

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS.

ALL SUBJECTS TOUCHED UPON

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

The two-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Martin of Stratton, which was burned from drinking lye is dead.

The Nebraska teachers' annual meeting will again be held in Lincoln in 1910. Omaha made a bid for the gathering, but was not successful.

Prof. J. A. Dimmick, principal of the schools at Sterling, sent a 22-caliber rifle bullet into his right temple at his home.

Chauncey Graham, a young man who was accidentally shot at his home near Arnold, passed away after hovering between life and death for over a week.

The large farm house of Miss Hatlie Summers, six miles west of Beatrice, caught fire, but the neighbors succeeded in extinguishing the flames before much damage resulted.

Members of the Nebraska Millers' Protective association of Nebraska held a banquet at the New Palmer house in Grand Island. Phil Glade of Grand Island acted as toastmaster.

Arthur Nashund has been elected second lieutenant of Company E, Second regiment, located at Holdrege. The election was approved by Adjutant General Hartigan.

A box car occupied by a number of Italian laborers was partially burned in the Burlington yards at Beatrice. Dito Ladina was seriously burned and may not recover.

It is said on good authority that the Burlington contemplates building an elegant depot in Wymore next summer. The location has been purchased.

Dean Stewart was a former Crete man and a graduate of Doane college, who fell dead on the streets of Ogallala recently. The cause was said to be due to heart disease. The remains were buried at Crete.

Fire at Bradshaw, the first station west of York, destroyed one of the grain elevators, together with about 5,000 bushels of grain. The elevator belonged to the T. B. Hord Grain company of Central City.

Frank Gaul, aged twenty, made an attempt to commit suicide by shooting himself with a revolver at the farm home of Ernest Watson in Saunders county, where he was employed. The bullet entered his right breast and he will probably die.

Station Railway Agent S. Stine of the Northwestern, while unloading a piano from a car at Thayer, met with a painful and, what for a time appeared to be serious accident. The heavy piano slipped and fell on Mr. Stine, injuring his leg and foot.

Ernest E. Stout, sentenced at Grand Island to nine years' imprisonment in the penitentiary, will be taken to Lincoln in a few days. He is arranging his affairs so that his wife and child will in the meantime be provided for.

W. Godfrey, who resides near Syracuse fell from his wagon while loading and was so badly injured that he could not help himself and when found was nearly frozen to death. He is 77 years of age and his recovery is doubtful.

It is stated upon good authority that the Union Pacific Railroad company intends making some improvements at Callaway, work to commence in the near future. A water supply system will be installed, the present one being inadequate to supply the demand for water.

Orders were received by Postmaster Cook of Blair to raise the rental of postoffice boxes from 45 cents, 60 cents and \$1 to 60 cents, 75 cents, \$1 and \$1.50, to go into effect January 1. A vigorous protest is being made by the business men and citizens of Blair and many will give up their boxes.

During a short session of the district court at Aurora, Judge Dungan rendered a decision in the case of Hamilton county against the Aurora National bank, holding that the county recover interest at the rate of 2 per cent on county money deposited in the bank and 7 per cent on each quarterly payment from the end of each quarter.

Items published last week of events printed in the York Republican thirty years ago mentions the Tribune, published by Frank Wellman, brother of Walter Wellman, the noted traveler and writer, went south and later became editor of the Sutton Times, founded by his brother, Walter Wellman, in 1873. Walter Wellman at that time was but 14 years of age and, in addition to being editor and publisher, he had learned the printer's trade and was able to do most of the mechanical work on his paper.

The York County Medical association gave a farewell dinner to Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Allen of Bradshaw, who leave in a few days for Colorado, where they will make their home. The dinner was attended by nearly all the physicians of the county and was a pleasant affair.

The Central Granaries' company's elevator at Rockford, Gage county, was destroyed by fire. The fire is supposed to have been caused by sparks from a passing engine. The elevator contained 3,500 bushels of oats, 800 bushels of corn and some wheat, which were consumed.

THE DIPLOMATS' BUSIEST DAY

By WALDON FAYCETT



MARQUIS DE VILLALOBAR, THE NEW SPANISH MINISTER



BARON MAJOR DES PLANCHES, DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

CITY OF 4000 B. C. FOUND

The vestiges of a city 6,000 years old have been found in Babylonia by the French expedition which has

THE first day of the year is decidedly the busiest day of the twelvemonth for the foreign diplomats stationed in America. The odd part of it is that the manifold duties which make January 1st the most crowded interval on the calendar are almost wholly in the nature of social obligations rather than business tasks. Moreover, the responsibilities of this busy day rest equally heavy upon the envoys of the various foreign powers—that is, the ambassadors and ministers—and upon the secretaries, counselors and attaches who make up the official staffs of these dignitaries. Even the women of the official foreign colony—the wives and daughters of the diplomats of high and low degree—share in the feverish activity of the dawning year. Indeed, their participation begins weeks in advance with frequent visits to the dressmakers, for, one and all, these fair foreigners must have striking new gowns for the momentous occasion.

The explanation of this display of energy on the part of a class of people who ordinarily lead the most leisurely existence imaginable is found in the fact that New Year's day of each year marks the opening of the official social season at Washington. It is a day of receiving and calling and dining (all in the most formal way), for everybody in national official circles from the president down to the least important public official, but the social merry-go-round, spins at a more lively gait for the diplomats than for any of the other participants in Uncle Sam's great annual dress parade. Not only do they have to go more different places in carrying out the day's program, but they have to do more dressing than any of the other celebrities, not even excepting the high officers of the United States army and navy, who don their full dress uniforms for this occasion.

Indeed, it is the chore of getting togged out in their gaudiest raiment that compels the diplomats to arise somewhat earlier than usual on New Year morning. Official etiquette prescribes that each foreign representative shall appear in full diplomatic uniform or court dress on this significant occasion. Now be it known, it is no slight undertaking to put on such garb. The average diplomat, accustomed as he is to fastidious dressing, finds it pretty nearly as formidable a job as the average American workman or farmer regards the donning of a dress suit. The diplomat's viewpoint will be the better appreciated when it is explained that not a few of these costly broadcloth uniforms are so heavily encrusted with gold lace and other ornaments that they are well nigh stiff enough to stand alone. It is a twentieth century coat of armor, so to speak. In many instances high boots are an item of the court dress and usually a heavy helmet or fur turban and a long cloak that reaches to the feet are included in the costume. Finally, the diplomat, of any standing, covers the entire front of his coat with the glittering insignia of royal orders and jeweled decorations—each several times as large as the ordinary badge and adding in the aggregate, considerable weight to the trappings of state.

With the time-consuming prelude of dressing out of the way, the diplomats, more gorgeously garbed than any operatic chorus, are ready for the first formal function of the day. This is the president's reception at the White House. The foreigners, all of whom have carriages or automobiles (rented for this busy day, if they do not already possess them), must leave home for the presidential mansion about 10:30 o'clock, for they are to have the honor of being the first persons received by the president after he has greeted his cabinet, and they must be in their duly assigned places in the waiting line ere the presidential party at 11 o'clock sharp, descends the grand stairway and takes station in the Blue parlor for the reception. Hard and fast rules must be observed as to the order in which the diplomats file past the president. There are two divisions. First the ambassadors, each accompanied by all the members of his staff and their wives, and then the ministers, each similarly attended. Places in each division are assigned in accordance with the length of time each envoy has represented his government at Washington. That is, statesmen who have been here for years take precedence over the newcomers.

At the head of the line walks the ambassador who by virtue of the most lengthy service in Washington is the dean of the diplomatic corps. This post of prestige is now held by Baron Mayor des Planches of Italy. The foreigners are introduced to the president by the secretary of state, who has the best of his cabinet colleagues in that he is thus temporarily in the limelight.

After the White House reception the diplo-

omats return home for a few minutes' rest, and then a little before 12 o'clock they set out for the residence of the secretary of state. Here, at noon, an elaborate repast is served. The average American citizen would declare it a luncheon, but in social-diplomatic usage it is a breakfast. Considerably more than 200 persons are expected at this breakfast, so that it can be seen that it taxes the house-keeping arrangements even in a mansion such as the \$150,000 dwelling of Philan-



HOME OF SECRETARY OF STATE KNOX WHERE THE GREAT "DIPLOMATIC BREAKFAST" IS SERVED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

der Knox. Then, too, the same importance attaches as at the White House, to who goes first, so that servants have to be carefully drilled and the utmost care exercised lest some lesser diplomat receive more honor than is his due, while some greater luminary is correspondingly slighted.

The entire afternoon of New Year's day the diplomats devote to making ceremonial calls. Almost all the prominent hostesses in Washington, except the wife of the president, hold receptions on this eventful afternoon. Most of the diplomats go first to the home of the vice-president, then "down the line" of cabinet homes in the order of their official standing; after which they pay their respects at the residence of the speaker of the house of representatives, and then follows indiscriminate calling upon the wives of senators, representatives, army and navy officers and other official hostesses who are keeping open house. Everywhere they meet other diplomats and public officials of all grades, for calling is general at the seat of government on the first day of the year. In accordance with the Yankee idea, only the men of the American households go calling on New Year's afternoon, but the diplomats are in almost every instance accompanied by the ladies of their households. It is past sundown when this round of calling is concluded, but that does not end the day for the tired diplomats. Most of them have been invited to the ceremonial dinners that, in great numbers, close the day in Washington, hence they must hurry home and change to evening attire in order to greet yet another hostess before 8 o'clock.

A RUSKIN STORY

In 1858, when Ruskin was in his fortieth year, he was asked by a friend to give some lessons in drawing to a child named Rose La Touche—whose name indeed was French, but whose family were Irish. There sprang up between Ruskin and this young girl a very charming friendship, which, of course, at the time could be nothing but a friendship. They wrote each other letters and exchanged drawings and then for awhile they did not meet.

Ten years passed by before they saw each other. Meanwhile the child whom he had remembered as a blue-eyed, saucy, clever little blonde with ripe, red lips and hair like fine spun gold, had become a very lovely young



WATER



HERMAN DE LAGERCRANTZ, MINISTER OF SWEDEN AND HIS SECRETARY

woman of 19 years. They resumed their old acquaintance, but in a very different way. Though Ruskin was nearly 50, he gave to Rose La Touche an adoration and a passion such as he had never felt before. On her side she no longer thought of him as "very ugly," but was singularly drawn to him, despite the difference in their years.

The two met often. They took long strolls together in the pleasant fields of Surrey, and at last Ruskin begged her to make him happy and to be his wife. Oddly enough, however, she hesitated, not because he was so much older than herself, but because he had ceased to be what she regarded as "a true believer." Some of the things that he had written shocked her as being almost atheistic. She was herself, underneath all her gayety of manner, a rigid and uncompromising Protestant. She used phrases from the Bible in her ordinary talk and when she spoke of marriage with John Ruskin she said that she could not endure to be "yoked with an unbeliever."

Yet her heart was torn at the thought of sending him away; and so for several years their intimacy continued, he pleading with her and striving hard to make her see that love was everything. She, on the other hand, read over those passages of the Old Testament which seemed to bar all compromise.

At last, in 1872, when she was 24 and he was 53, she gave him her final answer. She would not marry him unless he could believe as she did. His honesty forbade him to deceive her by a pretended conversion, and so they parted, never to see each other again. How deeply she was affected is shown by the fact that she soon fell ill. She grew worse and worse, until at last it was quite certain that she could not live. Then Ruskin wrote to her and begged that he might see her. She answered with a note in which she feebly traced the words:

"You may come if you can tell me that you love God more than you love me."

When Ruskin read this his very soul was racked with agony and he cried out:

"No, no—then I cannot come to her; for I love her even more than God!"

When she died, as she did soon after, the light of his life went out for Ruskin.—Munsey's.



THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF BABYLON

been at work for several years on the site of the Roman Susa, the Shushan of the Bible and later the capital of the Emperors Darius and Artaxerxes.

According to details furnished to the Jewish World, a mound marking the site of the city has been excavated by M. de Morgan and was found to mark the site of the ancient Elamite acropolis of the city. The excavations have produced most astonishing results. Here the explorer found superimposed, one above the other, the remains of three cities, the oldest dating back to B. C. 4000, and below these the signs of older settlements of prehistoric ages.

The recent discoveries show that far more than a thousand years prior to B. C. 1800 the city was occupied by the Babylonians, and that most of the kings of that country set up their monuments in it. When the powerful Semitic dynasty of Babylonian kings contemporary with the age of Abraham was overthrown, the Elamites regained their independence and retained it until B. C. 649, when the city was sacked by Assurbanipal, king of Assyria, who destroyed the palaces and temples.

Explorations show that the chief feature of the ancient city, as of all those of the ancient east, was the temple of the city god, in this case the god Susinak, which stood upon the acropolis. An exploration of the foundations revealed the records of Gudea, king of Chaldaea, B. C. 2500. Fortunately, considerable information as to the nature of the sacred edifice and its precincts is preserved by an interesting monument, which was discovered in the ruins.

In the center of the model are the figures of two nude men, one holding a water jar. These, no doubt, are the king and priest performing the ceremonies of lustration, or ceremonial purification, which are a great feature of the oriental temples and frequently mentioned in the religious inscriptions.

Primitive Mills in Brazil.

Vice-Consul De Young, writing from Santos, calls attention to the small corn grinding machines in Brazil:

"In the interior of Brazil a primitive method of producing cornmeal by pounding instead of grinding is practiced. The instrument known as a 'mojollo' works automatically, and consists of a tree trunk balanced on the bank of a stream, one end of the trunk being hollowed out to form a large cup, while the other end is in the form of a pestle. Water filling the cup depresses that end of the log, whereupon the water runs out and the other end falls back to its original position, the pestle striking the corn. Some modern corn grinders have recently been introduced, but there is a good field for a very small and inexpensive grinder to take the place of the 'mojollo' in the interior, where flour mills are rare and each family grinds its own corn."

Onion as Tale-Teller.

There's a divorce.
'Tis a very sad affair.
An onion is at the bottom of it.
Of yore hubby was fond of onions.
He ate, and ate, and wifey stood it.
Then he fell in love with a festive maiden.
No more onions for him, much to his wife's surprise.
The more she thought of it, the more she wondered at the change.
Not only did he desert the odorous onions—presently he deserted altogether.