

The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal

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The least desirable piece of furniture in existence is the matrimonial bureau.

Any poor forlorn state that hasn't a favorite son ought to adopt one immediately.

In the presence of the Merry Widow hat the summer parasol is doomed to take a back seat.

Judge Gray says he will never be president. There are a whole lot of people who agree with him.

Patrick Henry's old home was destroyed by fire the other day. If that be treason, make the most of it.

It now seems probable that the last thing to be fed into the wood pulp machine will be Uncle Joe's gavel.

Minnesota has just passed its fiftieth birthday as a state and can well be proud of its splendid achievements.

May has often been spoken of as the vestibule of June. This year it has been also its cistern and reservoir.

There is a great deal being said about Merry Widow hats, but then it takes considerable to cover the subject.

It must be getting dull down in Arkansas. There hasn't been an eruption of Jeff Davis for more than a week.

There's no question but Taft will carry every precinct in the canal zone. The secretary made a great hit down there.

By this time Cortelyou must have accumulated sawdust enough to pack the product of all the ice factories in the District of Columbia.

Chatanoga is talking prosperity and backing up its talk sending out strawberry specials consisting of trains of ten cars each.

A Chicago woman has recently received diamonds and sapphires from an unknown person. This is better than being handed a lemon.

There is no question but what David B. Hill is a democrat. A democrat has been defined as "A man out of office without his consent."

Switzerland has prohibited the manufacture of absinthe. This is another form of going dry and one which every sane person will commend.

An exchange wisely surmises that when John Howard Payne wrote "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home," he was not writing of flats.

It is passing strange that a wealth of advice concerning married life and the training of children is given by those who have never tried it.

There's a vast difference between noise and votes. It would be well if some politicians in both of the great political parties would bear this in mind.

The suggestion is made that some enterprising newspaper initiate a movement to pay for two big battleships, by popular contribution. Not a bad idea.

Mrs. Katherine Clemens Gould declares that no woman can dress decently on less than \$20,000 a year. Is it any wonder that the country is full of poor, timid bachelors?

Two brothers who are engaged in the lofty avocation of circus clowns have inherited a fortune of two and a half millions. But they are not the only clowns who are millionaires.

Elbert Hubbard says: "We are part of the divine nebulae and can't go wrong." That is a good thing for a man to tell his wife when he leaves home in the evening.

What has become of Prince Helle de Sagan and Anna Gould? Let us hope they are married so that the public can live happily once more whether they do or not.

A recent earthquake in Mexico played some queer pranks. It shook the bottom out of the famous Carmen springs at Talpenezo, thus breaking up a popular health resort.

It is certainly an era when youth is in the saddle in Latin Europe. Portugal is under a boy king, the king of Spain is not yet twenty-two and the king of Italy is only thirty-eight.

In Vienna the horses have caught the grip and are dying at a great rate. It has been found out that whiskey and quinine, the favorite remedy of men for this disease (quinine in very

small proportion) is detrimental to the afflicted animals. Possibly it is to men also.

The Mississippi has been discovered again. St. Louis is preparing to start a steel barge line between that city and New Orleans at a cost of \$2,000,000.

A California ranchman procured seeds from the agricultural department from which he raised some enormous pumpkins. One of them weighed 270 pounds.

China is becoming civilized according to modern ideas. There can no longer be any doubt of it. The price of meats in Pekin has recently advanced thirty per cent.

Although the first base ball factory was started fifteen years ago, the price of balls has been increased 25 per cent. This increase on the total output will amount to over \$1,000,000.

Growing up with the country and blowing it up are two distinct propositions. It would be a good idea if those who emigrate to America from other countries would keep this difference in mind.

"Who the gods have it in for" says a bright exchange, "they first raise to a fever temperature." The recent proceedings of the democracy in some of the states are full of good tidings for the republicans.

The wealthy citizen of Malaga who chose amateur bull fighting as his fad and has killed in the arena 350 bulls and been four times wounded, cannot be accused of being a molly coddle.

Secretary Wilson makes the cheering prophecy that 1908 will be a great crop year for the U. S. If his prophecy is fulfilled when October rolls round once more the panic of the year before will be only a bad dream.

A witness stated solemnly in the New Jersey court that "if you put the hand of a person who is asleep in salt water and ask him questions he will answer them and never lie." And some people say the age of superstition is past.

Andrew Carnegie says "The man that doesn't know a little more about the work he is assigned to than his employer knows is a poor stick." This may be true, Andrew, but really did you ever know of an employer who would admit it?

Tom Watson, the populist candidate for the presidency, will put lots of energy, enthusiasm and time into the campaign, but it is doubtful if he will carry a single doubtful state. But it is good advertising, as Mr. Bryan has already shown.

Macon, Missouri, has a man who vowed in 1906 that he would let his hair and beard grow untrimmed until William Jennings Bryan was elected president. It is safe to say that there is one man in Missouri that would like to see William Jennings win this time.

It may be surprising but it is nevertheless true that America leads all the other nations of the world in Japanese trade, doing even a larger business with the little islanders than is done with China next door. Yokohama sends more dollars worth of goods to the U. S. than any other port in the world sends there.

Among the statistics given by President Roosevelt in regard to the increase in the consumption of our resources is the significant sentence telling of the increasing rapidity of our national development. "The more increase in our consumption of coal during 1907 over 1906 exceeded the total consumption in 1876, the centennial year."

"When one of your friends is the victim," says an exchange, "don't join the hue and cry against him. Just about the time he is in trouble is just about the time a little loyalty helps out." If this could only be remembered, how much sadness could be averted. Charity of thought and generous action toward the man who is down are among the world's greatest needs.

The engineers of the Panama canal have issued some remarkable facts about the amount of concrete used in its construction and gives an idea of the total amount of work to be done on the ditch. Enough concrete will be required in completing the canal to build a line of eight room houses reaching from New York to Philadelphia, and these would furnish homes for 120,000 people.

No enlightened and progressive people were ever placed in a more distressing and hopeless position in which to maintain their freedom than Finland occupies today. Their prospect is indeed a bitter one and unless they can show new powers of resistance and new resourcefulness in circumventing the czar, even the semblance of liberty will soon be denied them.

The importations of the United States have diminished more than \$90,000,000 compared with last year

and our exports have increased so that the balance of trade in our favor is the largest ever known. We are getting our imports at lower prices while our exports are generally bringing in more money than before. This adds to the favorable balance and shows that the advantage of the situation is with us.

Secretary Taft will have been absent from the country on his trip to Panama about three weeks. What a lot of annoyance he has saved himself from by escaping the ubiquitous newspaper interviewers during that time!

Mrs. Humphrey Ward refers in one of her books to the American peasants. Mrs. Ward should understand that there are no peasants in America and of all the men who are citizens of this great republic none are quite the king that the men who till the soil are.

Pittsburg has a bank cashier who has defaulted for something like half a million dollars, most of which he checked out to his friends to oblige them. It may be easy to be generous with other peoples property, but it's a dangerous proposition just the same and its end is dishonor.

It is said that President Roosevelt has given members of the naval committee in the house confidential information why four battleships should be authorized by congress this year. This rumor will cause Hobson's perpetual war cloud to grow several shades darker and put in lurid dashes of lightning.

The official career of Fighting Bob Evans is at an end, but his record as a naval officer of courage and efficiency will be added to that of the famous admirals who have preceded him and with them continue to inspire patriotism and love for the flag in the hearts of the boys and girls of this and future generations.

Prosperity clubs are being formed in all the large cities to promote trade and business confidence, but the best prosperity club in the country at present are the men who are busy on the farms sowing and cultivating the crops. By the aid of the sunshine and the rain if the crops are good this season, there is no question but what another winter will see a great revival of prosperity.

If Secretary Taft secures the presidential nomination, the vice president will according to the established precedent, be chosen from the east. There is abundant material from which the convention can choose, but probably no other man would add so much strength to the ticket as that of Governor Hughes of New York if he could be induced to accept second place.

Young King Manuel of Portugal is anxious to have the charges concerning the drawing of large sums of money from the national treasury by his father investigated that he may make restitution. But neither of the two dominant parties are willing to consent to such investigation. This leads to the strong supposition that the political leaders got more of the plunder than did King Carlos.

Nothing in the way of modern improvement is more striking than the progress in naval architecture. Admiral Dewey won his great victory in Manila Bay ten years ago with battleships that would not stand two minutes against a navy of today. His heaviest ship, the Olympia, is now only a memory, while the Baltimore and others are in use as training ships along the coast.

Another million dollars is to be expended at once in widening the Sault canal. It seems sometimes as though the government would never get this canal in condition to meet all the demands of the lake commerce. The immense tonnage which passes through it annually makes it the most conspicuous waterway in the world and it is of the greatest importance that it should accommodate the traffic in the best possible manner.

Many cities throughout the United States are debating the advisability of establishing voting machines. It is a hard matter to decide. If it could be demonstrated beyond all doubt that machines would make dishonest election impossible, this benefit, in addition to the great gain in rapidity and accuracy would be sufficient justification for the large expense incident upon such a change, but of these facts not all city officials are absolutely convinced.

Some reporters interrupted a speaker in the German reichstag and stung by their taunts and jeers the speaker called the newspaper men swine. Thereupon the pencil pushers rose in their dignity and refused to report the proceedings of the reichstag until the epithet was publicly retracted. The retraction was made and the legislative work proceeded. Just imagine newspaper reporters interrupting and jeering at speakers in the American congress!

The Memphis Commercial Appeal deplores the custom of carrying fire arms in the south. It says the law

against carrying pistols ought to be rigidly enforced and public opinion should be made so strong against it that men will stop it. It closes an urgent appeal to do away with the custom that has caused the loss of so many human lives by saying "Let's make human life in all these states such a sacred thing that only God or the due form of God's law can destroy it."

The third assistant postmaster general gave out the following figures concerning the value of stamps issued annually. For the year ending June 1, 1907, the value of "stamped stock" issued to postmasters was \$173,000,670.27. This consisted of 9,331,919,055 pieces of stamped paper and 17,686,800 stamp books. The value of the postal cards for the year was \$125,310,349. Stamped envelopes \$27,654,493.42, and wrappers \$579,885.25. Uncle Sam does quite a stroke of business in his department store when you come to foot it up.

The old McKinley home at Canton, Ohio, has been sold to strangers. It was for many years associated with the happiness and successes of a greatly beloved man. It was the scene of the most marvelous political campaign the country has ever experienced. It was from that home that McKinley was borne to his last resting place near by and it was there that his loving wife passed her last years of loneliness and sorrow. Somehow it does not seem quite right that that home should cease to be associated with McKinley.

It is estimated that since last October about 40,000 sturdy Americans from the western states have crossed over into Canada to settle in the newer sections of the Dominion. These people, unlike the immigrant from southern Europe who are leaving us, we can ill afford to lose. They are, for the most part, well-to-do farmers who are leaving well developed farms to take possession of newer lands that they believe offer larger returns. They take with them considerable sums of money and are honest and desirable citizens which America needs.

The task set by President Roosevelt for congress in requesting them to enact federal laws for the suppression of anarchistic doctrines is a hard one. The public danger which the president seeks to avert is not like open crime and armed violence or rebellion which is easily reached by the law. The question is how to get hold of the sly and cunning agitator who fires the brains of mentally unbalanced persons and leads them to willingly sacrifice their own lives to commit some terrible crime in the spirit of martyrdom. It is not an easy problem to solve, but so long as these agitators are abroad in the land there is no safety for life or property.

Because of the strained relations between the Japanese and Chinese governments which might cause a visit of our fleet to the Chinese ports as an indication of the intention of the United States to resist the encroachments of Japan in Manchuria, or of a disposition to unite with Great Britain and other powers in trying to stop the nationalistic boycott movement in China, a compromise plan has been adopted by our government according to which the fleet will be divided into two squadrons which will visit Japanese and Chinese ports simultaneously. Both countries are preparing for extensive naval reviews as a welcome to the Americans.

There are peculiar national prejudices as to the division of labor between the sexes. In America women are admitted to almost every profession and vocation, yet few engage in the sordid grinding labor of the heavier kind, such as the peasant women of European countries perform. In France a woman may be admitted to the bar or may drive a cab, but it is not thought proper that she should become a doctor or even a trained nurse. In London women are preferred as nurses but can by no means plead at the bar. In Stockholm you can be deftly shaved by a woman or hire one to carry in your firewood or do any heavy menial work which American women rarely perform. The industrializing of women is working great social changes, some for the betterment of the race, others not so helpful. In its general tendency, however, the emancipation of women from a strictly domestic career is toward her welfare and that of the race.

How many of our school children's parents ever visit the schools or even know the teachers when they meet them on the streets? How many know what their children are studying or how their children are progressing? Did you ever think how differently we treat our children from what we do our houses and our homes. If we have a house to paint or any job around the home to do, how many people say to the man they employ "Here are the tools and the material. Go ahead and do it to suit yourself and that will suit us." If one man should hear a neighbor give such directions as this to a hired man, he would think it was extraordinary to say the least

and yet when they come to their children that is exactly the way they are treated. Parents say by their actions "Here is my child with its books, paper and pencil. I furnish material and tools, now educate him as you see fit." Wouldn't it be better, admitting that the teachers are proficient and know their line of work well, to at least visit the schools often and give them personal encouragement by having them realize that you are interested constantly in knowing just how your child is getting along in his or her studies. Just think about this.

ENGLAND'S BIG PROBLEM.

All our difficulties with the negro question at home and the government of the Philippines abroad are a bagatelle as compared with the problem that faces Great Britain and her future in India. It is the race question and the government question combined. It is political and economic and racial. It is the growth of half a century of slowly deepening and maturing discontent. It is evidenced in recent outbreaks in some of the great cities of India, and in discoveries of secret arrangements for a revolutionary movement throughout the whole country. Discontent is ripening, and British statesmanship will be put to it to handle an issue as grave as any nation ever faced.

The trouble is that Britain's rule of India has been neither good enough nor bad enough to secure permanency. Had her rulers been mere despots like Clive, they might have made good their control indefinitely among a people to whom despotism has been familiar for centuries and who are accustomed to cringe to the lash. But English opinion would not tolerate that. Had her declared purpose been to prepare India for self government, the people would have waited patiently for that. But what England has done is to encourage education according to English ideas among a people not prepared for self government, and to hold out to them no future hope. They have been, on the whole, well governed. But they have been exploited by capital, ground to the earth by the usurer, and after passing through high schools and universities, made to remember always that they are an inferior race.

To the Englishman the Hindu is nothing but a "nigger," and the Hindu has his own hardly matched pride of race. The commonest foresight might have seen that here was gathering material for a terrible outbreak some day. All India is seething with discontent. A population numbering more than all the rest of the empire put together is united, profoundly dissatisfied, bent on acquiring privileges that it knows not how to exercise. The mutiny of fifty years ago was horrible. The next is likely to be even more disastrous.

A SCANDAL AND A CRIME.

Of course everybody knew that if Thaw was acquitted of the brutal and cold blooded murder that he committed, the next move would be to get him out of the insane asylum. He was sent there only to save him from the gallows. The money that accomplished the one wrong is now used to compass the other. Indeed it was a great concession to decency that his friends waited a few weeks between the farce of his acquittal and the other farce of release. This is what the insanity dodge is for. It is the old shell game of "now you see it and now you don't see it," and the value of the Thaw case is that it illustrates the whole motive and operation of the thing with unusually brutal frankness.

There is not the slightest reason for this scandal and disgrace on civilization. The present condition of our criminal laws with relation to homicide and insanity presents two combined. They are framed for just such purposes as this; to open a way of escape for the guilty who have great wealth or powerful friends, while the poor and weak may get along as best they can. There is not an honest man whose blood does not boil at the thought that it is left within the power of any man or any set of men to set at liberty a criminal who has been placed in an asylum on his own statement that he is insane, made to relieve him from danger of the greater and juster penalty that the law attaches to murder.

It would be the simplest thing in the world to make the law just. Doubtless there are cases where men kill others in a fit of insanity. Doubtless public opinion will not permit them to be executed, though the wisdom of that may be questioned. But one thing is certain; no man who is acquitted on a charge of murder because he is pronounced insane should ever be set at liberty. The law should place him beyond the reach of pardon or release. If he is afterward declared sane, he should go to the penitentiary for life. For even if his plea be genuine, no one can promise that the insane fit will not return and another murder be done. Of all the weaknesses of our laws, this is one of the worst and least defensible.

APPOINT A COMMISSION.

The house of representatives should stand solidly behind its committee on banking and currency, which refused to consider the Aldrich bill at all,

declined to favor the Vreeland bill, and voted to report the Fowler bill for the appointment of a currency commission composed of members of each house of congress and a large number of outside persons familiar with the currency question. This is the only method of treatment that promises to the country any hope of that currency reform which it needs and for which it has waited so long.

Of course the main good of the proposed plan is the salvation of the country from the incalculable evils threatened by the Aldrich bill. Apparently the earnest protests of business men and bankers from every section but especially from the west and northwest, have had their effect. This measure, the shrewd product of the gamblers of Wall Street, viciously seeking to bribe the people by promising them an unlimited market for bonds when they wanted to borrow, would have authorized the speculators to do about what they pleased with the currency. The Vreeland bill was even worse; for without eliminating a single bad feature of the other, it added an asset currency in the shape of permitting issues against commercial paper as well as against bonds. It was a mere hodge-podge. And as for the bill of Chairman Fowler himself, while it is the only attempt made to approach the currency in a rational and scientific spirit, it would be hopeless to try to educate either congress of the country up to it in the few weeks remaining possible for this session.

Therefore very much the best thing that can be done is to appoint a commission. It should be constituted of experts. It will be able to present conclusions in such shape that the country can digest and understand them. It can take time and have recommendations ready for congress when it assembles in the fall. We shall not be rushed into a deep pit from which there is no rescue. The party will not have to defend itself at the coming election against the charge of serving the big money interests. And as there is no present need whatever of an emergency currency, the country will not suffer.

AROUND TOWN.

Been swimmin' yet?

Another school year has raced away.

Before long the days'll be getting shorter again.

There are many ways of flattering a woman; but tell a man his Panama is the best you've ever seen.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS.

Most parents in raising children don't know the difference between training and the lack of it.

Of course it is not polite to ask a guest when she is going home, but everyone would like to ask it.

Repenting of sin is a great deal like pulling a heavy sled up hill after you have had a good time sliding down.

It hurts a girl to flirt with the men a good deal more than it hurts a young man to flirt with politics and everyone knows that to flirt with politics is risuous.

"Is that you, dear?" asked a woman as her husband came stumbling into the house at two o'clock in the morning. "Yes," he answered sulkily. "Who'd you expect?"

The first Sunday after a wedding is a great event in a bride's life. She wears all her new togethery to church, and they go to her mother's for dinner after the service.

You must not play cards in Hiawatha on Sunday. In Atchison you must not say anything about it. In Kansas City you play cards on Sunday and tell about it.

Keep smiling. The crop situation couldn't look better.

The young man who graduates gets just about as much attention as the groom at a wedding.

Faint rumblings here and there seem to indicate that a political storm, statewide in its effect, is beginning to gather.

The June bride will take her place in the center of the stage just as soon as the girl graduate gets through delivering her oration.

Three little boys in West Point who stole ice cream from a party, were arrested and fined \$4 and costs, besides having to pay for the ice cream.

A report from Pierce says that the white caps who thrashed Otto Hueber, the wife beater, will be arrested and made an example of. But the state has no medal-fund.

The State Journal mixed up a telegram from Norfolk telling about the state U. C. T. convention here. The Journal said the "W. C. T. U." had been meeting in Norfolk and gave the names of well known traveling men as the officers. Some of the U. C. T. men may be husbands of the W. C. T. U. women, but not a man in the U. C. T. convention is a member

in good standing of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The lawns look particularly pretty for this time of winter.

This is Farmer Burns' last appearance in Norfolk until after he and Gorch have taken a turn around the globe.

When a man changes to summer clothes, he ought to carry a winter's supply around in his pocket for quick change in case of emergency.

The Kansas City Star says that even so conservative a man as Senator Allison could almost safely predict the nomination of Taft in Chicago - if Taft lives, and if the convention is held.

For the next month there'll hardly be a day go by without developing somebody who knew Mrs. Guinness. But the fellows who went through the real excitement aren't alive to tell it.

A lot of art creations along the millinery line could be purchased very cheap in Norfolk just now. Several scores of young people, it develops, were caught in the Sunday night rain storm with generally disastrous effects on the feminine wearing apparel.

There's a new man in Norfolk who is being admired by all the women. He came to town ahead of his wife, unpacked the furniture, tacked down the carpets, hung the lace curtains, put the proper scarf on each dresser and the proper ornament on the center table; did it all, they say, better than nine-tenths of the women could do; and then, before the family arrived, went out on a still hunt for a hired girl so that when his wife gets here she will feel perfectly at home and not have to worry about washing the dishes.

The past season has been the most disastrous in theatrical circles ever known. Most of the companies went broke. Cities much larger than Norfolk had difficulty in getting high class attractions. By a turn of good luck Norfolk now has a chance to close the season with "The District Leader," one of the most popular musical comedies of the day. The music was written by Joseph B. Howard, whose "The Time, The Place and the Girl," "The Flower of the Ranch" and "The Land of Nod," have all made tremendous hits. Several other cities are after this same date, June 5, but if Norfolk wants the show—and wants it earnestly enough to guarantee a house—Norfolk is going to get it.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS.

If brooms could talk, how the old broom could deride the work of the new one!

"If you have a wife who insists on bossing you," said Lyander John Appleton today, "either submit to her in everything, or get a divorce. Don't squabble."

A girl of sixteen walks as though she owned the earth and after she has been married a few years, she walks as if she were carrying it on her shoulders.

We have noticed that when you tell a woman her daughter is just the image of her when she was that age, the mother looks pleased and the daughter looks scared.

A man can waver from the truth as much as he likes, in bestowing compliments; but when he criticises, a great fuss is made if he deviates from the truth in the least.

No boy ever had so great a respect for his mother he didn't consider her foolish about guns and swimming holes.

Almost any man would rather remain ignorant of a thing than to have it explained to him by someone he does not like.

The more a girl likes and admires her father and brothers the less likely that she will idealize a worthless lover into a hero.

How hard women will work to earn a little money! No man is as liberal with his "women folks" in this respect as he should be.

An Atchison girl who is too proud to be seen carrying a bundle gets her packages home from town by wearing them in her pompadour.

A Spin dreams that if there was a man in the house she would have someone to protect her, but after she gets the man, she finds she has something to protect.

Men do not like to be bothered by women selling tickets. However politely they may receive the woman they will fuss in private. A woman has no right to work her friends in the ticket way.

Almost any poultry journal will tell you how to make money raising turkeys, but if you want real inside information, ask a farmer's wife, and you are pretty sure to choose some other road to wealth.

In Atchison, when a man goes away to "do better," and returns content to remain here, people say, "He went fishing when the water was high." (Chart: You can't catch fish in a creek when the water is high and muddy.)

In one hour you may materially improve your education" as to many useful subjects by reading the ads.