

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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R. A. BATES, Publisher

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## THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Die when we may, I want it said of me, by those who know me best, that I always plucked a thistle, and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow.—A. Lincoln.

Now that winter is here, it is colder.

How did you enjoy Christmas?

We all feel the effects of Christmas.

Learn to know yourself, before criticizing others.

A box in your pocket is worth twice as much as one on your ear.

The cost of chorus girls, like their clothes, is going up.

This is the kind of weather to secure recruits for the regular army.

These are the days when it is no disgrace to get cold feet.

One person with plenty of pep can make a whole lot of officers ginger up.

Truth is mighty—and mighty inconvenient for some people.

One of the severest trials of a newspaper man comes when a first-class stingy man dies.

A little sand or ashes on your slippery sidewalk will help out a number of hollow and empty prayers.

Christmas is over and now for a "Happy New Year!" and the continuance of prosperity and good times.

A woman is willing to take any kind of a chance with a sore throat if she owns a handsome string of pearls.

Talk about help for the legislators in preparing bills. The trouble has been, heretofore, too many lawyers on the outside have done too much preparing.

With the hope that it will start the fireworks, they have begun to prop up the rear end of the state capitol building at Lincoln with telephone poles. If somebody doesn't pull the poles away the building will probably remain there for the winter.

When a school boy gets his neck broken playing foot ball, his sudden death is explained as having been caused by "heart failure." Quite true. A broken neck is quite apt to cause "heart failure," followed by a funeral.

When any company dealing in a general line of material like the Standard Oil company can double their capital stock and then declare a 100 per cent dividend, it looks to the consumer as though the commodity should be purchased at a much lower figure. This is what the Standard Oil company of Kentucky is proposing to do.

There should be relief for the newspaper publishers in the high price of print paper, and as much as these papers have done for the members of congress and the United States senators, it looks to a man up a tree as though they could do something in the way of relief. It is no use for the members of the house and senate to say that they can't do anything for relief, and we would like to know what they are there for? There never was such an outrage perpetrated upon the American people, and if some relief does not come soon, the people will naturally come to the conclusion that the paper trust has too many tools in both houses. Let them show their hands, or get down and out.

Skating on the ice is fine.

And the next day after.

Did you eat turkey, goose, chicken or duck? All good enough.

If it were not for your friends you would be pretty lonesome, don't you think?

When a stranger tries to get a check cashed he makes a mistake by thinking that everybody knows the check is good just because he happens to possess that information.

At the current ratio of progress it will not be many months until black diamonds take the place of the cheaper and more common, garden variety of jewelry store diamonds for personal wear.

Mark the prediction. That the future of peace of nations rests with the coming man and woman, the ones whose hearts have ached the hardest during the war and the ones who have done the suffering.

Only five more days and Leap Year expires, and a whole lot of old maids have missed the chance of a life time. They will be too old for grandmothers four years hence.

The "Home Workers" do not belong to the gang who oppose improvements for the city—Neither do they belong to those who are deterring the building of the new high school building.

We are not a knocker and we would not be for the world, but there are those who knock from Monday morning till Saturday night, and their knocking vanishes into thin air. But they are a pest to the community, just the same.

Mr. Adamson, author of the recent eight-hour law passed by congress, says that both the labor unions and railroads are liable to come in for a good "spanking" if they do not desist from their efforts to have the law repealed in favor of agreements entered into by heads of their respective organizations.

Everybody should be happy at this season of the year, but those who would appreciate happiness, are those who do not have the money to purchase happiness. But none but the rich enjoy this life, anyway. But their observation when we pass from this earth is the same as ours, and over there we will all be alike and the armies of the Savior will not be partial in their extension to rich and poor alike. That is one thought we should all take into consideration, for the Redeemer is faithful to those who are faithful to Him.

Major General Leonard Wood of the United States Army is reported to have declared in a public address on December 8: "War is coming as sure as God is in heaven and the sun shines in the sky." That is important if true. But if the event is as certain as the general states he must have accurate information. He must know with whom this war is to be, and what it is to be about. Knowing that, he should not keep the knowledge to himself. This coming war must be over something that is either our fault or the fault of our future antagonist. If it is our fault, can we not avoid war by remedying the matter? If it is the fault of the other side, we are under no obligation to declare war on that account, and if General Wood would be less secretive it may be possible to settle the matter peaceably. It is his duty as a citizen and public official to divulge to the proper authority this information or admit publicly that he spoke without knowledge.—The Public.

A perfectly healthy woman can, in ten minutes' conversation with a doctor, convince herself that she is afflicted with fifteen ailments, and ten of which are necessarily fatal.

## THE LANSING MYSTERY.

What in the world, may we be permitted to wonder, was the matter with Lansing?

What was it that happened at Washington, unseen by the world, known perhaps to but a very few men, that called forth Secretary Lansing's amazing "explanation of the president's peace note, and later his explanation of the explanation?"

Press reports say that Lansing's pair of explanations are to follow, through diplomatic channels, on the heels of the note itself. They will comprise a separate document, to be presented by four ambassadors as a sort of appendix to the virile state paper penned by the hand of Woodrow Wilson. And what an appendix! The note as Wilson prepared it was an invitation to peace. As Lansing construed it, and as he said the president construed it, it became an invitation to war. Promptly thereupon the secretary was called into consultation with the president, and there followed a new construction, in which the secretary said he was sorry, and that the note spoke for itself, but that his original explanation, as explained by this second explanation, still stood!

And in this shape the whole mess is transmitted to be laid before the trained and skilled diplomats of Europe!

Woodrow Wilson has been accounted the peer of the best in his power to make words express precisely the thought designed to be conveyed. In this latest of the many notes to Europe he appears to good advantage. It is a note nicely and carefully worded, restrained in its terms yet vigorously robust in its meaning. It measures up to the highest standards of diplomacy. It represents the triumphant handling of an exceedingly delicate situation.

Why did Lansing have to dip in and spoil the effect by presuming to interpret and shade the meaning of the plain words of this master of English?

It is difficult to believe that he would presume to do this without consultation with his superior. But it is even more difficult to believe that he did consult Mr. Wilson's knowledge and consent. Because this involves the necessity of believing also that the president, when he found what amazement and consternation followed the Lansing "explanation," was so ungracious as to humiliate the secretary by obliging him to cancel it and publicly express regret for a piece of botchwork for which his chief, equally with himself, was responsible.

It is all an unfathomable mystery at this time and distance from the seat of trouble. But it is profoundly humiliating, none the less, that on so solemnly important an occasion, with so momentous and dignified a task in hand, and with so highly creditable a piece of workmanship coming from the president's hand, the whole effect should have been spoiled, for some reason unknown, by so ripe and cultured a diplomat and statesman as Robert Lansing, secretary of state.—World-Herald.

Now for the resolution.

Or, maybe, you'd rather turn over a new leaf.

After New Year's day—then what? Down to hard work.

We are all for a "Happy New Year," so let us do our best for that result.

"Each whale carries about a half ton about him." There is no great demand for whalebone now, it being no longer used for corsets and umbrellas, but the whales still have use for it.

The girl who chooses a career that fails to include baby carriages, bibs and things, will land at the gates of eternity with a consciousness that she has missed something.

A perfectly healthy woman can, in ten minutes' conversation with a doctor, convince herself that she is afflicted with fifteen ailments, and ten of which are necessarily fatal.

## LEAVE VENGEANCE TO THE LORD.

Congressman Gardner of Massachusetts is "seething with indignation," to use his own words, because President Wilson has spoken a word for peace. "Men and nations," declares Senator Lodge's bellicose son-in-law, "must pay the penalty of their crimes. Otherwise wickedness would run riot in the world." The president, by moving for peace, "is helping Germany to escape the penalty of her wickedness. The world will not be a fit place to live in if he succeeds."

From which one might conclude that if the men who are doing the fighting should ground arms and shake hands before Mr. Gardner is ready for it he will refuse to make this world his habitation any longer. The loss of Gussie would be an outrageous price to pay for peace. But then we have grown accustomed to paying outrageous prices. Our very souls are caloused. We have become reckless with our treasures. And so, though he be dearer to us than much fine gold, we'll swap Gussie for peace if we get a chance.

Men and nations must, indeed, pay the penalty of their crimes. German men and the German nation have sinned greatly, without doubt. Because, equally without doubt, every nation, and every man of every nation, has sinned greatly. The question is, shall we all take up arms for the purpose of properly punishing each other for our sins? And, having taken them up, shall we refuse to lay them down again so long as there is a sinner amongst us left alive and unpunished?

Mr. Gardner, it is only fair to note, is not engaged in the punishing business himself—except with his mouth. He is not in the trenches bleeding and freezing and offering his life to make this world "a fit place to live in." He is living fatly and comfortably in a section of this world that never knew what luxurious happiness was till it gathered the war brides in its arms—brides born of the sweat and tears and blood of other men that Congressman Gardner sternly decrees must keep on dying to make this world a fit place for him to live in. There are, in the armies of the entente nations whose cause Mr. Gardner so ardently loves, "foreign legions"—even legions made up of citizens of the United States of America. These are legions of men who have the courage of their convictions and who are prepared to pay the last full measure of devotion to give those convictions enduring life. But Mr. Gardner though yet a young man and full of vigor, is not amongst them. He prefers that others should suffer the sacrifice whilst he spurs them on and shouts bravely, "Damned be he who first cries hold enough!"

The Manchester Guardian, the foremost organ of British liberalism said in a recent issue: "There is in this as in all the countries at war, a great volume of opinion, too little vocal, unfortunately, in favor of a serious effort on the part of European statesmen to put an end to the carnage which is destroying a whole generation of young men who are not in a mood to fight on blindly, killing and being killed for the sake of fighting. \* \* \* If the armies themselves could speak, this volume of opinion would be revealed as even greater and more set than it is in the homes for which those armies, one and all, are longing."

Perhaps these men in the trenches are beginning to understand a truth which Mr. Gardner in his bombastic, foolish way, is helping to make plain. And the truth is this: While they may have been summoned in the beginning, to fight to save Europe from German aggression, they are fighting, from this time on, not in self-defense, not for liberty and democracy and the rights of small nations but to make Germany "pay the penalty of her wickedness." The shoe is now on the other foot and it is "Gott strafe Germany."

There is no longer the slightest danger that Germany will dominate Europe. Nor is there any longer a reasonable prospect that Germany may be conquered and disarmed and divided into small states to which the

rest of Europe shall dictate, with England keeping the German colors as a reward for merit, Russia moving down to Constantinople, France grabbing Alsace-Lorraine, Italy contenting itself with the Trentino and all combined sharing in the spoils of Austria-Hungary and the Balkan states. The war has developed into a hopeless stalemate. It has degenerated into an orgy of hatred and vengeance that is quite as suicidal as it is punitive. "Vengeance is mine," the Lord has said; "I will repay."

It is high time that both the great hostile alliances leave vengeance to the Lord, so far as the punishment of their enemies is concerned, and devote themselves for a long while henceforth to considering and curing their own sins. Otherwise all the proud empires and powers will go down together "in one red burial blent." And in their dying agonies they may lay violent hands upon and drag into the black pit others that are yet safe on the brink.

This is the truth that President Wilson has seen. It is a truth that has impressed itself on the whole neutral world. It is striding in seven-league boots across the trenches and in the warring countries beholden by all except those who having eyes see not. It is under its stern and compelling mandate that Germany has proposed a peace conference and President Wilson suggested a statement of peace terms. How pitiful and disgusting, in its awful presence, are the ravings of the Gussie Gardners of the world!—World-Herald.

The fight against "the hyster lawyer" is all right and we hope the legislature will make a move in the direction of disarmament of all such hysterics. They exist in every community, and they should be brought to the bar of justice to prove their qualities.

The announcement of Governor-elect Neville that he will keep Superintendent W. J. O'Brien in charge of the state fish hatcheries at South Bend, is good news and will please the majority of Nebraskans. Mr. O'Brien has proven himself to be a mighty good man to have charge of the fish plant, and he should be kept there as long as he cares to stay.—Weekly Wymorean.

The members of the incoming legislature meet in Lincoln Friday and Saturday for the purpose of holding caucusses among themselves as to "ways and means," and the selection of chairmen for the various committees. We would like for the members of this body to take into consideration the qualities of Hon. John Murtry of Cass county as the proper man for chairman of the committee on banking, because we know he is the proper man for the place.

In conversation with several of our best citizens and among the heaviest taxpayers of the city, they all agree that the injunction against the \$15,000 school bonds was all uncalculated for, and that they did not uphold such proceedings. They thought that it would be cheaper and much better for those who brought the suit to drop the whole business. It does not cost the board of education a farthing to defend the case, but in the end the bonds so voted will be declared legal and the taxpayers will have to foot the bill. And then, another thing, such a squabble as this is a disgrace to the community, especially to Plattsmouth, which has been booming more in the past five years than any town of its size in Nebraska. "Cut it out," is the proper thing, right now.

Of the members of the Nebraska constitutional convention of 1875 six are alive and living in Nebraska. They are: O. A. Abbott, Grand Island; John Lee Webster, Omaha; J. W. Dawes, Ottumwa, Ia.; Isaac Powers, Norfolk; Judge Reese, Lincoln; A. M. Walling, David City.

It's the sure thing that gets your money.

Not very long 'till 1917.

## -A Big Social Dance!-

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## Saturday Eve, Dec. 30

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Ladies Free

## Local News

From Tuesday's Daily.

Leonard Schaffer was a Christmas visitor at Manley with his relatives and friends, returning home last evening.

Miss Elsie Roessler, who is teaching at Grant, Neb., this year is home for the Christmas holidays to enjoy the holiday season with the home folks.

Mrs. Joseph Tighe and son, Francis, of Havdlock, were in the city over Christmas visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald and family and with their other relatives and friends.

Dr. G. H. Gilmore of Murray was in the city today for a few hours en route from Omaha to Murray, having been present at the operation performed on Miss Esther Rice at the hospital in Omaha.

Charles Patterson, of Arapahoe, was among the Christmas visitors in the city visiting with his brothers, T. M. Patterson and R. F. Patterson and families. He departed this morning for his home.

Ed Vallery and wife of Grass Range, Mont., who have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kaufmann and other relatives and friends, departed this afternoon for their western home.

Mrs. F. A. Clodt, Mrs. C. T. Peacock and Phil Becker returned home Sunday morning from Mason City, Ill., where they were in attendance at the funeral of their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Becker.

Ben Muncheau and family of Eagle were in the city over Christmas visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Smith, parents of Mrs. Muncheau. While in the city Mr. Muncheau was a pleasant caller at the Journal office.

Ed Brantner of Pender, Neb., was a Christmas visitor in this city, and will enjoy a short visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Cory and family. Mrs. Brantner and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chase have been here for the past few days.

Wade Porter and family of Creighton, arrived Friday evening to enjoy a visit with Mrs. Porter's parents, T. W. Vallery and wife at their farm home near Murray. They were met in Omaha by Charles Vallery, a brother of Mrs. Porter.

Morris Marley of Cheyenne, Wyo., was a visitor in the city over Sunday and Christmas with his brother, William Morley and family. This is the first time in eighteen years that the two brothers have met and the occasion was one of great pleasure to them.

Mrs. John J. Coughlin arrived Sunday morning from her home in Chicago to spend Christmas in this city with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Soennichsen. The many friends of Mr. Coughlin will regret greatly to learn that he is feeling very poorly and could not accompany his wife to this city.

Charles Bell, of Davenport, Ia., a former Plattsmouth boy was in the

city over Christmas visiting with his many old time friends. Charley was in Omaha attending to a few matters for the Woodman of the World team of which he is a member, and decided to spend the Christmas season here with his old friends.

Mont. Rabb of Union was in the city Saturday evening for a few hours en route to Omaha where he joined Mrs. Robb and Miss Gussie in a Christmas visit with friends and relatives. Mr. Robb is soon to take charge of an elevator at Ceresco, but the family will continue to make their home at Union.

Simon Clark and wife were over Christmas visitors at Cedar Creek, where they visited at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Robert Stivers and family. Mrs. Clark returned home this morning accompanied by her little grand-daughter, while Mr. Clark continued on to Omaha to take treatment in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Skinner of Lincoln were here over Sunday and Christmas visiting at the home of Mrs. Skinner's mother, Mrs. Herman Harold, and also at the A. T. Pitt and Percy Field homes. The Skinner family are expecting to leave in the spring for Wyoming to locate on a homestead there.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Heneger came in Sunday morning from their home at Carroll, Ia., to visit over the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Steinhauer and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Steinhauer, and also Mr. Percy Dimmitt, who is a guest at the Steinhauer home over the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Heneger departed Monday morning for Weeping Water, from where they will return to their home in Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. George Privett of Bladen, Neb., who have been here visiting over Christmas at the home of Mrs. Privett's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. McCreary, departed this afternoon for their home. Mr. and Mrs. Privett are living on a farm near Bladen and are getting along very prosperous in their new home. While here Mr. Privett called at this office and enrolled his name for the Semi-Weekly Journal for one year.

## POSITIVELY NO HUNTING.

All parties will from this date take notice that no hunting will be allowed on our farm. This rule must be adhered to and all those violating it will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

WALTER SANS,  
MRS. JOS. SANS.

## CORN SHELLING.

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