The Plattsmouth Journal

Published Semi-Weekly at Plattsmouth, Nebr.
Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

R. A. BATES, Publisher

Subscription Price: $1.50 Per Year In Advance

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Wait not 'till you are backed by numbers. Wait not until you are sure of an echo from a crowd. The fewer the voices on the side of truth, the more distinct and strong must be your own.—Channing.

:o:

Soon be time for the school bell to ring.

:o:

The rains still continue, and the weather cool.

:o:

War and lawsuits are alike in that the winner usually loses.

:o:

This, it would seem, is a poor year to carry a chip on the shoulder.

:o:

A man hates to have to diagram his jokes before they bring forth a laugh.

:o:

It is really easier to keep out of trouble than it is to get out of trouble.

:o:

Next to a woman's promise to obey her husband, a political promise is the easiest broken.

:o:

A large number of prayers are made in private that the devil would be delighted to see answered in public.

:o:

A high-priced automobile may not be worth all it costs, but it lets your friends know you have succeeded in business.

:o:

Mr. Bryan now proposes a referendum on war. What's the use? Few Americans want a war if we can honorably avoid it.

:o:

The more one sees of those fierce pictures of European generals the more value every one of those 3,000 miles of Atlantic ocean seem to have.

:o:

It is fine to be brave, plain spoken and all that, but very few married men are fools enough to call a spade a spade in their own homes. Down town is a place to protrude the chest and be brave.

:o:

The Omaha Bee suggests the advisability of appointing a republican to the position of United States district judge, made vacant by the death of Judge Munger. Can the Bee point to the appointment of a democrat to such a position under a republican administration? Not on your life, when a republican was in sight.

:o:

Governor Robert L. William of Oklahoma, who was one of the principal speakers at the conference of governors in Boston, the other day, in a speech urged the enactment of a law making a governor ineligible during his term of office and for six months afterward for United States senator, congress or for state office, so that all temptations for him to use his office for political advancement might be removed. Such a law would be all right.

:o:

They may want war in the big cities of the east, but how about furnishing the fighters? The western people are very well satisfied the way things are going. We are not responsible for the acts of those easterners who have caused all the trouble between this country and Germany by insisting on crossing the ocean on vessels owned by one of the principal warring nations, which is subject to attack by another warring nation. The west is peaceful and progressive and wants to remain that way.

OUR PITIFUL ARMY.

Recent stirring events on the border have at least afforded some enlightening figures for those not already familiar with our military weakness. General Funston has an army of 17,000 men along the Mexican frontier, but these are not enough to prevent marauding bands from devastating ranches and murdering Americans in that vicinity. And this need brings forth the startling statement that there are only 12,000 more mobile troops available in continental United States; enough perhaps, to guard one frontier in a time of ostensible peace. It is a good army, too, what there is of it, and you may be proud and grateful for that. When the allied troops of Russia, Germany, Japan, France, Great Britain, the United States and perhaps a few others, moved on Pekin in the days of the Boxer uprising, Americans made a showing of which the nation should be proud, showing that Americans make excellent soldiers when trained, perhaps the best. A correspondent who has followed the fighting on all fronts in Europe, credits the Canadians with being the very best troops of any army participating, and the Canadians are most like Americans of any of the belligerents; indeed, a large per cent of them are Americans, and many of them ex-soldiers of our army, so it is quantity and not quality that we lack. But that lack is so deplorable that it seems a fatal error not to correct it. We lack guns, ammunition, officers, soldiers; everything which goes to make an army, but men and money. Thanks to the war, our facilities for supplying arms and ammunition are being developed. But training and organization are imperative needs, if this country is to be in a position to defend itself. And that even so peaceful a nation as this might have to defend herself is within the range of posibility. In a small way, we are doing that now along the Texas border, and part of the defensive work has been done by citizens fighting for the protection of their homes, which they may do against marauders, but couldn't against a real army. Now is the time to prepare.

:o:

The Lincoln State Journal, in the following commends President Wilson very highly and is not very slow in condemning Teddy Roosevelt's attitude on the war question: "If the United States goes to war it will not be in the hot-blooded spirit of Theodore Roosevelt, who insists that the severance of diplomatic relations would not be a sufficent answer to Germany, but will be only a "fresh sacrifice of American honor and interest." If we must fight, it will be in the calm spirit of President Wilson, who sees the terrible cost of such a step and is willing before a blow is struck to give the offender every opportunity to explain his acts and promise better behavior."

:o:

A chaplain in the British army relates that in censoring the letters written by the men in his company he found four letters written to four different girls by the same man and all were exactly alike. We wonder of the girls started their answers like this, "Answering your circular letter of recent date," etc.

:o:

An Arkansas mob lately lynched a bootlegger who was thoughtless enough to shoot the sheriff who went to arrest him. Sometimes a southern sheriff can stop a mob, but a dead sheriff can't do anything of the kind.

:o:

A man who has to shave every day is complaining, but he shouldn't worry, for he doesn't have to put on a corset every day.

It is never too late to mend; nor is it too early.

:o:

We're ready for the war to end in October. Aren't you?

:o:

A great many fields of corn have passed the danger line.

:o:

The sins of railway managements descend like the sins of fathers.

:o:

Cool nights, with cloudy sky, may keep Jack Frost away for awhile yet.

:o:

Why is it that some women fight harder to get into society than they pray to get into heaven?

:o:

Jamacia will send 5,000 men to the British army, and it remains to be seen if Jamica ginger will do the British army any good.

:o:

How much has Nebraska lost by not having a state building at the San Francisco fair? Can you figure it out?

:o:

A reporter's enemies are divided into two classes: Those who are mad because something has been printed and those who are mad because something has not been printed. The best reporters are those who know what not to print.

:o:

Georgia is being and will be lambasted extensively because of the lynching of Leo Frank. Nor is this roasting unwarranted. But it should happen in several other states; the mob tendency isn't confined to a single state or section, and it should be discouraged everywhere else as well as in Georgia.

:o:

Thomas A. Edison says man is still a predetory animal and that there will be other wars. Of course there will. So long as men fight one another in their individual quarrels, it is certain that sections will do the same thing as long as there are men in them. When humanity is composed of women only, we shall have more fashions and less fighting.

:o:

A train load of gold has arrived in New York from London, via Canada, which shows how we are growing in financial leadership. The consignment was valued at $62,000,000. All of which shows that if we are wise enough to keep out of the war, and attend strictly to our own business we are going to be handsomely fixed by the time this cruel war is over.

:o:

TEDDY'S LATEST MANIFESTO.

Theodore Roosevelt's latest manifesto sends a thrill through every loyal American citizen who can be thrilled in that way. He is for action, not words, although he is long on words. Seldom does he want for something to say. Now he would supplement vocal activity with the detonations of heavy artillery. He would not hoch der kaiser but hoist him. Fortunately for us, the war is in Europe, not in America, and we are in no position to start anything of a sanguinary nature with any hope of doing good or getting good. In every great war unfortunate things happen where the intent to injure is not apparent. Three years ago Mr. Roosevelt argued that the constitution of the United States needed a more liberal interpretation to make it an instrument of social justice applicable to the needs of this generation. Germany contends that "international law" needs the same elasticity to make it applicable to the conditions of modern warfare which are so unlike the old system of soaking one's enemies. If Roosevelt was right as to the constitution may not Germany be the same as to the rights of neutrals who sail the wide ocean within the zone of submarine activities? Mr. Roosevelt complains that the kaiser is "arrogant and insulting." Would he be any less so if we were to declare war and send over a "passel" of gunboats as targets for U-46 and U-behave to sink at their convenience? Suppose we sink as many of his boats and kill as many of his folks as he does of ours, are we any better off for the sacrifice?—"Bix" in the State Journal.

TWO COLONELS AND EDITORS.

Says the New York Evening Post: "Why is it that this country, at a critical time, must hear from men whom it would wish to remain silent, while the man whose authoritative word it waits for says nothing? The president is keeping his own counsel. When the time comes he will no doubt speak, and that in no uncertain way. But the two colonels, whom nothing would so much become just now as quiet stillness and humility, rush to give their views to their fellow countrymen. That the latter, at this juncture, had any desire to hear from Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan, may be doubted. For one thing, everybody knew in advance exactly what they would say. They have simply said it again. Perhaps they can't help it, their impulse to volubility being what it is, but their outbursts are both unsolicited and ill-timed. The general comment provoked by the Oyster Bay Colonel is: 'Thank heaven he is not president; while the Nebraska Colonel simply increases the public sense of relief at his being out of the cabinet.'

When was there given a rarer exhibition of the intolerance and arrogance and provincialism of a New York editor?

What would Mr. Villard of the Evening Post have?

Would he have an order in council empowering editors alone, perhaps New York editors alone, to express public opinion—or what they deem to be public opinion?

Or would he be so generous, perhaps, as to amend the order to the extent that mere citizens who are not editors might also express themselves, provided their opinions were in exact accord with those of the New York editors?

The Evening Post is not in official position. It has no official responsibility. It can speak no "authoritative word." Yet its editorial columns, six days in the week, are overflowing with expressions of opinion on identically the same subjects that "the two Colonels" have been talking about. So have the editorial columns of all the other New York papers, not to mention papers published elsewhere. No whimper has come from the Evening Post on that account. Why have not Roosevelt and Bryan precisely the same right to say what they think that Mr. Villard or Mr. Pulitzer or Mr. James Gorden Bennett have, and why may they not do it with the same propriety?

This is a democratic republic, this country of ours. Public opinion is supposed to be the ultimate governing power. Not newspaper opinion, but the composite opinion of all the people, learned and unlearned, wise and foolish, powerful and humble. Why, then, attempt to suppress it? Why try to establish a newspaper censorship? Why, even, lay down the rule that only "authoritative" opinion, or wise and patriotc opinion, be allowed to make itself heard? The real "authority" is that of the people. Who is there delegated to say what expression is wise, what is patriotic, and what is not?

Thomas Jefferson said, in behalf of free speech and a free press, that "Truth has nothing to fear from Error so long as Reason is left free to combat it." The Evening Post might mull that idea over in its mind for a while. So far as one of "the two Colonels" is concerned, we agree with the Evening Post, and think that very few citizens stand with Mr. Roosevelt in his insistence that the United States should plunge into war on almost any pretext or on no pretext at all. As to Mr. Bryan, with his ultra-pacific policy, he is merely repeating the maxims and homilies that appeared in the Evening Post for years and years; that kept on appearing, indeed, right up to the time when the stanch organ of anti-militarism allowed its love for England to get the better of its pacificism. Why has not Mr. Bryan a perfect right to talk today as the Evening Post talked yesterday? If Mr. Rosevelt's voice is for war, on the other hand, he is entitled to raise it, and to wave his bloody gonfalon to his heart's content. It is because Reason is free to combat him that nobody rallies about his gory standard and he is left to scold in melancholy solitude.

The people of the United States are with Woodrow Wilson in his earnest desire to keep this country out of the war. They are with him in his firm but cool and rational stand for its rights and dignity from whatsoever quarter assailed. The most virulently his critics scold the more clearly is it apparent that the president of the United States does not need the protection of a newspaper censorship or of a lese majeste constitutional amendment. And so far as embarrassing him is concerned, we very much doubt if "the two Colonels" combined have it in their power to embarrass him so much as he has been embarrassed, since the very beginning of the war, by New York editorial brotherhood of which Mr. Villard is so distinguished a member.—World-Herald.

:o:

It appears that it will be some time yet before the Russians will dine in Berlin.

:o:

Some fellows are always enthusiastic when they talk about themselves.

:o:

Why are little nations so often victorious in war? Because there is no room to run, of course.

:o:

That Frank lynching will not divert the attention of the Georgia senators from the cotton situation.

:o:

The Germans are doing some missionary work. They are making their Russian prisoners shave.

:o:

Carranza is playing for time to think. Don't let him play too long. He may get a fresh start.

:o:

An eminent professor says kissing is a mild form of insanity. That's been admitted, but what of it?

:o:

Roosevelt says he alone was responsible for his speech. No one is fool enough to think otherwise.

:o:

Japanese interests in South American trade reminds us that the Yankees of the east never overlook any bets.

:o:

No matter what the different belligerants want, everybody wants Turkey. They're a covetous lot in Europe.

:o:

One of the kings before the flood lived to be 43,000 years old. Frans Josef may be hopeful of the past-diluvian record.

:o:

Billy Sunday is slated to appear in Dallas, Texas, the grand old state, in which too much rough talk sometimes leads to trouble.

:o:

Mexico's situation revolves around the fact that Mexicans have now no faith in each other, if they ever had. The wages of faithlessness is also death.

:o:

It would not cause any extended mourning in this country if some sad happening should accidentally befall so-called President Carranza of Mexico.

:o:

Those who contend that elections should be held on Sunday, as they are in Europe, probably hold that if the voice of the people is the voice of God, there is no Sabbath breaking in it.

:o:

Mr. Bryan has them all catalogued. He says we worship the gods of wealth, fashion, fame, physical comfort, travel, passion, chance and drink. Well, with all those eliminated, man would be almost as gay and active as an oyster.

:o:

Why not have a "Home-Coming" celebration this fall? And have the old pioneers, who are scattered over the west with us to enjoy a gneuine reunion for a couple of days. The most of them will come, if the opportunity is afforded. Talk it up, and let's have it.

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:o:

Good sportsmanship should not be restricted entirely to roasting the visiting team.

:o:

After a man gets married he learns more about censorship than a war correspondent could tell him.

:o:

After a man begins to get short of wind and hair, and long on experience, he loses much of his enthusiasm for birthday celebrations.

:o:

As it has been such a poor season at the summer resorts a good many of the hotels may probably burn down accidentally in the late fall.

Reduced Prices on Eggs for Hatching.

After May 1st I will sell S. C. Rhode Island Red eggs for htaching at 50c per setting of 15.

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W. B. Porter.
4-21-d&w-tf

Now for a "Home Coming" reunion. What do you say?

:o:

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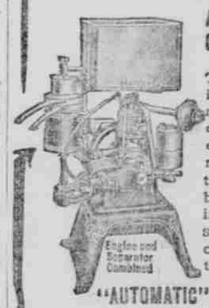

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Thousands are going to California to see the marvelous exposition before the gates are closed December 31st. Many will make an autumn tour at these cheap rates, returning before winter, while many will leave before cold weather for the winter in Southern California, going via San Francisco. The final return limit of the Exposition tickets is December 31, 1915; those spending the winter in California should travel either on one way tickets, or there is available the first-class nine-months excursion ticket. The Burlington operates daily through sleepers to San Francisco and Los Angeles via the popular route trough Denver, Scenic Colorado and Salt Lake City.

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