

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

Remember this—that very little is needed to make life happy.
—Marcus Aurelius.

The way to make good is to be good.

Make it "bone dry" and enforce the law.

If these days of immodesty, few women are overdressed.

Rabbits are still ripe, but few on the market.

What the most of us get out of life is steady work and poor pay.

It may be true that the meek inherit the earth, but they can't get possession of it.

Are we to have a chautauqua next summer? Or has the proposition entirely died out?

Don't sit around waiting for opportunity to knock at your door—go out and look after it.

"If we do not have a league for peace, we will have two leagues, both ready for war."—W. H. Taft.

Predictions of "How long will the war last" have been revised several times since September, 1914.

The fellow who thinks he can't feel that he can whip his weight in will eat hisn't any too much ginger.

Every boy wants a dog, and he generally treats his dog with such kindness that he wants to stay with him.

There is one reason why the boys leave the farm. When Willie's little calf gets big enough for market, it becomes father's critic.

Jules Verne told some mighty big yarns in his day, but have you noticed that most of them have come true. For instance, the undersea story.

North Central and South America have almost unanimously given their enthusiastic endorsement to the stand taken by the United States against Germany.

Silver is becoming a precious metal again. It rose the other day to 77.38 cents an ounce, the highest price attained by silver bullion since the repeal of the Bland "demonetization" bill in 1893.

We do not want war with Germany if there is any way to keep out of it honorably. None but the money sharks in the east are clamoring for war, so they can make millions out of such an unfortunate affair.

The state legislature has been waiting the result of the Reed amendment in the United States senate, which makes twenty-two states "bone dry," which include Nebraska. So the legislature can't do anything but act in accordance with Senator Reed's amendment, which passed the senate by a big majority.

George Washington's anniversary is an occasion that should be more extensively celebrated than it is in this day and age, and why it is not is beyond our comprehension. The Father of Our Country done most of the work that freed this country from the iron rule of Great Britain, and his memory should be more generously commemorated by those who are today receiving the benefits of a free and independent government.

VICTIMS OF PROSPERITY.

Food riots in New York City! Within sight of the great skyscrapers in which the boards of directors are housed; within sight of Broadway's glaring lights, its cafes and pleasure palaces and cabarets; within sight of Wall street and the stock exchange, where more numerous and more princely fortunes have been won, by gambling, within a few months, than were ever gathered together by hard and honest labor in ten times as many years.

And they are not food riots due to hard times and lack of employment. They come in a time of unprecedented prosperity when there are more jobs than there are men and women to fill them. They come in a time when the United States, already the wealthiest of nations, is realizing richer returns from its energy and enterprise and labor than ever before in its history. And the rioting is done by the poor mothers of starving children. "Starving children" when the fathers and mothers, and in many instances the children themselves, are at work! Doesn't it sound like some bit of Alice in Wonderland nonsense?

These mothers take the combined family earnings to the market to buy food. And the combined earnings are not sufficient to pay the prices that are demanded, when at the same time rent must be paid, and fuel and clothing purchased. The mothers, in their rage, attack the traders and spill their stocks into the gutters and fight with tooth and nail against the policemen who charge down upon them in the name of law and order. They are demanding audience with the mayor, these mothers. They are arranging for a starvation parade past the lair of J. P. Morgan. They are petitioning President Wilson for relief. And the president is insisting that congress, before it adjourns, provide funds to enable the federal trades commission to investigate into the causes of this strange phenomenon, and find, if possible, a remedy.

And in this same city where American mothers are becoming as tigresses to fight for their children, there are warehouses and freight cars and dock yards packed and crammed with food—millions upon millions of dollars worth of food. It is waiting for the submarine scare to die down so it may be shipped to Europe and there sold at enormous prices, to nations that are so busy in the hellish work of murder and destruction that they have no time to produce food for themselves. It is to be sold to peoples so determined upon crushing one another that they will consent to pay any price for the food America produces if by doing so they may be left free to give all their time to fighting rather than to farming.

"Look out upon the world, my son," said Oxenstierna, the great Swedish chancellor, during the Thirty Years' War, "and see with what little wisdom its nations are governed!"

With what little wisdom—and with what little justice! Europe and America have had more than 250 years in which to make progress toward wisdom and righteousness since Oxenstierna died. What, we wonder, would he think of the "progress" if he could come back and get a glimpse of our civilization today.

Why should women and children be obliged to fight like animals for food in the richest city in the richest country in the world? Why, when prosperity is at its height? Why, when there is employment for all? We have heard, before this, of people starving because times were hard, because they could not find work, because of failure of crops, because of being cut off by armed enemies from the food sup-

ply. But never before, we think, in the history of the world, have there occurred such hunger riots as these we read of in New York. Starvation in the midst of plenty! Starvation when steady work will not earn enough money to buy the worker enough of that plenty to keep body and soul comfortably together! Starvation of American women and children while American products go to feed the people of other lands!

Surely it is time that the government of the people of the United States were giving a little of its valuable time and attention to this situation. Surely it is a problem that is pressing just as hard for solution, and the situation just as important, as even the problem of the submarine blockade. Surely it is quite as much the duty of the government to find a way, if it can, to get food to these American citizens who are willing to work hard for it—and who are working hard—as to find a way to get food to the fighting men of other nations. And it will require no naval convoys to get food to these peaceful, hard-working citizens of ours. It will call for no arming of merchant vessels. It will plunge us into no war, or danger of war. It will require only the application and enforcement of that dictum of our Blessed Savior, which is at once the foundation stone of our whole society and of all our laws, that "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

It would be an exaggeration to say that everybody in New York is getting wealthy except those by whose labor wealth is produced. But there would be more truth than fiction in it. The lobster palaces are jammed with the roistering invasion of millionaires made over night, who tip the waiters with yellow-backed bills, and outside and back in the shadows the laborers are sullenly pondering the problem why they can't work hard enough to get money enough to buy food enough to feed their children.

It is unpatriotic, or undemocratic, or "pro-German," to suggest that there are problems confronting our wise men and sages and philanthropists that are just as pressing as the feeding of the allies with contraband? —World-Herald.

Will we have an early spring?

Give the people what they voted for.

Because a man holds an office does not invalidate the well established rule that honesty is the best policy.

The school book question is a source of annoyance to the legislature, as it has been with every legislature since Nebraska has been a state. The trouble is the school book question is a public graft, and passes through too many manipulators, who get their share.

The chairman of the Belgian Relief commission says that we have given \$9,000,000 to feed the Belgians and have made \$30,000,000 out of the food sold by us and paid for by the gifts of other nations. There's a disgrace that ought to be wiped out. We might at least be generous enough to give half the profits.

The Mattes bill, providing for taxation of property where probate estates disclose that it has been withheld from the tax rolls during a period of years and adding a 50 per cent penalty for those who are not patriotic enough to list all their property for taxation, passed through the senate committee of the whole today with a rush.

The biggest graft ever perpetrated upon the taxpayers of Nebraska is the textbook combine, and now there is a proposition to place the buying and selling of school books in the hands of a board of commissioners, in which there is to be a secretary employed at a salary of \$3,000 a year, which will make the graft somewhat larger. The legislature should sit down on such a proposition pretty heavily. And if the members of the legislature are the friends of their constituents they will do so.

REAL PROHIBITION.

When the president shall have signed the postoffice appropriation bill every prohibition state in the union will become, forthwith, a "bone dry" state. For the bill carries the already famous "Reed amendment" which absolutely forbids the shipment of intoxicating beverages into prohibition states. The national government will no longer allow states which prohibit the manufacture and sale of "booze" within their own limits to patronize and encourage its manufacture and sale in other states. It will require all prohibition states to abide by their convictions and exercise that complete degree of self-denial which those convictions call for. If a state declares that for the sake of morality and good government and human happiness it is necessary to abolish the liquor traffic, then it may not promote immorality and bad government and misery by patronizing the liquor traffic in sister commonwealths.

For the national government to take this uncompromising stand is unquestionably tough on that traditional citizen of Maine who is "in favor of prohibition but against its enforcement." It is tough on those who think their neighbor is injured by drink but they themselves are not, and therefore vote prohibition on the neighbor whilst preserving a "personal liberty" loop-hole for themselves. But just as unquestionably it is good logic and sound common sense. It is so logical and sensible, indeed, that it commanded the overwhelming support of the friends and opponents of prohibition in both houses of congress. What little opposition there was to it was based almost wholly on two grounds: That it would work a hardship on liquor dealers with large supplies on hand engaged in filling the demand in "dry" states; and that, by making prohibition actually prohibitive it would tend to make it unpopular. The amendment was proposed by an outspoken antagonist of prohibition, Senator Reed of Missouri. A reading of the Congressional Record indicates that it was inspired by resentment against another amendment pending offered by Senator Jones of Washington. The amendment prohibited the sending of any liquor advertising into a dry state. It was so drastic that it made subject to federal grand jury indictment a person who might innocently send a newspaper containing a liquor "ad" into a state where such advertising is banned. Senator Reed declared it was absurd and hypocritical for the government to punish the advertiser, or the publisher in whose paper the advertisement appeared, or the third party who mailed the paper, and yet allow the product itself to be ordered and shipped. So he proposed his amendment and the senate all but unanimously voted for it, and the house gave it the sanction of a top-heavy indorsement a few days later.

Nebraska was one of the states where the prohibition forces had secured the adoption of a constitutional amendment to forbid the manufacture and sale of stimulants within the state, but permitting purchase and importation for personal use. This plan was frankly avowed by the prohibitionists and justified among themselves on the ground that a "bone dry" amendment would be defeated, since public sentiment was not yet "educated up to" prohibition's logical conclusion. So long as the federal laws were such as to sanction this peculiar sort of prohibition, and since the people of Nebraska had voted for it, it was manifestly the duty of the Nebraska legislature to make laws putting it into effect in the manner ordered by the people, by permitting importation for personal use. That duty no longer burdens the legislature now that congress has put an end to the practice. And that the position taken by congress is a proper one we think few fair-minded men will question whatever their individual attitude toward the prohibition issue. For it is the duty of congress to make laws to protect and promote the general welfare. It acts not for any particular state or states but for the nation. And it is manifestly contrary to cor-

rect national policy to tolerate a system under which hypocrisy and intolerance and lawlessness may use the federal statutes for their shield and bulwark. If a state desires to rid itself of breweries, distilleries and saloons that is its undoubted right. But it should not have the right merely to push them across the border into another state which does not desire prohibition, and there support them with its patronage, leaving that other state to bear a double—soon, perhaps, a triple and quadruple—burden. This is quite as much an imposition and injustice as to permit the "wet" state to dump its liquid product on the "dry" one without its consent. Congress having abolished the latter injustice in the Webb-Kenyon act has now abolished the former by the Reed amendment, and all states stand, at last, on an equal footing.

Nebraska, after May 1, will be really a prohibition state, except for the saturation resulting from the supply on hand when the amendment goes into effect, and except for moonshining and the blockade runners and bootleggers. It is to be hoped, and expected, that the legislature will give to the governor and other proper authorities all necessary power to deal with these, in which undertaking they will have the powerful assistance of the federal government. It may reasonably be anticipated that within a very few months liquor in Nebraska will be about as precious and as rare as rubies and that he who has it not in his own possession will have to be a radiant genius to procure it for love or money. So it will be with more than a score of other states. The acid test of prohibition is about to be tried. Whether it will result in an extension of the policy to cover the entire nation or in a grand recession it is bootless to conjecture.—World-Herald.

CONVICT ROAD BUILDING.

The road department of the federal agricultural bureau points out that there has been a steady decrease since 1885 in the number of convicts in the United States employed in miscellaneous work and a corresponding increase in the number engaged in the maintenance of public highways. There is now a bill before the Nebraska legislature providing for the employment of the state's wards at the penitentiary in road making, and some such measure should be passed, now that there is a general road propaganda under way in the legislature stimulated by federal appropriation, it is an especially good time to bring about a revision of the law with respect to working prisoners on the roads. Such labor will conflict as little with free labor as any kind of labor that can be designated. And the need of an unlimited amount of road building makes it a particularly inviting field in which to utilize these men during their penal servitude. It not only would serve the community by providing improved highways, but it would relieve the state institutions of a congested condition and afford a kind of labor for the men that will be to their physical and disciplinary advantage.—Fremont Tribune.

Winter weather keeps right along.

If everybody was honest the collecting agencies would have to go out of business.

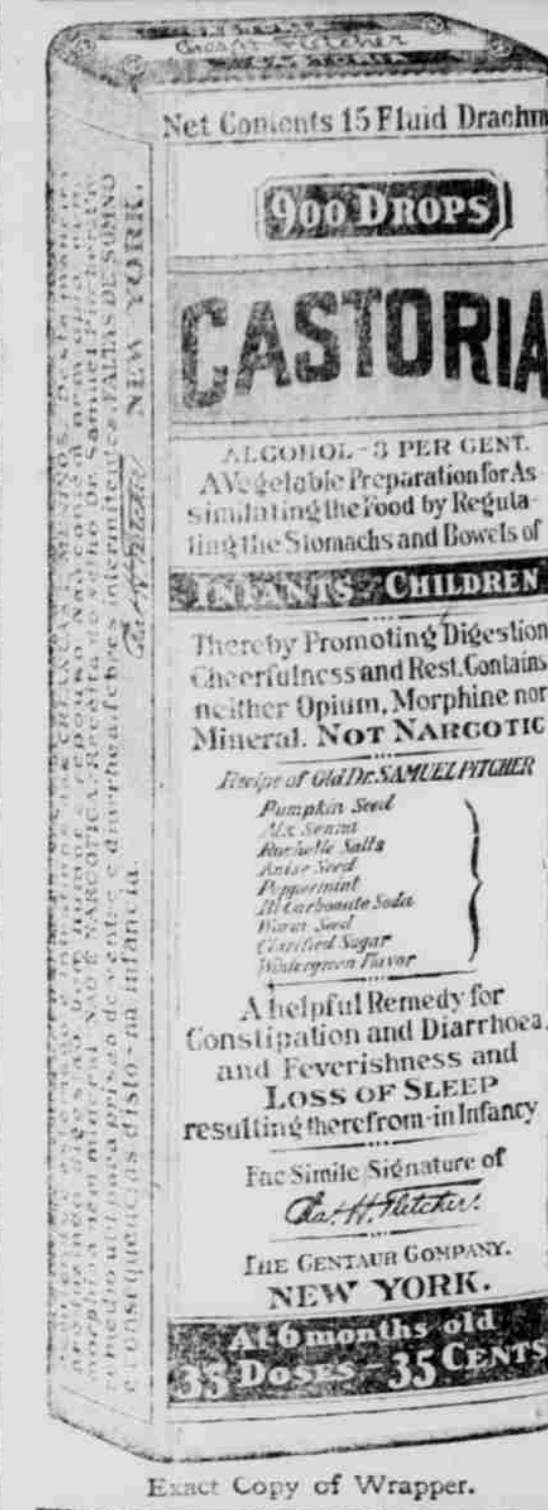
After a while, people begin to suspect the fellow whose errors are always in his own favor.

The government could help on this box car shortage if they would straighten up their backbone.

The trouble with some people is, they want to attend to other people's business, exclusive of their own.

Signs of Spring—the War department is preparing to increase the butchery in the European trenches.

Spring will be here in a few days, but it is hard to tell about the weather. March, you know, comes in pretty blustery and may go out the same way.



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ROAD FUNDS AVAILABLE

When the legislative session began the amount of good roads funds allotted to the state by the federal government, when the state must meet with an equal appropriation if it gets the money, amounted to but \$106,770.81. That was the allotment for the year ending June 30, 1917.

Since that time, however, another allotment has been made for the year ending June 30, 1918, amounting to \$213,541.62.

So that there is now available for good roads in this state \$320,312.42, which this state can have for any kind of improved highway that promises reasonable permanency, providing the state and its counties express their determination to expend a similar sum upon their roads.

The measure pending provides, as drafted, that this fund shall be apportioned among Nebraska's counties upon a basis jointly of proportionate area, population and existing post roads, one third of the fund being apportioned upon each of the three essentials.

How the counties and the state are to divide their responsibility for their half of the cost of the roads to be built in the next two years is the problem that must be solved by the legislature.—Lincoln Star.

One reform follows another with the legislature of Nebraska. Now comes W. J. Taylor, of Custer county, and wants to cut out the Sunday movies. Taylor comes from a little town called Marna, and because his town is too small for movies he wants to deprive people in the larger cities from enjoying them.

The fatted calf will soon get it in the neck

Courage with people is a big thing sometimes.

Don't be in a hurry about that garden making.

Do not lose faith in yourself. The minute you do, you begin to go downward.

Bankers don't like new coins, because, they say, they are hard to stack. We never had an opportunity to stack very many of them.

There are more than one hundred thousand automobile licenses in the state of Nebraska. What better argument do we need in favor of good roads?

Irresolution permits many imaginary objects to loom up, so weakening the hope of success that the battle is lost before it is begun.

If the millionaires are to run this government, just as well for the common people to give up and acknowledge themselves serfs.

The east is for war, and the west is against war. President Wilson has a hard time between the devil and the deep blue sea!

The immigration bill, vetoed once by Taft and twice by Wilson, has passed the senate by the necessary majority to make it a law. The bill contains the illiteracy test with the entire clause to which it is said Japan objected. The law becomes effective May 1. The vote was 62 to 19.

SEVEN MILLION ACRES

Of Free Homesteads in Wyoming—You Can Make Application Now!

CHARACTER OF LAND: Grass-covered grazing lands in Wyoming north of the Platte River and east of the Big Horn Mountains.

HOW REACHED: Over the Burlington's Central Wyoming main line via Douglas, Casper or Glendo, and also by the Burlington's Alliance-Sheridan main line for Northeastern Wyoming.

HOW TO GET TITLE: Three years' residence required with five months' vacation each year. Permanent improvements to the value of \$1.25 per acre, 20 months of the date of filing.

WHEN TO GO: Go early this spring if possible; yet the area is large and will offer an excellent choice as late as the Summer.

INFORMATION will be readily furnished applicants either by the United States Land offices at Douglas, Sundance and Buffalo, Wyoming, or by me. Send at once for our circular of information and guidance. It tells you exactly what to do.



S. B. HOWARD, Immigration Agent, C. B. & Q. R. R. 1004 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.