

THE SUPERVISORS.

The Journal does not wish to be placed in the attitude of a "chronic" critic of Platte county court house matters.

We have repeatedly given credit to Platte county officials and we wish to continue in the attitude of preferring to give credit rather than blame for official conduct.

It is not pleasant to criticize the official conduct of men for whom you have a high personal regard.

It becomes the duty of a newspaper, however, if it wishes to fill its highest function in a community, to give publicity to violations of law from which every taxpayer suffers.

It is no less the duty of the newspaper to attack corruption in which members of its own political party are concerned than to attack corruption in the opposition party.

It becomes the duty of the Journal, therefore, to point out that one of the first official acts of John Swanson, the newly elected supervisor, was to join the democratic supervisors in an illegal transaction.

Mr. Swanson voted with the other supervisors on a motion which binds the people of Platte county, or attempts to bind them, to pay 25 per cent more than the legal rate for the printing of the supervisors' proceedings and the delinquent tax lists.

The Journal has always believed that this practice in Platte county must be the result of an oversight on the part of the supervisors, most of whom we have always believed had the highest regard for the law.

It is difficult to believe now, however, that they all acted in ignorance of the law.

The Journal will gladly publish for its readers any explanation individual members of the board may offer for their vote on this question.

And it will hope to be able to publish a record wherein the board will yet record their illegal action.

The Journal has performed its full duty to the public when it publishes and calls attention to these matters.

Perhaps the taxpayers will object after while and some of the money they have been paying out illegally.

The Journal yesterday asked the board of supervisors to permit the county clerk to supply the Journal with the same copy of the supervisors' proceedings that he is required to furnish to the other papers which are official, agreeing to publish them free of charge as a matter of news.

The resolution of request was tabled without a dissenting vote.

The same men voted just as unanimously to pay five democratic papers more than the law allows for printing what the Journal offered to do gratis.

Our request was made simply that we might get the clerk's official record at the same time it was given to the other papers.

The Journal has no criticism on the board for this action. They had a perfect right to table our request.

And we believe Mr. Graf will furnish us the copy unless he is instructed not to do so, as he has.

At all events the readers of the Journal will help to pay the other fellow for doing it.

TWO MEN.

Andrew Carnegie has compiled a statement showing that he has given some forty million dollars for the building of public libraries, thus bringing free reading facilities to eighteen per cent of the English-speaking people.

And the English-speaking people pat him on the back and confer degrees and titles on him, and his name is glorified.

John D. Rockefeller likewise gives millions to universities. And his name is execrated among men.

These two men got their millions in exactly the same way. They defied the laws of the land and strangled competition by illegal and secret rebates from carriers.

Given a monopoly, any man can make money. The Standard Oil company and the Carnegie Steel companies secured virtual monopolies by illegal methods and piled up the greatest personal fortunes in the history of the world.

Then why should one be honored and the other not? The only reason we can see is that the American people hate a hypocrite.

Carnegie has never set himself up as anything but a cunning Scot who knows a thing or two about the art of making money.

His life has not been according to the gospels, but neither has he preached the gospels.

Meanwhile Brother Rockefeller has been devoutly attending and conducting Sunday schools.

The American people, in a comfortable sort of way, like fair play; but the inherent tendency to sharp practice in trade is so universal in the Yankee blood that we do not hold it as an unpardonable sin against a man if his commercial record is somewhat shady.

For example, look at the leading citizens of every city, town and hamlet in the United States.

But Americans are as a rule what we call "straight goods." They are open in their attitudes and honest in their friendships.

They hate treachery and hypocrisy, and they like a man who stands by his flag.

Richard Croker was allowed to plunder the New York public for years and depart in peace, rather admired than despised.

He was a wholesale and notorious thief, but he never pretended to be anything else.

We had the opportunity and the nerve, probably not many of us would do otherwise than Croker, Carnegie and Rockefeller have done.

But after we had got safely away with the goods, most of us would stand by our guns and not retreat behind the New Testament as a barricade against public opinion.

This is where Mr. Rockefeller loses caste with the American public. In this country a man must be either a sheep or a goat.

THE PACKING HOUSE TRUST.

Those who have tried to ridicule President Roosevelt's trust "busting" and "publicity" schemes had better be looking for a graceful means of retreat.

The investigations pursued by the Bureau of Commerce and Labor and placed in the hands of Attorney-general Moody in the matter of the "beef trust" promise to write one of the most interesting chapters ever written in our court records.

Mr. Moody has evidence that shows up the generally known practices of

the big packing houses. It shows how they put up the price for a period until they crowd the yards with animals.

Then they combine on a low price at which the producer is forced to sell.

It shows also how they likewise agree upon a selling price, thus putting both the producer and the consumer in their power.

In order to make the offenders liable under the Sherman law, the practice must be shown to be committed in the course of "interstate commerce."

On this point, Mr. Moody asks the courts to hold that cattle shipped from one state to stock yards in another continue to be objects of interstate commerce and that the fact that the packers buy them in the same state in which their packing houses are operated, does not change their status as objects of interstate commerce.

Whether or not Mr. Moody's definition of "interstate commerce" is accepted, the investigation will be fruitful.

If the Sherman law cannot be employed to make the cattle industry a competitive business, then the remedy will lie in the direction of public control or public restriction of the packing houses.

Full publicity will point out the way.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

The judging course begins January 21 and continues to January 28, inclusive.

It is intended for men who own farms and cannot get away for a longer period.

This course is given up wholly to the judging of farm animals and seed corns and to discussion of these subjects.

When breeders and farmers get together and discuss the comparative merit of different animals under the instructions of a competent judge, they will certainly get a great deal of benefit from it.

A specially fine collection of breeding cattle and feeding steers will be available and special attention will be given to the judging of young bulls of a class that can be used by farmers for the production of steers.

Lectures on horses will be given and heavy horses will be judged by practical breeders.

The judging of swine will be given due attention, with good specimens at hand of various breeds.

In the corn judging course the young man learns what constitutes a good ear of corn and how to select seed corn.

If the best selected seed could be planted in every Nebraska cornfield next spring it would increase the yield on our 7,000,000 acres at least 3,000,000 bushels in a single season.

A student finds on examination that two ears of corn, apparently the same size, may be selected from a bin and one ear will be found to contain practically twice as much corn as the other.

He is able to detect corn that is running out. By a little study the student learns how to select vigorous kernels which have a strong germinating power and will give a good stand of corn.

Just now it is very important in Nebraska that the farmer know how to get more out of his corn crop than he can get through the elevator.

A study of feeding teaches the student what mixtures or combinations of food will pay the largest profit.

He learns that from twenty to twenty-eight per cent more food for a given gain than is rightly balanced rations.

He also learns that there is a very great difference in the value of animals dependent on their type and breeding.

He learns how to judge accurately the quality of feeding steers and breeding cattle and is much better prepared to make a success of the live stock business after his course in the school.

PLAIN BUSINESS.

Editor Ladd of the Albion News has made a success of the newspaper business.

His success has been due largely to an application of common horse sense to his business.

In this last issue he says some things that exactly express our views, and express them better than we can.

Here they are: "Some people apologize when they come in to stop the paper, and some merchants make excuses for taking out their advertisements.

Neither is in order. While it would be too much to expect that we would feel as joyful when a man withdraws his patronage as when he bestows it, we endeavor to show it.

If you don't want this paper, we don't want you to have it. We can't please everyone, and we are looking all the time for those whom we can please.

If you don't think an advertisement in our columns will pay you a profit on the investment we would rather you took the advertisement out.

It is strictly a business proposition. We don't go around apologizing to merchants because we don't buy more goods and we don't expect it of them.

We appreciate the patronage of all, and always try to give good service, but we have no "greeny" feelings toward those who do not patronize us.

We would rather have your good will than your business if we can't have one."

STOP, BOYS!

Q. Who are you? A. The Columbus Telegram.

Q. You are something of a moralist? A. Sure Mike.

Q. You preach against booze? A. Yes.

Q. You preach against poker-playing? A. Yes.

Q. You preach against hooliganism in the nation? A. Yes.

Q. And in the state? A. You bet your life!

Q. And in the county? A. Nice weather we're having.

When, O when will they put it back? COLUMBIANS.

Judged by results, we should say that the plan of nominating U. S. senators in state conventions has not been fully vindicated.

You literary fellows who have read Poe's "Raven"? Can you explain how that raven, sitting on a bust of Pallas above a chamber door, could cast a shadow on the floor? Where was the lamp?

Do you know anybody to whom you would be willing to relate all your dreams, not leaving out any? Wouldn't

there be a lovely breaking up of the social order if everybody's dreams might come true?

Stooped, the vanquished, will be court-martialed when he gets home because he surrendered before everybody was killed.

Most of the victor, had two boys who were both in his army; he has no boys now. War is hell all right but hell isn't war by several degrees.

Bixby tells about a Cuban boy who recently showed up in New York and strolled into the Manhattan chess club and cleaned out the bunch.

We should like to see him go against the Lincoln chess gang. Before he got through with that outfit he would think General Weyler was an angel of mercy.

A CURIOUS CEREMONY.

QUANT SPECTACLE TO BE SEEN ANNUALLY IN FLORENCE.

A Celebration Which Dates From the Time of the Crusades—Story of a Lamp That Was Lighted From the Sacred Fire at the Holy Sepulcher.

Florence is annually the scene of a curious ceremony which dates from the time of the crusades.

As the generally accepted tradition runs, Godfrey de Bouillon was accompanied on his crusade by a young Florentine noble named Raniero, who was the first to plant a Christian banner on the walls of Jerusalem.

Godfrey presented him in reward for his bravery with a lamp lighted from the sacred fire before the holy sepulcher.

Raniero was forced to resort to many peculiar devices in order to preserve his holy relic intact.

When the wind blew he turned in his middle, with his face toward his horse's tail, wrapping his cloak around his precious burden, and often when passing through populous towns, where this strange attitude would have attracted unpleasant attention, he inclosed the flame in an iron ball, which he carefully rolled before him with his foot.

Even then his actions caused comment, and people shook their heads as he passed by and called him "pazzo," or fool, whence came the family name of Pazzi, celebrated in Florentine history.

Arrived at length in his beloved town of Florence, he deposited his lamp in the little church of San Biagio. It is still kept burning and plays an important part in the following ceremony, which takes place before the cathedral every Saturday before Easter.

Shortly before noon a service is held in the baptistry, all the priests and high officials of the church in ceremonial robes participating.

At the stroke of 12 the piazza is crowded with eager sightseers, mostly country people in holiday costume, with gay colored handkerchiefs over their heads.

Every one is on the qui vive for the "carro," which soon comes lumbering around the corner, drawn by four enormous white oxen.

Great bouquets of flowers are tied between their horns, which are gilded for the occasion.

The car is an antique affair, made of brown wood. The arms of the Pazzi family, dolphins, are carved on it, and its towering height breaks under the load of big firecrackers strung around it in festoons.

The national colors—red, white and green—flutter in the breeze as it is placed just in front of the great door of the cathedral.

The oxen are unyoked and led into a side street.

The doors of the baptistry fly open, and a solemn procession enters the cathedral, where a light from the holy lamp of San Biagio has been placed on the altar.

A wire has been stretched from the altar to a fuse on the car, and a curious mechanical device, with another fuse in its mouth, lies waiting near the priest's hand.

He pronounces a blessing over it, lights the fuse and sends it whirling along the wire straight to the car, where it sticks its bill among the fireworks for a moment and then triumphantly flies back again.

The firecrackers begin to bang with an energy that would do credit to the Fourth of July efforts of any small American.

Around and around creeps the tiny flame, and a battery of reports like pistol shots follow in its track.

The peasants shriek with delight and scurry backward and forward to escape the bits of burning paper that fill the air.

Boys dodge under one's elbows and push and wriggle through the crowd to get nearer the great sight.

Babies cry, dogs bark, the great bells in Giotto's tower ring for the first time in three days, and clouds of frightened pigeons dash backward and forward.

With an unexpected "bang" the sound suddenly dies away.

The peasants go on their way rejoicing. The weather has been fine, and the car has "burst" (the title of this article meaning "the bursting of the car") to perfection, and there will consequently be a good harvest.

The crowd disperses as if by magic, many following the car to the palace of the Pazzi, where a fresh supply of crackers is exploded in honor of Raniero and his descendants.

By 1 o'clock the piazza is as tranquil as ever, with its combatives trundling through, and San Biagio retires into his usual lethargy.

—New York Tribune.

A Poor Authority.

Dan Wilson was once trying a case before a Missouri justice of the peace when the opposing counsel cited "Greenleaf on Evidence" so decidedly against him that a bold push must be made.

Wilson asked him for the book, opened it, rose and, with a look of solemn surprise, said he was amazed that so good a lawyer should bring such a book as that into court.

"Why," said he, "the author himself never thought of his being used for authority in any case. Just hear what he says in the preface: 'Doubtless a happler selection of these principles might be made, and the work might have been much better executed by another hand, for, now it is finished, I find it but an approximation toward what was originally desired. But in the hope that it may still be found not useless as the germ of a better treatise it is submitted to the candor of a liberal profession.' Now," continued Wilson, "an author who admits that his work is as bad as this certainly never expected it to be brought into court. To govern the opinions of a gentleman who has sat on the bench as your honor has for eighteen months." The justice was perfectly satisfied. He ruled the "authority" but as of no account whatever and gave his judgment for Wilson and his client.

Insects in Bird Cages.

To keep insects from bird cages great care in the matter of cleanliness is needed, but to make assurance doubly sure it is well in any case to tie a little sulphur in a silken bag and to suspend it in the cage.

How Beds Multiply.

In three years the progeny of a pair of rats, under favorable conditions, will number 1,000.

\$500 STORY & CLARK PIANO GIVEN AWAY! \$500

GO AND SEE IT AT GRAYS' STORE.

THE JOURNAL will give this Beautiful Piano to the Platte county young lady receiving the most votes from Journal subscribers before noon, FEBRUARY 15th, 1905. This Piano is standard. It is not the cheapest, but one of the best grades made by Story & Clark. It is the most expensive and best Piano ever given away by a Nebraska newspaper. You have to see the instrument to appreciate it.

HOW TO GET VOTES:

- 1. Get a new cash subscriber to the WEEKLY or DAILY JOURNAL.
2. Get present subscribers to pay their subscription in advance.
3. Get delinquent subscribers to pay all or part of their back subscription.
4. Call or write us for a receipt book, so you can receive for the money you collect.



DESCRIPTION—Seven and one-half octaves, ivory keys, polished ebony sharp, overstrung base, iron frame, three unisons, repeating action, improved scale, three pedals, folding fall-board, full panel swing desk, continuous nickel hinges on fall-board and lid, metal-cased hammer rail, nickel-plated action supports, nickel-plated pedal gear with graduating pedals and practice muffer, composite wrest-plank. Height, 1 feet 8 inches; width 5 feet 5 inches; depth, 2 feet 4 inches. Case, Hungarian walnut, cross-banded, veneered and highly polished.

For every cent that you send us on subscription we will credit one vote to the young lady that you may designate. Every dollar will give you 100 votes. \$1.50 for a year's subscription to the weekly Journal will give you 150 votes. During this contest ONLY, every subscriber who pays \$1.50 or more, in advance, on subscription to the Weekly Journal will receive a year's subscription to either the Los Angeles Times Illustrated Weekly Magazine or "Der National-Farmer" and "Das Familien-Journal" (German). This is not one of those contests where the winning contestant gets everything and the subscriber gets nothing. In order to put the Daily Journal in every home in Columbus and on the rural mail routes leading out of Columbus, we offer a special rate, through this contest only, of \$3.00 a year for the Daily Journal by mail, or \$4.00 delivered by carrier in the city, if paid in advance. Those who send their subscriptions direct to us should give us instructions as to whom their votes shall be cast for. The contest will be kept from now on. No time can be lost if you would win. R. W. Saley sells this piano for \$500. It is a prize worth having.

... RANCH FOR SALE OR TRADE ... 15,000 ACRES FENCED.

TWO miles from main line B & M and best grazing country in Nebraska. Both summer and winter range. Will run 1,000 head of cattle winter and summer. Cuts 1,000 tons of hay—abundance of water. Good ranch improvements, corrals, dipping tanks, etc. 5,000 acres deeded land. A section school land under 20 year lease. Just the ranch for some young Platte county farmer who wants more room to raise cattle. This ranch has just been put on the market at a figure that will sell it quick. You deal direct with owner. Write at once for particulars or call at office of

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