

The Plattsmouth Journal
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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.—Lincoln.

Coasting is fine sport, if not dangerous.

Horrors appear less horrible when they are far away.

How are those New Year resolutions holding out?

What you tell confidentially is told to the next fellow the same way.

One of the most difficult things in ordinary life is to forgive the virtues of our enemy.

Isn't it a fact that we are all everlastingly trying to get a little better than the market price?

Many fine gentlemen are like musical glasses. To produce the proper tone you must keep them filled up.

There are several kinds of pioneers, but the real one is the woman who had her appendix carved before carving became popular.

Possibly there are a few left who can remember how, as boys, they eagerly looked to the Sunday school paper every Sabbath morning.

One cheerful thought connected with high prices is that it doesn't cost the head of the family anything to swallow the lump in his throat.

Representative Murley, of this county, takes another rap at the so-called bridge trust in a bill providing that county boards may furnish material for construction of bridges.

England is worried over the increase in prices of foods. People over here have worried over it for so long that worrying seems to be producing but little results, except higher prices.

The geological survey thinks that the petroleum supply will last only about thirty years longer, but, phew! by that time you'll be getting your mileage out of something better than gasoline.

If you have anything you want to sell, you want the highest price. If you want to buy something, you want to buy it as cheaply as possible. That's nature's definition of "free trade."

Since the Nebraska legislators have decided to kill the bill that provides for the arrest of any person whose breath has the odor of liquor, the prices of calamitous seeds and clovers have dropped a notch or two.

Senator Mattes is fathering a bill providing that fire insurance companies shall pay one-half of 1 per cent of their gross premium receipts toward maintenance of the state fire commission. At present they pay 3-8 of 1 per cent.

County seat removal clashes which are bubbling up every year or so in Nebraska counties will be curbed under a proposed measure introduced in the senate by Senator Hager of Adams. Under this bill, if the removal question has once been submitted to a vote it cannot be resubmitted again for ten years. If the old county seat has been established for twenty years or more it will require a three-fourths vote to take it to another town.

MR. BRYAN IN OPPOSITION.

It is highly surprising that Mr. Bryan should be among the first to announce opposition to President Wilson's plan for a league to enforce peace. It is the more surprising inasmuch as Mr. Bryan declares that the terms of peace on which the league would be based are "entirely sound," presenting, as they do, "the philosophy of brotherhood and co-operation."

If the great powers of Europe should be willing to accept these terms and make them the specific, written constitution of a league of nations formed to give them force and effect and permanence, why should the United States hesitate to stand back of them? Why should it fear to be governed by its own principles—principles that for more than 140 years it has proclaimed as essential to the happiness and progress of mankind? Mr. Bryan says:

"I dissent entirely from the proposition that this nation should join in a movement to effect peace in Europe. If I know the sentiment of the American people it is inconceivable that they should be willing to put the American army and navy at the command of an international council to decide for us when we would go to war. In the president's appeal he presents the philosophy of brotherhood and co-operation and this is inconsistent with the proposition that it be backed up by a larger display of force."

Mr. Bryan, as has often been true of him before, fails to discriminate and is reckless with the facts.

The president has not proposed that "the philosophy of brotherhood and co-operation" be "backed up by a larger display of force." Quite to the contrary, he has specified as one of the laws that must govern a league of peace if the United States is to be a partner in it, a provision for reduction of armaments on both land and sea. Smaller armies and smaller navies are to be used hereafter—and as a power for order merely. They are to be used as the police are used—to enforce the law and the decrees of the courts. Law and decrees must be based upon, and be in compliance with, the fundamental principles which the president has laid down as a condition precedent to our membership in the league.

Instead of these being "a larger display of force," as Mr. Bryan loosely alleges, there is to be a lesser display—a lesser force. Instead of that force being utilized by each nation for itself for offensive and predatory purposes, it is to be used as a police organization to enforce the law; the law that grants all nations equality of rights; the law that forbids any nation to attempt to extend its policy over any other nation; the law that guarantees to every people freedom "to determine its own policy, its own way of development, unhindered, unthreatened, unafraid, the little along with the great and powerful." What is there in that of which the United States, of which Mr. Bryan, has reason to be afraid?

It would be quite another thing if it were proposed that the United States should enter into a league to enforce the terms of peace regardless of what those terms might be. It would be quite another thing if the United States were asked to become a partner in a league that would be free to make its own rules and laws and policies as it went along. In that event there would be sound reasoning to back Mr. Bryan's fears. We feel quite confident that the American people would never give their consent to it. We would then, indeed, be placing ourselves at the mercy of that international council against which Mr. Bryan's spirit rises in revolt.

But such is not President Wilson's proposal. He has formulated his constitution for this suggested federation of the world. "Adopt this constitution first," he says to the embattled nations; "afford guarantees that you will be bound by it, and we will join our forces with yours to give it enduring life." And the constitution Mr. Wilson outlines is a democratic constitution. It looks toward the Americanization of the world. It calls for government resting on the consent of the governed. How then can it menace the rights, the aspirations, the interests, of the United States? Any greedy power or combination of powers that, after the league was formed, should seek to impress its policy on any other nation or to extend its domains by force, or to abridge the full and equal rights of any country, large or small, would be acting in violation of that constitution. Every nation that stood true to the purpose of the league would be standing for what the United States is dedicated to. Every nation that was false would become the enemy, thereby, of our own ideals and interests, the enemy of justice and liberty, the outlaw assailant of the peace and security of the world.

Surely the United States could better afford to join with the other nations to bring that outlaw to terms than to face the alternative. And what is the alternative? It is the formation of a league resting, probably on different principles than those President Wilson lays down. It is the formation of a league in which the United States would have not a single friend. Within that league there might be alliances, open or secret, for defensive if not offensive purposes. But there would be no alliance in the league or out of it, to defend the rights and interests of the United States. There would be no law there, no voice to speak, no hand lifted, in behalf of our Monroe doctrine. On ourselves, and on ourselves alone would rest the burden.

Under such an arrangement of the nations of the earth, would the United States be in less or in greater danger of war than if it were a member of a world league governed by the principles President Wilson has defined? Would it need a smaller army and navy, or an army and navy incomparably larger? Would world peace be made more or less secure? Would the influence of democracy wax or wane?

These are pertinent questions, and it would be interesting to have Mr. Bryan answer them. Until he has answered them we must continue to wonder at the spectacle of a professed apostle of peace and brotherhood and democracy setting himself in opposition to a plan to make brotherhood real and peace permanent because founded on justice and protected by law—a plan to make democracy the dominant influence of the world.—World-Herald.

The eyes of the farmers, the bond and sinew of Nebraska, have a weather eye on the doings of the legislature at Lincoln. Everything must be done right or the yocerny are going to kick, and they are "cocks of the walk" these days. We advise the members of the senate and house to beware how they proceed in this legislative business.

Doing business without advertising is just like kissing a girl in the dark. You may know what you are doing, but nobody else does. But the man who advertises, and advertises right, is as busy as a cross-eyed boy at a three-ringed circus.

Henry Ward Beecher is said to have coined the expression, "the ragged edge of despair," way back in the eighties, and we can't see where anyone has improved on it since, especially some people in this town.

That Omaha man who has been married four times, and all his wives living, probably believes in the "try-out" proposition.

It seems that the legislature is bent on increasing salaries, principally.

IS IT TO BE THUS ALWAYS?

When morning light comes stealing through the window of our room, and the weary hum of business for the day we must resume, we yawn and stretch our muscles on our trust-made bed before we get out on the carpet which a trust placed on the floor; in a mirror, which the glass trust has provided, do we stare, as we pull our trust-made clothing on and comb and brush our hair; the shoes the leather trust has made we don, then go to greet a breakfast which the food trust has prepared for us to eat. Down at a trust-made table in a trust-made chair we sit, while trust-made viands to us are delivered bit by bit; the beef trust sends a juicy steak, the wheat trust gives us bread, and the dairy trust the butter with which our toast is spread; then we sweeten up our coffee with the sugar which a trust has made for us to patronize—must have sugar if we bust—and when the meal is over, then we grab our trust-made hat, and board a trust-made trolley car to where our work is at. Before a trust-made desk we sit and labor every hour, on trust-promoting business men we're dependent for our pay; the gas trust lights the office, and it also heats the same; the fixtures and supplies, we find, all bear a trust-made name. The pen we use the steel trust has provided with great care; the ink trust makes the fluid which is splattered here and there, and blotters from the paper trust is sent, as is the sheet of linen which the shorthand girl typewrites so swiftly and neat.

Thus on through life we daily go, dependent on some trust. We patronize the mergers that are formed, because we must; the doctors' trust will get us every time that we are sick, but we patronize the drug trust and seldom make a kick. The coal trust warms us winters when the blizzards come and go, and the ice trust gets us summers when the hot winds scorch and blow. And when we pass from world-trusts to be a heavenly guest, the undertakers' trust steps in and kindly does the rest.—Kearney Democrat.

The short skirt is said to be doomed. Let it be so. But how about the fancy shoes?

Perhaps the reason some men stand so strongly for their rights when away from home is because that's the only time they have any.

Now comes an intelligent person asserting that "all star" foot ball teams are nonsense, just the same as "all star" base ball teams. Yet that dazzling galaxy has been one of the cherished illusions of past seasons.

The State Journal is still belly-aching over the appointment of Gene Mayfield. Give the old grouch a little Godfrey's Cordial. That is good for kids. If that fails, to have the desired effect, give it a dose or two of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

There are many more important matters of interest to the taxpayers of Nebraska, to which the members of the legislature could put in their time than that of increasing the salaries of public officials. If salaries are not sufficient, there are no strings tied to any of them—they can step down and out and give their places to those who are willing to serve at the present salaries.

If the present legislature don't go a little snow, they will overdo themselves, and make a bigger record of introducing bills than any legislature that ever assembled in the state of Nebraska. But to introduce a bill is easy enough, but to get it passed is "to stand in" with the sifting committee.

A woman subscriber wants to know "what will keep hair from falling out." It is not the purpose of this paper to pose as a bureau of information but we would suggest if the lady keeps her hair in a dresser drawer, keep the dresser closed and the dresser right side up. If it's kept in a paper sack tie the sack. If the hair is worn on the head it can't fall out, but off, in which case, darned if we know.

EUROPE IN AMERICA.

The commonest criticism of President Wilson's peace plan is that it is a beautiful peace dream but wholly impractical.

But is it impractical? Is it not, instead, the only practical plan for insuring peace and good will in and among the states and races of Europe just as peace and good will maintain among the races and states of this great republic?

The essence of the president's proposal may be simply stated as involving two fundamentals:

First. Equality of rights among the various European states, large and small, precisely as there is equality of rights among the American states. The great empire state of New York has no rights superior to those of little Rhode Island, Massachusetts, with its culture, wealth and dense population, can give no orders to the "grasiers" and "gringoes" scattered in the desert spaces of New Mexico.

Second. "Inviolable security of life, of worship and of individual and social development" to men and women of whatever race, of whatever faith, within each state. This amounts to a bill of rights; a guarantee of civil and religious liberty.

With each European power, great and small, enjoying in the hegemony of nations equal rights and privileges with all others; with each forbidden to attempt to impose its policy upon any other; with each guaranteed the freedom to work out its own life, to order its own destiny, why should one hereafter hate or fight another, any more than Montana hates or fights Pennsylvania?

"But there are many races in Europe, living in close contact, sometimes one within the other, as it were, and they hate and fear each other." True enough. But there are just as many races in America as in Europe, professing just as many religions, and just as intimately in contact. And they neither hate nor bear fear for each other. Why? Because they have no occasion to. No one attempts to impose its policy upon the other. They may freely speak and print their own languages here. They may worship in their own churches unafraid. In Nebraska, for example, in communities where citizens of a particular race are gathered together, they may provide for teaching their children their mother-tongue in the public schools. There is not only "security of life" but there is "freedom of life." It cannot be said of the members of any race, or the devotees of any creed that their "will is in rebellion." There is, because of full civil and religious liberty, "tranquillity of spirit and a sense of justice, of freedom, and of right."

The St. Louis Republic happily emphasizes the point when it said:

"For two and a half centuries Europe has been at war. There are in St. Louis great communities of Germans, Bohemians, Serbians, Belgians, Greeks, Russians, Bulgarians. Have we had any race riots? Not one. Why not? Because all are now Americans, and to insure peace on earth it is not necessary to have a dominant race; it is necessary only to have a dominant idea.

"The strongest nation of all times has been built up out of the most incongruous elements—fused out of the children of races which have been at each other's throats for a thousand years. This thing has been accomplished by the simple expedient of organizing a government upon which principles of human rights which are so universal that they are exactly the same for every mind, so that when the Greek and the Bulgarian, the Englishman and the German, the Austrian and the Russian come here they forget enmity in a mutual co-operation."

And what is the result of this full civil and religious liberty of ours, assuring the full equality of all races under the flag?

Our foreign-born citizens, many of them, speak to each other in their mother tongue. They read newspapers printed in the language they learned at their mothers' knees. They satisfy a sentimental as well as a

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practical impulse to teach that language to their children. They exercise these rights unmolested and unquestioned, as naturally as they breathe. But over them is the flag of the republic. Under them and around about them is America. Soon these emigrant citizens are speaking English, reading English newspapers—becoming Americanized. And their children are Americans, all of them, by the time they attain their majority. Their children's children are Americans from the moment of their birth in three short generations, usually in two, frequently in one, the miracle has been wrought.

Suppose that here our Germans were treated as are the Bohemians at home. Suppose our Jews were treated as they are in Russia.

Suppose our big states were coveting the property of their little neighbors, whilst at the same time suspicious and fearful of each other.

Would we long have domestic tranquillity? Would we long be free of race hatreds? Would state not soon be arming against state? And would not war, soon or late, be the inevitable result?

What has been accomplished in America can be wrought, out of like material, in Europe. Democracy is the hope of the world.—World-Herald.

W. R. Young, the auctioneer, was in the city Saturday, visiting with his friends and looking after some trading with the merchants.

Ed Rummell and wife were among those looking after the week-end shopping Saturday in the city with the merchants, driving in from their farm home.

Miss Sadie Kelley of Lincoln was an over Sunday visitor in this city with friends, being a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Rosenkrans.

A. W. Cloidt and A. O. Moore departed Saturday evening for Shenandoah, Ia., where they enjoyed a visit over Sunday with relatives and friends in that city.

1917 Calendar Pads at the Journal office.

The Big Event Has Happened!
FREE 640-ACRE WYOMING HOMESTEADS

The long-wanted 640-acre Homestead Act is now a law. It permits application for these homesteads in the grass-covered livestock area of Burlington and Northeast Wyoming. You can reach this area either over the Burlington main line via Douglas for Converse County or via Upton, Moorcroft, Gillette or Clearmont for Northeast Wyoming. Inquire early and go early.

This area contains large bodies of excellent grazing lands from fifteen to fifty miles from the railroad. Write me for circular of information and instructions, which will tell you exactly what to do without loss of time these valuable mile-square homesteads in a region established and well known as the permanent livestock area of Wyoming.

It is my judgment that practically all of the desirable grazing and agricultural lands will be applied for in 1917. We do not advertise these lands for the purpose of creating passenger travel. We consider it our duty to advise you of this opportunity and tell you that it is the last chance you will have.

S. B. HOWARD, Immigration Agent, C. B. & Q. R. R.
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