmy cannot accept all of the applicants, because they are coming in by the thousands, and he is getting so much mail he needs a dozen clerks to handle it. He's getting a lot of free advertising in all of the gerat daily papers and is crowding President Wilson, the kaiser and old Carranza off of the front page. He's just having a bully good time smoking the old corncob pipe under a big shade tree while has fame grows by leaps and bounds and doesn't know when or where to stop. Uncle Jimmy has a dear old lady for a wife and is not looking for an affinity. He just wants a demure little thing to look after them in their decline of life and play havoc with their money after they are gone. He's not a politician and does not want to be constable or United States senator. He's just plain Uncle Jimmy Pankhurst, who went to bed in the old farm house one night and woke up the next morning in the hall of fame. Any philanthropic farmers around here looking for a $10,000 housekeeper and imperishable fame? Speak up, gents, speak up! The front page yawns for you.

SPECIMENS OF FREAK BILLS.

The Literary Digest a short time ago published a list of freak bills introduced by members of the law-making bodies of various states, in each instance the author of the bill having serious hope for its passage. When one remembers the cost of keeping the legislative mill grinding he is led to wonder how a community ever permits a man to break into a legislature who will take the time of the state in the discussion of such measures as some of the following, which are listed by the Digest:

To prohibit the catching of frogs.—Minnesota.

Compelling church-goers to leave their firearms outside.—Texas.

To furnish lumber jacks with individual bathtubs.—Minnesota.

Establishing a uniform thickness of sleigh runners.—North Dakota.

Limiting each resident of the state to one gallon of "corn licker" a month.—South Carolina.

To prohibit the use of face powder, rough, hair dye or bleach, the piercing of the ears and wearing of earrings.—Kansas.

Prohbiting a man from becoming a "ball-dodger," i. e., allowing persons to throw base balls at one's head for hire.—New York.

To compel chickens to go to roost before 7 p. m. To provide that bulls driven along the road at night shall wear lights. Prohibiting hip-pockets in men's trousers.—Colorado.

Prohibiting treating. Prohibiting the giving of tips to barbers, waiters, porters, hat snatchers, etc. Taxing bachelors of 30 years of age $50 per annum. Licensing cats $1 per head.—Illinois.

Providing that all weeds and plants which cause hay fever shall be removed from the roadsides. Bachelors to pay an annual tax of $5 per head. Prohibiting the wearing of whiskers by doctors and dentists.—Massachusetts.

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As vaudeville actors the Hall Brothers as state officials seem to be proficient.

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"The lynching of Frank is the worst blot on Georgia's name," says Secretary Daniels.

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Neutrality in this country is genuine. No paper republishes "Me und Gott," even by request.

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The motorcycle would be more popular, perhaps, if someone would invent one with a soft alto voice.

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Have your fly-swatter handy, for these pests are coming thick and plenty, and it behooves everyone to nip them in the bud.

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If these rains don't let up pretty soon, the people will begin to believe the European war is the cause of all this wet weather for sure.

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Some people say the precipitation is this year only normal. If that be the case we wonder how we ever stood the normal rainfalls in the past.

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Abolition of the death penalty makes but a wheezy appeal every time the reader scans an account of a man who murders a young woman because she "rejected his attentions."

—:o:—

In the old days a fellow made himself attractive by saving up money and acquiring a bank account, but now he gets ahead of fashion by borrowing money and buying an automobile.

—:o:—

One of the scoffers who has already returned from the "shore," says if you want the real sea smell, take your rocking chair down into a musty cellar; but maybe he was too near the fisheries.

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Opie Read picks Prof. Taft as the next president of this country, and you are also entitled to a guess. However, beyond a doubt, Mr. Taft could come nearer being elected next year than he was in 1912, which he might without being so all-fired close. But he has said himself that he would not again be a candidate, and he never was much like Col. Roosevelt.

WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

The Pittsburg Gazette pertinently propounds the above query and then proceeds as follows: "Probably no sane student will pretend that we are placed in this word by mere chance. And if we are not here by chance we are here by design. And if we are here by design we are here for a purpose. And if we are here for a purpose, the rational presumption is that that purpose is for good and not for evil. There is wide diversity of opinion as to the right or wrong of certain things, but there is no substantial disagreement as to what is elementally good and what is fundamentally bad. We learn what they are as we attain the age of discretion and the ability to discriminate. The civilization of today—our very environment—teaches us as our years advance. So while we may not be able to determine in all respects what we are here for there are precious few of us so mentally deficient or morally blind but that we know we are not here to work evil. We may be certain that the contrary is the case. If, then, it is evident that we are here for a wholesome purpose, what form shall our interpretation of that purpose take? What shall our response be?"

This purpose must not be narrowly construed. That would be simply to adopt the program eat, drink and be merry as the rule of life. It would be assuming that man lives to himself alone, whereas any of us who have lived long enough to learn knows this to be impossible. We are here for something higher, broader and better than that. We have duties that are imperative. We have responsibilities involving others, evasion of which means the injury of ourselves or somebody else. We have obligations to society, to the community, the state and the nation. We have an influence on some other life or lives. Is our walk and conversation what it ought to be? If not, we are not living up to what we are here for. We are here also to do our share toward human progress, toward growth and advancement along every legitimate line, in some fashion, to live so that when the end comes it shall not be to the relief of our household and acquaintances, but to their genuine regret.

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When, do you suppose, summer will begin?

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Useful friends are the only kind some people care for.

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It is believed the Russians will stop running by the time they reach Asia.

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Many true sportsmen would like to see an open season on practical jokers.

—:o:—

President Bush has been appointed receiver of his own railroad—the Missouri Pacific.

—:o:—

The only accidental injury a Plattsmouth man ever sustained was when he fell in love.

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An optomist is the farmer whose corn may be drowned out, but takes to raising bullfrogs instead.

—:o:—

Palm Beach is no doubt shaded entirely by poinsettias and the trees on which grow Palm Beach suits.