

The citizens of Aurora are planning to organize and finance a canning factory.

Four octogenarians died at Omaha on the same day. One of them settled there as early as 1856.

A team of mules, probably one of the finest in Gage county, was sold on the streets of Beatrice for \$335.

One of the finest country school houses in the state is said to be that of district No. 3 in Dodge county.

Elgin, Nebraska, is to have a new school house. It will cost \$10,000. Contractors at Elgin have secured the work.

Out in Sheridan county the farmers are organizing for more extensive and better directed operations in raising potatoes.

The city council of Grand Island is taking time by the forelock in passing ordinances to insure quiet and safety on July Fourth.

The new revenue law says every man must swear to the number of his dogs, and pay taxes on every dog, and double taxes on lady dogs.

The Pflug family in Nebraska are engaged in better business than their namesakes in Russia. One of them out at Exeter is expert in dairying.

The Rev. C. W. Savage of Omaha, in twenty years has married over 1,100 couples. Yet the reverend gentleman himself was very slow in marrying.

Of the proposed \$50,000 endowment fund for the Hastings college, \$29,900 has now been subscribed, of which \$26,000 comes from subscribers outside of Hastings.

Nebraska may have no fancy entertainment at the St. Louis fair, but when it comes to the exhibit of agricultural resources, Nebraska will be there with the goods.

Beatrice is said to be enforcing the law for the prevention of the sale of tobacco to minors. If Beatrice is really doing this it is about the only town in the state that is.

A forty-acre piece of farming land north of Fremont sold at \$100 per acre. The same land sold a few years ago at \$5 per acre, that price being regarded as high at that time.

About thirty new buildings are already contracted for by the people of the vicinity of Ord to be put up right away. The same kind of news comes from other Nebraska communities.

The Norfolk Leap Year club is being flooded with communications from all over the state. Two of the members have already succeeded in landing victims. They hold their meetings mysteriously once each week.

Fremont has a dog whose breed ought to commend itself to telephone companies. The dog is perfectly congenial to all persons except alone to those who try to sponge the use of his owner's telephone. For these he has no toleration.

The Rock Island has announced that a 3,000-mile ticket will be placed on sale in the near future. The ticket will be good for one year from date of sale. It will be honored over every mile of the Rock Island and Frisco systems and their auxiliary roads.

Lester Somers, a 4-year-old Fremont boy, mistaking arsenic pills for cough drops, and swallowed some. A doctor and a stomach pump being handy, the mistake luckily did not prove fatal, but the boy's mother has found a new place to store arsenic pills.

The contract has been let for the new church building of Trinity German Evangelical Lutheran, Lincoln, to be erected at the corner of Thirtieth and H streets, adjoining the present edifice. The new church will be of brick, will be fifty-six feet by eighty feet and will cost about \$12,000. The old frame building will be left where it is and fitted up for the use of the parochial school.

A successful beet harvesting machine has been invented and completed by two farmers living near McCook. The machine operated by one man with four horses harvests and loads three acres of beets in a day, the equivalent of what four men and fourteen horses can do under old methods. It costs about the same as a grain harvester.

Lincoln county has scored the initiation of a new annual grain industry in the raising and shipping of upland rye for the St. Louis distillery market. About fifteen carloads being marketed. The rye yields forty bushels to the acre, brings 38 cents and is excellent in quality.

The citizens of Wausa show the proper spirit in sticking together and pushing any project that is for the benefit of the community. Differences of opinion sometimes arise, but when it comes to the final struggle, everyone takes a hold and does everything possible towards making a success of the undertaking, whatever it may be.

Ernest Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, '96, at present studying in the University of Halle, Germany, will go to Algiers, Africa, to study the date palms which grow there. He does this at the request of the United States department of agriculture. Shortly after his return to Germany he will take the examination for the doctor's degree.

H. J. Lee, of Fremont, is the oldest hardware merchant who has been continuously in that business in Nebraska. He began in February, 1870, just thirty-four years ago. N. M. Pillsbury, of the same city, disputes Mr. Lee's title, claiming priority by a month or two.

The storm that swept over Nebraska recently was rather severe in some places. A farmer driving a buggy between Norfolk and Pierce struck a sand streak in the road. The buggy and horse were completely turned over and sand blown into the buggy in such quantities that it was impossible to drag the rig out again.

A STRATEGIC WAR

Russia and Japan Doing Little Worth Details

BOTH WANT WARM WEATHER

Chinese at Liao Ying Compelled to Abandon and Make Room for Comfort of Russian Soldiers

Japanese and Russian scouts had an engagement near Ping Yang, Korea. There were no casualties.

Japanese warships again bombarded Port Arthur. It is not known that any damage was done.

The Russian squadron at Vladivostok is still safe in the harbor, and there was no open sea battle.

Japan's program, according to naval officers, is to continue bombarding Port Arthur until the place is reduced.

Harsh treatment of Russian recruits by officers, together with starvation, has broken their spirit.

The concentration of troops at the Russian strategical base has resulted in much suffering among Chinese inhabitants, especially at Liao Ying, where even private buildings have been appropriated to accommodate the soldiers, and thousands of Chinese are consequently without homes. Russian troops are encamped at all the essential points along the railroad.

Two hundred thousand troops have been shipped from Japan, and a portion of the second army corps is now on its way to Korea. The correspondent of the London Daily Chronicle at Tokio, evidently referring to the same movements, cables that the transportation to northern Korea of three divisions of Japanese troops has been completed and that these men are beginning to advance, while ten divisions of the second army corps have already been mobilized.

The Russians are moving northward in Korea, with the intention of making Wiju their defensive base.

The Russians are withdrawing all their superfluous troops from Port Arthur to Harbin and Kirin because of the shortness of provisions, and because it is doubtful whether or not they would be able to hold either Port Arthur or New Chwang against a resolute attack.

Russia has served notice on China that the later must not send troops beyond the great wall and that she must exercise her influence to restrain the Chinese bandits, who are partially under the control of Chinese officers, from interfering with the railroad and telegraph lines. A refusal to heed this warning will be considered a breach of neutrality.

Going Back to Pennsylvania

Twenty persons from the Yoder settlement near Bertrand, Neb., left for Pennsylvania, and the rest will follow shortly. The settlement has existed for about twenty years, but all have now sold their farms and will return to their former homes in the state named. These people are Mennonites and wear the same style of homespun garb that their ancestors did generations ago. Notwithstanding their odd customs they will long be remembered for their thorough honesty and reliability as a class.

Strangles to Death

Peter Peters, a well known farmer residing west of Plattsmouth, was suddenly taken with a severe choking spell and died before he could be relieved. Mr. Peters, although 71 years of age, was in his usual health and his sudden death was a great shock to the family. Owing to the fact that the deceased was an extraordinarily large man it was found necessary to send to Omaha for a special casket, and it was too broad to go into the hearse. The remains were interred in the German cemetery.

20 Per Cent Unsold

The March report of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture shows the amount of wheat remaining in farmers' hands on March 1 to have been about 132,600,000 bushels, or 26.8 per cent of last year's crop, as compared with 24.5 per cent of the crop of 1902, on hand on March 1, 1903, and 23.2 per cent of the crop of 1901 on hand March 1, 1902.

The corn in farmers' hands is estimated at about 938,000,000 bushels, or 37.4 per cent of last year's crop, as against 41.6 per cent of the crop of 1902 on hand March 1, 1903, and 29.2 per cent of the crop of 1901 on hand March 1, 1902.

Burned to Death

Four unidentified men were burned to death in a box car containing gasoline which caught fire at Branch intersection, ten miles east of Harrisburg, Pa. Two others, George Klinger of Harrisburg and William C. Yoter of Lewistown, barely escaped with their lives, their bodies and clothing being badly burned. The men were employed on the Pennsylvania railroad improvements at Enola.

OSMOND, NEB., BURNED

List of Those Who Have Burden of Loss to Bear

Fire destroyed practically the entire business district of Osmond, Neb. The flames were first discovered in the rear of the meat market of Turner & Peterson, their origin being at this time unknown. The wind was high and sparks were carried to a livery barn. The principal losses are: Farmers' State bank, loss on building, \$5,000, fully insured; Mitchell & Saunders, loss on merchandise, \$14,000, insurance \$8,600; E. P. Rogers, loss on two buildings, \$2,500, no insurance; J. C. Saunders, loss on building, \$3,000, no insurance; Christal & Wiley, loss on drugs and jewelry, \$4,000, no insurance; Turner & Peterson, loss on butcher shop, \$500, no insurance; Maine hotel, loss on furniture, \$2,000, insurance, \$1,000; Gus J. Marek, loss on building, \$1,000, insurance \$625; W. H. Boston, loss on three buildings, \$4,000, insurance unknown; Hamer and Cozek, building and stock, loss \$4,500, partial insurance; William Klindt, loss on saloon and fixtures, \$4,500, partially insured; L. L. Davis, loss on livery barn, \$1,000, insurance, \$700; Mrs. Chamberlain, restaurant and millinery, loss \$200, no insurance; household goods of B. M. Smith about \$1,200, partial insurance.

LEARNING TO CORRESPOND

Pupils of Ohio, Neb., Schools Writing Letters to English Scholars

The students of the city schools of Ohio, Neb., are engaged in the exchange of correspondence with the students of the schools of London, England. Recently the board of education of London decided, as a practical method of teaching letter writing and to increase the spirit of friendliness among the English speaking nations of the world, to recommend the exchange of letters between the pupils of the public schools of England, Australia, Canada and the United States.

Requests were made of prominent educators in the United States, Canada and Australia that they assist in the inauguration of the scheme. The Ohio teachers were among the first to adopt the suggestion and for some time the pupils have been engaged in correspondence with the students of London. Superintendent Fowler received a package of letters from Ohio and will forward it to the clerk of the London school board.

Reward of Merit for Convicts

Convicts at the Nebraska Penitentiary are to be permitted to lay aside the striped uniform now in use at the institution. Warden Beemer has arranged a credit system whereby prisoners whose conduct is good will be uniformed in gray and will be quartered in the new cell house. Those of unruly disposition will be confined to the old cell house and will continue to wear the customary garb. The present black striped uniform is the pet aversion of the average convict, and it adds neither to beauty of face or figure. In the large penitentiaries of the eastern states the system to be adopted by Warden Beemer has been in vogue for a number of years and is alleged to be conducive to good behavior of the prisoners. The female prisoners at the penitentiary have worn the gray uniforms for a number of years.

Bad Outlook for Missouri Wheat

Prof. F. B. Mumford, acting dean of the university of Missouri, college of agriculture, at Columbia, does not think Missouri will have a large wheat crop this year. "From reports received," says Professor Mumford, "the general impression of the farmers is that the conditions have not been favorable for a maximum wheat crop in 1904. The winter has been cold and the ground unprotected by snow. The extremely dry weather of the fall and winter resulted in a weak fall growth of wheat. It is too early to predict the probable damage from the ravages of the Hessian fly, but last year the damage from this source was very great. A favorable spring with sufficient rainfall may yet overcome the numerous unfavorable conditions which have interfered with the growth of the crop, but prospects certainly are not flattering."

Appointed Reform School Physician

Dr. C. V. Basten of Kearney has been appointed chief physician of the Kearney reform school to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. H. S. Bell, who is also a Kearney resident.

Diphtheria at Bertrand, Neb.

Owing to the prevalence of diphtheria in the country near Bertrand the board of education ordered the public schools closed for two weeks and all the teachers have left town for a vacation. There is great dread of the disease there, and people are taking every precaution possible to prevent its appearance in the town.

A good many people are down on slippery sidewalks.

HINTS FOR BRIDEGROOMS.

Plenty of Advice for Brides, but Not a Word for the "Poor Men."

A thoughtful young man of Washington was heard to decry the other day the fact that while there is a deluge of "don'ts" and "dos" for the bride to follow, the bridegroom must shift for himself.

"There is absolutely nothing to guide a man but his own awkward self. It isn't fair," he said. "From the time a girl is old enough to detect sound she understands the importance of having things done properly at a wedding, while the prospective groom is only something necessary to complete the picture. Nothing short of inspiration can get a man through a marriage ceremony gracefully."

"In order to impress the bride and spectators that he is enthusiastic about it, he appears with a sort of frozen grin on his face that you expect to melt at any moment and run down his collar. If he is too frightened to respond in a loud voice some of the bride's girl friends will whisper that it was plainly evident he was unwilling from the start." Again, if he replies in a loud, stern voice, another bunch in another direction of the church will huddle together and express how glad they are that they are not marrying him, while the attitude of many is that they are signing away their life and all worth living for. So I, for one, think it high time that somebody wrote a few hints on how to behave, that we men may appear enthusiastic about being married without being ridiculous and proving a target for the world in general to knock at."

Emergency Telegraph Equipment.

It's a far cry from Manila to Baltimore, but the war in the Philippines taught telegraph companies a trick that came in handy at the big conflagration.

The exigencies of the campaign of our troops in the Eastern archipelago necessitated the organization of the most elaborate emergency telegraph lines. A clever electrician devised apparatus that was collapsible and reducible to an extent which would make a forty-mile telegraph line fit into an army wagon.

This outfit included not only a full stand of quadruplex instruments and fittings sufficient to permit operators to work, but a dynamo and a kerosene engine to run it, together with fuel for the engine. It only remained to string the wires to trees or any other projections, and the line was ready.

When the office of the telegraph companies were burned out completely in Baltimore these emergency plants were used with good effect.

Questioned Taft's Digestion.

"How is your digestion? Is your stomach weak? Does it subject you to inconvenience and distress by day, and disturb your rest by night? Does indigestion acquaint you with the horrors of dyspepsia?"

These questions were propounded to Secretary Taft in the first letter he received after entering upon his duties as head of the War Department. The questions were clipped from a newspaper advertisement, and beneath them was the picture of an insomnia patient.

The following note accompanied the questions:

"To the Secretary of War—Sir: The inclosed questions are addressed to your conscience as a public officer. Unless you can answer them in the negative you should immediately resign. From a Common or Garden Lawyer."

The handwriting was that of Secretary Root.—Washington Times.

Saw Dead Daughter's Face.

An old lady who resides alone in a country district near Aberdeen, Scotland, had a strange premonition recently. While seated one evening at the fire she heard a rustling noise at the window, and on looking out she seemed to see the face of her daughter pressing against the pane. The old woman was much startled, as her daughter resided in America. So alarmed did she become, that she went to a neighbor's house and slept all night. A week afterward she received word to the effect that her daughter had been killed in a railway accident. Strange to say her daughter was killed on the very night the old woman had the strange presentiment.

Captured Unknown Bird.

Elisha Read of Allington, Conn., discovered an exhausted bird in his yard which is apparently a newcomer in that region. It is a blackbird with gold on the end of each wing feather and each tail feather. It is supposed to be one of the foreign birds which were deposited on Long Island for destruction of the insects on fruit trees, and the violent winds are supposed to account for its presence.

Tortoise Centuries Old.

The most curious reminder of Holland's sway in Ceylon is a living creature, a grand old tortoise, supposed to have belonged to one of the Dutch governors some 200 years ago. He is very docile and ever ready to attract the attention of anyone who is likely to offer him plamtain. The tortoise is so large that he can carry several boys on his back at one time.

Day by Day.

Walking with patience where the way is rough. Resting in quiet when the storm is nigh. Knowing that love Divine is strong enough To bear me up as weary days go by; Trusting that sorrow is but love's disguise. And all withholding, yet another way Of making richer by what love denies— So grows the soul a little day by day. Mary C. Seward, in The Independent.



TICKLE GRASS BY BYRON WILLIAMS

Warned in Time.

"Better be lonely than sorry." A shy maiden wrote in the sand. Billows rolled up in their anger— "He— sorry," was left on the land!

Startled she gazed at the warning; Then swiftly the scared maiden ran Back to the town and its madness: To hunt, for her wedding, a man!

Tho' Married.

To be happy in this world a man should: Live in a house not his own, and move often to save rent. Have his personal effects insured. Owe the installment house for his furniture. Have nothing taxable. Be too poor to buy theater tickets for the benefit of a dog pound. Keep a wife to shave the back of his neck. Have burglar alarms on all doors and windows. Own a cyclone cellar. Cut his own ice. Loan his lawn mower to the neighbors. Have an ingrown toe nail and forget his lodge dues! If he observes these rules he may live to a ripe and comfortable old age.



A Leap Year Tip.

THE LAST FAREWELL

Wedlock is a lane that has no turning, And while you are wed your bridges are burning! Good-bye to the boys, as old ties sever; For marriage is marriage, forever and ever!

Bachelors, if you are to be pitted, don't get in a woman's way. Pity is the straightest path that leads to her love, and she will come tripping down the way and nab you if you need her sympathy. The best plan is to keep everything about yourself ship-shape so she won't feel sorry for your helplessness.

Live not for self To pile up pelf; Gold does not pay On Judgment Day!

Multiply all the pleasures of all the spheres by all the pleasures of all the years, and one minute of Heaven is worth them all. Thus saith Moore. It pays to be good even if you are lonesome.

"When I wuz a boy," said Uncle By, taking a shot at a knot-hole in the grocery floor, "I used 't tote th' girls off to go boardin'". There was a mighty lot 'o' stumps in that air 'o' Piscatacoy river an' th' girls allus watched out fer stumps, we being rowin' an' settin' backwards! One day I up and ast one 'o' them there girls to marry me, and I'll be dinged ef she didn't take me up quicken chain hit-nin—but she's kept me clear 'o' th' stumps ever since, an' I reckon that's what a good wife's fer, anyhow! Ain't it, boys?"

Jill Smiled Also.

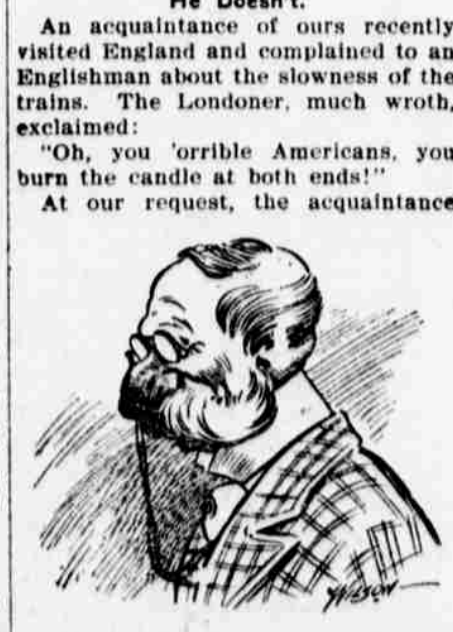
Jack and Jill Went up the hill To rush a can of liquor! Jack "smiled"—once; But Jill, the dunce— Well, Jill took quite a "snicker!"

Jack and Jill Imbibed their fill. Then Jill she drank a "snifter!" "Rah, rah!" Zlack, carry me!" But Jack he couldn't lift 'er!

Jack and Jill On top the hill Fell in a fit of laughter! Jack rolled down Right into town! And Jill came tumbling after!

He Doesn't.

An acquaintance of ours recently visited England and complained to an Englishman about the slowness of the trains. The Londoner, much wroth, exclaimed: "Oh, you 'orrible Americans, you burn the candle at both ends!" At our request, the acquaintance



"DEAR OLD THOMAS!"

Marry in haste, And repent at leisure; Tarry too long, And a tom-cat treasure.

A bluff old professor of ours used to tell the class, "If you mean leg say leg!" This is brought to mind by a Boston paper that speaks of 'em as "fros-limbs."

The Modern Jack.

Little Jack Horner Sat in a corner Eating a roastbraten pie; By midnight a hummock Had formed in his stomach— "Good by little Jackoon, good by!"



TICKLE GRASS BY BYRON WILLIAMS

By Lantern Light.

"An honest man's the noblest work of God." Thus wrote the poet, by his candle dim, But were Diogenes alive to-day, He'd still be searching for a lamp of wit!

The Fleecy Clouds.

They were sitting on the veranda. This was last summer. It was very late. As they sat there alone in the beautiful moonlight he prayed for a friendly cloud to drift across the face of life full moon. The clouds were really drifting, but somehow not one would go into the corner pocket. Then she liped: "Oh, Mr. Talkington, did you ever think how unlike the clouds you are?" "N—no, Miss Merrywakes, I don't believe I ever compared myself thus. Why am I unlike the clouds? Is it because I am all sunshine?" "No—oh, no!" "Then it must be—because I am about to rein over you—"



LITTLE MISS HUFFET.

Little Miss Huffet Sat on a tuftet, Reading the "Warovitch." But she gave up in sadness And said, "Such a mistress! Now vitch of these vitchies is which?"

The Heart of Us.

A dago played on his beggary way, In squallid street at the dusk of day; Played shrill and cracked at a wheezy tune, While slum kids danced to its liting tune!

A woman wan, at her casement high, Threw up her window with gladsome cry, To list the hand-organ's music roll, Metallic like for a tiny toll!

Her heart grew light at the dago's air, A cheering lull in a day of care! She hummed a song of the olden time, And smiled content at its simple rhyme!

In palace old, in a rhythmic sway, Where wealth abode in a wealthy way, The glad, sweet strains of a golden lyre Arose and fell at the soul's desire!

A woman sat in a gown of lace, And "hated sight of the dreadful place." She sighed and sighed and a tear drop fell: Hot from the walls of a hidden well!

No joyous thrill touched her heart of stone; The god of joy from her heart had flown! The organ ruid and the lyre of gold Should teach a moral of worth untold!

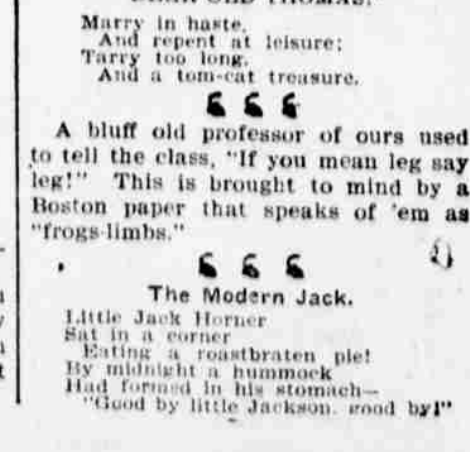
"Tis not the riches of life that give To man the rule and the right to live! Tho' poor and weak, we may hear the song, And lift our hearts as we plod along!

The Modern Man.

"Man is three-fifths genius And two-fifths fudge!" Thus saith a poet we have read, We think "three-fifths grasping And two-fifths grudge!" Is what the poet should have said!

A Sunday paper tells us that Mary and her little lamb once actually lived. Having been thus reassured, we turn again to the carking cares of the daily grind with renewed courage and enthusiasm.

Many men are like Aesop's fox— when he had lost his tail, he would have all his fellow foxes cut off theirs. Miserable themselves, these men are persistently engaged in making all those about them miserable.



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