

THE NORTHWESTERN

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The binder twice plant at the Kansas penitentiary is working about 100 convicts, and the output is something enormous. Jim Zink should have distinguished himself by introducing such a measure when he was at Lincoln, in the interest of the pop party but he forgot it.

The war in South Africa seems to be about as report gave it a week ago. There has been no movement of forces any place except at or near the Tugela river where Buller's army crossed. He is reported to be slowly compelling the Boers to fall back on new entrenchments, but his progress is exceedingly slow and his task a difficult one. The relief of Ladysmith seems to be yet in the remote future, and a victory by the British will be well earned when accomplished.

Bryan found a mare's nest last week while at Washington, two of them, and he wants secretary Gage impeached at once. One of the Banks which the government makes a depository, it appears bought the custom house site, and Gage placed the money on deposit in the same bank that had paid it. Then a New York bank making application for recognition as a depository, related the fact that they had always been good republicans. Their collateral was good and they got a deposit. Too bad, but this deposit law you know works just so in Nebraska, and the pops don't mind it here.

The demo-pop papers, in their most frantic efforts to poison the minds of the farmer, send out the wall that the trusts have doubled the price on binder twine, and that all the extra raise in price goes into the already well filled coffers of the trust octopus. There is always two sides to a question, hence the reason of the rise interested us. We looked for a cause and discovered that Sisal, the Mexican plant that twine is made from, had risen in price from 3 1/2 cents per pound in '97, to 7 in '99, and Manila hemp from 4 cents to 15 a pound in two years. The trusts may have enlarged their profits some, but the rise in raw material must have cut considerable figure.

The long article in the Times last week, as clipped from the Nebraska Independent is surely an open confession from their inmost soul, and flittingly draws back the curtain and reveals the dying condition of a party that never had any reason for existence, except to force into power hydro-headed and disintegrating democracy. It is like the jackass, there is no pride of ancestry nor hope for the future, but like a withering frost it has blighted the hopes of the young by planting within their tender minds, the soul crushing seed of sedition. It has ever taught it's adherents to look upon men in high places and whose reputation for honesty had never been questioned, as thieves and scoundrels. It has poisoned the minds of the credulous. It has aimed to stir up strife and discord among neighbors, and now that the sands of its life are fast passing, it will go un-betaken and unsung. Honest mistakes are pardonable, honest differences are even elevating, but hypocrisy will find its reward, and according to the Nebraska Independent, the so called populist party is about to reap it. "He who steals my purse steals filthy rags, but he who steals my good name steals my all. The thief is in the toils and his Macedonian wall falls on deaf ears. The common people have been deceived, and their wrath is beginning to show itself."

A movement is on foot to have congress pass a law admitting parcels of merchandise to the mail at a very low rate of postage. Among

the arguments used is the fact that in Great Britain the postage on parcels is six cents for the first pound and two cents for each additional pound up to eleven pounds, which is the limit, thus making the cost of sending an eleven pound package thirty-six cents. The postal service of the United States has a deficit now of \$9,000,000 a year for operating expenses, and that deficit would be two or three times larger if such a law was enacted, and the people would pay the shortage. It is a scheme of the big department stores of the larger cities to ruin the trade of the country merchant—Lawrence, Kan. Daily World.

Generally speaking good people do not like to be fooled. Yet they are deceived and trifled with so much that it is difficult to tell when they are being fooled and it is not strange that they become more or less indifferent to it after a time. When we say the republican party never tried to fool the people, we state a historical fact, and one that can be proven. There is neither bluff nor guesswork about it. It has been making platforms for nearly fifty years and it has never yet had a plank in one of them that it did not mean and has never proposed a measure that it did not attempt to put into operation. When it makes a statement it means it and when it proposes to do something it does it. It pursues a steady, straightforward course, always for the greatest good to the greatest number. It is safe, honest and candid and can always be relied upon to fulfill its promises if it has the power—York Times.

LETTER FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

ANGELINE, P. I., Nov. 28, '99. DEAR MOTHER: I received your letter last night. It was in the first mail that was received from the states, so you may guess we were glad when it came. I have been quite sick but am all right now.

We are having fine weather now. Rice is ripening fast, it is a good crop. This is not the season for most of the fruits. Some kinds are poison. The officers forbid us eating bananas and oranges, but we do it just the same. We are in town now, in shacks, we don't stay in tents any more than is necessary for it is bad for us to sleep near the ground. It looks queer to see all the houses built from four to seven feet above the ground. The mosquitoes are terribly bad down low, but when you get about seven feet above ground they are not any worse than at home.

Since the Thirty-second Thirty-third and Twenty-ninth, came over we have captured more territory than was held before we came, still there has been little fighting. We have been in the front but once on our out post duty quite often. We have taken several long trips over muddy roads and wading streams but we have had an easier time than I expected. I don't object to the almost daily marching, because I want to see all of the island I can. In about three months we expect to see one of the south islands, there is considerable fighting over there they say and as soon as the war is ended here we expect to go there. I hope we will as we have not had a chance to make a reputation yet, but if the opportunity presents itself we will take advantage thereof. We captured an English gunner last night that has been in the enemy's ranks for a year, I don't know what they will do with him. I wish you could see Luzon, and take one trip across it, it is so pretty. I had a letter from Charley Dodd, he is in the army again. Herman is well and happy. He says he will not enlist again, and I don't think I will either, though I am not homesick. Yours etc.

MYRON GILBERT
Maaha, P. I. 32nd U.S. V. I.
CLEAR CREEK COINGS
The weather continues fine.
Frost all out of the ground.
Milt Hill will move to Broken Bow when he has bought a farm.
Amon Armstrong will move to the Bow for the present.
Sinderson is here looking for a farm to rent.
The Draper district has compromised with Miss Mulick and resumed the school.
RECORDER.

A VERY QUEER DEAL.

IN A FAMOUS GAME OF DRAW POKER IN OLD DAKOTA.

The Dealer Gave His Rival Four Jacks and Himself Four Queens. When the Show Down Came, the Jacks Had Turned to Aces.

In the northwest they still talk about the last poker game that Major Edwards and Stanley Huntley played together. They were pioneer editors of newspapers in Dakota in the old territorial days. Huntley had just sold his paper in Bismarck for \$2,500 cash and was coming east. He and the major had sat in many a quiet game together, and Huntley went over to the major's office to say goodby and play one last game. The major produced the cards, locked the door, and the two faced a green table.

The major had the reputation of being a skillful dealer, and Huntley's previous experiences had taught him that cards sometimes appeared in the major's hand on a show down whose legitimate existence could only be accounted for on the hypothesis that the ace of miracles had not passed. So he had fortified himself for this farewell game not only with the \$2,500 which he had received for his newspaper property, but also with four large but not overworked aces.

There was no limit, but for an hour the game went along quietly enough. The major was out \$300 or \$400, but, as both players remarked, the game was "young yet." At last a jack pot of \$50 came and remained. Back and forth across the table went the deck. Neither man could get openers. Each time the deal passed the pot was sweetened \$40. At last there was \$380 on the table. The major dealt. Huntley looked over his cards and found four jacks.

As has been said, the major was a slick dealer, and when a big pool was at stake and it was his deal he generally managed to give his opponent a good stiff hand, while taking care that he himself had one just a shade better.

So, when Huntley found the four jacks in his hand it seemed to him that the time had come to precipitate his four aces into action. The jacks were retired unostentatiously, and with a faint—a very faint—shade of disappointment in his voice Huntley announced:

"I can't break it." The major was still examining his cards with that hesitating air that some people always believe means "straying out a straight." Finally he said: "I'll have to break it for \$500. It's a big pot." Huntley looked mournful and said "I'll stay. Gimme a card." "None for me," announced the major briskly, as he threw over a card and laid down the deck. "I'll bet you \$500." "I'll raise you \$500," said Huntley. "Five hundred more," said the major. "When I sat down," said Huntley, "I had \$2,500 in my pocket. I'll raise you the full amount of that on this one hand. If I lose, I'm broke." The major took another look at his hand and replied:

"I haven't got as much as that in cash. I'll make out a bill of sale of the building and plant, newspaper and all, and put that in the pot. If you win, you can hold it till tomorrow, when I'll settle." "Go ahead," said Huntley. The major wrote out the bill of sale and threw the slip of paper into the pot on top of the big pile of greenbacks. Both men had emptied their pockets. "Now I'll call you," said the major. "Fours," said Huntley, and he laid down his four one spots. The major never flinched. He examined the aces, one after another. Then he laid down his hand and said briefly:

START THE YEAR RIGHT.

By this we mean that if you are not already a subscriber to The Nebraska State Journal you should become one at once. The Journal is Nebraska's old reliable. Being published at the state capital it prints more news of interest to Nebraskans than any other paper in the state. Many of its patrons have been subscribers for over a quarter of a century. The Journal has built up a tremendous business by its push and energy and the paper stands at the head of the column. Its daily and Sunday issues not only contain all the current news of the world, but are filled with special features. The Semi-Weekly Journal, which by many is called "the farmers' daily," gives 104 papers a year for \$1.00 and is one of the greatest bargains ever offered readers. The year 1900 will be a record-breaker with the Journal, as 1899 has been. Join the army of readers for the coming presidential campaign.

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