

# The Plattsmouth Journal

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY AT PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA  
Entered at Postoffice, Plattsmouth, Neb., as second-class mail matter

R. A. BATES, Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$2.00 A YEAR IN FIRST POSTAL ZONE  
Subscribers living in Second Postal Zone, \$2.50 per year. Beyond 500 miles, \$3.00 per year. Rate to Canada and foreign countries, \$3.50 per year. All subscriptions are payable strictly in advance.

### THE SKYSCRAPER'S 46 YEARS

Less than half a year since the completion of the Empire State Building comes the news from Chicago that the world's first skyscraper the Home Insurance Building, is being razed to make way for a new forty-two story building. It is scarcely credible that between these two—W. L. B. Jenney's simple ten-story structure, to which two stories later were added, and the 105-story giant of beauty, designed by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, which is at once assuredly the most pleasing expression of the skyscraper—and the finest token of its future—there lies less than half a century.

The Home Insurance Building was completed in 1885 and is generally accepted as the world's first skyscraper, though claims are made in behalf of the Tacoma Building, razed about a year ago. The insurance building has recognition of the American Institute of Steel Construction, Col. William A. Starrett and other authorities as being the genuine pioneer. In it Jenney introduced for the first time the foremost signal characteristic of the skyscraper: he designed and erected a building in which the dead load was removed from the walls and placed on a skeleton framework of iron concealed within the masonry. By virtue of that fact, first laurels must go to the Home Insurance Building, despite the fact that the Tacoma Building was the first structure ever erected in which the outer walls—two of them, at any rate—were simply nothing other than curtains, carrying no burden and used only as ornamentation and as a means of excluding wind and weather.

Thus in but forty-six years the United States has evolved what possibly may be called the first and only major art original to it. Today it is no longer fashionable to decry the skyscraper—it has completed well-nigh worldwide respect for its intricate utility and in many cases admiration for its beauty. Moreover, in the latest and greatest of its kind, the Empire State building, there are discernible tokens that the concomitant of skyscraper design promise to revolutionize the physical characteristics of urban life, restoring to the city the light and sunshine of which the earlier skyscraper and lack of foresight robbed it, transforming ugliness into beauty and grandeur.

### MORE THAN LEADERSHIP

At a time when most Americans are looking around hopefully for a leader who can lead their country through its perplexing maze of difficulties, it is interesting to find Governor Wilbur Cross of Connecticut reminding us that even the discovery of such a leader won't necessarily solve the problem.

Writing in the autumn number of the Yale Review, Governor Cross remarks: "If we have learned anything from the war experience, it should be that leadership is not enough. . . . A citizen of a democracy such as ours cannot with a clear conscience delegate his authority to the expert in times of prosperity and hide behind him in times of trouble. The present period of adversity will have its uses if it recalls people in all walks of life to the elementary rights and duties of citizenship."

### THE AMERICAN NAVY

Proposals will be submitted at the coming session of Congress to slash \$61,000,000 from the naval budget. A penny wise and pound foolish program.

Economy is the world's most vital need. But not at the expense of the navy of the world's greatest nation.

The American fleet of battleships, confronting the gravest crisis in human history, should be kept up to the highest possible standard of efficiency and readiness for service.

"Meritorious projects can, must, and will be deferred," says the President.

Which only once again proves that he is a man of short vision.

### UTOPIAS HAVE THEIR USES

Some modern Sir Thomas More, bent on writing a new "Utopia" to set forth his ideal of a perfect world order, might well choose economics as his theme, since most burning public questions of today have to do with world industry and commerce. The goal of any economic Utopia unquestionably would be a world so ordered that every individual might work according to his talents and be justly rewarded. Opportunities for self-improvement would be unlimited, always in the recognition that the good of one is the good of all, and vice versa.

Such a portrait is admittedly Utopian. Utopias, however, have their uses. They are not merely chimerical. Seldom fully attained, they none the less spur endeavor to ameliorate practical affairs. They throw a searchlight on existing systems, revealing imperfect cogs and holding up better models.

Necessity for finding ways to put the world's 20,000,000 unemployed to work has already brought forth several proposals which a few years ago would have been considered Utopian. The American Federation of Labor, with its plan for a "Congress of Industry," has offered one. Another is the Swope plan for self-regulation of industry. The United States Chamber of Commerce has come forward with a similar scheme.

While the response of industry to these proposals is encouraging, it gives little basis for expecting their immediate adoption. This is no cause for disturbance. Many of the "radical" reforms indirectly proposed by Sir Thomas in 1516, such as abolition of imprisonment for debt and of capital punishment for theft, were slow to come, but now are accepted practice. So there is basis for hope that industry will come to accept forms of co-operation that will correct obvious defects of uncontrolled competition.

In all proposals for ameliorating economic conditions, the emphasis is rightly upon the need for more enlightened management of the world's resources. Will Rogers put it pithily the other day when he said that the United States is the first nation ever to "go to the poorhouse in an automobile." With more wheat, more corn, more food, more cotton, more money in the banks, more "everything in the world than any nation ever had, we are starving." We have the resources, the cowboy philosopher adds, "but we don't know how to split 'em up."

This is the nub of the situation. The challenge is for better management all along the line. Individuals, companies, trade associations, governmental bodies and international agencies have recognized this fact and are thinking as never before on the subject.

When the goal of erecting a world order in which industry is to fulfill its only legitimate end—to produce and distribute commodities needed by humanity—it kept steadfastly in view, progress toward it is certain. Then in less than the 400 years that have elapsed since More wrote his "Utopia," hoarding, selfishness, greed, cut-throat competition and all the et ceteras which clog the economic machine may be as far from private and public practice as imprisonment for debt is now.

Recently we suffered a change. We let politicians run governmental affairs about as they pleased, asking only that they didn't worry us over them. We were too busy to bother about developments in finance and industry, leaving all such things to the square-jawed men in the front office. We gave up a measure of our old independence, and asked only to be led in something approximating the right direction.

Now we are getting precisely what we asked for. Corruption in city affairs, inefficiency in state capitals, a mounting Federal deficit, industrial stagnation, unemployment—we refused to worry about any of them until times got hard.

## Early History of Plattsmouth is Recounted

Continued from page one.

Plattsmouth that has existed for many years will pass away and that every true citizen of the county will extend to the Board of Commissioners their good will and next fall, when the corner stone is laid, with attendant ceremonies, let everybody gather at Plattsmouth and barbecue the fattest calf and tap a barrel of new cider and let every one eat, drink and be merry."

By their friendliness toward Plattsmouth, the County Commissioners were the targets for bitter invective on the part of the other newspapers of the county as has been previously referred to. The ire of the Elmwood Echo was so aroused against the Board that its fury broke in a poetic broadside at the trio in a three-verse poem supposed to have been written by Col. Mayfield, editor of the Louisville paper.

Yes, by God, there's A. B. Todd  
The biggest man in town  
Who'd vote for Plattsmouth and for Hell  
And never raise a frown.

And A. C. Loder, the petition explorer,  
The Esau of modern times  
With Judas Iscariot has joined the band  
To help Satan ring the chimes.

And Jacob Tritsch, the foreign breach,  
The better of the three  
Would fain do right but fear some night,  
He'd decorate a tree.

In commenting on the poetic salvo of Col. Mayfield, the Saturday Mirror averred that "when Col. Mayfield contributes a series of rhymes it will be high time for the average citizen to take to the woods."

But the Commissioners were not without their defenders in the field of poetry. J. C. Boone replied immediately with a longer and more glamorous eulogy of the Commissioners entitled, "The Illustrious Three" and dedicated to Col. Mayfield. Though the selection did violence to good sense in places and took considerable liberty with poetic license, it presented the viewpoint of the defenders of the Board.

O the screeching tool of Louisville,  
May he sock his head and then  
Keep still.

He assails Loder, Tritsch and Todd  
The noblest handiwork of God.  
They are men of nerve and brain of might  
And bound by conscience to do the right.

You may search the country far  
And find no three that can be found  
That for honor could them excel,  
Altho he says they'd vote for hell.

This Hell contains some noble souls  
That excel him who's railing  
coals.

If you have no words of praise to speak,  
Refrain from venomous words to meek;

You'll get no reward for your pains,  
Wise men will wonder where's  
your brains.

The wise will know by the slanderous  
law  
That you knoweth little of the law.

Be silent Albert and hold your peace  
And try in morals to increase.

Do not slander men of good repute,  
Sheldon has used you for a cats paw  
With plenty of slander in your jaw.

You seem disfigured since the fight,  
Like a limpy tail to a battered  
bite;

And when on your couch perchance  
you'll dream  
How you were fooled in the Pol-  
lard scheme.

And dream another while on your  
bed  
That Plattsmouth people are not  
dead!

The Louisville Courier-Journal on February 27, 1891, issued an abusive reply to the open letter of the County Commissioners on the petition question previously referred to. Addressed to the members of the Board individually, the paper charged that the investigation as to the veracity of the petitions was engineered by Plattsmouth people and openly accused the Commissioners of being servants of Plattsmouth. After reminding the Commissioners that "God hates a coward" the Courier-Journal warned them that "a bigger and better petition is on the way." To this viewpoint, the Saturday Mirror ironically replied, "such clean, out-spoken activities as this is what makes the honest son of toil tired of this county seat chestnut. However, when the people of Louisville conclude to present their petition signed with ink and including 4000 names of genuine voters, if it does not resemble a Chinese wash bill and can be read by an American citizen, their prayer will doubtless be granted by the Commissioners and another election will be held."

The Union Ledger called attention to the fact that "petitions for another election will have to hurry up if they want the court house somewhere else or move it in the form of a mighty building on wheels" as Plattsmouth was going forward with plans and specifications for the construction work.

Water never abated one iota. The Weeping Water Eagle, the official organ of the removalists, admitted that Louisville had been persuaded to give up the county seat fight through the hope of getting a state penal institution with the help of Representative F. E. White. But the Eagle suggested that Louisville "will be holding the bag and get nothing. A large majority of the people of Cass county want the seat of government changed for the benefit of the masses. They still feel like trying to secure justice."

The Elmwood Echo, upon whom Weeping Water had depended for support, admitted that "it is useless to stand against fate any longer. We have faced the enemy and have been vanquished. . . . From all indications, the county seat of Cass county will remain in Plattsmouth for all time to come. . . . We might as well attempt to dam up the rushing water of the Missouri river as to hope for justice from such a source. An injunction was served on the Commissioners to prevent them from destroying the old court house but the courts asked bonds of \$150,000 in case the plaintiff lost. As the courts are submissive to Plattsmouth, it will be useless to proceed further, so the injunction was withdrawn by order of the court. This ends it. . . . The resignation of the Wabash community to the conclusion that Plattsmouth could not be defeated may be seen in a letter from L. N. Livingston of the executive committee of the Removalists to W. H. Pool, a canvasser, in which he stated: "You can abandon the canvass in your precinct, for it is useless to try to get enough signatures since the courts will let and the bonds given to insure the completion of the county court house at Plattsmouth. . . . we are beat and can't help ourselves just now and have to give up."

The Louisville Courier-Journal told its readers that some had demanded an explanation as to why it had stopped fighting and that "we did it for the simple reason that the committee in charge requested us to. We were informed that there was no use agitating further."

Left stranded by her allies, Weeping Water turned some of her vituperation and abuse upon her friends for deserting the cause. The Weeping Water Republican charged that Plattsmouth and Louisville had affected a compromise and "they expect to work in harmony and it looks very much like a case of sell out on the part of Louisville. Plattsmouth would afford to purchase a half dozen leading citizens of that old muck-burg and we believe she has done it." Even The Elmwood Echo criticized Louisville for dropping out of the battle. "It is rumored that they (Louisville) are to get an asylum for the feeble-minded and do not want the county house. . . . They fall lame in the upper story as all this indicates, doubtless they need an institution of this kind bad enough and the committee on court house removal should be the first to adorn its walls."

Louisville took keen offense at the sarcastic abuse of Weeping Water. The Plattsmouth Saturday Mirror in commenting on the breach between these former allies, claimed that Weeping Water had been able to command the full vote of Louisville with very few exceptions but that "today, thanks to The Republican, if a county seat action should be held and Weeping Water and Plattsmouth were contesting points, Louisville and the precinct and a good part of Center would cast their vote for Plattsmouth."

While her former enemies who had once worked together, now concluded the county seat quarrel by fighting among themselves over who was to blame for Plattsmouth's success, The Mirror announced that "the people of Cass county can congratulate themselves on the fact that the County seat question has been settled for all time. . . . The old court house building is now a thing of the past. Not a vestige of its former grandeur remaining but a pile of rubbish and the hole in the ground that was formerly the cellar. This hole is causing the County Commissioners considerable trouble these days and they would gladly part with it to the highest bidder. We suggest dividing the cellar up and selling it to the farmers who signed the last county seat removal petition as post holes."

The Commissioners set June 29, 1891 as the date for the ceremonies attendant to the laying of the corner stone. The program was to be arranged by Plattsmouth and Louisville. On this auspicious occasion, many dignitaries were present. Among them were: B. N. Slaughter, Grand Secretary and Gen. W. Martin Kearney, Grand Chaplain. The City Board, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Pythias and the Plattsmouth Masonic Lodge were all represented and W. B. Murphy was marshal of the day.

The grand procession assembled and marched west on Main street to 7th and north to Oak street and then back to the court house where Grand Master Slaughter delivered a short address and a copper container containing official documents and a copy of the Saturday Mirror were deposited in the corner stone. "It was a great day for Cass county," said The Mirror, "and one that will long be remembered as the date of the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the county's magnificent new court house. . . . It is hoped that this will be made the occasion of a reunion of the people of the eastern and western parts of the county and that all hatred will be buried and nothing but the future prosperity of our county will be considered." On May 22, 1892, the Hon. J. Starling Morton, eminent Nebraska and Secretary of Agriculture under President Cleveland, "electrified his audience" with his dedicatory address and presented to the Cass an oil painting of Gen. Lewis Cass for

whom the county was named and the hectic county seat controversy was relegated to the pages of history. (This concludes Chapter 2, the next chapter will deal with Plattsmouth and the Railroads.)

### HONOR MRS. JOE WAGNER

An enjoyable chicken dinner was given by Miss Matilda Alexen and Miss Marie Wagner, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wagner last Sunday in honor of Mrs. Joe Wagner's 69th birthday anniversary.

After a few hours of visiting in the afternoon, the homegoing hour approached. Everyone there wished Mrs. Wagner many more happy birthday anniversaries.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. A. Bierl, Emily and Regina Bierl, Joe Dirshel, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ulrich, Helen, Dorothy and Bernard Ulrich, George Weber, Margaret Bergman, Joe Weber, Herman Koup, Elmer Alexen, Matilda Alexen, Cecil Schaaf, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wagner, Louise Wagner and Marie Wagner.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Nebraska, Cass County, ss. In the County Court. In the matter of the estate of Fred Patterson, deceased.

To the creditors of said estate: You are hereby notified that I will sit at the County Court Room in Plattsmouth, in said County, on the 13th day of November, A. D. 1931, and on the 15th day of February, A. D. 1932 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each day to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is three months from the 13th day of November, A. D. 1931, and the time limited for payment of debts is one year from said 13th day of November, A. D. 1931.

Witness my hand and the seal of said County Court this 16th day of October, 1931. A. H. DUXBURY, County Judge. (Seal) o19-3w

### NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

In the County Court of Cass county, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of John Campbell, deceased.

Notice of Administration. All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court alleging that said deceased died leaving no last will and testament and praying for administration upon his estate and for such other and further orders and proceedings in the premises as may be required by the statutes in such cases made and provided to the end that said estate and all things pertaining thereto may be finally settled and determined, and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said court, on the 13th day of November, A. D. 1931, and that if they fail to appear at said Court on said 13th day of November, A. D. 1931, at ten o'clock a. m., to contest said petition, the Court may grant the same and grant administration of said estate to Peter Campbell, or some other suitable person and proceed to a settlement thereof.

A. H. DUXBURY, County Judge. (Seal) o19-3w

### LEGAL NOTICE

In the District Court of Cass County, Nebraska. Daniel G. Golding, Plaintiff, vs. Frederick L. McLeod and Emma McLeod, Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: Frederick L. McLeod and Emma McLeod: You are hereby notified that on the 30th day of September, 1931, plaintiff filed his petition in the District Court of Cass County, Nebraska, the object and purpose of which is to foreclose lien of tax sale certificate and subsequent taxes paid on Lot 16 in Block 2 in the Village of Union, in Cass County, Nebraska, and for equitable relief. You are further required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 23rd day of November, 1931, and failing so to do your default will be entered and judgment taken upon plaintiff's petition. This notice is given pursuant to an order of this Court. DANIEL G. GOLDING, Plaintiff.

A. L. TIDD, His Attorney. o12-4w

### ORDER OF HEARING and Notice of Petition of Settlement of Account

In the County Court of Cass County, Nebraska. State of Nebraska, Cass County, ss. To all persons interested in the estate of Ransom M. Cole, deceased: On reading the petition of Roy O. Cole, Administrator with will annexed praying a final settlement and allowance of his account filed in this Court on the 9th day of October, A. D. 1931, and for final distribution of said estate and discharge of said administrator with will annexed; It is hereby ordered that you and all persons interested in said matter may, and do, appear at the County Court to be held in and for said County, on the 8th day of November, A. D. 1931, at ten o'clock a. m., to show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted, and that notice of the pendency of said petition, and the hearing thereof, be given to all persons interested in said matter by publishing a copy of this order in the Plattsmouth Journal, a semi-weekly newspaper printed in said county, for three successive weeks prior to said day of hearing.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of said Court, this 9th day of October, A. D. 1931. A. H. DUXBURY, County Judge. (Seal) o12-3w

Silence is an argument difficult to beat. The office rarely has occasion to seek the man—and never on pay day. Remember folks, a pickle is just a cucumber that has passed the acid test. Having a past is interesting—providing, of course, you can make that past permanent. If you start an argument with a fool, the listeners will have a hard time telling which is which. Be careful what you bite nowadays. It may be a stone instead of bread they are handing you. Chicago is growing better. The edict has gone forth that holdups must not be accompanied by killings. Why be sorry for yourself? You are simply wasting sympathy on someone who probably does not deserve it. The ancient Israelites had a distinct advantage over us. They took forty years in getting out of the wilderness. Jim Reed, of Missouri, has tossed his hat into the Presidential ring for next year. It isn't an Empress Eugenie pattern. A wisecrack from a flapper: You can tell a trombone player the minute you kiss him—just the way he puckers up his lips. Business is also bad with the doctors. You can have your appendix removed on a 90-day note promising to pay. The surgeon is even willing to gamble on your chance of recovery. It was said by a Grecian philosopher four thousand years ago, and has since been expressed in many forms, but the thought is still good: "Too many laws are worse than no laws at all." "The right to work" was the slogan in nearly every speech delivered before the recent convention of The American Federation of Labor. Four simple words, but you cannot escape their meaning. The man who evicts a tenant or forecloses a mortgage nowadays is just a plain fool. In an overwhelming majority of instances he will have a hard time finding a successor who can do better. Johnny is right about it when he comes down stairs in the morning and says his nose won't work. Johnny is suffering from one of those damnable autumn colds, and there's nothing done about it unless Johnny is sufficiently heroic to undergo dosage with quinine and colamel. Edison, the light-bearer, has gone into the realms of darkness," says the New York Times in the opening paragraph of its story recording the great inventor. Wouldn't it be better to say he has entered the realms of eternal delight? A life of sacrifice and service such as Edison lived is entitled to some reward.

**This Is The Year to buy a New Overcoat**  
Give the old coat to the poor fellow who has none and come in and get one of these dandy new ones at—  
**\$15 - \$17 - \$20**  
and 100 per cent right!  
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