

The Plattsmouth Journal

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COMMON SENSE PREVAILS.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.
Life is noble in the proportion to the nobleness of faith; it is successful in proportion to the fixedness of faith.—Joseph Le Conte.

The boring for oil will soon begin.
Experts are very positive there is oil in Cass county.

Wonder how the pig-headed state treasurer feels now?
German toys by any other name will serve the kids just the same.

Some state officials assume too much. The voters will assume for them next fall by retiring them.

Buy Red Cross seals to put on your Christmas packages you send to your distant friends. Now, don't forget it.

It appears that Teddy will have to make a clear choice between two conflicting aims. That isn't much of a feat for Teddy to perform.

Congressman Shallenberger will be right in the fight, being assigned to the committee on military affairs. Shally will prove all right anywhere they put him.

The work of congress can either reelect Woodrow Wilson or defeat him. So it stands every democratic member in hand to stand by our worthy president in his efforts to save America and its people from infringement from other nations.

Dr. P. L. Hall, member of the national democratic committee, has gone to the meeting of the committee in Washington. He also carried with him the petition to President Wilson from Nebraska democrats, which he will present to the president.

If you hear a man talking at the rate of 200 words a minute, don't think he has brain fever and think it necessary to call a doctor. He has probably just returned from the Panama exposition, and is trying to tell more than he knows about it.

Perhaps not all the uses of the automobile have been discovered. A farmer in the west part of the state has been killing woodchucks with the exhaust gas from his motor car, attaching a hose to the exhaust pipe and running it into the woodchuck burrow.

It would seem that all the democrats who were announced for governor three months ago, have evidently flew the track. Don't get scared, gentlemen. When Morehead was nominated the first time we had fellows tell us there was not the least show for his being nominated. Yet he was nominated and re-nominated.

"German toys" made in Japan will be everywhere on the market this Christmas time, we learn, and Nuremberg, if she could see them, would find it difficult to identify them as not her own. Those papier mache and bisque cows and sheep which seemed imitable are proven not so, nor do they look like Japanese cows or sheep. Railroad cars, music boxes and mechanical toys have been reproduced and dolls with straight Caucasian eyes, not at all like the orbs of Nippon. Japan has appropriated everything from the west except its religion; and into our metaphysics she either cannot or does not care to follow us.

That the state treasurer has no right to question the applicability of the money paid in by insurance companies for the compensation of the fire warden to the service for which they are paid in is the ruling of the supreme court.

Very few seem to have ever been able to imagine that the supreme court would hold otherwise. The common sense view of the matter has seemed to be that when the legislature creates an office and provides for its maintenance through the collection of fees, it makes a lawful continuing appropriation of such fees, so that they do not in fact become a part of the state's funds usable for other purposes, and it is reasonable to conclude that they may be applied, without specific biennial appropriation, to the purposes for which their collection was authorized.

The holding of the court in the case of the fire warden points with seeming certainty to what must be the holding in the other cases involving payment of the cost of maintaining the pure food and other departments of the state's supervisory activities. The holding is that inasmuch as the funds in dispute are paid in by insurance companies for a certain purpose, and these companies are not objecting to their disbursement for that purpose, the state treasurer is not in position to refuse or object to such payment.

The fees of all of the other departments involved in this controversy are paid in by those over whom the state maintains supervision, and must be considered in the same light as the fees for maintenance of the fire warden's office and work.

There is one expression in the opinion that is rather vague. It is the sentence wherein the court holds that the right of the legislature to create the office "is not questioned." Whether that means that the court does not question that right, or simply that nobody has specifically raised the question, may only be guessed. But if the right of the legislature to create such offices as fire warden, food commissioner and the like, can be successfully denied, then a comprehensive fabric of state regulation must fall to the ground.

Some effort has been made in certain quarters to prejudice the public against the integrity and good intent of the governor in arranging that the departments effected by the refusal of the state treasurer to pay out these funds should continue collecting the fees, retaining them to meet the expenses of administration of the respective departments, with the understanding that only the excess should be turned into the state treasury.

Undoubtedly there were some to whom the attitude of the state treasurer appeared to be the only proper one under the law. Of course they were the ones who assailed the position of the governor. Now that the highest court has rejected the position of the treasurer, some credit and apology must accrue to the governor for his indisposition to see the supervisory departments which the legislature, speaking for the people, had created put out of business for lack of funds to meet the expense of their operation.—Lincoln Star.

Villa is hiding now from his pursuers, and it is hoped he will soon be captured and punished according to the crimes he has committed, and that his captors will not be slow in dealing out justice to him and his generals.

The politician who hopes to gain preferment through the difficulties with foreign nations and oppose the Wilson administration on these grounds, is not worthy of being called an American citizen, with not an ounce of patriotic blood flowing through his veins.

The bread has all got to be wrapped now.

The old year is on its last round, and the New Year is in sight.

The Merry Christmas time is coming on apace, and the kids are happy.

It looks like this would be the hardest winter that Bandit Villa ever experienced.

It is almost impossible to build up a town and at the same time keep down the wrath of some taxpayers.

Some of the crusades in mediaeval times were no more futile than Henry Ford's; but they had their uses.

The Dodge county court house at Fremont was gutted by flames Sunday morning. It will be rebuilt right away.

Reports from Washington are to the effect that the appointment of a federal judge rests altogether with President Wilson.

As soon as a man buys an automobile there is a widespread feeling that he should spend his afternoons running around town on errands for the Sunday school, the Woman's club and a fraternal society.

In the selection of a place for the democratic national convention, Dr. Hall is for Omaha first and Dallas, Texas, next. This may be all right, but we believe that should it prove impossible for Omaha to succeed, the convention should go to St. Louis or Chicago.

The Ford ship is well on its voyage of peace, and it is the wish of every American citizen that it will result in more good than we can really contemplate. If the envoys can even get the warring nations to ponder over peace measures their mission will not have been in vain.

Congress is now grinding away, and the people are watching their every movement. It is generally believed that a big majority of the members will stand by President Wilson, notwithstanding Messrs. Bryan and Roosevelt are present to oppose his measures for "safety first."

There is always something in the way. Just as it seemed that everybody was going to get a piece of money out of the increased European trade it is announced that all the railroads are choked with war shipments; that for a hundred miles out of New York all the sidings on the railroads are filled with loaded cars awaiting ships. The congestion will result in reduced prices. All of which should teach us that a man who is set at the second table never gets much.

We would like to impress upon those of our patrons who have notices for the Evening Journal or display advertising that they can help us a great deal by having such in the office by noon. When they pile in upon us after 1 o'clock it makes it pretty hard. We like to accommodate our friends, and many times we do when it delays us in getting the paper out on time. Perhaps you are not aware of this fact. But we desire to remind you that the holidays are approaching, and more than ever it will necessitate your getting in your notices and advertising on time.

A town that never has anything to do in a public way is on the way to the cemetery. Any person who will do nothing for his town is helping to dig the grave. The man that curses the town furnishes the coffin. The man who is so selfish as to have no time from his business to give to city affairs is making the shroud. The man who will not advertise is driving the hearse. The man who is always pulling back from any public enterprise throws bouquets on the grave. The man who is so stingy as to be howling hard times, preaches the funeral, sings the doxology, and thus the town lies buried from all sorrow and care.—Bruning Booster.

CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE.

From the secretary of the War Children's Relief Fund in New York there comes a timely reminder that the glad festival in which our children will be permitted in peace and prosperity to participate three weeks hence seems likely to bring little to awaken in the hearts of the children of the war stricken countries of Europe any unusual sentiment of good will or bring any glad tidings of great joy or consciousness of peace on earth.

We are reminded that the children of warring nations will look with touching wistfulness toward their friends and well-wishers in America for some token of love and good cheer which may lighten the gloom of this second Christmas since the awful struggle going on around them has overwhelmed them with sadness and desolation.

A year ago thoughtful Americans had taken precautions to have en route to Europe at this period of the year ships laden with trophies of affection. Since then Italy and Poland and the smaller countries of the far east have added their suffering thousands to the ranks of the bereft. Hence the suggestion:

It may be difficult always, to be rigidly neutral, but in the glow of the approach of the greatest anniversary in the world, Christmas day, the day of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," set apart for all the nations and all peoples, let the fine neutrality of the soul sweep away all human prejudice and make us realize that all these fighting men are equally our brothers, brothers in the divine brotherhood of our common humanity.

And so the War Children's Relief Fund authorities at 35 and 37 West Ninth street, New York, are sending Christmas stockings to the orphaned children of Europe, each containing candies, nuts, an expensive toy and a few pennies of the coin of their respective countries, with a Christmas card stating that the gifts come "With love of the children of America." Useful gifts of wearing apparel are enclosed with the stockings in each package, and all decorated with red ribbon and holly.

Subscriptions have been invited to aid in this project, large or small subscriptions from willing hands and generous hearts. The time is short and promptness is urged.

A few days ago the press associations directed special attention to the fact that Christmas money is more plentiful in this country than it has been for years. Reports from a dozen cities disclosed that the merchants have enjoyed a tremendous trade in preparation for Christmas and are prepared for a record trade for the season. This means that the children of the United States have a joyous and Merry Christmas in prospect. Only opportunity to do so will prevent them from sharing in as large measure as possible with the orphans of the war who joy that belong to the child world at Christmas time.—Lincoln Star.

A state organization is proposed in the interest of better babies. It will create some new jobs, but of course that isn't the reason. The very ideal

In one respect the people have changed their opinion about the great war. They don't believe now that the war caused hard rains here last summer.

"Winter has this advantage," says the Chicago News: "It brings nothing to swat or muzzle." It brings something to muzzie—if we only could—the blizzard.

The Red Cross seal makes a fine ornament for Christmas packages. The cost is so small that you will be helping a great cause by putting several on each package.

Some newspapers constitute Ford's peace trip a "wild goose chase." Maybe it is, but we prefer to hold our opinion until a later date. One thing certain, it will prove a great advertisement for Ford automobiles, and they are liable to "go off like hot cakes on a cold winter morning" if Henry returns in safety.

Just 16 more days till we hang up our Sox.

Why is it some men always want to rule or ruin?

Let your wife do it; especially if it's finding fault.

That new resolution you intend to adopt! Don't forget it.

A grouch may smile and still be a grouch. Still one prefers that kind.

Never start anything you can't finish—referring to the European war, of course.

Bryan is determined to put the president to all the trouble he can manufacture.

Don't believe more than half you hear—in news from the seat of war; for instance that bad linen is made of celluloid in Germany.

A sufferer with an indefinite ailment finds out every few days just what is the matter with him; in fact, every time he changes doctors.

So long as there is work to be done at Panama, General Goethals will have a finger in the pie, and at present it very much resembles a mud pie.

Why didn't the parcel post lower the cost of living by putting the farmer next to the consumer? Apparently, because the farmer couldn't be "organized" effectively.

RURAL SCHOOLS.

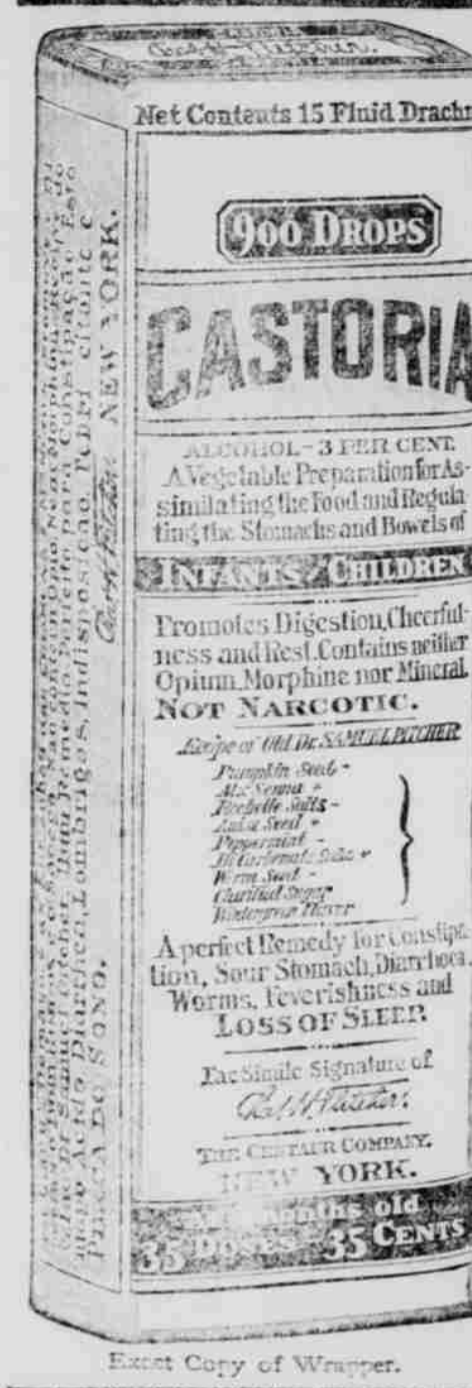
The children who attend the rural schools in the winter time must eat cold lunches for they are nearly all so far from home that they must take their lunches with them. In the improvement of rural schools in Nebraska, that matter has been attended to. In some schools there has been provided a home-made fireless cooker and the lunches the children bring can be placed in that and served hot. In some instances there has been provided an oil stove and soups, coffee or cocoa can be made. In some places neat little cupboards have been constructed in which dishes and jars can be kept. These are usually made by the pupils themselves out of boxes. In these schools when the thermometer is down near or below zero, the children can have a good hot lunch.

Through the consolidation of small districts, in a good many places, the one room school house has disappeared and houses of two or three rooms have taken its place. In these, somewhat more elaborate arrangements have been made and the girls who are studying domestic science receive practical instruction in their course by providing these lunches. The plan seems to be a reasonable and practical one, but in some instances it has failed because it put much work on the already over-burdened teacher and because the teacher had not been prepared for such instruction. Many of the teachers began work before there was any domestic science course in the normal schools that prepared them for teaching. The extension service of the College of Agriculture sends out the following advice on the subject.

"It cannot be recommended too strongly that a modest beginning be made until the interest of the parents, on one hand, and the ability of the teacher to organize the work well, on the other hand, assure the success of its development on a larger plane. The donation of a few utensils and food by some of the patrons may be the initial step which will later gain the support of the entire district."

An outfit for a school, including everything from a wooden spoon to a two-burner oil stove, can be obtained for about \$14. If the project is to be a success, the teacher must know how to cook as well as translate Latin and solve problems in higher mathematics.—World-Herald.

Have you seen our fine line of Christmas Stationery? This line always make a pleasant present. See the new initial letter, just in from the Whiting Co.



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THE PROHIBITION ISSUE.

Mr. Bryan and his brother, Charlie, are determined to force the prohibition question upon the democratic party in the coming primary and campaign. This is in line with Mr. Bryan's insistence upon following the county option question into a campaign when it so happened that he was not a candidate for office. It has, perhaps, been noticed that when Mr. Bryan's name appeared on the ticket as a candidate he was very insistent that no extraneous issues be injected into the campaign, and that when it so happened that he was not a candidate he insisted upon injecting into the campaign issues that were not fundamentally democratic but merely matters of personal opinion.

A few years ago, when an attempt was being made to force the county option question, Mrs. Heald, representing the Women's Christian Temperance Union, asked Mr. Bryan to sign a petition to the legislature asking that the county option bill be enacted into law. Mr. Bryan declined to sign the petition, saying that the main issue was the securing of the initiative and referendum; that after securing that the people could vote upon all those questions without regard to political persuasion.

A year or two ago Mr. Bryan saw—or thought he saw—an opportunity to make political capital by espousing the county option cause. It seems that he had forgotten the argument that he put up to Mrs. Heald.

The question of adopting or rejecting a prohibitory law will come before the people on a referendum vote at the next election. There is no more reason why the democrats should endorse or fail to endorse that measure than for the endorsement or rejection of a proposition on the subject of baptism by immersion. The one, like the other, is a matter of moral judgment, not of political judgment. A man may be opposed to prohibition by legislative or constitutional enactment and still be a good democrat, just as a man may believe in baptism by immersion and still be a good democrat, although Mr. Bryan, being a Presbyterian, believes that sprinkling or pouring is baptism.

The voters of Nebraska will have

an opportunity to vote their moral convictions on this prohibition question at the next election, just as they will have an opportunity of voting for or against the policies of the Wilson administration. Prohibition is not a partisan question. It has nothing to do with party politics. The effect to make it a test of a voter's democracy is as unrecalled for as would be an attempt on the part of some party leader to make the question of baptism a party test. Mr. Bryan has, of course, the right to change his mind—a right which he exercises with considerable frequency—but there are democrats in Nebraska who have no difficulty in recalling the time when Mr. Bryan was un-democratic to support, as a party, any demands for sumptuary legislation. The democrats who have three times valiantly fought for Mr. Bryan when he was a candidate for the presidency certainly have some rights in the premises. It would not be at all unbecoming on the part of Mr. Bryan to allow them to have some voice in the matter of choosing the ground upon which democracy is to make the coming fight.—W. M. Maupin in York Democrat.

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Box Social at Keil School.

The pupils and teacher of the Keil school, school district No. 97, will hold a Box Social and program at the school house on Saturday evening, December 11th. Everybody invited. The ladies are requested to bring boxes and the gentlemen the coin.
Anna Henrich.

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