

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Those who give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.—Benj. Franklin.

The "Goddess of Liberty!" Long may she rule.

Now isn't a very good time to plan your summer vacation.

Who said we would have a mild winter? Take it back.

Over 500 bills introduced in the legislature. "And still they come."

We know a woman will not listen to any kind of gossip. Poor woman, she's deaf.

There is nothing so brazen as a man clamoring for something he is not entitled to.

If it is paved with broken promises it must be a great place for legislators and politicians.

Excepting the fellow who is suffering, everybody in town has a cure for grippe and rheumatism.

Don't quarrel about the price of eggs. It takes a mighty good hen twenty-four hours to produce one.

The physician has recommended that doctors keep their fingers for medical purposes. A good recommendation in the face of the epidemic.

If you intend to build a new home or remodel and improve the old one now is the time to make up your mind as to just what you want to do, and commence upon the work as soon as spring opens.

The federal reserve banks last year increased their resources 166 per cent. At this rate the institution in a few years will be a worthy rival of the Bank of England.

Senator McMulley has introduced a bill into the state senate making it an offense punishable by a fine of from \$100 to \$300 for automobile drivers to drive cars while in an intoxicated condition. There is also a prison sentence of from three to six months attached to the offense.

It is rumored in Lincoln that if the state publicity bureau is established, Will Mainpin, editor of the York Democrat, will be chosen to take charge of it. The governor could sift the state over, and then over again, and never find any ways near as capable a man. And we know exactly what we are talking about.

Germany intends to wage unrestricted sea war. England wouldn't care to entertain any proposition now let old John Bull fight for his rights on the sea. The United States seems to keep out of the trouble as long as it possibly can. England always has a good deal to say, but when it comes to fighting, she expects her colonies to furnish the soldiers.

Someone has introduced a bill in the legislature requiring would-be husbands to pass a physical examination before he is permitted to marry, and marriage licenses cannot be issued to an applicant until he presents a certificate showing that he is free from all forms of venereal diseases. Could anything be more sane than that? The healthy class is not harmed, and the diseased one surely should not be permitted to marry. But here is hoping that it will not pass the legislature, no matter how much it ought to.

HOW CONGRESS WORKS.

Some farmers at a local hotel were discussing the dilatoriness of congress and one of them asked: "Why in the name of common sense do they not pass the needed legislation and go home?" Another asked: "What do they do all day in the house and senate every day?" A glance at the Congressional Record will show how they spend their time. At the opening of the senate the chaplain offers a prayer. Then Mr. Smoot, senator from Utah, says: "I suggest the absence of a quorum." That is the opening remark almost every day. The vice president orders the calling of the roll and when that is over and the senators explain the absence of some of their friends, he says: "Fifty-three senators (or whatever the number may be) have answered the roll call and a quorum is present. The secretary will read the journal of the proceedings of the preceding session." But the secretary was never known to read the journal. He reads a sentence or two and then a motion is made and carried to dispense with that waste of time.

Then a large number of petitions are presented and referred to appropriate committees never to be heard of again, except a few that are ordered printed in the Record or in pamphlet form. A lot of local bills, to which no objections are made are passed. After that many resolutions are offered, which often is simply a scheme for announcing a speech. A large number of bills are usually introduced at this time and amendments proposed to bills pending in the committees. That sort of thing goes on for about two hours and the "morning business" which begins at noon, comes to an end. There is always a large amount of printing of documents ordered during that morning hour, and sometimes bills of importance are passed by common consent during that time, but never one to which any senator objects.

The routine in the house is somewhat similar and that is all the general public sees. But the real work is not done on the floor of the house and senate. It is in the committees where members toil day after day and often nearly all night long perfecting the legislation and listening to representations made by different interests.—World-Herald.

Twenty-two degrees below zero. Is some winter, thank you.

Let's of fellows never would be able to recognize themselves as fools if they didn't fall in love.

When a man is polite to his wife he may be a gentleman, or she may have money in her own name.

The heavy coating of ice on the wheat fields which some thought would be an injury to the crop, experts say, will prove very beneficial.

There are plenty of "leaks" all over the country, only they have not been cute enough to find out where they are. Several could possibly be found in Omaha.

If a reformer were only half as good as he would have you believe he is, he would be wearing wings. But the most of them, when they get to themselves, take a good loud laugh at how they fooled the people in their work.

Why not get our people interested in putting up a paper mill in Plattsmouth. It would be a big thing for the old town. One that would also manufacture strawboard. We have the straw; we have the water, and all that is needed is the inclination of our people to assist in such an enterprise.

How do you like it, so far. The weather, we mean?

The man who is not occasionally exercised, is generally a dead one.

Better have it now than in the spring time. So come on with it.

This cold wave makes a fellow think of what has become of his last winter's overcoat.

Model husbands, says a lady at our elbow, are those who haven't been married very long.

A man is not necessarily innocent until proven guilty, just because the court takes that view of it.

Pneumonia to some extent still prevails in this city, but there seems to be but very little diphtheria.

The election of state and county superintendents should be non-partisan. But can it be that way?

Those who trust implicitly in Providence should remember that Providence will not do all the hustling.

When a man goes to the devil, he generally takes a woman along with him. That's what some people say.

"The women's new hats have scarcely anything on them," says a fashion editor. Evidently he overlooked the price mark.

Paste the man one who hails you on the street with "How do you like this cold weather?" It isn't supposed that anybody likes it.

There will be no shortage of diamonds this year, probably because the ultimate consumers of diamonds are not enormous.

Anyway, the man with a cheap car doesn't tempt the friends who ride with him to act as though the car belonged to them.

When the honorable judge ruled that golf is recreation, and not amusement, he must have known something of the price of golf balls.

If some of those handsome gentlemen and wealthy maids who advertise for mates are all they claim to be, why do they have to advertise?

There is much talk about a six-man jury. Well, what's the matter with that idea. The smaller the jury the better the chance for an innocent person to escape conviction.

Representative Norton has got a bill before the legislature to reduce the legislature to one body of sixty members. That bill will stand about as much show of passing as a snowball in hades from melting.

Well, Mr. Groundhog could not help but see his shadow yesterday. But we can content ourselves anyhow. We will have to take the weather just as it comes, so what's the use of worrying.

The people might expect fewer and better laws if it were not for too much playing of politics in the legislature. But that has been the great evil ever since Nebraska became a state, and we suppose it is too late to stop it now.

From present indications there will be a movement started before the adjournment of the present legislature for the removal of the capital to some point near the center of the state. If the capital is to remain at Lincoln, the best plan is to have the legislature make an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for a new building at Lincoln, and put a stop to the matter of removal.

We must give Mr. Hughes, the late republican candidate, credit as a man of sound judgment. He is standing by President Wilson, on the present situation with Germany, as every American ought to. There is no politics in dealing with the critical situation, and should not be. The time is here when there should be "a union of hearts and union of hands," with all Americans.

A HALF-BONE-DRY MEASURE.

In many if not most respects the bill prepared by the special legislative committee on prohibition seems excellently adapted to the purpose. In some important particulars, however, it is open to legitimate criticism.

On the question whether the state should be made "bone dry" the committee plainly has lacked the courage of its convictions, or else it has wobbled from side to side without acquiring any convictions. The result is an illogical compromise, arrived at by attempting to combine conflicting principles and policies.

Either the legislature should strive in good faith, to make good on the "dry" promise to the people last fall not to let prohibition interfere with their personal habits or it should frankly repudiate it. A "half-bone-dry" measure is an absurdity. Better chop off the dog's tail neatly and completely at once than do it by inches.

The committee bill permits importation of intoxicants for personal use, as a recognition of personal rights and a concession to personal habits. This is in conformity with the theory and pledges on which the campaign for the prohibition amendment was based.

Quite properly, in doing this, the committee places a limit on the quantity that any person may import in any one month, and requires that a public record be made of it. Without such limitation and requirement bootlegging would receive such an impetus that not all the myrmidons of the law combined could hope to overtake and suppress it.

But the limitation is such that it is aimed at more than bootlegging. It is aimed as a blow at the very personal habits which are apparently referred to. The limitation is, for any one family, one quart of whisky, or two quarts of wine, or two dozen pints of beer, per month. It is made an offense to get, or to have in one's possession, more than one kind. If a man has whisky or wine in his home he may not order beer so long as a drop of the whisky or wine remains. There are many families that habitually use two kinds, or various kinds, of intoxicants. They must stop it. No more brandy sauce for the pudding, no more wine sauce, no more frozen egg-nog, if there is a pint of beer in the house.

There are plenty of families in which are several beer drinkers. Whether one or a half-dozen in the family, the limit is twenty-four pints per month. When such short rations are provided what mockery to insist that other sumptuary inhibition against hospitality to the stranger, or friend, or uncle or brother-in-law temporarily within the gates!

Now it would be perfectly logical and consistent to say there shall be no intoxicants of any kind admitted into or consumed in any home. It would be logical to say that only enough "for medical purposes" shall be permitted. But here it is attempted to say that intoxicants shall be permitted as a beverage, that "personal liberty" is to be recognized, and then an arbitrary and unreasonable limitation is imposed that does violence to the very principle which the permission is designed to establish.

If "personal liberty" and "the habits of the people" are to be recognized at all in Nebraska of the new dispensation they should be recognized substantially and fairly. To chop them in half is both ludicrous and crudely unreasonable. Better "bone dry" at once, bravely and candidly, and be done with it.—World-Herald.

The exponents of the "twilight sleep" system of treatment are missing a good bet when they do not extend the field of its usefulness further. The system is the result of much study and experiment, designed to furnish the motherhood boon that has been sought through the ages. Why not go further and administer the treatment to the great army of disgruntled politicians and office seekers?

Why is it the thieves steal more Ford cars than they do any others? Are they easier to get away with, or is it because they are swifter in eluding pursuit?

LOSSES.

Of the five principal nations engaged in the European war, Great Britain has suffered the smallest number of casualties. It has frequently been said, by way of commenting on

British inaction, that England was ready to keep on fighting till the last Frenchman was killed.

All of this really goes to show the colossal nature of the conflict. British participation has not in fact been slight, even in the land fighting, and measured by any standard set previous to this war, the British losses are staggering.

Yesterday's dispatches convey the information that since the opening of the battle of the Somme, last July, Great Britain has lost 554,371 men in killed and wounded.

The entire losses of the north in the civil war, in killed and wounded, amounted to about 350,000 men, and those of the south to about 170,000.

Since last July, therefore, Great Britain has lost more men in killed and wounded than both sides lost from the same causes in the four years of our civil war.

The British losses in killed and wounded since August, 1914, are in excess of 1,200,000. That is 450,000 more men than the confederacy put into the field in the civil war.

If the whole force raised by the north in four years, numbering, exclusive of re-enlistments, slightly above 2,000,000 men, was to be placed at one time into the European war, it could hold just about the front which Great Britain is holding in France, and in four months its losses would be equal to the losses sustained in four years of the civil war.

General Sarrail, at Saloniki has an army larger than the confederacy put into the field at any one time, and within 50,000 of 100,000 of the total number of confederates who fought in the entire civil war. But what figure does Sarrail cut in Europe?

Rumania's casualties in battle are greater than those of the southern confederacy.

Serbian casualties are greater than the losses of both sides in the twelve great battles of the civil war.

Russia has lost over twice as many men as participated in the civil war. Russia has captured more soldiers since last June than surrendered in the last year of the civil war, including all confederates who laid down their arms at and after Appomattox.

The only branch of horror in which the civil war can claim any superiority is in the losses incurred through disease. Disease claimed fully 250,000 lives, which may be more than the total deaths from such cause among the soldiers of Europe in this conflict.

Yet this is not at all certain. The typhus epidemic which swept Serbia carried off about 200,000 people, many of whom must have been soldiers. Sanitary and medical conditions in the Russian army cannot be considered good. Pneumonia and dysentery are potent enemies of all men in the trenches, even if typhoid fever is not.

The nation includes casualties from sickness in its reports of losses, so it is impossible to find a basis for comparison. But at one time, when a report of British losses was being read in the house of commons, a member asked what the losses from sickness amounted to, and was told that at that time 100,000 soldiers on the Gallipoli peninsula were incapacitated. Some of these men must have died.

When the war is over, and the powers of Europe no longer have any object in minimizing their losses, it may easily be found that in spite of the wonders of medical science, sickness has claimed men by the hundreds of thousands.

In all other respects, at any rate this war completely destroys the value of previous standards of measurement. The civil war would be but a skirmish in it. The Crimean war would not measure up to the minor campaigns fought in the Balkans. Our Spanish-American war could be discounted in one day on a five-mile front.

We think of this as a war without a naval battle of any magnitude, yet the losses in warships are greater

than the total tonnage of the navies of either Japan or France. The ships which have gone down could have whipped all the navies of the world fifteen years ago.—Des Moines Leader.

COMPARATIVE PRICES.

The benefit of quoting comparative prices in advertising or on placards in stores has long agitated the minds of progressive retail merchants.

Many of the best stores in the country contended that comparative prices are expected by the public, and are necessary for enlightening buyers as to the real or alleged values being offered them.

On the other hand, there is a growing family of merchants in different cities who have come to the conclusion that comparative prices are poor business both for them and their patrons, and who have therefore entirely eliminated from their ads the usual "2.58 now \$1.85," and merely give a description of the article with the present price, whether it was ever higher or not.

The latest addition to this family is Burgess-Nash company, Omaha. Following the plan of Marshall Field and Carson Pirie Scott of Chicago, and about six other large firms in middle western cities, Burgess-Nash have announced that hereafter they would entirely eliminate all comparative prices from their advertisements in the store or newspapers.

They say however good the merchants' intentions are to tell the absolute truth, over-zealous department heads and honest errors are responsible for misleading comparative prices, and that to their mind the only way to be sure of not misrepresenting prices to the patrons of the store is to entirely eliminate all comparisons.

The World-Herald as an advocate of honest advertising will watch with keen interest the working of this new policy in Omaha.

Whether Omaha people, who have been brought up on comparative prices, will respond as readily to the advertisement that doesn't tell just how much they are going to save on each item they buy, must have been a question of vital importance in the determination of this policy.

It takes courage to break away from the beaten path that has proved successful in getting business, but the firm that does it because it believes it to be the right thing to do, is entitled to commendation.

Comparative prices in advertising have been much abused. Many honest firms use them and do it as legitimately and squarely as is humanly possible, but some firms unfortunately ride a willing horse to death, with the consequence that the public is inclined to be skeptical of all price comparisons.—World-Herald.

The temperature goes up.

"Bone-dry," and be done with it.

The weather never gets too cold for a bill collector.

When the knockers are busy, they do not spare even their best friends.

The future looks everything but good. The situation is alarming, and broods no good to America.

The jig is up, and we will have "to fish or cut bait." We are good fishers, and we never did like to cut bait.

From here it looks as if this "leak" investigation is just one of these things that simply has to happen.

A break with Germany no doubt draws nearer, if something does not occur in the next few days to retard it.

They are supplying soldiers who lose their sight with rubber eyes. A wickeder one asks: "Will it eliminate rubbering?"

It is really more assuring to the American people, that Americans are for America, when such republicans as Charles E. Hughes, ex-President Taft and Elihu Root declare their undivided support of President Wilson in the present crisis.

"WHOM THE GODS ABANDON."

In these days of high paper costs and keen competition it is no business of ours, of course, to advertise a contemporary; but we pause to advise all strong men and fair women who are in doubt about the republican outlook to consult an editorial in yesterday's Globe-Democrat. It shows exactly how much can be seen from the "regular" republican watch tower. It begins as follows:

"The best thing the republican national committee can do is to preserve a discreet silence and maintain a harmless inactivity. The campaign is over and the debts are paid. There is no patronage to distribute" and it is too early to begin considering the call of the next national convention. The congressional campaign of 1918 will be conducted by the congressional committee. It is to be hoped the republicans of the house and senate will be in such accord on all questions that that campaign can be waged in a uniform manner, at least to an extent that will permit the preparation of a campaign text book that can be generally used."

In all the literature of pathos, we remember nothing more poignant than this.

The vision of the future which it voices reminds us of a hoard anecdote of two men who arrived late at the inn of ancient type and were assigned to a room with but one window, which opened into a provision closet. In the course of the night one man asked his fellow to look out of the window and tell him the state of weather. He threw up the sash and declared that it was "dark as Egypt and smelled like cheese." The republican case, ment, just now, affords a like prospect, with a like savor.

It reminds us also of a line from George Meredith's great poem on France in 1870:

"Whom the just gods abandon have no light."

That touch about the campaign book stirs emotions that lie too deep for tears.—St. Louis Republic.

The burning love letter always becomes a high power explosive when it falls into the wrong hands.

The man who totes a gun and uses it on the slightest provocation, is a criminal with whom the courts cannot deal too severely.

Ingenious farmers make their automobiles do all kinds of work on the farm, thus lightening the burdens of the hired man.

Moderate weather is predicted for the next three or four days. But predictions are even like the weather, subject to changes.

Every American citizen, irrespective of political sentiment, is standing by President Wilson in his efforts to protect the rights of America.

A motion was made recently in the Nebraska house of representatives to dispense with the lobbyist. Yes, fire them badly with both feet.

Doing the Work.

W. T. Nanney, Noel, Mo., writes, "Your B. A. Thomas' Hog Powder is doing the work down in this part of the world. It proved to be what we needed to prevent and cure hog cholera and expel worms."

H. M. Soennichsen, Puls & Gansemer.

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