

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

"The traveler has to knock at every alien door to come into his own and one has to wander through all the outer worlds to reach the innermost shrine at the end."

Only 3 more days till Santa Claus comes.

There is no machinery so miserably used as human machinery.

That municipal Christmas tree would have proved the thing.

Who thought last Fourth of July that Christmas would be here so soon?

Have some pity on the clerks, and don't wait till dark Christmas eve to do your shopping.

There are times in a man's life when he feels that if reinforcements do not come all will be lost.

Did you ever notice that no man is ever anxious to marry a woman who isn't afraid of a mouse?

Some additional revenue could be raised by taxing members of congress on their printed speeches.

And now the dear constituents will receive sundry copies of periodicals and oratorical speeches which were never delivered in congress.

What a glorious thing it would be if 1916 could find this town without a knocker, and with everyone a booster. And it could, if you would.

Today is the shortest day of the year. They will soon begin to lengthen out until we all will be able to get in a day's work and then some.

As a peace maker it can be said that Henry Ford is good to his people and his hired help. That is more than can be said of many manufacturers.

To secure happiness yourself try to make others happy is old advice. Can you recall anyone premeditatedly approaching you on such an errand—and what were the symptoms?

Champ Clark says if he had his way there never would be any more national conventions, "but we would have presidential primaries instead." Champ is nearly always right.

Everything seems to be very quiet around the state capital. There is no fussing, and the most of those in office have about given up the idea of re-election. And it is just as well.

If we prepare for old age we will get it. If we prepare for death we will get it. If we prepare for war we will get it. And the chances are we will get them all whether we prepare for them or not.

The question is now being discussed in some sections as to whether or not "Honesty is the best policy!" Of course there are people who will sit up and take the honest side of the question that would cheat his grandfather out of his last dollar.

Politics will open up in good shape after the holidays are over. The candidates will begin their tramps over the country shaking hands with the dear people. There will be plenty of candidates for state and county offices, and the 18th of April will settle who will and who will not be candidates.

AN AMERICAN MESSAGE.

There will be some complaint that the president's preparedness plans are inadequate, and complaint, on the other hand, but not so much, that no preparedness is needed. Government backing for a merchant marine will find opposition as impracticable and because of the age-old opposition to ship subsidy. But from out of these differences of opinion and others too numerous to mention, as the sale bills say, will come rather unanimous approval of his sentiments of Pan-Americanism; America for Americans and America before all other countries. There was a time when no such utterances were needed, and even now the minority he aimed at was small, but, as he pointed out, and as there has been recent abundant evidence, it is malignant, and should be summarily death with. And by far the greater number of Americans will welcome his recommendations for preparedness, which is really the main issue of the address. Only those so blind they won't see can longer believe in the strength of this nation in a military way. Men and money we have, but men and money are not enough. Our army and navy are excellent, no doubt, what there is of them, particularly of the army. And if America for American is worth while, Americans must prepare to keep it that way, or they should. Otherwise we are trusting to luck, which can't be relied upon always to be good.

A man should not be judged by his Sunday exertions, but by his everyday acts.

Peace in America and good will to ourselves. The rest of the world is raising too much h—l to be included.

The Old Year is rapidly drawing to a close, and don't forget that new resolution that is to take effect on and after January 1, 1916

The report comes from Lincoln that John Maguire's friends are endeavoring to bring him to the front for congress again. But we can hardly believe it.

We can never believe that maple sirup is as good as it was when it was spelled "syrup," and brought on in barrels. The bottled "sirup" never seen a maple tree.

Isn't it queer? The most recent suggestion that the lawyers, through their state association, should select our judges comes from one who has a spasm and froths at the gills every time anyone hints that the primary law is a failure. However this suggestion is not likely to be taken very seriously by the people, nor by very many lawyers. They have been up against it before.—Lincoln Star.

A local merchant a few days ago informed the writer that not less than half a dozen of his customers—people whom he had trusted when they needed credit—were sending away for their groceries—when they possessed the cash to pay for them. Of course, people have a legal right to spend their money where they please, but it is a damned poor way to build up a town and when these same people have been accommodated with credit by the local merchant, it looks very much like ingratitude to send away for goods kept here at home. Every dollar sent out of Plattsmouth keeps bringing down the value of property, and the Journal fears people who follow the practice are injuring themselves, as well as those with whom they should trade. Of course, dear reader, this does not mean you, for you wouldn't do such a thing, even if your neighbor does. Do your Christmas shopping before the last hour Christmas eve.

"CONTEMPTIBLE."

An honest confession is good for the soul. The New York Tribune, the leading republican newspaper of the country, cleanses its soul in a burning editorial beginning with this sentence: "It is impossible to read the reports of the republican gathering in Washington without a feeling that approximates contempt."

When the leading republican organ confesses its contempt for the leaders—the national committee—of its own party, it must be admitted that the situation is an unusual one. But the facts as the Tribune outlines them are such as to explain that newspaper's feelings.

In charge of the assembly, it declares, were men whose very names have become odious to millions of American voters. They are showing the same spirit as led to the revolt in 1912. "Every outward evidence indicates that the republican leaders are now planning to return to power, as did the Bourbons, having learned nothing, having forgotten nothing."

Cowardice and petty politics, the Tribune finds, characterize the course of these leaders in dealing with the president's foreign policies. The president must be attacked for weakness, but in doing so care must be taken not to offend the German-American voters. Therefore attack the Mexican policy. "Happily, there are no Mexican-American voters." Continuing, the Tribune says:

"The main line of attack is still safer; let us stick to the economic argument, to prosperity, which is sound republican gospel. If there is some prosperity now, this is due only to the war; what the country needs is the good old-fashioned republican organized prosperity, the return to the days of McKinley and Hanna. Here is safe ground, which will not risk the loss of any German-American votes.

"As for the progressives, since they are numerous, they must be treated with respect, but since they are no longer organized they are no longer a peril; they represent nothing; they have no issue; at most they might have a candidate, but this is doubtful; if only everything is conducted with decorum, with becoming silence, with that skill which is natural to republican leadership, all will be well. * * * The main, the sole thing is to win, and the winning is to bring back into party power Barnes and Penrose and all the interesting figures whose names are a part of recent republican history."

Concluding this exhortation, the indignation of the Tribune is such that it requires an unusually long sentence to put the situation up, in the form of an interrogation, to the republican voters and to the country:

"In this situation could there be anything more contemptible, more provocative of indignation and wrath, than a little group of selfish politicians, already discredited by past defeat and public castigation, sitting down together solemnly in the national capital and planning to get back to power by avoiding every semblance of courage or principle, by pandering to the passions of half a dozen mutually antipathetic factions and seeking to harness to their own cart every present popular emotion without, taking firm ground or honest stand on any issue whatsoever?"

It is "some question." But that it embodies the present tendencies of the republican party, the plans and purposes of the republican leaders, there can be no question.

There is a very considerable question, however, whether a campaign for office that has its inception in the slimy gutters and noisome basements of politics will appeal to the honest, patriotic rank and file of the great party that held up the hand of Abraham Lincoln when he, too, was piloting the country to safety through days of stress and peril.

As for the democratic party, certainly it will welcome such an issue and such a campaign. It can be proud that it is standing for an administration that has done things, that has not been afraid, that has acted sincerely and unselfishly for the common welfare, and that dares go before the country as the champion of great principles.—World-Herald.

Two more days only till Christmas.

The usual flow to Omaha twice each day.

Most joy riders think the ride is worth \$25, anyway.

The golden rule never works satisfactory unless it is practiced with reciprocity.

From Ford's diary: December 8, passed an iceberg, but it seems a two-cylinder affair.

Can a cocked hat hold two eminent personages at the same time? We shall see next year.

Hard times make a man's fortune shrink, but nothing like the publication of an inventory of his estate.

"King Peter Escapes on Horseback." That's a headline and suggestion to King George to practice up.

Pastor Russell says every man makes his own hell; the idea is not new; and that's not the kind of hell Billy Sunday does business with.

Every hotel of importance throughout the land should have a night watchman. The United States supreme court says there is a law to that effect.

Our immediate ancestors who were "a sturdier race than we are," so they tell us, to wear those heavy woolen scarfs around their necks. Molly-coddles!

Candidates for governor on the democratic side of the house seem to be very quiet in the matter. It is pretty near time for them to show their colors.

The average kid is the happiest little mortal on earth just now in anticipation of what Santa Claus has in store for them. May they not be sadly disappointed.

Our diplomatic representatives to some of the smaller European states now have to keep their trunks packed, as they don't know what hour they may be called home.

We have done our best to ease the work of the clerks in the closing hours before the dawn of Christmas, and it may be we have succeeded to some little extent. At least we hope so.

There is but one candidate for governor, so far, from the west part of the state, while there are six or seven from the east. This is an unequal division, and a bright, lively republican candidate from the west could easily sweep the platter.

Somehow it makes us more suspicious of Japan when some Jap diplomat arises to remark how friendly his nation feels toward ours. If you don't know much about Japan, you may know something about diplomacy, and its celebrated language.

The house at Washington on Thursday of last week adopted the joint resolution extending the emergency revenue tax one year from December 31, when the existing act expires. The vote was 205 to 189. The tax is expected to produce \$82,000,000 during the year 1916.

It would appear to a man up a tree as though the contract for the library would be let as soon as possible in order to expedite matters. In case a local contractor gets the contract a great deal of the carpenter work could be done inside the shop during the cold weather which would help matters along. We cannot see any special reason for delay in the matter.

To us no season of the year awakens so much of tenderness and fellow feeling towards all humanity as Christmas. It is not only a time of well wishing, but kindly doing, with a vein of sympathy that would turn no one away empty, without no tender greeting, no act of kindness, not a word of love that might contribute to another's happiness. No sacrifice seems too great that we might not bless one another—no yielding up of self too trying that we might smooth some life, no trial of patience too great that we might not bear and forbear with a spirit vexed with many things.

REJECTED PIFFLE.

The always interesting Norfolk Press calls attention to one republican newspaper man in Nebraska with brains and a conscience—Editor Mills of the Wakefield Republican. His fame should be heralded—not because he is a rare bird; we believe there are more than a few republican editors in Nebraska like him and that they will be heard from as the republican program of deception develops—but to encourage those who are standing back to come forward and stand up for truth and a square deal.

To Editor Mills was sent one of the ready made editorials provided by the Nebraska Republican Publicity Association, which is nominally presided over by Frank Currie of Custer county—a good man who should be in better business; actually managed by the versatile Jimmy Haynes of Omaha, and financed and inspired from the lower end of Manhattan Island. This was the editorial:

"The democratic tariff law has been in effect twenty-one months. Under it the value of cattle importations is \$31,765,973. Under the last twenty-one months of the old law, the cattle importations were valued at \$11,492,540. That is to say, the democrats increased the competition felt by the American stock raisers three fold, and at the same time deprived the nation of millions of dollars of much-needed revenue. Now the democrats cut out this revenue for the reason, they said, that it would force a reduction in the price of beef to the consumers to admit cattle of foreign states free of duty. Has it done so? Ask any housewife in any city in Nebraska. She will tell you that she is paying more for beef than two years ago."

Talking as a text this "editorial" provided for him by the splendidly unanimous leaders of whom Mr. Rosewater boasts, the editor of the Wakefield Republican wrote as follows:

"Some much needed explanations are omitted from the foregoing. Would not the price of beef have been still higher had it not been for the increased importations? If so, is not that equivalent to reducing the price? If the price would have not been higher, how has the "three-fold competition" felt by the American stockraisers" injuriously affected them? Does lowering the tariff on a commodity increase the price of it to the consumer, injure the producer of it, and cut down the government's revenue? Those seem to be the inferences we are expected to draw from the article quoted. Somebody please straighten this out for us. We are sending a marked copy to F. M. Currie of Brewster, president of the above mentioned organization, in the hope that he may enlighten us.

"We try to be a fairly good republican, but we do not intend, if we can help it, to be a party to any scheme for simply discrediting the democratic administration without real cause. Such campaign stuff as the foregoing would drive us into the democratic ranks—if they were not up to the same capers."

The concluding proviso of this splendid editorial may be forgiven as a concession Editor Mills makes to partisan etiquette. The truth is that the democratic administration is willing to stand on the record it has made, and on the results of that record. It is not trying to deceive the country, and could not if it would. The facts are there. They speak for themselves. People who believe the administration and congress have not done honestly the best they were capable of doing for the country, and who are not satisfied with the results, may be expected to vote for a different kind of government in the coming election—the kind, presumably, that was provided under Taft, with the able assistance of Messrs. Smoot, Penrose, Cannon and other active assistants. Those who think President Wilson and a democratic congress have done well, and who desire to continue that kind of government, may reasonably be expected to give it their support.—World-Herald.

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The Boy Who Didn't Believe

He didn't believe in Santa Claus
As the king of the Christmas crowned;
"How can he come down a chimney,
An' he so fat an' round?
An' where's the reason an' where's the proof
'Bout reindeer runnin' across the roof?"
An' so it came, on the Christmas eve,
He built the biggest fire
The chimney ever had known, an' said
As the red flames climbed up higher:
"I'll find where your Santy Claus is at;
I'll b'lieve in him if he comes through that!"
An' Santy Claus, he came along
With a merry laugh an' shout,
An' he called to the North Wind, brave an'
strong:
"Come! Blow that fire out!"
An' down he came as the North Wind blew,
An' the little boy said, "I b'lieve in you!"



The Gift of Your Voice—and Smile

THE best gift of all at Christmas time is the gift of your voice—and smile. It's a gift of friendliness and of thoughtfulness for others. It's a gift of your happiness to those who may have less. It's a gift that the telephone can deliver for you here, there, and everywhere, on this best of days.

Why not make the most of your Christmas day and send your voice and smiles out over the miles, to your friends who are far away?

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