

# NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS.

## ALL SUBJECTS TOUCHED UPON

Religious, Social, Agricultural, Political and Other Matters Given Due Consideration.

Schuyler is taking steps for the formation of a Young Men's Christian association.

Peter Jansen, living near Jansen, has just sold a section of land near his ranch for \$64,000 or \$100 per acre.

The Empire Hide company's office in Grand Island was robbed, thieves getting the magnificent sum of seven cents.

Burglars of late have been unusually busy at Holdrege. A number of places have been entered, but at none of them were the robbers very successful.

Farmers should all have telephones. Write to us and learn how to get the best service for the least money. Nebraska Telephone Company, 18th and Douglas streets, Omaha. "Use the Bell."

The South Omaha Stock Yards association has elected the following officers: R. J. Dunham, president; John D. Crelighton, vice president; J. C. Sharp, secretary and treasurer; E. Buckingham, general manager.

Work of remodeling the postoffice at McCook has begun. The recent installing of city carriers has vacated a large number of boxes, and these have been taken out, and delivery windows for each carrier placed in their stead.

George Frank of Grand Island, a lad of about 22 years of age, was accidentally shot in the ankle, the discharge of the pumpgun so shattering the bone that amputation was necessary between the ankle and knee.

The Odd Fellows of Cambridge are making preparations to dedicate their new \$14,000 brick temple. The building is nearly completed and will be one of the finest lodge homes in the state.

The Nebraska Improved Live Stock Breeders' association will meet on Thursday, January 21, in the stock judging pavilion at the university farm. President, Hon. George Caupland, Elgin, Neb.; secretary, Dr. A. T. Peters, Lincoln, Neb.

Miss Nellie May Schlee, a former teacher in the Lincoln schools, now critic teacher at the state normal at Peru, has returned from England and Germany, where she went in September under the auspices of the National Civic Federation on a tour of inspection of schools. They do not compare very favorably with American schools in her estimation.

The winter meeting of the Nebraska Territorial Pioneers' association will occur January 12 and 13 in connection with the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical society in Lincoln. The usual pleasures of associating with fellow pioneers will be increased at this meeting by examining together early day relics assembled especially for the occasion.

Secretary of State Junkin has received a copy of a proposed bill to guaranty bank deposits, which has been drawn by Senator Fred H. Quincy of Ashland, Kan., and which will be introduced in the coming session of the Kansas legislature. It provides for a fund of \$1,000,000 to be raised from assessments against banks that desire to participate in the fund.

A former Central City boy has the honor of winning one of the four prizes awarded by Miss Helen Gould to men of the United States who should memorize 500 verses from certain specified portions of the Bible. The fortune winner is C. E. Huff, son of Walter Huff of Central City, and now connected with a college at Topeka, Kas., as professor of penmanship.

Living for three months with a broken neck, J. S. Dyche, the Clarke citizen who was injured last September by falling from a haystack, finally succumbed to his injury. Mr. Dyche was working on a haystack when he was struck by the fork of the stacker and knocked off, alighting on his head. His neck was broken and his spinal column injured. Since that time he was a helpless invalid and was partially paralyzed, and grew gradually weaker until the end came.

R. C. Jordan, superintendent of the United States Indian warehouse at Omaha, visited the Neligh mills for the purpose of inspecting upwards of 100,000 pounds of cornmeal, which goes to every Indian agency and school in the United States, and makes 255 shipments. Mr. Jordan stated it was the finest meal he ever inspected, showing that the quality of the corn crop of Antelope county this year is unsurpassed. The inspector for the war department will also be here to pass upon 150,000 pounds of flour for different army posts.

A large deal in Merrick county land was consummated last week, when the 320 acres owned by the heirs of the late A. Scudder in Mead township was sold to C. Larsen of Racine, Wis., the land bringing \$12,800 or \$40 per acre.

William Kelley, the man arrested a few days ago charged with stealing a mail pouch from a Union Pacific mail car near Grand Island last October, was released from custody at Beatrice by United States Commissioner Cobbe, the government finding that it had not sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution.

# HAIL THE NEW YEAR!

BY HOWARD ENRIGHT SEXTON. DRAWINGS BY D. McVILL.



**W**HEN Father Time has erased "1908" and substituted "1909" upon his year ledger, then it is up to the Christian world to also turn over a new leaf in its life-ledger and start something new, even though it be nothing more modern than to promise to attend church periodically.

Despite the fact that New Year's eve comes with the same regularity that marks most people's birthdays, residents of big cities find it an occasion for as much hilarity as is exhibited election night.

In New York, for instance, the yelling thousands parade Broadway, carrying "ticklers," tin horns and scores of noise-making devices. Broadway on New Year's eve is jammed and the only way disinterested citizens may find their way peacefully to their homes is by scampering in the wake of street cars as the conveyances open a path through the mobs.

Broadway is invariably made the scene of New Year's eve hilarity. Gotham would as soon think of visiting Coney Island in the winter as celebrating the birth of the new twelfth month anywhere else.

In Chicago, State street between Van Buren and Randolph is the scene of joyousness upon this occasion. "Ticklers," horns, etc., prevail there also. As on Broadway automobiles clatter up and down the street, tin cans trailing from the license number tags and beating a merry tattoo on the pavement.

The east side of Chicago's State street, which is the sunny side at noon hour is also the maelstrom of excitement New Year's. Those with peaceable inclinations will always be found on the west side on such occasions with faces pointed east.

New York annually goes crazy over New Year's eve, and it has a right, for none work the next day.

At New York's and Chicago's big clubs and restaurants, the coming of a new year means the biggest rush of the season. Before noon, the day before the advent of the holiday, there is not an unreserved table to be found at the clubs, hotels and eating houses. The aristocratic restaurants and millionaires' clubs are the mecca for the 20-cent appetite and the ten-dollar purse, while the chop suey houses, where "two bits" buys a square meal, are the gathering places for the ten-dollar appetite and the 25-cent purse.

Each class plays at the New Year's games in its own way.

However, they have in common the habit of



OVER EXUBERANT



THE LESS ELITE IN A CHEAP CHINESE CHOP SUEY RESTAURANT



FASHIONABLES WATCHING THE OLD YEAR OUT AND THE NEW YEAR IN



THE CROWDS ARE MANIACAL

standing up on their chairs and discordantly attempting to raise the roof when whistles of the factories and power houses toot the fact that the old year is in the death throes. That, of course, takes place at midnight. From that time until one a. m. the pandemonium is worse than the characterization which Gen. Sherman gave war.

After the hour following midnight, however, things begin to simmer down, the wise ones go home, visitors with the words "never again" on their lips spurt for their hotels, and those who are more hilarious than they would be had they anticipated earlier in the evening, are the only ones to continue the celebration. In ratio to the degree of hilarity is gauged the length of time which the "owls" celebrate.

About four a. m., the superintendent of police phones his outlying police stations the melancholy tidings: "Gather 'em in," and the round-up by patrolmen commences with the result that police court judges find dozens of "plain drunks" on the mental docket January 2.

Not remembering the circumstances of the New Year's eve celebration, the average citizen in that predicament just pleads guilty to disorderly conduct, complacently hears the justice pronounce "ten and costs" to the clerk and wearily wends his way homeward, a wiser and a sadder man, whose head beats like a trippammer.

But New Year's eve was not always thus. That is the twentieth century style. In the old days generations ago it was an occasion for worship, the family Bible being brought out and sacred passages read, while the more worldly of the family who had stiff-armed virtue in a mild fashion, turned over a new leaf and kept it turned.

Long, long ago, New Year's was not January 1, and authorities are still uncertain as to whether the present century is correct in its calculations.

Prior to 1752, in most legal and official matters and in private records, the year commenced on March 25. At this time an act of parliament was passed which "directed that the legal year, which then commenced in some parts of the country in March and in others in January, should universally be deemed to begin on the first day of January."

But it is not New Year everywhere at once. In fact, we shall see presently that some unfortunate individuals never get any New Year at all. As the clocks at Greenwich strike the first note of 12 at noon on December 31 the New Year is born at the opposite side of the earth—that is at all the places on longitude 180 east. But no one greets this first appearance unless it be the sailors of some solitary ship and the Fiji Islanders, for, besides the group, the only land which the magic imaginary line bisects is the inhospitable far east of Siberia, whose inhabitants keep the Julian calendar, and, therefore, hold their New Year celebrations 12 days later.

An hour and ten minutes after the day has dawned in New Zealand, the island continent of Australia welcomes it. The same remark as to the celebrations, of course, applies here also. But a different order of things obtains in Japan, where the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1872. The Flowery Kingdom gets its New Year at the same time as Australia. It is said that with the change in the calendar some of the picturesqueness vanished from the Japanese celebrations, but even yet they are quaint and interesting. At the close of the year, all buildings are elaborately decorated

with evergreens and rice straw. Great branches of living pine and feathery bamboo, placed in large vases filled with earth, are placed on each side of the doorways; garlands of rice straw adorned with fir branches and tassels of grass are hung the walls under the projecting roofs, to prevent evil spirits from passing under and entering the house, and scarlet lobsters, seaweeds, ferns, rice cakes and mandarin oranges, each having an auspicious meaning for the New Year, are fastened about the door posts and lintels. In addition to these each doorway has its crossed flags—a red sun on a white ground—in honor of the emperor. For interior decoration the famous dwarf trees so skillfully produced by Japanese florists by allowing them a minimum of water, light and soil are in great demand, the favorites being the dwarf peach with its double pink blossoms and the much-prized plum.

The Japanese have compelled their Korean neighbors to adopt the same calendar, and here, as in all the yellow kingdoms, the New Year is held to be a very solemn festival. During the last three days of the year all work ceases except the necessary preparations for the coming holiday. Absentees return to their homes, the courts close, no arrests are made, and prisoners with slight offenses are allowed to go free for a time. On New Year's eve all doors are closed to keep out Angwangi, a sort of evil-minded Korean Santa Claus who makes the rounds.

As Greenwich time travels westward, the next people to observe our New Year's day are the European settlers in the Malay peninsula and further India. Rather less than two hours after the happy day has begun at Perth, in West Australia, the European population of Calcutta signalize its arrival. Just 62 minutes more and it has reached Bombay. Two hours later the non-Russians of Moscow are exchanging congratulations, and half an hour afterwards their brethren at St. Petersburg are following their example. Another four minutes, and the New Year is greeted in the European

quarter at Constantinople, and every succeeding minute brings under its sway more and more those nations who acknowledge it.

There are several curious things to relate about the line where this day, and all other days, begin and end. In a few hours a ship going east would cross it, and sail right out of the early morning of January 2 into the midnight of December 31, and thus greet the New Year a second time. By sailing in the contrary direction she could avoid meeting the New Year at all.