

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

As worthy friends add to the happiness and value of life, we must in the main depend upon ourselves, and every one is his own best friend or worst enemy.—Lord Auebury.

Lincoln's birthday next Monday.

Of course you'll not forget Valentine day.

Spring-like weather. How long will it last?

The war question keeps all of us guessing.

A new constitution is what Nebraska needs.

Some people quote the Bible. Others misquote it.

The war news even keeps people doing some strong guessing.

Experience is a good teacher, but it seems to have very poor success with some people.

It isn't what you earn that insures you comfort in old age; it's what you save. And we speak from experience.

Of course we are not authority on the matter, but we believe the troops have been withdrawn from the border too soon.

You may talk about elections every four years, but don't forget that the constitution distinctly says that members of congress must be elected every two years.

New York financiers now wish to brand Tom Lawson, who has figured so prominently in the "leak" investigation, as a modern Ananias. It seems almost a certainty that someone told, but the question is to find the guilty party.

The big jingo newspapers that are under the influence of munition manufacturers are not at all pleased with the president's appeal to the warring nations to state their peace terms. The munition men don't want peace. War is more profitable.

Thrift is a mighty good thing, but the miser, who takes from circulation 90 per cent out of every dollar that crosses his path is a greater menace to his community than the spendthrift. Make your money your slave, but have a care that it doesn't become your master.

The eastern people are a great deal more alarmed about the signs of the times than those in the west. They have cause to be, especially in New York and the east coast cities. There are so many millionaires in New York that they can easily spend half they are worth for coast defense.

It seems there is some opposition to the proposed constitutional convention. Some want to submit the question to a vote of the people of the state. That, perhaps, would be the proper way of settling the question. One thing certain, in which all persons agree, we need a new constitution.

We are not any nearer to war with Germany than we were two weeks ago, and we trust we may not get any nearer. The fact is the masses of the United States do not want war with Germany, or any other country. But when it comes to the worst, almost to a man they will stand by President Wilson and the flag of our country.

### POLICY OF THE NATION.

The great trouble with Mr. Bryan's demand for a referendum to decide whether the position taken by President Wilson on the submarine issue shall be sustained is that it comes too late.

That position was taken, and announced to the world, nearly twenty-one months ago, immediately following the sinking of the Lusitania.

In a note signed by Mr. Bryan as secretary of state, and dispatched on May 13, 1915, the rights of American shipmasters and passengers were asserted. Mr. Bryan declared then that the United States "must hold the imperial German government to a strict accountability for any infringement of those rights." He declared then that our government would "omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens."

On June 8, 1915, Mr. Bryan resigned from the cabinet rather than sign the second Lusitania note, which "very earnestly and very solemnly" renewed these representations. Mr. Bryan then advised the American people that this position was one which he believed would lead to war between the United States and Germany.

Early in the following year the issue thus raised was put to a vote in both houses of congress. The McLe-more resolution, in favor of a more moderate attitude, was laid on the table in the house, on March 7, by a vote of 276 to 142. The senate, four days earlier, had tabled the similar Gore resolution by a vote of 68 to 14.

President Wilson was thus sustained by the congress.

On June 15, 1916, Mr. Wilson was unanimously renominated in the democratic national convention, on a platform of his own writing. He was thus sustained by his own party.

In the convention of the opposition parties, both republican and progressive, no voice was raised to question the wisdom or the righteousness of the president's stand, which Mr. Bryan had warned the country would lead to war. In fact about the only criticism of the president by his political opponents, on this and kindred issues was not that he had been too firm, that his stand was too daring, but that he had been weak and not daring enough.

Mr. Bryan himself advocated the renomination of Mr. Wilson, and campaigned for his re-election.

Finally Mr. Wilson was re-elected, polling a plurality of the popular vote of 573,105.

Throughout all this time, during the period of all these developments, the president had stood unwaveringly by the policy outlined in the Bryan note of May 13, 1915. Strictly in conformity with it, and more than a month after the defeat of the Gore and McLe-more resolutions, the president has warned Germany, in the "Sussex" note of April 18, 1916, that a renewal of ruthless submarine warfare would be followed by the severance of diplomatic relations.

It was after the issuance of this warning that President Wilson was renominated and re-elected, with Mr. Bryan's support and without opposition on this issue from the opposing major party.

When, therefore, Germany gave notice of a renewal of unrestricted submarine warfare, on a greatly extended basis, and the president thereupon severed diplomatic relations, the referendum had already been had. If it had not—if, as Mr. Bryan seems to believe, the majority of the American people are opposed to the president's stand—then the people, including Mr. Bryan himself, had slept on their opportunity and sinned away their day of grace.

The government of the United States was committed, formally and definitely, before the world. The American people, by the action of both great national conventions, as well as by the verdict at the polls, were likewise committed. What was there left for President Wilson to do but act, when the crisis came, in conformity with the course that had been announced?

It may prove that Mr. Bryan was

right when he declared, in resigning from the cabinet, that the submarine policy of the administration would lead to war. It has not led to war yet, it is true, but it has landed us dangerously near the brink, and there is no citizen but lives in daily dread of what the morrow may bring forth. But by every fair test that could be provided that policy, whatever it may mean to us and to the world, has been made the policy of the American nation.

The time for criticism, for opposition, it would seem, was the time before the crisis had eventuated, and not after it is upon us. When President Wilson acted—when he recalled Gerard from Berlin and handed von Bernstorff his passports—it was with the popular mandate behind him.—World-Herald.

### SINGLE TAX.

The Democrat does not know what interests are behind the demand for a constitutional convention—neither does it give a whoop! It favors a constitutional convention, believing that the state needs one, and confident that the people are wise enough to take care of their own interests in the framing thereof. It is barely possible that the liquor interests are behind the movement, although we have doubts about it. And it is possible that men who are interested in tax reform are behind the movement. We hope so!

Note the cunning displayed in the bit of free plate being printed in Nebraska papers. Take the last sentence, which refers to a so-called "single-tax lobby."

"They would put the burden of taxation upon the farm owners and practically exempt the corporations from taxation."

The man who framed that sentence is either an ignoramus or a liar. Singletaxers advocate no such policy. No man ever gave the single tax theory an hour's careful investigation and then declared it a scheme to put the burden of taxation on the farm owners and relieve the corporations—that is, unless he was mentally incapable of grasping the single tax idea or was thoroughly dishonest.

The single tax would not add to the taxes of the farm owner. On the contrary, it would relieve the farm owner of the fines now levied against him for being enterprising and productive. It would add to the taxes of the land speculator and the man who held land and refused to allow it to be used, preferring to wait and profit by the labor and enterprise of his neighbors. It would force idle land into use, thus benefiting all classes but the speculator. In other words, the single tax would put a premium on thrift and enterprise, and a fine upon the lack of them.

The single tax does not contemplate a tax merely upon land. It is a tax upon the value of land for use and occupancy. It would make the vacant and untitled quarter section pay just as much tax as the highly improved and thoroughly tilled quarter section of equal fertility. It wouldn't fine the farmer who built a house and barn and sheds and fences. It would tax the man who refused to do so.

The farm land values of this republic represent less than 20 per cent of the total land values, but they pay more than 50 per cent of the taxes levied upon land. The single tax would be a blessing to the farm owner who worked his farm; it would put the land speculator out of business. It would give the landless a chance to acquire a bit of land, and it would make city real estate pay its just share of the tax burden. It wouldn't relieve the corporations of taxation, for they are already relieved. The man who believes that a railroad company pays taxes ought to have his head bored for the simples. All wealth is derived from labor applied to land. The land bears all the tax burden. The single tax would equalize that burden, and while doing so would make opportunities that do not exist for the acquiring of homes and the improvement of land now criminally idle because of the greed of speculators.

If a "single tax lobby" is behind the

movement for a constitutional convention, then more power to it.—York Democrat.

### NEBRASKA'S ROAD PROBLEM.

There is nothing more certain than that the federal good roads law is not going to be repealed. The sentiment of the country is behind it, overwhelmingly, regardless of what opposition may exist in a few states, of which Nebraska seems to be one.

Under that law \$70,000,000 has been provided to aid states in road construction. When that \$70,000,000 shall have been exhausted other appropriations may be expected to continue the work. The United States is a half century or more behind other highly civilized nations in recognizing the value of good roads, but it is now falling into line. The federal improvement of roads will be a continuing process, just like the support of the postal system is, or the improvement of rivers and harbors, or the reclamation of waste lands. As population presses upon subsistence this country is finding, as Europe found long ago, that good roads are imperative. They are a vital factor in making farming more profitable and more productive, in getting food-stuffs to market at a lower cost, and in lowering the cost of living.

For Nebraska to refuse to play its part in the essential work of road improvement would be evidence of narrowness, provincialism, lack of vision. It would class Nebraska among the backward states.

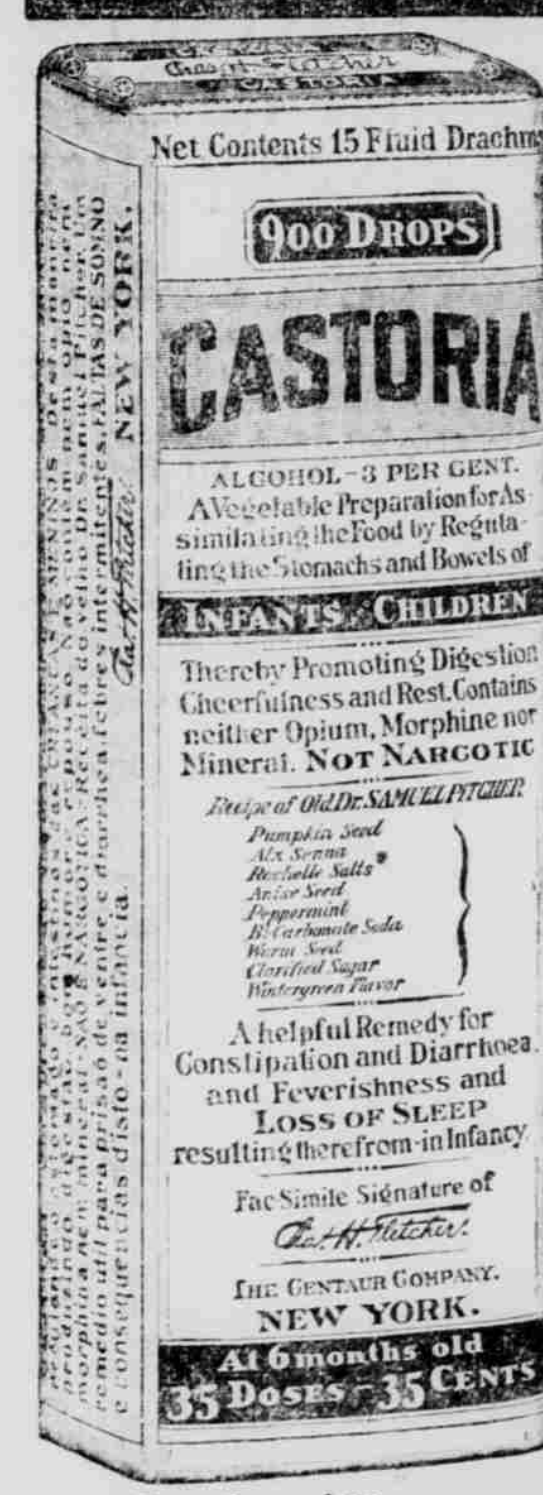
For Nebraska to refuse to accept the benefits of the federal good roads law would be culpable financial folly. If we operate under the federal law the federal government pays, up to the extent of the appropriation available, one-half of the expense of our road construction. If we do not the money that would be spent in Nebraska would be spent in more progressive states. Nebraska will pay its full quota of the federal taxes necessary to provide the fund, and get not one penny of the benefits. And Nebraska will be paying 100 cents on the dollar for thousands of miles of road improvement where, if it had been wiser, it would be paying only 50 cents on the dollar.

Are we going to pay many thousands of dollars of federal taxes every year, to be spent on improving the roads of Massachusetts and New York and Alabama and Indiana and California, and accept not one penny of the taxes paid by those states to improve our Nebraska roads? Are we going to complain, and hang back, and stand on theories, cutting off our nose to spite our face, when it is an inescapable condition that confronts us?

The World-Herald thinks not. It has confidence in the common sense of the people of the state, and in the common sense of their legislative representatives.

Fortunately the good roads committees of both senate and house have agreed upon a good road bill which will let Nebraska in under the shelter of the federal law and at the same time do little violence to local prejudices. Under the bill the state would co-operate with the federal government and the counties in road work. The state would help defray the expense. Its share of the enterprise would be under the direction of the state board of irrigation, highways and drainage. The state would be divided into road districts—or project district" of not more than five counties each. The road work to be done in each of those district would first be subject to the sanction of the county board in each county before it was undertaken. And the federal government has made it clear that good dirt roads, if grading and construction is substantial in character, will meet the requirements of the aid law.

Road work under this bill, therefore, would be undertaken only if it met the requirements of the federal government, the state government, and the local government. This means there would be no danger of over-riding local sentiment, or of spending local money against the wishes of the people of the community. It means that Nebraska would get the full



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financial benefit of the federal law, all the benefit of the best road building wisdom of the country, and roads such as meet local needs and conform to the condition of the local treasury in each county.

That this bill, or one in most respects similar to it, should fail of passage in the Nebraska legislature is unthinkable. Nebraska is not yet so wise that it contains within its own confines all the world's knowledge and skill in road building. Nebraska is not yet so rich that it can afford to spend its money for good roads in other states and receive nothing in return. And Nebraska, thank heaven, is not quite so provincial and ignorant as to be unable to understand that permanent good road work, if it is to be saved from waste and inefficiency, requires federal aid and state as well as local co-operation and control.—World-Herald.

Champion Joe was there all the time.

The latest medical opinion is that cancer is caused by high living. Then most of the people will be safe for some time to come.

Someone has figured out that everything is divided most unevenly in this world. The rich men have twin sixes and the poor man, six twins.

There is no use in trying to play politics in a crisis like this, but some fellows will take advantage of a situation like the present, but they are few and far between.

Representative Hoffmeister, from Imperial, born in Germany, is indeed a true German-American. He says in case of war with the Fatherland he has three boys that will go to defend the flag of his adopted country, which he has sworn to support.

Did the early robin get cold feet?

Life's a mystery. Why, of course.

The farmers are exempt from the workmen's compensation law and from the female employment law and from the eight-hour day law. Now it is proposed to exempt them from the one-quarter-a-month limit provided they grow their own grapes and make their own wine.

Representative Murty's banking bill has been defeated through the machinations of the lobby hired by those outside who were interested in its defeat. As long as lobbyists are allowed to predominate, it will be impossible for people to get justice. We repeat what we have said several times before, that the lobbyist should be made to "get up and git."

### Milk in Winter.

Why do your cows give less milk in winter than they do in summer? Just because nature does not supply them with grasses and green food. But we have come to the assistance of Dame Nature with B. A. Thomas' Stock Remedy which contains the very ingredients that the green feed supplies in season, only, of course, in a more highly concentrated form. We guarantee that this remedy will make your cows give more milk, and better milk with the same feed.

H. M. Soennichsen, Puls & Gansemer.

W. A. ROBERTSON, Lawyer.  
East of Riley Hotel, Coates' Block, Second Floor.

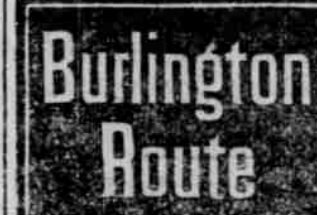
## The Big Event Has Happened!

### 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 Central 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 to apply for a stock-raising and dairy homestead. You can secure one of 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. & O. R. R., 1021 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.