

The Norfolk News

Havana is rapidly becoming civilized. It is to have an American brewery.

There are 400 colleges in this country, having a total valuation of \$250,000,000.

Governor Russell of North Carolina is the only republican governor in the southern states.

The publishers of the United States will have a special display in a special building at the Paris exposition.

This is an era of rising prices. Umbrellas went up last evening and it looks as if they would continue to go up for some time. It is still raining.

A promoter has been very aptly defined as "a man who hasn't much money and who goes around trying to rope in others who have."

David B. Henderson, Speaker Reed's successor, was born at Old Deer, Scotland. Presidential aspirants will have no cause for jealousy with him.

The new system of rapid telegraphy was tested this week, and under adverse circumstances, the lines not working well, messages were sent at the rate of 1,000 words a minute.

Because of its frequent appearance in church collections, the nickel has come to be called the "shekel of the sanctuary," but this does not prove by any means that it is the "coin of the realm" eternal.

The owners of the Cripple Creek mining property have recently been offered \$15,000,000 for it. That was just the amount that Jefferson paid for the whole Louisiana purchase. And yet some men are opposed to expansion.

Engene V. Debbs says we are on the eve of the worst panic the country has ever seen. James J. Hill says that we can confidently look forward to a great prosperity for the next 20 years. Mr. Debbs makes a business of dealing in panics, while Mr. Hill makes a business of business. You pay your money and take your choice.

Rev. S. W. Dickinson, an agent for the American Bible society, has just brought to light the interesting fact that the first book printed in Minnesota was a bible. It was printed in 1836, about 13 years before the first issue of a newspaper in St. Paul. The bible was printed in the Ojibway language, on the mission press at Lake Pokegama, in Pine county.

There is a great deal of comment deploring the absence of Thomas B. Reed from his former place in congress, with the intimation that his party and the country have met with an irreparable loss. While Mr. Reed is beyond question one of the brainiest of public men, it is well to remember that in congress as elsewhere the indispensable man does not exist. Public affairs will continue to be conducted with ability and sagacity, even with Mr. Reed a private citizen.

Mr. Bryan says he has no fear of the outcome next year. Why should he have? The election this year indicates unmistakably that the American people have confidence in the present administration of national affairs. Everything is favorable toward the continuation of the republican party in power by handsome popular majorities in 1900 except Nebraska, and this state will be in line by next November. Mr. Bryan is intelligent enough to know that this means continued prosperity and progress. With such an assured outcome, fear on the part of Mr. Bryan or anyone else would be the height of absurdity.

Postoffice Inspector Sinclair's criticism of the sidewalk conditions of this city are in direct line with what has been said time and again by this paper, and simply emphasizes the fact that as seen by an outsider the sidewalks of Norfolk are a disgrace to a civilized community. The question of better lighted streets is also one that must soon be met by the city. Every street corner should have an electric light, if not an arc light then an incandescent of at least 32 candle power. There is room for lots of improvement along the sidewalk and lighting line, and it must be done before the city will be given a free delivery system by the postoffice department.

The silk industry in the United States has grown at an amazing rate. Statistics show that in 1890, 87 per cent of the silk goods used in this country were imported. In 1898 only 15 per cent of the silk goods used were brought from other lands. This shows a most remarkable development in this industry, but even these figures do not tell the whole story, because they do not show the tremendous increase in the consumption of such goods caused by the gain in population. With the steady improvement being made in the manufacture of silks and the increased capacity in our mills and machinery, each year will undoubtedly show a decrease in the percentage of imported silks used.

The question still agitates the public mind as to what is to be done in the way of bettering the condition of

the sidewalks of this city and of having it lighted in a manner that would do credit to a town with say half the population. Norfolk is now ready for a free delivery system, the postoffice receipts are enough to warrant having letter carriers, and the department stands ready to inaugurate the service when the city places its walks and lights in a respectable condition. The question again reverts to the original proposition, shall we have a free delivery system or not? Shall we take our place among the cities of like class, or be relegated to the rear because of lack of enterprise? It is up to the city council.

The benefits of the past half a century which have resulted in labor saving machines that can do the work of many hands have wronged none of the toilers, but have on the contrary improved his condition. There are many families who at the beginning of their family life were obliged to live in the crudest and most unsatisfactory way and who failed to meet with business success which could lift them out of their narrow environment, who have by the mere force of universal improvement been immeasurably benefited. People are better fed, better housed and better clothed than they were 50 years ago. The number of books, periodicals and newspapers in the very humblest homes have been multiplied many times. Nearly every home has its musical instrument and the home life is brighter, better and happier for all these improvements. The children of the laboring man of today enjoy advantages and luxuries which in their grandfather's day could only be purchased by the few who were blessed with wealth. All this is due to the onward march of civilization.

In an article on "The South Africa Question" in the December number of the North American Review, Mr. Andrew Carnegie argues with spirit that the British Government have made a blunder in forcing hostilities upon the Transvaal, which may eventually endanger the very existence of their power in a part of the world in which they now claim nothing less than paramountcy. Mr. Carnegie insists that Mr. Gladstone's policy of conciliation was based upon wise prudent statesmanship. Says Mr. Carnegie:

"M. Gladstone's critics today describe him as having acted under the influence of sentiment as opposed to practical politics and giving way to the natural dislike of a great empire to push matters to extremes against a few Boers. In this the writer thinks they do Mr. Gladstone grave injustice as a statesman. Much to this great man's credit, he was more open to the charge of magnanimous treatment of other nations than most British statesmen; but Mr. Gladstone had the advice of the ablest men conversant with the situation in South Africa, when he decided that force, in this case, was no remedy; that far-seeing statesmanship required that the Dutch element be conciliated, not destroyed, if it were ever to be amicably merged into the British."

Senator Wm. P. Frye of Maine, who succeeds Vice-President Hobart as the presiding officer of the senate, delivered a speech before the Beacon club of Boston last week, which was significant as defining the views of an avowed and ardent expansionist, concerning the duty of the American people and government toward the Philippine islands. He said, "First, you will fight until there is peace there, and it will make no difference how long it takes, either. Then you will give them a good government; you will construct railroads and highways and give them access to the sea. You will open up and develop the natural resources of the island. You will see that labor is fairly paid. You will protect them in all their rights of property; in all their social, civil and religious rights. You will build school houses and churches. You will send teachers to teach them the English language, and just so far and so fast as in your judgment it is safe to do it, you will entrust to them a local and municipal government, gradually teaching them how to assume and carry on the responsibility of government." And it is this kind of imperialism that the World-Herald and others of like class fear will subvert the liberties of the people!

Nebraska industries are enjoying, with those of the eastern states the gateway that has been opened up in the orient for their manufactures. An exchange contains the following item: "The Kearney cotton mills are consigning their goods direct to the Chinese empire. A carload of brown sheeting was recently billed from Kearney to Hong Kong and an order has just been received from Shanghai, China, for one quarter million yards. The manager, Chas. Brown, says the quality of goods ordered is the very best. The cotton mills have been running constantly since the fall of 1898 and employ 225 operators." Lieutenant Niblack has written an article in which he advocates the exchange of the Sulu islands with Holland, for the island of Curacao in the Caribbean sea. He thinks this course would take a white elephant off our hands and at the same time give us a good neighbor in the Philippines. There are, as charged, bigamists in other states as well as in Utah. The difference is this—other states send them to the penitentiary, not to congress. Emma Goldman, a noted anarchist, has left this country in disgust. Good riddance to bad rubbish.

The United States mint at Philadelphia is to soon issue the most unique and significant coin of modern times. It is the Lafayette dollar authorized by congress in aid of the Lafayette monument. This coin, which is a legal tender dollar, bears upon its face in bas-relief a double medallion of the heads of Washington and Lafayette and upon its reverse a miniature reproduction of the equestrian statue of Lafayette used for the monument. The inscription on the dollar explains its purpose (struck in commemoration of monument erected by school youth of United States to General Lafayette, Paris, France, 1800). There will be 50,000 struck and the first of the issue will be presented by President McKinley to the President of the French republic. Popular subscriptions are now being entered for the coin which will be sold for \$2 each and as there is but one coin to each 1,500 people the subscription will close on the 15th. Drafts, currency or money orders will be accepted in payment and all orders should be payable to Edwin A. Potter, treasurer of the commission. Inquiries and subscriptions for coins should be addressed to Robert J. Thompson, secretary, in care of American Trust & Savings bank, Chicago. The commission reserves the right to limit the number of coins allotted to each subscriber. Students of schools and colleges, who wish coins, should combine their orders in one subscription and send if possible through local bank.

Germany is going to increase her navy. There is a demand from the German people that it be second only to England's.

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