

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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## THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

He is no wise man who will quit a certainty for an uncertainty.—Samuel Johnson.

March is here, sure enough.

But defer garden making for a month.

Nebraska was fifty years old yesterday.

Look out for breakers when the rivers break.

That the republicans are playing politics in congress, there is no doubt.

Just because George Washington used a hatchet is no excuse for others to use a hammer.

When you play your trump card, don't knock on the table with your fist. That does no good.

Louisville has energy and willingness to celebrate the event, but Plattsmouth, the oldest town in the county, seems to have no inclination to do so. And why?

It's "be damned if you do and be damned if you don't" with the editor. You get it in the neck if you tell the truth, and then you get it in the neck if you don't. So the editor gets it both going and coming.

Charters were granted this week in Lincoln to twelve new banks. If this wholesale manner of granting charters to banks keeps up, Nebraska will have more banks than any state in the union, double its population.

A one-body legislature won't do in this day and age. And the introducer of such a bill knows it. Why not cut down the representation in both house and senate to one-half of what it is? It seems to us that is the proper thing to do.

Senate File No. 47 would be a good bill to kill. It is the product of special interests. A mint of money is being used to crystallize sentiment against municipal ownership of light and water plants. It is a nation-wide movement.—Tekamah Herald.

Sometimes there comes a day when everything seems to go wrong, when there seems no joy in life. Take a moment to think. Lift yourself out of the clouds. Do not give way to discouragement. Cease to look through blue glasses. The sun always shines again after the worst of storms. There is nothing so bad that it might not be worse. Look for your consolations. There are some if you search for them.

Dorothy Dix says liquor is no more dangerous a temptation to a boy, to send him the down road than dress, spangles and finery to a girl. Fact is, the finery and spangles of the girls and young women has a very strong tendency to put both boys and girls hell bent. Women, wine and song are the three great allurements to the downward way.

There is too much discussion of the war situation among our own people for the benefit of the community. We never did believe in a censorship in this country, but we believe it a way to cut out all the reports that come across the water, or even in this country, which are lies from beginning to end. There is no need in sending out sensational reports simply to excite the people. Neither do you, dear reader.

Hit and run will soon be in order.

What will the Anti-Saloon league do now?

The March winds are on the way. Look out for them.

Most good people know they are good—that is the trouble.

When you get so you live only to eat, you don't amount to much.

When the people get onto a bluff they find him one of the biggest cowards in the community, and ever after he is easily cowed.

You will not pass through this world but once. Any good thing you can do, or any kindness that you can show to any fellow being, do it now, do not defer or neglect it, for you will not pass this way again. Remember that.

Washington friends of Senator Norris say that he has about decided to enter the practice of law in New York at the close of his term instead of becoming a candidate for re-election. If this proves to be a correct hunch it will enable Nebraska republicans to breathe a very large sigh of relief.—Kearney Hub.

## FIFTY YEARS YOUNG.

Tomorrow all Nebraskans who entertain a becoming spirit of pride in their young state will be mindful of the fact that it is the fiftieth anniversary of its birth, and will be congratulating it and themselves upon the high station the commonwealth has attained in its comparatively brief career.

To some the anniversary will carry a larger and deeper interest than to the commonalty. To such it will assume more of a personal than a historical interest, for they were participants in the events that led to the admission of the state, and they have seen it grow from its swaddling garments to its present proud estate, and have aided in its sustenance and achievements.

In many of the towns and communities to which the state has given being the anniversary will be accorded formal celebration, exercises of appropriate character being held as parts of a program extending over the period between the last Ak-Sar-Ben pageant and the one planned for next June at the university.

Nebraska was born under several handicaps. It had been a part of Louisiana, and later a part of Missouri. Although not to blame for that fact, the remembrance is not one to excite exultation. It was born of the travail growing out of the acute agitation of the slavery question. Twice was the act of congress admitting it denied the endorsement of the president, and only after such an act was passed over his second veto did the state come into being, on March 1, 1867.

When the state was born it was little better than the Indian country. Even since its elevation to statehood it has been troubled by disturbances arising from the conflict for domain between savagery and civilization.

It would be useless to attempt here a recital of what the Nebraska of today has to show for its half-century of being. It would require volumes to enumerate all of its elements of proud statehood. Every citizen, no matter of how recent enlistment as such, knows of them in general terms. Every citizen is proud of them. Many will be found striving tomorrow to recount them proudly, if not boastfully.

It is probably enough for the purposes of this mention to challenge attention to the significance of tomorrow to every Nebraskan. The Nebraskans will do the rest.—Lincoln Star.

Season hint—spring is near.

The fellow you call a bad egg is entirely too fresh.

The world is largely what its people make it.

You have to treat good roads good to keep them good.

No man ever does everything he wants to. That's one thing sure.

Those who have had to move the past week have found the roads good.

It is a true saying that half the world doesn't care how the other half lives.

The world is largely what the people make it, but you can't make them believe it.

Love causes more joy and more unhappiness than anything else in the world.

Small cities are more prosperous if there is a good spirit between the merchants.

This is the time of the year when everybody feels like watching the advent of spring.

There are many things worse than a well conducted pool hall, and nothing said about them.

There are many would-be reformers in the present legislature. Their places are on the farm.

The war excitement and the legislature combined is liable to drive some people in Nebraska insane.

The thought of early spring housecleaning makes the most of us think of taking a short vacation.

A minister whose mind dwells much on current topics, announces his text as from the "Overt Acts of the Apostles."

Farmers have begun to inquire about seed corn, which they should have selected from their own crop last fall.

The United States of Europe has been predicted more times than one. But in our opinion it will be a long time coming.

Charley Bryan has announced that he will not be a candidate for mayor again. Maybe he views "the handwriting on the wall!"

The people of America will stand by the president, notwithstanding the work of the pacifists, headed by W. J. Bryan, to intimidate President Wilson.

The unfortunate tragedy which caused the death of Frank Brinkman, removes from our midst a citizen who was universally liked by everyone who knew him. He was, in the true sense, a friend to everybody.

This is the season of year when farmers are looking for help on the farms. The man who wants work these days can find it. The trouble is that so many men are seeking work and all the time praying they won't find it.

By the way, if the formula must be printed upon all packages containing patent medicines and toilet preparations, what is the matter with compelling physicians to write all prescriptions in plain English?

Congressman Sloan voted against the bone dry bill on the ground that "in the prohibition campaign in Nebraska last fall every speech proceeded on the theory that it was to banish the saloon but not to prevent individuals obtaining a reasonable amount from outside the state for private use." This is exactly the fact, but the prohibition issue has been given a new angle by this action of congress and it is now pretty safe to assume that the legislature will follow suit with an absolutely hard and fast prohibition statute.—Kearney Hub.

## THE ATTITUDE OF AMERICA.

Public opinion will deal tolerantly with men who by reason of a great loss, with its attendant grief and anguish, permit themselves to berate and insult their own country.

When the Logania was sunk, unwarned, by a German submarine, there perished the mother and sister of Austin Y. Hoy, an American citizen residing and doing business in London. It is easy to understand the great temptation that impelled him to address the president in these words: "If my country stultifies my manhood and my nation's by remaining passive under outrages I shall seek a man's chance under another flag." We can understand, too, how a nephew and cousin in New York might permit himself to telegraph the president and other officials taunting them with lack of leadership, charging them with talking and doing nothing, scoffing at their "windy words" and saying: "The United States, by reason of its cowardly acquiescence in the killing of its citizens in Mexico and on the high seas, has without question lost the respect of nations."

Such messages, sent under the tragic circumstances, may be understood and forgiven. But they will not suffice to swerve the American people from their attitude of support for an administration that has been slow and reluctant to enter the awful war that is rending civilization to pieces. These men who now are assailing it with violent words might have served their country better and their loved ones better had they exerted themselves to keep their women folks from traveling through the war zone on a belligerent vessel with munitions of war in its hold.

That the one great nation that has maintained itself at peace in spite of grievous hardship and repeated indignities and wrongs should be forced into the war would be the supreme calamity. To avert and avoid it President Wilson has sacrificed and suffered much, not hesitating to risk his own personal popularity in the cause of peace. He has exhibited that moral courage which is nobler than any mere physical courage. Realizing all that our entry into the war might mean he has been willing to pay a great price to escape it. And the people of this republic, spite of jingo press and the many earnest proponents of war have been with him. Even today, when he is more violently assailed than ever before, and when congress is abused like a pickpocket for not plunging the country headforemost into the pit without pausing to stop, look and listen, the great body of the people are still praying, not for war but for continued peace. And they are looking to Woodrow Wilson with a deeper confidence and affection than ever before, not because they think he is eager to lead them into a righteous war, but because they believe he is still trying with all his might to spare them from the call to pass under the iron rod of Mars.

Such is the attitude of the United States of America. There undoubtedly are those who deprecate it, and are "ashamed" of it, and who are tempted, like Austin Hoy, to "seek a man's chance under another flag." Many, indeed have attested that they have the courage of their convictions by doing just that. It is said that more than 50,000 citizens of the United States are fighting with the Foreign Legion and with the Canadians in France. But whatever the immediate future may have in store, time, we think, and the impartial verdict of history, will vindicate the efforts of Woodrow Wilson for peace and the intense desire of the American people to remain at peace.

That, notwithstanding all the efforts that have been made to avert it, and the indignities that have been endured with nothing more than a protest, war is at once menacing and beckoning us, is unquestionable. There are many things that may be done to avert war. The United States has tried and is still trying them. But not all things can be done. There comes times—it may be such a time is very near at hand for the United States—when war

cannot honorably be avoided. If that day comes to us, those who are now spending so much of their time being ashamed of their own country and envying the people of other countries whom war is scourging first and then devouring, will have their ample opportunity to be proud of America. The same sentiment that backs President Wilson in peace would back him in a just and unavoidable war. The physical courage that then would be displayed would shine with an added luster because of the moral courage that preceded it. Americans are not cowards. They are not lacking in patriotism or devotion or the will to suffer greatly for a great cause. Those who might be enemies and think otherwise are dwelling in a fool's paradise. As for those who are themselves Americans and who dare think that either cowardice or lack of patriotism is what has kept us out of war thus far, they stand convinced by the thought of being themselves lacking both in patriotism and intelligence.—World-Herald.

## UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

Much interest is being centered upon the new Chamberlain bill, which provides for universal military training. The bill provides that all able-bodied male inhabitants of the United States between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six years, who have lived here for a period of one year, who are citizens of the United States, or who have declared their intention to become citizens of this country, shall be liable to be trained for a period of six months.

The bill provides for the exemption of those morally unfit, members of any well recognized religious set or organization, at present organized and existing, whose creed forbids members to participate in war in any form, whose religious convictions are against war or participation therein. Others exempt from service are those who have father, mother, sister or brother entirely dependent upon their personal earnings. No substitutes are allowed. Those who have served the full six months will be presented with a rosette indicating their contribution to the country's military service. Those exempt will be allowed a certificate showing the reason for their exemption. Such a certificate is necessary for the employment of any exempted person in the civil service of the government.

Drastic steps have been proposed for compelling men to go into training. No firm, corporation or individual may employ any man over the age of training except he be exempt, unless such training has been undergone.

The citizen reserve army is to be made up of the young men who have had the requisite training. All expenses of the reserve army as well as all expenses of the prior training are to be paid by the government, including transportation, clothing, subsistence and medical attention.

Whether the nation is facing a crisis at this time or not we can see no good reason why the bill should not go through.

The majority of the people of this country demonstrated that they were favorable towards preparedness by re-electing President Wilson. The slogan "He kept us out of war" and Wilson's preparedness platform were what the people wanted—and their wishes should be law.

Universal military training is not only a safeguard of democracy, but it means the developing of a stronger and better class of American citizens.—Hastings Tribune.

They still talk about Villa in Mexico, but have failed to see anything positive that is yet alive in line with the revolutionists. We have to be shown that he is alive.

## WILL SERVE LUNCHES.

W. S. Scott of Murray has arranged to furnish lunches at all sales throughout the county where it may be desired, and will see that the needs of the hungry are looked after properly. Anyone who is desirous of having lunch served at any public sale should call on or address W. S. Scott, Murray, Neb.

## THE TAYLOR SCHOOL BILL.

Superintendent W. T. Davis of the McCook public schools writes the World-Herald the following letter:

"McCook, March 1.—To the Editor of the World-Herald: If I am reliably informed, the bill before the state legislature, House Roll No. 250 by Taylor, provides a tax on all property of the state for the purpose of assisting rural education.

"I believe any community unable properly to educate its youth should have state assistance because education is properly a state function. However, I have before me a directory of a typical Nebraska county showing that the tax levied in each rural school district is hardly a third as many mills as is now being levied by cities and towns.

"Now the query is, why should cities and towns be excluded from the benefits of this general tax and the proceeds thereof be devoted exclusively to communities now levying barely a third as much for school purposes as the communities denied the benefit of this general tax?"

This letter is as full of sound common sense as a nut is of meat. It suggests, we believe, a proper scheme of legislation to attain the end that Mr. Taylor has in mind.

Mr. Taylor's purpose is a proper one to the extent that it contemplates state aid for rural communities that are so undeveloped, and so sparsely populated that they cannot, by the levy of any reasonable tax, raise the requisite revenues to support a school system. Superintendent Davis asserts as much in saying: "I believe any community unable properly to educate its youth should have state assistance."

But if a rural community fails to support its schools, not through lack of means, but through penuriousness, and unwillingness to levy the same mill tax that other districts levy, then, clearly, it is not entitled to have the more progressive districts taxed for its special benefit.

Let the Taylor bill be made to provide a general property tax for the benefit of schools in backward and undeveloped rural school districts where a generous and proper local tax does not suffice. But do not tax the cities and towns, that already pay as much as 25 mills or more on the dollar to support their own schools, an additional 1 mill to support rural schools in districts that refuse to tax themselves one-half as much.

In Omaha the people pay, by a 25-mill levy and in other ways more than \$7 per capita, to support their public schools. This means an average tax for a family of \$35. Omaha people would be willing, the World-Herald believes, to pay whatever additional tax might be necessary to help support schools out in western Nebraska, in districts where a few families cannot do it for themselves, and where, to the extent of their ability, they are paying a proportionate amount with the people of this city. They would do it out of patriotism, out of an intelligent understanding of what general education means to the state. But there is no city that would not resent the unfairness of being obliged to support its own schools, and in addition the schools of other people who levy only a third as many mills tax for school

purposes as that city does.

The legislature, by dealing with the question carefully, should be able to make of Mr. Taylor's bill a law that will meet a real need without doing gross injustice to anyone.—World-Herald.

## THE ALBERT LAW.

An Omaha grand jury, after debating for several weeks, announces that it favors the repeal of the Albert law. It is a strange suggestion to come from constituted and delegated power, appointed to investigate rumors of crime and the World-Herald is right in devoting nearly a column to a discussion of this rather unheard-of request. Omaha, it seems, has been unable to repress the crime which the Albert law was designed to repress, although other cities of the state have had no trouble to speak of in enforcing the law to the very letter. The World-Herald intimates that the enforcement of the law would have been easier in Omaha, too, were the police a little more vigilant and ambitious to do their duty.

There is little likelihood, though, that the Albert law will be repealed. In the first place there is no legislative, actual or potential, who would dare outrage public opinion, for public opinion is not ruled by the voice of a Douglas county grand jury, to the credit of Nebraska. Omaha's task of how to best settle the oldest transgression in the world does not exist in most portions of the state, and it would not be impossible of solution in the metropolis if there were greater efforts to suppress the evil and less attempt to mitigate it for the sake of filthy lucre.

Segregation of the social evil merely increases its danger. Taking it for granted that in a large center of population there is likely to be a scattering of the seeds of disorder and vice even with the greatest vigilance, those who transgress are outlaws. Segregation adds a glamour of near respectability to the vice and permits other vices to flourish with it side by side. White slavery would grow as never before were the Albert law in Nebraska repealed. The illicit selling of liquor would merely make another evil for the authorities to resist—even when there is a show of resistance. Segregation always provides ample opportunity for police and municipal scandals and there is no end to them. Murders, robberies and other crimes, fattening on segregation, always follow the maintenance of a "tenderloin." Chicago, the western metropolis, was nearly the last city of any consequence in the country to attempt segregation. It was a gigantic failure and even those who fought for it the hardest came to admit it in the end.

Omaha can handle the problem successfully if her municipal authorities want it handled. If they cannot repress the evils which they say are rampant now, what, in the name of decency, would they do with segregation and all the major and minor crimes and misdemeanors which follow in its wake.—Nebraska City Press.

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## WELCOME NEWS For Yellowstone Park Tourists!

Commencing this Summer all tourists transportation within Yellowstone Park will be by automobile. The White ten-passenger cars that were so serviceable during 1916 over the Cody Scenic Road will be used throughout the Park.

Park tickets will cover a complete five-day tour—in and out the same gateway, or in one gateway and out the other, whether via Cody, Gardiner or Yellowstone. All Park tourists, whether patrons of the hotels or the permanent camps, will be carried in automobiles. Touring the Yellowstone Wonderland by automobile will, indeed, be a combination of efficiency and luxury. Nothing in the travel world could be more scenic and satisfying than touring Yellowstone by automobile in connection with the Cody scenic route.

This early news is given to the public that has long waited for it. Illustrated publications will later be furnished on request by the undersigned.  
R. W. CLEMENT, Ticket Agent  
L. W. WAKELEY, General Passenger Agent.

**Burlington  
Route**