GOSSIP FROM STATE HOUSE

It is asserted by those in charge that the 1916 state fair will exceed in extent and splendor anything yet attempted by the board.

Live stock shipments in the state for the railroad year ending June 30, last, amounted to 65,284 cars, being nearly 7,000 more than the year previous.

Attorney General Reed has filed application with the supreme court for an injunction to prevent the railroads of the state reverting to the three cent passenger rates.

Nebraska is some agricultural state according to the Department of Agriculture's final figures on the 1915 yield This state is credited with 213,000,001 bushels of corn, 72,000,000 of wheat and 198,000,000 of oats.

State Auditor William H. Smith has just issued a report of the expenses of the state government for the last quarter of 1915, showing a total of \$1,107,220.68, the total of the previous quarter being \$1,124,932.94.

Charles A. Randali, of Newman Grove has accepted the republican primary nomination for state railway commissioner, tendered him a few days ago in a voters' petition sent from that place to the secretary of

The first section of the annual report of the state rallway commission, filed with the governor, shows that during the year 1915, fifty-nine licenses were issued to public warehouse firms. The report idicates there will be an increase this year. The commission believes the law is a good one and has proved very beneficial to farmers who do not wish to sell on current markets, but prefer to hold for better prices. However, the commission thinks that a state inspection should be required.

A reduction from \$1.26 to 80 cents per ton in the shipping rate on ice from Wymore to Omaha and South Omaha has been ordered by the state railway commission on the complaint of M. L. Rawlings, an ice dealer at Wymore, against the Burlington railroad. Rawlings claimed that he was the victim of discrimination and showed that ice is shipped from Sioux City and Laketon to Omaha, a greater distance than from Wymore, at the 80-cent rate.

An enormous decrease in the amount of farm mortgages filed in Nebraska during 1915 is shown by the summary made up in the state labor commissioner's office, as compared with past years. The total number filed is given as 14,122 and the total amount \$7,074, 148, in sixty counties. In 1914, eighty four counties reported 19,470 mort gages filed, amounting to \$86,886,758, On the other hand, the releases of farm mortgages for 1915, as reported from sixty-three counties, totaled 12,471 in number and \$12,299,624 in amount. The year previous, eightyfour counties were heard from, with an aggregate of 15,832 representing a valuation of \$7,928,911.

The Tuesday forenoon meeting of the Nebraska State Historical society at Lincoln was devoted to plans for Nebraska's semi-centennial, which is to take place next year. An effort is being made to establish local historical | I societies in every county in order to gather together material and data brought about a realization of the necessity of societies of this kind, Some of the counties have had such organizations for many years.

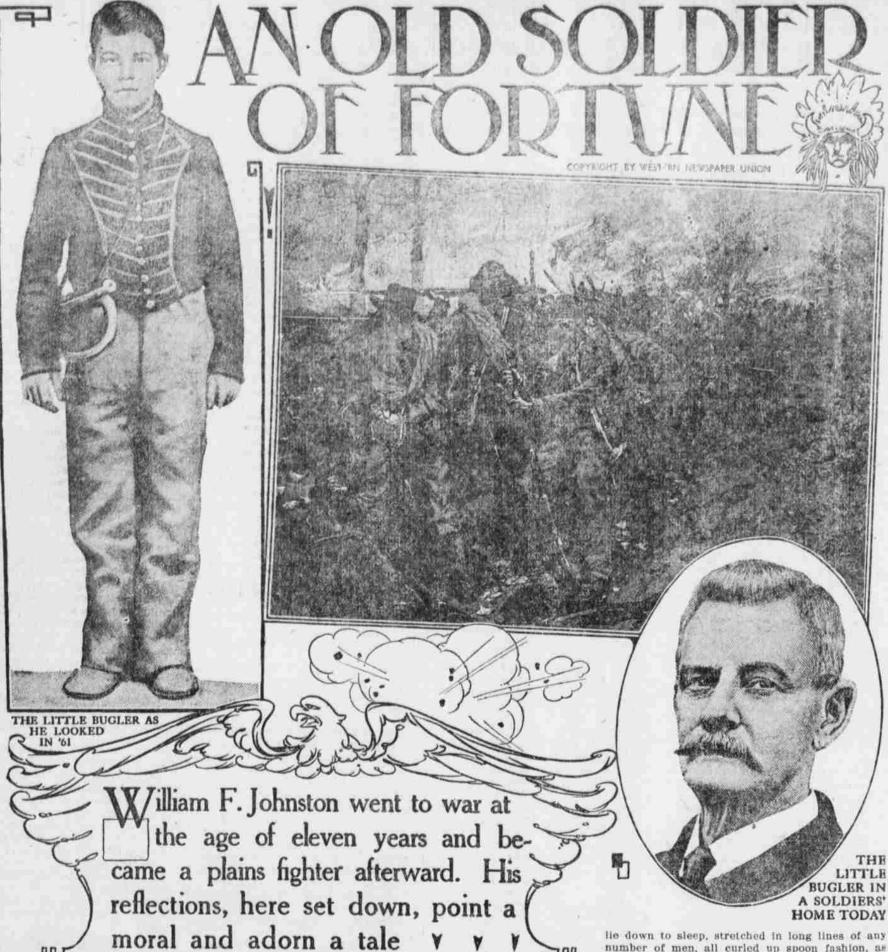
March 4 to 11 is to be Baby Week in Nebraska and all over the United bureau of the United States department of labor and assisted by thousands of members of women's clubs all over the country, an effort will be made to bring about a better understanding concerning children's problems. Although conditions in Nebraska are not so acute as in other sections of the United States, Nebraska women are expecting to take a keen interest in the movement. In an effort to cooperate with the work, the extension Lincoln, will spend a program for this occasion to anyone interested.

State Treasurer Hall has notified the state sanitary live stock commission that fees derived from the statlion registration law may be drawn from the state treasury to pay expenses of the enforcement of the in-spection law. The law as amended provides that the fees shall be paid into the state general fund, but it also carries an appropriation of such fees for the payment of expenses of inspections. The state treasurer has taken no action on fee claims presented to him by the secretaries of the board of health, said

A resolution has passed the Lincoln council authorizing the clerk to draw a warrant for \$25,000 in favor of the state university. This is in accordance with the agreement whereby the city is helping buy the campus extension ground.

Meetings of organized agriculture at Lincoln last week brought out the fact that this state is in splendid condition in all the lines represented. and has been blessed with a term of unusual prosperity in every department of agriculture.

The war has reduced the number of horses in Nebraska just 8,000, according to figures compiled by the Bureau of Crop Estimates, United States department of agriculture. The number in the state January 1 was 1,030,000. compared with 1,038,000 a year ago and the same number five years ago. The value per head was \$94, compared with \$92 a year ago and \$106 five years ago. Mules increased during the year, from 85,000 to 98,000. The price, however, fell off but \$1 a head, being \$104 this year and \$105 last year.



[This "human document" is published as one of the most remarkable letters we ever read. It was not intended for publication originally, but was written by Mr. Johnston, who lives in the Michigan Soldiers' Home, to his brother, an editor in

DEAR Brother George: Your letter of November 27 is at hand, and it warms my old heart to think my little brother is so interested in anything pertaining to my rather uneventful past. Of all things I despise, 'tis an egotist, However, as you wish to know something about your brother Billy's early experience, don't see how I can help telling.

I was born June 18, 1850, in Detroit, Mich., and when the Civil war broke out in 1861, I was going necessary for a proper celebration to school, with no thought of anything but a good and also in order that from this time time and mischief. In July, 1861, when one month on everything of this nature may be past eleven years of age, I offered my services saved. The passing now of old set. in the Ninth Michigan infantry, Company "H," Captlers and with them so much that is tain Adams in command, which was quartered at valuable of the state's history has Fort Wayne. Of course, I ran away from school to enlist, and mother was almost crazy before they found out where I was. They kept me some two weeks at the fort as a drummer boy. I was so short my drum would not clear the ground when marching, and I had got into so much mischief in that time that a sergeant took me to the port gate, took me over his knee and spanked me with a States. Sponsored by the children's leather belt, and told me to beat it for home and mother, which I did. I have always thought my father told them what to do with me.

Well father whipped me and mother cried over me, and as I had got peppered with lice while at the fort, I was made to sleep in the barn for a week, until cleaned up. But the fife and drum were too much for me, and in July, when twelve years and a month old, 1862, I again ran away from home and enlisted in the Twenty-fourth Michigan infantry which was quartered on the old fair grounds in Detroit. I beat the drum and played the devil for ten days, when I was again taken service of the college of agriculture, to the guard line and invited to skip. With the invitation went some kicks and cuffs I have not for-

But the boys were not to blame for the rough treatment they gave me as my father had quietly put them up to it, trying to make me tired of

My brothers and sisters thought I was a hero, father thought I was a devil, but mother thought I was just her own little Billy just the same. But go to school I would not! There was too much attraction on the street, so in Ocober, 1862, my mother packed a little trunk of clothing, and they started me for the Lansing Agricultural college. Well things began to happen then. I arrived at the school in the afternoon of Saturday, October 9, and was to have been examined and put into my classes Monday morning. I might say this was the extent of my college education, and the last of my

Sunday morning Mr. Tibbets, who kept the boarding house for the school, and his wife, left for the day to make a visit. Milton Ward of Detroit, who was at the school at the time, and myself were boon companions, having been acquainted in Detroit. Sunday morning, Milton and I hooked away, and went up to Lansing, as I remember it. a couple of miles away. Milt always had money, and was four or five years older than I. He got a big bag of candy and a bottle of wine. We went out to the school for a lark. After dinner Milt and I and another boy and three or four little girls who were visiting boys at the school, got together in a

Their Day of Pleasure.

Not long ago a North country vi-

car married an elderly couple at 11

day on 't."-London Answers.

big room upstairs, and what a time we did have! Mr. Tibbits and his wife came home and found the lot of us all asleep; some on the floor, some on the bed, but all of us tipsy and sick from the wine. This whole lark was laid at my door. I was locked in a room to be kept until Monday, when I was to be sent back home to my parents. I did not dare go home, as father would certainly have tried, at least, to whip some of the meanness out of me, for I had about used up his patience. So after the house had got quiet at night, I dropped out the window and hiked for Lansing. They were then recruiting for the Sixth Michigan cavalry.

I told the recruiting officer I had no mother or father, that I sold papers and did odd jobs for a living, and swore I was eighteen years old. Sure, he knew better, but they enlisted me regularly as a bugler, and assigned me to Company G, Sixth Michigan cavalry. I was twelve years, three months and twenty-three days old, and was in my third enlistment, but this was the first time I was mustered in. Alf Madden enlisted with me.

I was sent to Grand Rapids where the regiment was camped while being recruited to its full strength. We were mustered into the service there. The life that we led the officers of Company G was anything but pleasant.

In Washington, we camped for a time on Meriden hill from which place we made our first hike. And we tasted war, when we went to Falmouth and skirmished with Moseby's guerrillas. We had the opportunity of trading coffee for tobacco with the Confederate pickets. A white handkerchief on the end of a saber was the signal to stop shooting while the trade was being made between the "Rebs" on the Fredericksburg side of the Rappahannock river and us "Yanks" on the Falmouth side. I must say I never knew of any advantage being taken to shoot a fellow while the trade was being made. In the early spring of 1863, no regiment was kept more busy than the Sixth Michigau looking out for Moseby and his men. We always had them, but never got them to any great extent. Moseby was a wonder.

From then to the time I was taken prisoner we were in eighteen battles and minor engagements between June 30 to October 11, 1863. The Little Bugler never lost a day, but did lose lots of meals in that time

On October 11, 1863, at Brandy station, my horse was shot from under me, and I was taken prisoner. Our regiment was charging through a regiment of enemy cavalry that had got in between the main column and the rear guard, when my horse was struck by a piece of shell between the knee and hoof, throwing me heels over appetite some feet over his head. I was cut and bruised by the feet of the charging troopers, who were behind. When I finally got up it was to look into the barrel of what appeared to me to be a cannon, but in fact was only a .45 Colt, and a fellow in a gray suit was telling me to strip! He took my shoes and pants, and darn him, he could not wear either of them; he was so much larger than I.

I was taken with a trainload of other prisoners to Richmond, Va., but on the way had traded off my blouse for something to eat. We were divided up in bunches after arriving at Richmond. Destiny sent me to old Libby prison, and later to Belle

I had no pants, shoes or hat. One of the older men had given me an old coat. The guard would issue us a few sticks of wood in the evening. We burned our fires as long as possible, and when the fires had burned out to coals we scattered the coals over the ground to warm it, and then would

lie down to sleep, stretched in long lines of any number of men, all curled up spoon fashion, as close together as possible I lay down on the end of the line one cold night

when soon a poor fellow came and snuggled up to me. Along in the early morning when he should have turned to warm my back, he did not move I got up on my elbow and pulled his nose. He was It was the most frightful experience I even

Our dead were usually relieved of any goos clothing they may have had on to be used by those who were almost naked. I had still on what was left of a shirt and pair of drawers that I had worn for almost a year. Can you realize or imagine how little of either were left? I went down to the dead line one morning and saw a body of which was a fine shirt of blue cashmere cloth. 1 went to the gate and asked the officer of the Confederate guard, an old man, if I might remove the shirt from that body to wear myself.

"My poor boy," he said, and gave permission. with tears running down his wrinkled cheeks, to

take the shirt.

A red-whiskered, spindle-shanked, low-down fellow from Wisconsin that I was chumming with, and whom I had kept alive by stealing grub for him to eat, stole that shirt from me. I lost a silver mine in Colorado years ago that sold afterwards for three hundred thousand dollars, but it did not hurt so badly as the loss of that shirt.

Shortly after this, there was a parole of sick and disabled men agreed on by the governments. I got out and walked aboard our transport at Savannah, the raggedest-looking kid that ever left that city. What few troops there were in that transport just stood and cried when they saw our boys. This was the nineteenth of November, 1864.

At Annapolis I got my back pay, ration money and clothing money for the time I had been prisoner, amounting to some \$300, with a furlough for thirty days. I started for Detroit. I can't tell you all that happened on the trip, but I got home broke after a week or ten days on the road.

Father killed the fatted calf, mother had it cooked, and I was made much of by everybody, for I had been reported dead long ago, and they had preached a memorial sermon for me, telling what a good little boy I had been. I came home and spoiled it all. After a few days at home I went to dismounted camp at Harper's Ferry and from the camp was returned to my regiment, then in Washington waiting to take part in the grand review, after which we were sent to Fort Leavenworth. Here I was discharged and the regiment sent out on the plains after Indians.

I went to Denver in the fall of 1865 with a mule train, before there was a railroad in the mountains. I returned to Topeka, Kan, with bull trains, enlisting in the regular army, went to California by way of the isthmus, guarded surveyors in Arizona from the Indians, and fought Indians in Arizona with the First United States cavalry I made a trip into Mexico with a load of phoney jewelry. Later I was arrested as a filibuster spy in Guaymas and was shipwrecked on my trip from Guaymas to Mazatlan. Two out of seven were saved after floating around for thirty-six hours. I was shanghaled in San Francisco and taken around Cape Horn to Dublin, which was the most adventurous five months of my life. I came back to my home in 1873, married in 1874 and settled down to be decent.

I am now a member of the Michigan Soldiers home. Uncle Sam is trying his best to make me comfortable in my declining years. But neither he nor all the powers that be can make up the ten years worse than lost from my twelfth to twenty-second year, for what I did not learn that was rough in that time I have not learned since and it is not in the books.

Country's Future Bright

It is generally believed that what used to be the German Southwest Africa | cases, stand the parcels on end with o'clock in the morning. At three in will develop rapidly during the next five or ten years, and that the demand the edges next to the sides of the the afternoon his duties took him to for agricultural and mining machinery especially will steadily increase. Cape- cases and the back of the bindings the neighboring cemetery, where he town is the nearest trade center and has for years been in constant communimet the same couple seated lovingly cation with German Southwest Africa by boat. It is thought that the railway them with crumpled newspapers to on one of the benches. "You see, systems of the Union of South Africa and of German Southwest Africa will be ease the pressure on the round part of sir," the husband explained. "my wife eventually linked up. Opinions differ as to the comparison of the diamonds the books, which may otherwise be is a rale 'un for pleasure. I wanted of Southwest Africa with those of the Union of South Africa. According to pressed flat. Line the case with wrap to goo back to me work this after- some authorities, they resemble the Kimberley type. Some experts on South ping paper. Lay a thickness of wrapnoon, but th' missus sed we'd better African diamonds, however, hold the view that the stones more closely resem- ping paper over the top and fasten on enjoy ourselves to t' full and mak' a ble those of Brazil. The diamonds in certain areas have been concentrated the cover with screws in preference by the wind action.

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