

The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal

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The people of the United States consume \$500,000,000 worth of soft drinks annually.

The American people seem much more ready to "let George do it" now than they were in 1776.

Barges made of concrete are in use by the Panama canal commission. What will not concrete be used for next?

The icebergs are making their annual pilgrimage down through Davis strait. Atlantic steamships keep a constant lookout to avoid these frigid messengers from the arctic.

If Mr. Taft should be expelled from the Steam Shovelers' union for attending a boycotted ball game, how could he make the dirt fly at Panama any more?

The Arkansas strawberry, the Missouri peach crop and all the small fruit of the central west is gone. As yet we have not heard from the crop of dried prunes.

It is up to the night police to become very familiar with the appearance of the comet, if they wish to retain the confidence of the people in their wakefulness.

The life of a naval vessel is indeed brief. The Winslow, the torpedo boat on which Ensign Bagley lost his life in the Spanish war, is to be retired and will soon go to the scrap pile.

There are no women in the Wyoming penitentiary. There is a scarcity of them throughout the state. This may account for their absence in the state pen, but this view is not complimentary.

The particles in the comet's tail, say the astronomers, will be but one 25,000th of an inch in diameter. This looks as if they would find their way into the vegetable cellar where we had planned to take refuge.

Monuments to Poles who helped us win independence were unveiled at Washington May 11. Bleeding Poland's sympathy for people struggling for freedom was gained through personal experience of the carving knife.

The latest effort of the poet, Laureate, has poor meter, but what of that? If the modern poet ends up with a matched pair of rhymes, he cares little what somersaults they may have turned while coming through the bushes.

President Taft has established a precedent which adds the opening of the baseball season to the many functions of the chief executive. It is fortunate that he is not made national umpire. That would be worse than umpiring congress.

Dr. Batten, rector of St. Mark's church in New York, is meeting with remarkable success in curing the drink habit by hypnosis. He believes the cure infallible and treats all who come to him free of cost as a part of the church extension work.

Poor Costa Rica thought it was pretty dull, so long a time between revolutions. But it was not ready to see 1,800 people wiped out, by way of excitement, as the result of an earthquake.

Quite a clean-up of the bucket shops is going on. But there will be plenty of chance for little lambs to dispose of their pelts gratis. Still, the bulk of the shearers will have to hunt some new business.

Over in Europe Colonel Roosevelt has to consult specialists to keep his throat in working order, while at home all that was necessary was a force of mechanics to keep his typewriters tuned up.

The churches are trying to prevent the big fight in California. They will make little progress in a neighborhood where jabbing a fellow under the jaw is the common method of conducting an intellectual discussion.

Canadian magazine explosions are worse than ours. Near Ottawa fifteen were killed, but when one of our magazines explodes, all that happens is that a space writer gets a cent a word to pay the landlady with.

The Mexicans prefer American shoes to any other make. Our trade interests there are increasing rapidly. Our modern machinery and agricultural implements are gradually replacing the rude methods of the primitive race.

Colonel Roosevelt's appointment as special ambassador to represent the United States at the funeral of King

Edward VII is a most fitting one, but it is a very different capacity from that in which Mr. Roosevelt expected to meet King Edward.

Mr. Bryan returns from South America greatly impressed with the vast possibilities of the country. He believes it capable of furnishing homes to from twenty-five to fifty million emigrants during the next half century.

Pocket telephones with transmitters which may be connected with "tapped" wires anywhere along the streets or where underground wires are being "plugged" in the sidewalk, on the side of the house or a post are among the near probabilities in the telephone line.

Samuel Untermeyer, the noted New York jurist, believes that a public defender should be provided to plead the cause of the poor and ignorant as well as a public prosecutor. It is the belief of this eminent lawyer that unjust convictions especially among our foreign element are far more frequent than most of us would care to admit.

There are many towns which have had such a thorough civic awakening that the citizens leagues supply the children with flower and vegetable seeds in the spring and offer a series of prizes for clean backyards, and the best vegetable and flower gardens. The plan works well and tends to greatly enhance the beauty and neatness of the towns employing the system.

President Taft entertained Prince Tsai Tao, brother of the Prince Regent of China, at the white house with due ceremony. Uniformed soldiers lined his pathway to the green room where the president expressed his gratification that American capital had been so cordially received in China.

It seems unfortunate, but yet not strange that in the new west sheep raising should be made difficult by the prevalence of coyotes and wolves, but when we read that the dogs have reduced the number of sheep in the old and supposedly civilized states of Massachusetts from 200,000 to 25,000 we hardly know whether to be amused or disgusted.

Secretary Wilson gives sterling advice when he urges the proper cultivation of the soil as the only permanent means of relief from a continuation of the increase in the cost of living. "We cannot afford to buy food from foreign countries," he says, "and we must see to it that our farms produce sufficient not alone for home consumption, but also to sell abroad and square up the balance of trade."

Mr. Bryan's remarkable statement that "if the newspapers of this country did their duty to the public, there is not a wrong that could last one year in the United States," is certainly flattering in the power it attributes to the press, but the scattering abroad of such a preposterous sophomoric statement makes one wonder at the mind which jumbles them up with real flashes of wisdom.

During 1909 600 cases of infantile paralysis were reported in Boston. In many other localities it was alarmingly prevalent. The medical scientists connected with the Rockefeller institute are using every known means to discover the exact character of the disease and its means of communication which is now much of a mystery in medicine. The country waits anxiously for its successful solution.

Among the dozens of rejected war craft which the navy has listed to go out of commission because they are useless or obsolete, not one is of the American design. The Texas is the only battleship to be retired, that was built as an experiment on foreign designs under Cleveland. The rest are monitors, cruisers and gunboats built before we knew a warship from a dredge boat. It is not age that retires most of them, but the fact that they were always useless.

The battleship Florida, just launched from the Brooklyn navy yards, is the heaviest ship ever launched from an American yard and it is earnestly hoped in navy circles that nothing will happen to disable her for the next two years, at least, since there is not a dry dock on either coast large enough to hold her. Such a dock as ships of this size require is being constructed in New York but it will take two or three years to complete the big basin.

England's new king is far better acquainted with the people of Canada, Australia and South Africa than his father was, and is thought by the colonials to have a more comprehensive idea of the value of these colonies than King Edward had. In the former king's mind India was the all important possession, but today the colonies have far greater possibilities than India. George V will be a wise man if he keeps the good will of his colonies.

Citizens of Nicaragua declare that the abuses to which the inhabitants of that unhappy country are subjected

are equal to those of the Congo. Men, women and children are tortured to make them give information which will lead to the arrest of insurgents. An appeal has been made to President Taft to interfere with the government of the republic in the interest of humanity. It looks as though the United States had troubles enough of her own just now without borrowing any.

For 155 years the grave of General Braddock, who lost his life in the unsuccessful expedition against the French at Fort Duquesne, has remained unhonored on a lonely mountain side. Recently the patriotic citizens of Fayette county have purchased a tract of twenty-three acres surrounding his grave, lying along the national pike beyond Uniontown and this summer it will be fittingly dedicated by British Ambassador Bryce and presented to the government as a national park. Sooner or later faithful service is sure to be rewarded, but 155 years is a long time to wait.

The uprising in China is discouraging to those who have worked for the civilization and enlightenment of the people. Still it cannot be expected that a mass of 400,000,000 people will occupy a territory as extensive as that of the United States and differing among themselves as radically as do the Latin nations of Spain, Portugal, France and Italy. Such an impetuous bulk is not readily electrified even by the powerful batteries of modern civilization. China is not a nation, as we speak of nations. It can be compared only to India. Japan is the only nation, in a western sense, in all Asia.

To the officers of the standing army who were in service during the civil war and waited long for their promotions in some instances, the rapidity with which the veterans of the Spanish war and Philippine insurrection have been advanced, is quite amazing. One reason for this is that the standing army has been much larger since 1898 than it was following the civil war, thus demanding more officers. Then, too, President Lincoln promoted a large number of civilians to higher ranks in the civil war which, of course, is not being done now, hence the rate of promotion is much more rapid than formerly.

There has been an alarming amount of waste and blundering connected with the actual carrying into effect of the federal irrigation schemes. There are instances where work has been begun on incomplete engineering data and completed before it was discovered that there was no water to fill the reservoirs. Other works have proven far more costly than was at first estimated. It seems impossible to carry through a piece of work for the government as cheaply and efficiently as the same work can be done for private individuals.

The American dinner is certainly a movable feast. For many years the noon hour held the popular favor, later the town people dined at 1 o'clock, thus distinguishing themselves from the country folks. For many years the city dwellers considered the 6 o'clock dinner the height of fashion, but this too has passed. Seven o'clock is preferable, 8 o'clock much better form and those who advocate high living instead of high thinking are agitating 9. Historical research shows that scarcely an hour of the day has not sometime, among some people, been the popular dinner hour.

The movent throughout the country to supply a counter irritant on July 4 in the shape of huge parades and other entertainments to compensate the children for being deprived of the priceless privilege of blowing their eyes out and their fingers off with giant crackers and toy pistols is altogether wise and desirable, but unless each city and town council passes an ordinance prohibiting the sale of dangerous fireworks, the parade will be simply supplementary to the regular program of maiming, blinding and infecting which young America usually indulges in on Independence day.

The citizens of the great republic have no need to fear when the Panama canal is finally completed and open to the commerce of the world, that any foreign foe will ever gain control of this great American waterway connecting the oceans. Plans are fully completed for fortifying the canal so that hostile fleets will give the big ditch and its surrounding a wide berth. The Pacific end of the canal will be protected by fortifications placed on three small islands off the coast and by a battery on the main land. The Atlantic end will be protected by two fortifications on each side of the channel. All these fortifications will be provided with the most powerful guns made and manned by the most expert gunners of the coast artillery corps.

Why should the west insurge against things as they are? If prices are high, who is getting the benefit of those high prices but the west? If meat is high, who but the western farmer is reaping the harvest? If corn is high, where does the money come except

into this country? And when the farm—the foundation of all this middle-west—is prosperous, prosperity abounds everywhere. The west has no occasion to rise up in arms against prosperity. It's time to let well enough alone.

BE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED. It's the last chance today that Norfolk will have in ten years to get credit for its population in a federal census. That population ought to run considerably over 6,000 people if everybody is counted. But everybody must be counted.

If you aren't yet counted, telephone Census Enumerators Ed Harter or H. G. Wiles, or phone The News. If in doubt, telephone. It is to the interest of every dollar's worth of property in Norfolk, and of every citizen, that the city's complete population should be accredited on Uncle Sam's list. And this is the last day.

So be sure you've been counted before you go to bed tonight.

THE TAFT LETTER. President Taft has become a witness in the Ballinger investigation of his own volition, for the sake of clearing up the authenticity of the letter which he wrote last fall exonerating the secretary of the interior from wrongdoing. Likewise he explains that he himself ordered the attorney general to back date the summary of Glavis charges, for the reason that the president had heard the oral summary before he wrote his letter of exoneration.

The cause of Ballinger has been materially strengthened by this latest letter of the president, in which he points out that he did not exonerate the secretary until he had very exhaustively and carefully weighed the evidence, and the administration itself comes out of a situation which the "prosecution" tried to make appear like a bad mess, with clean hands.

HOUSE CLEANING. House cleaning is now in full swing, and it behooves mere man to be conscious of his limitations, and accept with a meek and chastened spirit the operations of domestic forces against which he wars in vain.

The fact that he has no eye for dirt, and that he would never of himself discover accumulations of dust about his home, was once to him the source of much congratulation. But in view of our present knowledge concerning the athletic and gamy microbes, this complacency is most injudicious. Better let the purging forces go on, and not interfere with the drastic work of broom or mop. Mr. Man, if you want to save the doctor's bill!

As for womankind, however, let her beware how she interferes with the desk and bureau drawers, where lies entrenched the down trodden male for a last ditch fight.

AROUND TOWN. Are you spending the winter at home?

How would it do to put salt on the comet's tail?

Please, Mr. Weather Man, cut out the frosting.

How would you like to have a disc run over you?

Friday, the 13th, has come and gone, and still we live.

Here's betting Norfolk has more than 6,000 people.

This is working the furnace overtime. It ought to strike.

Wouldn't it be raw to have to buy still another half ton of coal?

It's pretty hard to work up a real sure-enough Indian uprising these days.

Ever notice how easy it is to forget to wind your watch when you stay up all night?

Will you take the 8 o'clock or the 10 o'clock car on the Norfolk-Newman Grove interurban?

Joe McKay and Dr. Hyde will always think Friday, the 13th, had something to do with it.

Be sure you're counted before you go to bed tonight. It's the last chance for ten years.

Norfolk will issue a card of thanks to the babes that were born before Saturday night.

Looks as if the man who said he wouldn't change 'em till June, had it doped out about right, after all.

A newspaper headline says: "Rain checks forest fire." Who ever would have thought they issued rain checks at forest fires?

Norfolk is on its way. A woman in town has been wearing a \$40 hat all this week. She's from a little town near Norfolk, and is visiting here.

Watching the McKay murder case at Neliagh and the Hyde case at Kansas City is like a two-ring circus. Probably no circus for Hyde and McKay, though.

The men who bet on the date the ice would break up in the Yukon river ought to be spending their time betting

on whether the bird on the fence will fly or remain perched on the fence. It's just as sure a bet, and more quickly decided.

WATCHDOG SIGHTS. Women are modest enough until a doctor begins asking them questions.

There are so many lazy men that prizes should be given for those who work.

Plenty of good men cannot make a speech.

Call "Girls!" and those of 60 look around just as quickly as those of 16.

We hope some man will finally be found who never loved but one woman.

Our idea of a hopelessly sissy man is one who can describe a woman's hat.

Notice to the public: A newspaper reporter on the streets is not looking for jokes.

We know lots of men who would be good fellows if they would only stop telling jokes.

It is awfully old-fashioned to believe that you are all right, and that other people are very wicked.

After a man is married he can tell a piece of bait farther away than any single man that ever lived.

We don't believe the men look for second wives as industriously as they used to.

In trying to get the best of it, every man is apt to be careless of the rights of others.

Most of the men looking for work cannot do it in a satisfactory manner after they find it.

Every man who gets up picnics thinks that really he should be known as "The Rain Maker."

Women think one of the best things that can be said about a man is, "He isn't hard to cook for."

Let any man lose a good office, and become poor and soon he has the symptoms of an anarchist.

"If anyone steals my body after I am dead, I'll haunt him.—Drake Watson.

The talk of a lover should be taken one way, and the talk of a husband another.

How proud army officers are! If they could they would crow as much as roosters.

As we become older, we are about convinced that it is possible to catch anyone in a lie.

No one really cares if a man does rob Peter to pay Paul, so he doesn't happen to be Peter.

The women say that unless you are very careful, it is easy to get an ugly carpet on your floor.

A woman does love the notion of a secret sorrow, and when she has one she makes it public.

The Philistine: If you can neither fly nor climb, don't be discouraged; perhaps you can kick.

The disadvantages of being in the confidence of someone is, he expects you to take up all his fusses.

Now comes an original sort of reformer, and says that prices are high because of trading stamps!

No man ever loses every hair on his head: Death always arrives in time to spare that affliction.

Talk with any little man long enough, and he will remind you that Napoleon was of small stature.

Most agitation is for the mere purpose of agitation, without any well-conceived, healthy purpose in view.

A woman whose stocking doesn't wrinkle is said to be a good housekeeper, but then how can you tell?

An editor in a Kansas town sold out because he never received "sympathy" and "encouragement." He never deserved either.

A woman can't whip a man, but she can look at him in a certain way and hurt him worse than a whipping would.

On a rainy day, you have a genuinely sunny disposition if you don't think once of an overturned headstone and a sunken grave.

The smaller the town, the more layers there are in company cake. In a big city like New York they are satisfied with only two.

When a woman's dresses are particularly freaky you are pretty apt to hear her boast: "I design all my own clothes."

We try to be progressive, and believe in great movements, but we never expect to get lost in a forest which was planted on Arbor day.

Be patient while removing the cold creams, silver-topped toilet water and perfume bottles, powder and manicure implements from Daughter's dressing table, in order to dust. In only a few more years she will be married, and the toilet articles on her bureau will consist of one comb with half the teeth out.

SPLIT LOG DRAG VALUABLE DEVICE

MAKES IMPASSABLE ROADS SMOOTH AND SERVICEABLE.

CAN BE MADE AT LOW COST

Invention of D. Ward King, a Good Road Advocate of Missouri, is Very Simple Contrivance That Any Farmer Can Have.

The split log drag is one of the devices which refuse to be scouted out of existence in the making of good earth roads. It was devised a number of years ago by D. Ward King of Maitland, Mo. Mr. King is a native of Ohio.

He says that one grave mistake is commonly made in constructing the



CONDITION OF A ROADWAY BEFORE USING DRAG.

[From Southern Good Roads Magazine.] A dry red cedar log is the best material for the drag. Red elm and walnut when thoroughly dried are excellent, and box elder, soft maple and even willow are preferred to oak, hickory or ash.

The log should be seven or eight feet long and from ten to twelve inches in diameter and carefully split down the middle. The heaviest and best slab should be selected for the front. The two slabs should be held thirty inches apart by the stakes.

A strip of iron about three and a half feet long, three or four inches wide and one-fourth inch thick may be used for the blade. This should be attached to the front slab. A platform of inch boards, held together by three cleats, should be placed on the stakes between the slabs. An ordinary trace chain is strong enough to draw the implement, provided the clevis is not fastened through a link.

The successful operation of a drag involves two principles which, when thoroughly understood and intelligently applied, make road working with this implement simple. The first concerns the length and position of the hitch, while the second deals with the position of the driver on the drag. For ordinary purposes the snatch link or clevis should be fastened far enough toward the blade end of the chain to force the unloaded drag to follow the team at an angle of forty-five degrees. This will cause the earth to move along the face of the drag smoothly and will give comparatively light draft to the team, provided the driver rides in the line of draft.

Usually two horses are enough to pull a drag over an ordinary earth road. The team should be driven with one horse on either side of the right



RESULTS GAINED BY THE DRAG.

[From Southern Good Roads Magazine.] hand wheel track or rut the full length of the portion to be dragged and the return made over the other half of the roadway.

The drag does the best work when the soil is moist, but not sticky. The advantages to be gained from the persistent use of a road drag may be summarized as follows:

First.—The maintenance of a smooth, serviceable earth road, free from ruts and mudholes.

Second.—Obtaining such a road surface with the expenditure of a little money and labor in comparison with the money and labor required for other methods.

Third.—The reduction of mud in wet weather and of dust in dry weather.

There are also several minor benefits gained from the use of a road drag besides the great advantages which always accrue from the formation of improved highways, of which may be mentioned the banishment of weeds and grass from the dragged portion of the road.

Road Builder Valuable Citizen. No community can have a more valuable citizen than he who understands the theory of road building and who is at the same time a practical road builder and an enthusiast on the subject.

Cruel Blow. "Are you aware of the fact," remarked Miss Cutting, "that I am a mind reader?" "Never suspected it, weally," answered young Soffleigh. "Would you—aw—object to wedding my mind." "Certainly not," she replied. "Bring it with you the next time you call."

ROAD BUILDING AS AN ART.

Establishment of Chairs on Subject in Colleges Urged by an Expert.

Samuel Hill, a son-in-law of James J. Hill, the northwest railway magnate and the president of the American Road Builders' association, takes a practical view of the roadmaking art. He asserts it needs trained men and advocates the establishment of road building chairs in all the important colleges of the United States and especially at West Point.

He has succeeded in impressing this view upon some of the institutions of learning of the state of Washington, of which he is a resident, and 200 young men in that state are studying the road building course this year.

Mr. Hill declares that in five years in consequence of the interest taken by the local colleges in this matter and the progressive attitude of the legislature, which devotes one-third of the revenues of the state to road building, Washington will have the best system of roads in the United States.

Whether Washington, one of the youngest states of the Union, will be able in that time to outstrip all her sister states in providing a modern highway system may be open to question, but there is sound sense in the recommendation that a system of education in practical road building shall be established as a prerequisite to the construction of a general system of permanent highways in the United States.

Much of the money heretofore devoted to the construction of roadways that are lanes in dry weather and a succession of quagmires in wet has previously been wasted, partly through the ignorance of the roadmakers as to what constituted a good road.

The first step toward putting an end to this waste and entering upon scientific methods will be the training of a lot of students in the art of making roads.

ROADWAYS OF LEAVES.

Give One the Impression of Carpet, as They Are Noiseless.

Leaves without a doubt would be considered by many a very poor material for making roadways in most parts of the world, but in certain dis-



A LEAF HIGHWAY.

tricts in the United States, especially Florida, and in some sections of Europe such a material is used with great success. In these sections are miles and miles of road that would be almost impassable by reason of the deep sand were it not for leaves.

Serviceable for this purpose are the leaves of the long leaf pine. These leaves, which are much like straw in appearance, should be raked over the sandy roadbed once a year, say about October.

The result is a highway that gives one the impression of a carpet, as neither the horses' feet nor the wheels of the vehicles make any noise.

Good Highways Aid Education. Good roads aid education, and the diffusion of knowledge is followed by increased demand for improved highways. Good roads and good schools go hand in hand.

A Good Roads Movement. We've had a good roads movement down to Folke, on the creek.

We raised some ready cash fur what we couldn't get on tick. An' bein' a particular job, we thought it would be wise

To get some men of probity to come an' supervise. An' as a further guarantee 'gainst chances of neglect

We took another set of men an' told 'em to inspect. An' these arrangements didn't seem jes' what they ought to be

Till we'd secured some talent competent to oversee. There arose misundertakin's 'bout employments and rank.

But the payroll checks kep' comin' very regular to the bank. Somehow the highways didn't seem to lose their ruts an' bumps.

An' every time we went to town we had to bump the bumps. We found it hard to comprehend what such delay could mean.

In work so well inspected, supervised an' overseen. The only manual labor on this job that seemed so slow

Was done with great reluctance by a small boy with a hoe. The situation naturally shocked our civic pride.

We called some meetin's, an' the proper people satisfied. We got the overseers to tell exactly what they knew

An' heard from the inspectors an' the supervisors too. Then we drew up resolutions an' delivered an address