

The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal

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BUILDING WILL BE ACTIVE

Building operations by the United States government promise much for the coming year, according to Washington reports, the impetus having been given by a reduction in some materials.

If the government is to take advantage of reduced cost of materials in some lines, it is only reasonable to suppose that private individuals will do the same, so that the coming year may hold out much in the way of construction, particularly for the west, where the people have prosperity.

With crops filling granaries and with a demand from abroad for those crops, the west is bound to be prosperous. And with building materials down in price, there ought to be increased activity along this line.

CHRISTMAS LETTERS.

The Christmas letter, written to friends at holiday time, has come to be one of the pleasantest features of the Yuletide season and more and more it promises to come into vogue. One prominent Norfolk man wrote twenty-seven Christmas letters to friends in distant places to whose merry Christmas he wished to contribute.

That a Christmas letter is often appreciated as much or even more than a costly gift is attested by those who have received such tokens of esteem and remembrance. For after all it is just the knowledge that you have been thought of, that makes Christmas worth while, any way. And a cordial letter, brimful of kindly sentiment and affection, somehow seems to hit the spot about as effectually as a good cold glass of lemonade on a hot summer afternoon.

INVESTIGATIONS PROMISED

According to reports from reliable sources, borne out by appearances, little or nothing in the way of legislation is to be expected from the present session of congress, a series of investigations into certain acts of the president.

It is claimed that democrats and a number of republicans in congress who are not in sympathy with the administration plan to make things as warm for the chief executive as possible by means of a series of official inquiries.

The other day it was announced that the discharge of negro soldiers from the Twenty-fifth infantry by the president will be tested in court by one of the soldiers. This, it is claimed, is merely an indirect way of attacking the president's action in that particular with a view to discrediting him.

Another investigation promised is in regard to the navy row. It is claimed that the president upheld Dr. Rixey merely through personal friendship and this is going to be aired.

As yet no investigation into the reformed spelling or "In God We Trust" motto incident, has been announced. The campaign already outlined will take up most of the spare time between now and the congressional adjournment. And while these investigations may cost the country at large a pretty sum, it is said that some interesting reading matter will, in all events, be developed.

IN REGARD TO EATING ENOUGH.

Do you eat enough?
We hear a good deal in these advanced days of faddish notions about overeating. Every little while we are told that "people eat too much." Oft repeated, the statement has come into pretty general usage and has come to be pretty generally believed. But common sense rises up to combat this idea to a large degree. The News has it on good authority that more people undereat than overeat.

"I am requiring some patients to eat only as much as they can hold once a week," said another day, "in order to keep them healthy. Many young people are getting very fat during the winter months, and this is not satisfactory."

The action of the police in arresting a man on Thursday for threatening to shoot a woman was altogether proper. The man was charged with such severe penalty for the crime that he could not have been released.

The man's latest statement is that he is not seeking the nomination, but that he will run—but not for the nomination.

session of congress. The influence of the country merchants and people who believe the government should not undertake transportation business involving additional expense to the amount of millions of dollars annually, has been effective in putting a stop to this measure which was so vigorously backed by the postmaster general and the president. Along with no legislation on parcels post, there will be a lack of legislation on postal savings banks.

Both these measures have developed aggressive opposition. Both were backed by the administration. And preceding a general election neither party is willing to champion bills which already have so many enemies.

It was thought by many that the express companies alone would oppose parcels post. It was taken for granted by advocates of the measure that the people would jump at the chance to get bundles shipped at less cost and at the proposition which must create many new government offices for the purpose of handling the business.

But the people seemed to figure out that the expense for such a luxury must come out of their pockets, in the end. They didn't want to increase the deficit in the postal department.

Country towns which believe they would be wiped off the face of the earth have brought pressure to bear.

And it is now said that the bill has been killed, so far as this session is concerned. It is probable that the opposition will keep right on in an aggressive campaign, for the sake of the future.

THREATENED KEY STRIKE

From Chicago recently came a report that another big telegraph strike would be pulled off next June, on the eve of the republican national convention. It was stated that preparations were now being made for the forthcoming battle. Simultaneously those same telegraph operators who are planning to renew their strike, are clicking messages into this part of the country from the east that thousands of men out of jobs have been walking into New York City, seeking charity in the matter of food and clothing.

It would appear to be a rather inauspicious season for another gigantic battle on the part of the telegraph operators, in view of the fact that they recently lost their long drawn out fight along a similar line and in view of the fact that thousands of men are now idle and easily available to replace the striking keymen.

The complaining operators declare that enough ground for another strike has been found in the fact that the wages of strikers taken back into service have been reduced. Having failed in their fight and, surrendering, taken back positions at reduced wages, it is not quite clear where the operators think they could gain by precipitating more warfare. And it is safe to say that by June better judgment may prevail and the threatened difficulty averted.

One of the principal reasons why the telegraph operators struck before was said to be the increased cost of living. Of recent weeks the cost of living has gone down. Commodities are going to be cheaper. And along with a relaxation in these matters, wages are bound by the law of supply and demand to decrease rather than go higher.

The telegraph operator with a job will probably consider the matter pretty carefully before he relinquishes his key and runs the chance of remaining idle for months.

TIME FOR A HALT.

It is high time that tragic bloodshed in Norfolk, resulting from murderous deliberation and execution, should come to a halt.

The people of Norfolk are sick and tired of the continued spasm of violence which has taken seven lives within a very few years.

Five deaths have resulted from murder in Norfolk within the past fifteen months, a number of other persons have been wantonly shot, and numerous other gun plays have been made, some of them out in the open. Indeed such episodes have been made in the business heart of the city.

It is time to halt such folly and such violation of peace and law.

Some drastic action, if that be necessary—and it seems that it is—should be taken to give an example to those unbalanced minds which threaten to explode.

The action of the police in arresting a man on Thursday for threatening to shoot a woman was altogether proper. The man was charged with such severe penalty for the crime that he could not have been released.

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Christmas night shooting. In fact, in justice to the people of Norfolk who don't care to wear armor plate, there has been no justification for not having had them taken in hand by the law so as to insure the city's peace. They might have had more respect for the law if, at the time Barnhart demolished the furniture in police court and drove out the judge and crowd, he had been given a taste of the punishment his offense warranted, without being turned loose to laugh at the wheels of justice.

It is time that murderous violence cease in Norfolk. The people of this community are for the most part peaceful and law-abiding. They want peace and they are entitled to it, so far as it is possible to maintain peace. The people of Norfolk are not concerned over family rows or private quarrels. The town prides itself on being, for the most part, able to mind its own business. The tendency toward eliminating gossip and meddling is, fortunately growing more pronounced. The habit of gossiping and dishing out scandal and bitter slander is coming more and more to be looked upon as the work of only the contemptible element of humanity. But Norfolk does feel concerned over disturbances which, breaking out of bounds, threaten the very safety as well as the peace of the community. Society has its rights and one of its rights is protection against unrestrained violence on the part of people who, unable to control themselves, must be taken in hand and controlled.

It is not necessary to go into the causes of the violence that has been known here of late. It is not even necessary that the law's remedy be pointed out.

But it is highly important that the lawlessness be reduced to the minimum and that at once.

JOHNSON AND BRYAN.

Apparently Minnesota is going to try its hand against Nebraska in the democratic national battle which will be waged out at Denver next summer when William Jennings Bryan will be once again nominated to lead his party to defeat. For, if one is to judge by the looks of Minnesota dailies, those people are really taking the Johnson boom seriously. But for all of that the democratic presidential nomination possibilities are today, as they were some weeks ago, made up of the "peerless" Nebraskan.

Some hope has been given to the Minnesota followers of Johnson by the coming forth of the Washington Post in favor of the candidacy of Johnson as against Bryan. But, while Minnesotans may grasp at this straw of hope, people posted in affairs will continue to believe that there will be not the slightest chance to beat out Bryan in the Denver convention. This is the dope dished out from Washington in a St. Paul paper which is anxious to jolly Minnesotans:

Gov. John A. Johnson's Christmas present from the wise men of the East in the form of urging him for the democratic nomination for president, is of the substantial sort. There is an awakening all along the democratic lines that the party with Johnson to head their national ticket will stand a fair chance to win next year's contest. The Washington Post, conservative, carefully and observant of the trend of public sentiment, comes forward this morning with leading editorial supporting the Johnson candidacy. Coming from this paper, the influence of this editorial is very significant.

Under the head of Gov. John A. Johnson, Col. Ira E. Bennett, a leading political writer of the country, says:

"The growing popularity of John A. Johnson, governor of Minnesota, draws sharp attention not only to his personality, but to the fact that democrats everywhere instinctively feel that they must seek out and present a new candidate for the presidency. They are attracted to Gov. Johnson, and well they may be, but they must do so partly because they are forced to turn from someone else.

"Intelligent democrats see clearly that with Mr. Bryan paramount they are chained to a body of death. Less intelligent democrats may not see this fact so clearly but there is reason to believe that they suspect something of the kind. They admire Mr. Bryan, but there is not such frenzied worship of the man as there was when it was said that they preferred to go to defeat with him than to victory with somebody else."

But when convention time comes, Johnson's boomlet will find itself badly punctured.

The democratic party may believe sincerely that Bryan with its leader will mean positive defeat in the coming contest. For that is apparently a clearly logical conclusion. But Bryan can't be shaken so easily as Johnson's friends would have him. For Mr. Bryan controls so important a lever in the democratic machine that he could easily defeat any other candidate whom they put up. And, since his recent announcement that he is willing to seem no chance at all that he will be thrown aside.

The man's latest statement is that he is not seeking the nomination, but that he will run—but not for the nomination.

PRESIDENTIAL BATTLE ROYAL.

It is said in reports from the east that practical politicians are wishing for nothing better than that the republican national ticket next year might be made up of Taft and Hughes. It is said with equal vehemence that such a ticket will never be named because of the very good reason that Governor Hughes would under no consideration accept second place. And so it leaves the fight for first place still in the air and in Washington Taft and Hughes are picked as the two most likely candidates.

People who hold to the theory that Taft and Hughes would make an ideal ticket, point out that they would appeal both to the progressive and the conservative elements and that their election would be a foregone conclusion. It is pointed out that the arrangement would be a perfectly natural one, since Secretary Taft has a tremendous grasp on national affairs, developed through long experience and close application, while Governor Hughes has had less of this, having been in public life but two years. But, while that is all very nice to theorize about, the dream is knocked out a cocked hat when it is known, and it is said to come straight, that Governor Hughes, though he would be very much delighted to accept the presidential nomination, would under no circumstances accept the second place on the ticket.

And so there is beginning to be a study of the strength of the two, along with others in the field to a greater or less extent. The president and Taft held a long conference the other day and it is presumed that they canvassed the situation pretty thoroughly.

One of the strongest features of the Hughes boom is the fact that he has just been endorsed officially by the New York state republican club. This launches his candidacy beyond a doubt, and, as the governor has not repudiated the endorsement, his announcement stands as made.

People against Hughes were rather pleased when the New York state committee, a week or so ago, refused to endorse the governor because there was no companion resolution endorsing the administration of the president. But now it is said that friends of the administration fear they have made a mistake in not allowing the endorsement to go on uninterrupted. For the republican club has done it and it stands out even stronger in view of the first slap. This will give Hughes the solid New York delegation, it is predicted, and that is equal to the delegations of Ohio and Indiana combined. So Hughes will have a good strong vote at the outset, though probably not so great as that for the big secretary.

It will be in the later balloting, however, that it is expected Hughes will develop strength, and in that balloting there will surely be a battle royal.

The reason of Hughes for not caring to accept the vice presidency is that he can not afford to do it, from a personal standpoint. He recently came into public light through his able insurance investigations and before he could reap any pecuniary rewards from this he was elected governor, where he is forced to spend all that he gets as a salary. And so he feels that it would be unwise to retire himself from practice for four years, thus losing legal prestige, for the sake of being tale to the kite.

A "NO-GOSSIP" TOWN.

Resolved, That we spend one-half our time minding our own business and the other half letting other people's business alone.

This is the good resolution of the people of Merriam, Johnson county Kansas. It has been adopted by almost all of the citizens of the town and Merriam is going to be a model village, free from gossips, its residents claim.

The resolution of Merriam is so praiseworthy that, as one of the town's citizens says, larger cities might adopt the same slogan with benefit all around.

Several days ago the spirit of Christmas moved Thompson Faggess, one of Merriam's "oldest inhabitants," to the belief that there was too much petty jealousy and gossip in his home town. He proposed the resolution.

He talked over the idea with some of his neighbors and they in turn told their wives. These wives told other wives, and they in turn told their husbands. Thus the idea of "peace on earth" spread through Merriam.

All to whom the subject was broached heartily fell in with the plan until the majority of the people had agreed to work for it. The resolution is verbally agreed to in the place. The town is now out writing, and it was the new order in Merriam, said to be a people of that

unfortunate as that fact may be, for what Merriam was before it was what it is, was practically a duplicate of every other little town in the country today, pity though it be, bigger ones as well.

But Merriam, Johnson county, Kansas, has now come forth with a new example to the rest of the world. And the rest of the world may very profitably watch the progress of the new rule, as well as to make an effort to follow suit.

There is too much gossip in the small village and too much in the larger places. There is too much gossip in Norfolk and there is too much of it in Omaha and in Chicago. But it's a disgusting and disgrace practice, for all that.

As a general thing you will find that the person who devotes the most time and tongue-wagging to other people's business is neither very successful in his own ventures nor of broad and generous mind. It is generally the ignorant mind, the mind that has no taste for good wholesome literature, the mind that prefers to contract rather than expand, which is given over to the dishing out of slander and malicious stories about other people.

And more and more society is coming to look with contempt upon the person who permits himself to spread about vicious tales concerning other people.

The person who delights in the scandal-monger business is coming to be more—and ought to be—shunned as a leper or any other unclean and undesirable citizen.

Merriam, Kansas, has discovered at last that "there is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it little behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us." And Merriam, Kan., is already a different town. It has purged itself of a cancer which, if allowed to go unchecked, will ruin the peace and happiness of any community.

There is truly enough of fault in all men that it is with little grace that any individual assumes to censure and criticize his fellows. For a general thing, if it is but noticed, the person who is the most prolific in gossip of other folk, is really the most vulnerable to criticism and fault-finding. For big, liberal, growing men and women are too busy tending to their own business, and too charitable, withal, to be constantly knocking their neighbors.

A Kansas City paper thought that Merriam was unique to justify sending a special man down to the place to write it up. And some of the expressions that he got are really worth reproducing. From the report this is taken:

It all started when Mr. Staggs declared that there was too much "talking behind people's backs," in Merriam.

"One of the things I've always told my boy," Mr. Staggs said as he smashed the cheese counter with his right fist, "was that the best things he could do was to spend half his time minding his own business and the other half letting other people's business alone. And I think it'd be a mighty good idea to adopt that plan for a general rule here in Merriam."

Merriam caught the idea in a moment and catch an idea in Merriam is to put it into practice. The town was just recovering its normal quantity from the unaccustomed upheaval of local scandal. It wasn't a serious scandal. No one had done anything particularly reprehensible but there had been talk—too much talk—Merriamites say, and they determined that the talk should stop.

There wasn't any public meeting where the town orators could air their views. It must be remembered that Merriam's plan was to stop talking. The citizens just passed the word about quietly that the new law was in effect.

"Merriam was just like all small towns," James Campbell, keeper of the general store said yesterday. "There were gossips here. They exchanged ideas about everyone. They didn't tell any specially bad tales but their tongues were too long and we thought they ought to be chopped a little."

"No it wasn't any women's club proposition—not at all. We have nothing of the kind in Merriam not even a sewing society of a Woman's Christian temperance union. But there were some women—not many, but a few—who talked over the back fence while they were hanging out the clothes. They compared notes when they met down in the stores and whispered together in the church pews—a few did, just a few. Well, we thought that it made no difference even if Maggie's new waist was made out of her married sister's wedding gown. The discussion of the thing only made Maggie cry when she heard it was town talk. We didn't think it was material either if William had been 'waiting upon' Mary Jane for four years without any signs of a solitaire on her left hand, or if he met her brother and told

or her with contempt deserved, the carrying of malicious stories from mouth to mouth would soon become so unpopular and unpleasant that the habit would stop.

Why wouldn't this be one good resolution to take up for the coming year?

If for Merriam, Kan., why not for any other community? Why not?

And it's up to the individuals of the community to say.

CHURCH AND MENTAL SUGGESTION

The announcement of Bishop Fallows of the Reformed Episcopal church of Chicago that he will at once inaugurate the curing of mental diseases by suggestion and auto-suggestion, assisted by some of the best known neurologists and psychologists of Chicago, is important and significant as indicative that the movement started in Boston more than a year ago is commanding recognition and is going to grow. Bishop Fallows declares that the church, to save itself, must minister to the bodies as well as to the souls of the American people. The ministry, he thinks, must join the medical profession in giving relief to sufferers from mental and nerve disorders.

In connection with this Chicago announcement, an article which appeared in the Christmas number of the World's Work becomes doubly interesting. "Christian Science Without Mystery," the article is called, written by Rollin Lynde Hart. In this article he explains the mental healing movement as practised by the Emanuel Episcopal church of Boston.

"It is not christian science," says the writer. "It is the foe to christian science. It heals without pay and it heals by methods endorsed by leading neurologists and psychologists of the day." No one is given treatment until after first having been diagnosed and advised by a competent physician. The new movement is endorsed by leading psychologists, such as Dr. Putnam of Harvard. It is argued that all physicians use suggestion as a means of curing and it is said that physicians are coming to regard with less skepticism reports of people becoming seakick before the boat leaves the wharf, of college boys who make a classmate sick by merely telling him he looks so and sticking to it. Arguing thus that the mind exercises great power over the body, it is claimed that suggestion will materially affect the mind.

One of the remarkable statements in this article, tending to show how even the liquor habit is cured by suggestion, is the declaration that the famous "gold cure" for drinkers is nothing more than a deception; that there is no such thing as "bichloride of gold" and that this noted method of curing drinkers is merely an elaborate and highly beneficial system of deception by which a dipsomaniac is convinced that the chains of habit are broken.

It is argued from this influence of mind over the body that the mind may be utilized in the cure of diseases of a nervous character. "By detaching your attention from pain," the author writes, "you reduce or dismiss it. A concert or a play will often cure a headache; football players rarely feel bruises during a game; atooth with stop aching as you are on your way, attention diverted, to the dentist."

An address in the Boston church is quoted: "Much of the prevailing nervous ailment is due to worry, superinduced by a guilty conscience and distrust of self, started in the child by the inexcusable nagging and fault-finding of parents. The sense of humor should be cultivated in every child and it will prove a panacea for many ills. Everyone should try to tell at least one funny story at the breakfast table every day, and thus the day will be started right. Worry retards digestion and banishes sleep, and thus causes nervous ailments. The same is true of unnecessary sorrow, anger and the 'blues.' There are bad habits that can be conquered. Indulge in neither retrospection nor introspection. Cultivate only thoughts of happy experiences, search out the companionship of happy friends, read books of the right sort—avoid disagreeable books."

Long before this church took up its work, the article says, nerve specialists were using suggestion with admirable results. The case is told of treatment given a woman suffering from incipient nervous prostration. The nerve specialist—an eminent man in his profession—investigated the woman's case for an hour and then burst out laughing: "Nothing the matter, madam; absolutely nothing the matter." He directed her how to rearrange her work to relieve the strain.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS.

After the dinner, are you willing to help wash the dishes?

That ship of yours that is coming in; how slowly it sails.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who said his boy was "a case?"

Women are never quite so amusing as men.

It is to drive a man woman

and into thinking

thinking

to ward it off. Thousands, already losing control of their nerves, have discovered ways to regain command. Meanwhile, unnumbered homes have found means to reduce fear and strain and friction. Best of all, perhaps, is the indirect effect upon children. "In this domain of nervous diseases," writes Paul Dubois, "it is easy to prove the contagion of example. We see little girls already imitate their nervous father and hysterical mother, throwing themselves upon the sofa at slightest fatigue and complaining of headache and backache. They are sensitive to all exterior influences, cannot take food which they do not like, and become unnerved like their mother. They play so well the part of little nervous women that they are caught in the snare and become so really. Nervous parents, think of this danger of moral contagion!"

Although this movement in organized form is new in modern times, there is nothing new in the idea of the force of mental suggestion as a curative for nerve diseases. The biblical story of the posts driven in the pond where the cattle drank, for the purpose of adding speckled calves to the offspring, as well as the old Grecian theory that mothers surrounded by beautiful art before the birth of the child would wonderfully influence the child, both illustrate the theory now being worked out in Boston and Chicago churches. And there have been in our own time many "healers" like Dowie who, by mental suggestion, accomplished really great things along this very line.

The power of suggestion, indeed, may be seen in every day incidents of the world over. Perhaps no more effective instance can be found than the recent suggestion made to the people of the United States at the time a financial disturbance threatened. But for the constant suggestion on the part of great men and newspapers, a panic might have occurred. As it was, the stringency quickly righted itself and confidence was restored.

Financial stringencies with nations are merely nerve tempests such as individuals suffer. And there is, after all, a good deal of relief found in forgetting your troubles and thinking only of things that are cheerful and happy.

AROUND TOWN.

Happy New Year!

The minute the sun comes out, the snow man gets cold feet and ends his life.

After all, it's sentiment that moves the world. "I wouldn't give a cent for a sleigh ride without sleigh bells ringing," said a man of forty-five winters.

A Madison liveryman sent an employe to Norfolk the other day with a team. "I don't care about you," said the liveryman, "but don't let the horses get shot while you're in Norfolk."

"A good many people bring such discomforts on themselves by spoiling the babies," said the conductor. The young father pranced up and down the aisle of the coach all the way from Fremont to Norfolk. The baby expected it and began to make a terrible fuss the minute the procession seemed about to halt. And the conductor declared that it was all in the way they're brought up.

People are normally honest. "Is it safe to leave my purse in the car?" she asked her husband as they started to leave a Northwestern train to eat dinner in the Junction eating house. The husband said it was. So the purse was left to guard itself. It was untouched. Many people leave their purses lying in car seats for short periods, but you seldom hear of any losses in this way.

It isn't always the mother who stands up for the children. Two little boys wanted to go sliding down hill when the snow came. "You mustn't go," mother said. "You'll get all wet." Then father came to the rescue. "Of course they can go. Boys will be boys." Father's word went with them and they went with father's word. Of course they got wet. Being small, mother had to strip them and change their clothing. Possibly that's why father was willing and mother wasn't.

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