

The Plattsmouth Journal

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DEMOCRATIC TRANQUILITY

It is only for those born to that practice and educated in its intricacies to speak with knowledge of American politics, great or small, so many a citizen is only privileged to judge political situations by the outward manifestations thereof, just as he might criticize the general effect of a drama without the slightest wisdom as to the detailed work of the actors presenting that drama.

For that reason the approach of the republican national convention is looked upon by many as the preliminary to a sort of circus or pageant or masque, with the players thereof speaking the lines set down for them, and no more. Experience four years ago has taught the laity to believe this the case, and the elephant will have to live that reputation down.

Into this carefully rehearsed entertainment has been injected a sort of free lance performer with a various array of features that would be a welcome adjunct to the Ak-Sar-Ben initiation show any time.

Gus Renze invented the knife-throwing stunt a dozen years ago, and now this same "act" has actually become a part and parcel of the G. O. P. presidential melee.

Thousands of people are flocking to Chicago to witness, if possible, the kaleidoscopic changes and multifarious events to be staged there by the republican party. If this show is not produced according to expectations, these thousands will be grievously disappointed after their lengthy journeys to the footstool of all righteousness.

In comparison with this spectacular event at Chicago, the democratic convention at St. Louis fades into nothingness as an attraction.

For at St. Louis, at a time in the world's history when the interior of a boiler shop is as quiet as a mausoleum three years ago, the democrats of the United States are preparing most tranquilly for an exceedingly tranquil convention with their great leader of these troublesome times the only name upon any tongue.

President Wilson is tranquil, democracy is tranquil, and so the convention will be.

People realize this. They realize that the desperate thrashing about of the G. O. P. in search of a man to combat the personality and record of Woodrow Wilson is rapidly assuming the caliber of a great theatrical spectacle, and not much more.

With dignity and with sense of having in the past four years honorably performed the duties to which they were sworn, the democrats are awaiting their day at St. Louis.

In the meantime their opponents, with scores of bands, ballyho artists, knife throwers and other society specialties, are preparing their scenery.

Peace, preparedness, and above all a confident tranquility, are the most prized characteristics of the democratic party today, which is considerable contrast alongside the fireworks threatening at Chicago.

The big show is nearly ready. Step lively, ladies and gentlemen—but watch your step!—World-Herald.

A special train will leave Lincoln next Sunday filled with boomers for Governor Morehead for vice president and the regular delegates from Nebraska.

Calm yourselves, ladies. It is true that Princess Jolanda, who is to marry the Prince of Wales, is only 15. But she won't have much of the housework to do.

Edison, having announced that people sleep too much, now says we ought to eat less. Yet the nations now devoting themselves to wakefulness and abstinence are not happy.

If the republicans had the unit rule the Chicago convention would not be half so interesting.

Perhaps the idea that two can live as cheaply as one originated in the mind of a young fellow who boarded with his father-in-law.

General Harg's report resembles the annual statement of the secretary of a small town Commercial club prepared to prove that he is earning his salary.

We are reminded of what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina when we think of the elections in Nebraska—it's a good while between (drinks) elections.

Louis W. Hill, son of the great railway king who died recently, is said to be very sensitive about discussing his personal appearance. If he is, we hope he won't see this: He wears whiskers that are as insatiable looking as if he were an eminent surgeon.

The Toledo Blade springs the old line, true as it doubtless is, that there are more \$10,000 jobs than there are \$10,000 men. Certainly there is, and there always will be as long as it remains with the employer to put one price on the job and another on the man.

That flag stands for honor, not for advantage. That flag stands for the rights of mankind, no matter where they be, no matter what their antecedents, no matter what the race involved; it stands for the absolute right to political liberty and free self-government, and wherever it stands for the contrary American traditions have begun to be forgotten.—Woodrow Wilson.

CHARACTERISTIC OF THEM

Three or four democratic newspapers in Nebraska have announced that they will not support the entire democratic ticket. A couple of these newspapers love to publish fiery editorials for the purpose of seeing them quoted in republican organs. But if the republican organs are laying the flattering unction to their souls that because some democratic newspapers refuse to support the entire ticket the whole ticket is doomed to defeat, they would do well to reconsider. Independence is a characteristic of democratic newspapers. A man may be a democrat and very independent. But if he edits a republican newspaper he must swallow any old ticket offered or be forever cast into outer darkness. Any old time you see a republican editor manifesting independence of the party leaders, just set it down in your little old note book that there is one republican who may be expected over in the democratic ranks 'ere long. Whenever you see a democratic editor bolting any part of his ticket you can wager your ultimate simoleon that he has really made up his mind that the candidates bolted are not worthy. Once in a long while you'll lose, for democrats are only human, after all, and now and then a democratic editor gets peeved because he lost a postoffice or didn't get the nomination he sought. Once in a long while you will find a democratic editor who thinks he is manifesting superior virtue when he poses as too good to support some nominee—hoping all the time to get his diatribes printed in the opposition press. When all other attempts at securing publicity fail; when the editor's real ability cannot command attention from his brethren of the press, he can always bank on the notoriety that comes from being quoted in the opposition organs with approving comment. There are one or two such democratic editors in Nebraska. But a spirit of independence permeating it is satisfying to the soul to know that whatever their reason, there is the democratic editorial fraternity that cannot be found in the press of any other political party. The York Democrat is rather independent itself. It hasn't bolted any of the democratic ticket so far, but there's no telling what may happen. It all depends upon the candidates themselves.—York Democrat.

FAVOR LOWER POSTAGE RATES

One-cent letter postage is attracting the attention of congress, fifty bills calling for the inauguration of a 1-cent rate on local delivery letters having been introduced. Many newspapers throughout the country are warmly advocating the lower rate, and the inauguration of a so-called "zone" system for the transportation of periodical literature of all kinds. At the present time the great bulk of mail being carried distances under second class rates is furnished by the magazine publishers of the large eastern cities. Trainload after trainload of magazines are sent out to all parts of the country at a cost of 1 cent a pound, although it has been estimated by postal experts that it costs over 8 cents a pound to deliver such literature. This, it is claimed, is manifestly unfair to the publishers of newspapers in local territories, who are required to pay the same rate for transportation of their products. It is proposed, and will become part of the readjustment of postage rates when such are made, that a zone system be established so that a certain rate shall be charged for all classes of publications for the first fifty miles, another for fifty to 100 miles, another for 150 to 300 miles, and so on up to a haul which would extend across the continent. In this way the publishers of big magazines would be required to pay the government what it actually costs to transport their product. Under the present rate the United States mails transport such magazines as Leslie's an average of 1,000 miles at the same rate they would charge for newspapers for the average haul of fifty miles. This means a large subsidy for Leslie's Weekly. Some of the other magazines, having a much larger circulation, benefit to a much greater degree. When it is considered that Leslie's Weekly gets over \$1,200 per page per single issue for its advertising space, and that a half or more of the periodical is taken up with advertising, it hardly seems fair to users of letter postage and to newspaper publishers that they should pay the government a profit of 100 per cent when none of it is used to defray general expenses of the department, but goes instead to take care of the deficit created by the loss incurred in distributing these magazines at 1 cent a pound, a rate which is almost a franking privilege. Newspapers, which should properly represent the territory in which they are published, and carry the advertisements of the nationally advertised products in their territories, are seldom considered nowadays in the distribution of big advertising appropriations. The money goes rather to huge magazine corporations which are growing fabulously rich, and which pay only a fraction of the cost to the government for the service furnished them. The reason one large magazine business is paying profits may be noted in the three trade publications controlled by it. The actual value of these publications is about \$200,000, yet, owing to advantages given by the second class rate and the resultant increase in their advertising, they were recently sold for \$1,500,000. It is declared that upon its latter valuation they paid a stock dividend of 50 per cent. When it is realized that the publishers of newspapers in the smaller towns and cities scarcely more than break even and make a living from their publications, is it not fair that the government should collect from these huge corporations the cost of services entailed? This remarkable condition of affairs has been revealed by investigations which have been made by the National One-Cent Postage association, with headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio. This association is seeking to secure a 1-cent letter rate and a readjustment of charges made on the carrying of second class mail which is very largely furnished by the big magazine publishers. It is pointed out that if a zone system were to be applied the rate on letter postage could be lowered, the advertising placed in the local newspapers, where it belongs, and the big magazines required to share some of their fancy profits with the government, which is

now carrying their product at a loss estimated at over \$75,000,000 per year on periodical mail, which is offset by a profit of more than that amount from letter mail.

Are you going to St. Louis next week?

Local candidates are beginning to move around.

Carranza's bluff didn't scare anybody in the least.

Too much gossiping is not healthy for any community.

The word of Funston and Scott goes against all Mexicans.

Swat the fly. He is beginning to show up quite numerous in spots.

Have you heard any of the new sport suits made of bed ticking?

The moose may show its teeth in the Chicago convention, but it won't bite anybody.

Preparedness should not be in politics and politics should not be in preparedness.

The nomination of ex-Senator Burlett for vice president at Chicago looks very bright.

It is understood that national convention keynote speeches are so called because they aren't.

June weddings are blooming right along in this neighborhood. Don't seem to be any let up on connubial bliss.

The suggestion that the women voters will be swayed by their like or dislike of whiskers comes from the enemy.

Some girls can squeeze their way through a crowded street and emerge without looking mused. How they do it is a secret.

A soldier in the trenches is said to have written a grand opera. One never knows what the by-products of war are going to be.

The seizure of 2,893 parcels of rubber in the transatlantic mails merely goes to show how elastic the modern laws of war have become.

The way crude oil is continuing to go up likewise suggests further study as to the ways and means of getting more mileage out of a gallon of gas.

One thousand bird-of-paradise feathers to be destroyed by the government! Just think, girls, of the bargain sales that are going to waste!

It will be a difficult task to convince the average citizen that a young man who marries two widows of uncertain age in rapid succession should be classed as a molly-coddle.

For purely reading purposes before the convention, the dark horse is always the most popular candidate with the public, because he needs less currying than those of the lighter shades.

The British naval officers say the Germans used no new tricks in the North sea fight. We don't recall any, either, unless, of course, you count the sinking of some fourteen British war vessels which had never been sunk before.

The popular prediction on the outcome of the Chicago convention is about as follows: It looks as though Hughes or Roosevelt might be nominated, unless some other candidate receives a majority of the votes in the convention.

Capitalists who say it is useless to pay high wages because "they will only be wasted" are not as numerous as they used to be. Still, a five-million-dollar increase in the bank deposits of Ford workers, a gain of eighteen millions dollars in the value of homes they are paying for and a twelve-million-dollar increase in the life insurance they carry are potent arguments with those to whom money talks.

Children Cry for Fletcher's



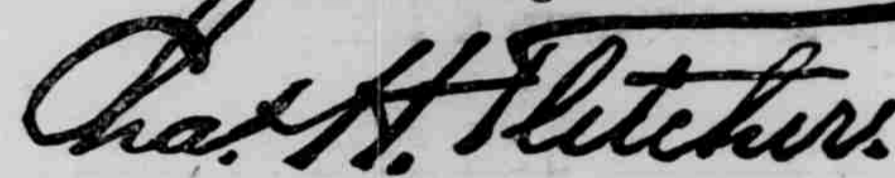
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Vermont republicans in convention assembled writhed in anguish over the "weak, vacillating, incompetent democratic party."

The "weak, vacillating, incompetent democratic party" is the party that enacted the greatest banking and currency law the country ever had after the republican party had failed at the job; the party that reformed the tariff after the republican party had muddled the work; that created a trade commission after the republican party shirked its duty; that has doubled the size of the United States army and made provision for general military training; that has framed the greatest navy bill in the history of the country; that is preparing to take the tariff completely out of partisan politics and to rehabilitate the merchant marine; that has kept the United States out of war and maintained the honor of the nation by the processes of peace.

The "weak, vacillating, incompetent democratic party" has done more for the country in three years than the republican party did in sixteen years of continuous power. It is a record for which the republican party has no parallel since the civil war.—New York World.

Love your enemies. Your wife will attend to hers.

The man with the straw hat and linen suit has had but little use for them this season.

"The Efficient Gossip" is to be the title of a book now on the press. We predict great success for the book, for it is badly needed. There is a great deal of ragged, shoddy gossip put out every day, due mostly to carelessness and lack of preparation.

From present indications Vice President Marshall will be renominated at St. Louis next week—and should. In renominating President Wilson it becomes the duty of the convention to also renominate Tom Marshall, one of the truest democrats that ever breathed the breath of life.

Rather cool again Tuesday night.

Farmers are praying for warmer weather.

Some boys seem to enjoy being mean.

Incidentally, who commissioned that man Hitchcock to make presidents?

"Auto spooning" is a game that two can play with perfect success—and delight.

The peace between Italy and Germany is a peace that passeth all understanding.

It is usually the bold and reckless swimmer who is drowned—in the sea of matrimony.

There is something pathetic in the idea of a prison baseball team knocking a home run.

A quick way to start a riot in London is to stand on some busy corner and shout for peace.

A substitute for meat has been invented by foreign chemists. Imitation hash is next in order.

What most girls like about a love letter is the fact that they can keep reading them over and over.

Sons of self-made men frequently give evidence that their fathers were satisfied with the first attempt.

English sparrows should soon be exterminated, now that it has been discovered that they are good to eat.

Kansas has issued its annual call for 45,000 volunteers for the wheat fields, when the harvest begins on June 20.

This is the only time in the year when you can tell this year's straw hats from those of last year. This year's are white.

Life doesn't seem worth while to the old fraternity man when he sees one of his old "barb" enemies amounting to something.

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