

The Norfolk News

A joke doesn't necessarily have to be very stale to be older than the century.

It is a long time to wait, but the Fourth of July is coming, Mr. Bryan's predictions to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Woman's club at Fremont is agitating the question of a public library for that city and it is probable that their efforts will result in the establishing of such an institution.

Don't forget to put in your New Year's resolutions a resolve to take The News.

The Columbus Journal boasts that a man of that city did some plowing on Friday, the 21st, and "the ground turned over as easy as in the summer months." Nebraska is entitled to recognition as a proper winter resort.

A 1-year-old filly was recently sold in London for \$50,000. That would seem to be a pretty long chance to take on heredity, but breeding cuts a great figure in the equine world, as it does sometimes with the human race.

The increase in the money circulation of the United States for the month of November was nearly \$19,000,000 and treasury exports now place the per capita circulation of the country at \$28.04. The gold standard does not appear to contract the currency in any large degree.

Patent medicine advertisers have a bonanza in a Philadelphia man who takes five daily papers just to read the matter they have prepared and then believes that he has all the ailments so elaborately described. It is said that during the past two years he has taken 772 bottles of the various proprietary preparations.

A certain cynical college professor when asked for his definition of an amiable woman replied, "An amiable woman is one who, when you tramp out the gathers of her dress skirt with your clumsy feet, turns around and smiles at you." The college professor, despite his great erudition, is wrong. The creature he describes is an angel.

If the name of a certain Sioux City employer were but known he would undoubtedly be flooded with applications for the position of stenographer in his office. He recently made the statement that "a good stenographer is worth \$50 a month to any employer," and regrets that some are said to receive but \$2 or \$3 a week for their services.

The Columbus Journal gives a pertinent reason for the intelligence of Americans and the low rate of illiteracy in this country in the following: "The statement is made that there are about 16,000,000 pupils attending schools in the United States—as many as Germany, France and Italy combined, and three times the enrollment of Great Britain and Ireland, and five times as many as Russia with its population of 100,000,000."

The citizens of Niobrara propose to harness the river of the same name and make it furnish power for operating an electric road that will connect it and towns west of there with a city market. Towns along the northern border of the state have never had convenient transportation facilities and the inhabitants hope that some scheme may be successfully carried through that will place them in closer touch with the markets.

An example of women's activity well directed in public affairs is shown in Healdsburg, Cal., which is said to have been almost completely transformed through the efforts of the Ladies' Improvement club of that town since last September. They have by their active influence and organized labors procured for the town a municipal water system, a municipal electric light plant, comfortable seats in the park, an intelligent name system for the streets, signboards with names at all corners and a drinking fountain costing \$600. These are all improvements which the men folks had talked about for years, but their efforts were confined to talk. The women accomplished them in a few months without increased taxes, except for the first two purposes named.

Not a little comment and some criticism have been indulged in by the English people over the comparative ineffectiveness of the rifle fire of the British soldiers in South Africa. An expert, writing to the London Daily Mail, notes that in the British army volley firing is cultivated to a great extent. He says it is believed to regulate the expenditure of ammunition, to compel each soldier to fire coolly with properly adjusted sights and to enable the commander to direct the fire at the point desired. The same writer, however, says that Burnham, the American scout, called attention to the fact that the Boers would "duck" when they saw the smoke of a volley and rise to fire in return after it had passed over them. The truth is volley firing cannot be used to advantage except against men in masses and at moderate ranges. The English employment of the volley is a part of the conserva-

tive methods which prevailed in the service of the queen and which have received some pretty severe shocks in the South African campaign.

It has been said and statistics seem to prove the contention that more money intended for charity goes to unworthy than to worthy objects. This is due not to any sinister motive on the part of the donors, but to the fact that charitably inclined persons are as a rule so tender hearted as to be easy prey for the army of professional beggars of the better class who are constantly on the lookout for them. A national movement is on foot which is at least based upon common sense, even though it may prove to be non-practical in operation. It is intended that all states shall establish institutions upon practically identical lines and that all persons in each state shall be requested to send any surplus money they may have and all begging letters they may receive to their state board of charity, which, through its local representatives, will look carefully into the merits of each case and act as the matter seems to warrant. The idea of this plan is that the worthy poor would get all the money intended for them by the resultant shutting off of the leeches who now fatten on the sympathetic natures of good hearted but shortsighted persons.

Our Trade in the Pacific. In the last five years the largest percentage of gain in America exports has been with Asia and Oceania. The figures of increase for ten months are from \$25,587,421 in 1895 to \$82,565,153 in the present year, a gain of 226 per cent. Temporarily, there is a falling off in exports to China on account of military operations at Peking and the disturbed condition of the country. But to Japan this year the United States has sent goods valued at over \$23,000,000, or 50 per cent more than in 1899. There has also been an increase in exports to Hong Kong and Asiatic Russia. Our exports to Africa have almost tripled since 1895, standing this year at \$17,000,000 for ten months. In Hawaii, the Philippines and Alaska there is a large increase in trade, but as this is our own territory the figures are not included in this showing.

It is to the Pacific that the producers of the United States may look for the most rapid enlargement of foreign trade. South America, to which our average exports are not more than \$3,500,000 a month, and which sells us more than it buys, is a less promising field than the Pacific. European countries take special pains to cultivate business relations with South America and a convention composed of representatives from the Spanish-speaking countries has just been held in Madrid. Its results were chiefly sentimental, for Spain is in no position to assume any commercial leadership. The completion of the Nicaragua canal will open to American enterprise new facilities for reaching the Pacific side of South America, Asia and Oceania, and as our trade there is growing at a greater ratio than with any other part of the world American merchants, manufacturers and traders must keep sharp eyes on developments in the vast ocean that borders the most populous part of the world.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Irrigation Resources. The subject of irrigation is enlisting the interests of a great many people, especially of the west, and anything pertaining to the subject is eagerly read. The following from F. H. Newell, hydrographer of the geological survey, is from an official source and his idea of the possibilities of land reclamation should be carefully considered:

"Exclusive of Alaska and outlying possessions one-third of the whole United States is vacant and at the disposal of congress. For the most part it is open to homestead entry and settlement, and much of it consists of land possessing great fertility except for the lack of water. In different sections are to be found mountain masses from which come perennial streams whose waters are now used to some extent to moisten the parched lands. At intervals there occur local storms or floods inundating large tracts. There is available water for the reclamation of a considerable portion of this arid land if it could all be saved and put to use.

"Work has been undertaken by individuals and by corporations to construct ditches, canals and reservoirs to supply the lack of moisture. As a rule the smaller works taking water from perennial streams have been not only successful but sources of great profit to the owners; the larger works, however, almost equally without exception, have proven financial failures and their owners have become bankrupt. The great works, built in the hope of securing a certain and permanent revenue drawn from the farmer have impoverished the owners, and the latter unwillingly have become benefactors of the public.

"The lesson being slowly but certainly taught that reclamation on a large scale cannot be made a source of profit except under extraordinary combination of circumstances. The great storage reservoirs and canals are comparable in one sense to lighthouses and harbor improvements; they are necessary and worth far more than they cost, but under the existing state of civilization they cannot be made to contribute exclusively to the welfare of the build-

ers. The indirect gain or unearned increment of value is so widely diffused that the general public reaps the larger reward.

"We are confronted with a situation where there is a vast amount of fertile land to be reclaimed and considerable quantities of water to be conserved and brought to this thirsty land. By such action millions of homes can be created and the commonwealth enormously strengthened, by the addition of a producing population where each head of family owns and lives upon his farm. To bring about this happy result it is impossible to trust to speculative enterprise, because of the fact that profits cannot be made in construction of a work unless the population becomes tenants of a great land-owning monopoly."

New Year--New Century. January 1, 1901, has a double significance. It not only marks the birth of a new year but of a new century. The latter fact somewhat overshadows the former, as it is the event of a lifetime and it affords an opportunity to review the past as recorded by history and memory, and to indulge in fancies as to what the new century may bring forth. The century just closing has been one of wonderful progress and development and in no country is this more marked than in our own United States of America. When the passing century dawned it was a struggling infant, as nations go, and its close witnesses a new and mature giant stepping forth in the pride of his strength and assuming a place in international politics on an equality with the oldest and ablest nations of the world, with a strong probability of soon taking the lead. While the dying century has witnessed a wonderful development along political and territorial lines the progress in science, the arts, industry, explorations and the hundreds of other indications of advancement have been as marked. In these the United States has easily led and the world owes more to her people than to any other nation.

Civilization is advancing with mighty strides and the time is not far in the future when all nations will enjoy the blessings of enlightenment, and the dark and savage places of the earth will be no more.

The fearless explorer has penetrated the uttermost parts of the earth and in his wake have followed the civilizing influences that the Nineteenth century has brought forth. The wonderful development can scarcely be realized.

A century ago a very large portion of South America was an unknown, unexplored wilderness, now it is all known and generally inhabited. North America, west of the Mississippi river, was known as the "Great American desert." Since then states equaling in strength and wealth and area many of the kingdoms which had places in ancient history, have been formed in that territory. Nebraska is one of those states which has assumed an important place in the national life. Asia, Africa and Australia were little known and have since produced countries and peoples of more or less importance. As the old century closes and the new opens there is but a few localities, among them Tibet, that are unknown to the civilized world and these will undoubtedly give up their secrets before the new century is many years old.

With this record of exploration and the opening of new territory to the world as a feature of the Nineteenth century, the mind naturally inquires regarding the direction such progress will take during the coming century. The work in hand for civilizing influences is, however, but just begun. There are undeveloped resources in all parts of the world capable of sustaining millions of people and these will receive deserving attention during the next hundred years.

During the time that new countries have been opening up the intelligence of the civilized countries has been improving. A forecast of what the Nineteenth century has developed would have been taken as the veriest fairy tale by the intelligent people of the Eighteenth, and the results would have exceeded the most vivid imaginings.

Among the most important marks of progress are the steam and electric railroads, telegraph and telephone, the public school system, public water supply in cities, pavements and sewers, electric lighting, liquid air, photography, steam ships and naval vessels, submarine boats, ocean cables, sewing machines, talking machines, moving pictures, clocks and watches, typesetting by machinery, power printing presses, the postal system, bicycles and automobiles, coal for heat and power, churches by the thousands, charitable, benevolent and insurance organizations, improved farm machinery, gasoline power, stenography and typewriting, telegraphing without wires, the Rotengen x-rays, fire arms and munitions of war, and thousands of other inventions and improvements.

Reviewing these wonderful achievements it is a question as to what remains for the Twentieth century to develop and it seems impossible to realize that the inventions we now deem so complete and perfect may appear as crude and useless to the person who witnesses the birth of the Twenty-First century as the methods employed at the opening of the Nineteenth century now appear to us. That there will be wonderful changes is not questioned but what they will be is a subject for conjecture.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

INTEREST IN THE TREATY AND THE SHIPPING BILL CONTINUES.

How Enemies of the Shipping Bill Do Their Work—Great Britain and the Treaty—Evidences of Senator Hanna's Popularity.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Public interest still continues to center upon the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and the shipping bill. Correspondents of the leading newspapers of the country located in Washington are constantly being reminded by their editors that all the facts and gossip on these subjects are eagerly read by the people, and consequently the attention devoted to them occupies a considerable portion of the daily space devoted in the press of the country to Washington news. It is somewhat curious and not insignificant that the general run of matter on the shipping bill in particular should have been so favorable. That a powerful lobby representing the interests of foreign steamship lines known to be opposed to this bill is located in Washington is well known in newspaper circles, but the disquieting thing is the readiness with which responsible newspapers and their experienced correspondents here accept as true statements known to have emanated from that source.

This is all the more striking since nothing is done by the friends of the measure to offset this propaganda. All talk to the contrary notwithstanding, there is no lobby here in the interest of the shipping bill, and not the least pressure is being put upon members to favor it. That the contrary is true with respect to the opponents of the bill every member of congress knows. Not alone are members approached and "sounded" as to their views on the shipping bill, but they are daily in receipt of documents opposing it, which documents, curiously enough, all come from the same source. It would be different if the opposition to the shipping bill were at all widespread or general. On the contrary, however, it is restricted and limited, although extremely active. For this reason people should be very cautious how they accept as true stories put afloat against the bill, and most of all they should remember that its defeat is desired by every interest opposed to the best welfare of the United States.

The fate of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty now hinges upon the disposition of the British government. If the latter is willing to accept it in its amended form, as there is growing reason to believe it will, then the way will not only be smoothed for the construction of the Nicaragua canal by the United States, but the hampering restrictions of the famous Clayton-Bulwer treaty will no longer remain a nightmare to disturb the otherwise friendly relations between the United States and Great Britain. The fact that Great Britain displays in its treatment of the amended treaty will have a most powerful influence upon the negotiations, probably soon to be resumed, to settle the differences existing between the United States and Canada. Great Britain can well afford to be satisfied with the Hay-Pauncefote treaty if she is discreet enough in her diplomacy to accept it graciously, assured that Americans will approach a solution of the other differences in a spirit of liberality that will go far to effecting a final settlement on all of the questions in dispute.

Since Senator Hanna blossomed out as an orator he is in receipt of congratulatory telegrams and letters from all sorts of people. Many of them of course come from political and personal friends, but the large majority of them come from people who are perfect strangers to him. They are all anxious to procure copies of his speech, and in some cases considerable numbers are asked for by those evincing an enthusiasm or deep interest in the subject and who are anxious to spread the speech among their friends. The senator says that the most gratifying of all these requests is the fact that so many of them come from the south and from self confessed Democrats, some of whom admit that they are opposed to him politically, but in sympathy with him in his efforts to place our shipping in the foreign trade upon a position that will add to the nation's military and commercial strength.

If one were to believe the statements put out by the opposition press, he would be convinced that Senator Hanna had aroused the resentment of every one of his colleagues in the senate. He is pictured as being desirous of bossing things in the senate and riding roughshod over those who have come to be known as "old timers" in that great deliberative chamber, whereas as a matter of fact no man in the senate is more careful than Senator Hanna to observe the traditions and customs and especially to defer to the experienced judgment of his colleagues upon all matters of procedure. But in the case of the shipping bill, which has aroused these maliciously untrue statements concerning him, he has been identified with the subject from the day he first crossed the threshold of the senate, and it is the one great measure with which his name is identified. He resents because of its utter untruth every statement that directly or indirectly charges him with having anything more than a public and patriotic interest in the measure. His lake marine interests are not and cannot be in the least affected by either the passage or the defeat of the shipping bill, and he absolutely has no pecuniary interest whatever in ships or shipping elsewhere.

J. B. M.

NEW RAILROAD LAW NEEDED

Both Parties in Kansas Pledged to Passage of the Measure.

Topeka, Jan. 2.—The Kansas legislature, at its session beginning Jan. 8, will have to enact a new railroad law. Both parties are pledged to this measure. The old commissioner law will be re-enacted, with a few amendments, giving the board more power. The Republicans are advocating a new assessment and taxation law, which will secure the assessment of property at its real value. Many large enterprises in the state, such as the big packing houses at Kansas City, escape their share of taxes, and it is the purpose of the legislature to pass a law that will insure the listing of all such property, and in fact, all classes of property, at its true value. The National Anti-Cigarette league will send representatives here to push a bill for the prohibition of cigarettes. The federal supreme court's decision in the Connecticut case, where in the state anti-cigarette law was upheld, has encouraged the league to try to save Kansas from the cigarette evil.

TESLA'S PREDICTION.

Hopes to See Communication Established With the Planets—Says Other Worlds Are Trying to Signal Ours.

New York, Jan. 2.—Nikola Tesla, the wizard of electricity, is completely satisfied that attempts are being made by the inhabitants of some other planets to communicate with the people of this earth. "In some experiments I have been conducting for some time," said Mr. Tesla, "I have been noticing disturbances that have had a peculiar effect on my instruments. What these disturbances are caused by I am unable to say at present, but I am firmly convinced that they are the results of an attempt by some human beings, not of our world, to speak to us by signals. I am certain of some points in connection with these things I have noticed. I am absolutely certain that they are not caused by anything terrestrial. I know, too, that they are not caused by the sun or moon, and hence I am forced to the belief that they come from some other planet. "That we can send a message to a planet is certain. That we can get an answer is probable. Man on earth is not the only being in God's great system of worlds that is in possession of a mind."

SUGAR WAR NEARING END.

Arbuckle and Havemeyer Interests Finally Adjust Differences.

Toledo, O., Jan. 2.—Very substantial reports are current that the coffee and sugar war, which has waged so long and bitterly between the Arbuckle and Havemeyer interests, is nearing an adjustment satisfactory to all parties. For four long years the Woolson Spice company has not made an advance in the price of roasted coffee. It is now understood that today, with an understanding with, and the assent of, the Arbuckles, the Woolson people will order an advance of 1/2 cent per pound on their roasted product.

Word also comes through private sources that B. H. Howell & Co. of New York, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the country, will today advance granulated sugar five points, bringing it up to that now quoted by the American Sugar Refining company, or in other words, the Havemeyer interests.

New Life Saving District.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 2.—News of the creation of a new life saving district, to include the sea waters of Alaska, Washington and Oregon, has been received. Captain W. H. Roberts of San Francisco has been appointed superintendent of the district, with headquarters at Tacoma. The formation of a new district will greatly enhance the scope of the service, and will result in the establishment of a station at Cape Flattery. There is at present no station north of Gray's Harbor.

Argentina's Surplus Crop.

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 2.—The minister of agriculture, Martin Garcia Meron, in his annual report, estimates that there will be 1,700,000 tons of wheat available for export this season. He says that the corn crop is good.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

William Clabots is in jail at West Superior, Wis., charged with killing his wife with an axe.

Miss Kunigunda Bartholdt of Mascoutah, Ill., died of blood poisoning, resulting from a scratch caused by a pile plate.

Theodore Schutte of Illinois City stepped through an air hole while attempting to cross the river and was drowned.

Senator James McMillan of Detroit was nominated by the joint Republican caucus of the Michigan legislature to succeed himself.

Harry Doan, aged 19 years, was stabbed to death by John Bartlett, 17 years old, at Pittsfield, Ills. The lads had a quarrel about Bartlett's dogs scaring Doan's cattle.

Stephen Boozle was killed and Charles Collegnon fatally injured in Menominee, Wis., Tuesday. They were driving and their cutter was struck by a Northwestern passenger train and demolished.

Notice of a reduction in wages that will affect about 4,000 men were posted Tuesday at all of the blast furnaces in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys. The base price is \$1.90 per day to helpers and the notices state that after Feb. 1 the base price will be \$1.65.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

IMPORTANT MATTERS TO BE DECIDED BY CONGRESS AFTER RECESS.

Deep Interest in Canal and Shipping Bills—Feeling That the Two Measures Are Closely Related—Insistent Efforts to Mislead the People.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Having practically disposed of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and adjourned for the holidays, the senate will resume consideration of the shipping bill immediately after the recess. Pressure will be brought to secure the consideration of the Nicaragua canal bill, and the army reorganization bill will also come before the senate for consideration early in the first week of the coming century. In the house rapid progress has been made in disposing of many important measures, and when that branch of congress gets down to work after the holidays it is likely to continue its good record of dispatch of meritorious legislation.

There is no measure before congress that attracts, both here in Washington and the country over, so much attention as does the merchant marine revival bill. There is some insidious force at work here that attempts to poison the usual channels of news distribution with all kinds of statements, more or less true, but nearly all twisted and perverted, designed to confuse and mislead the public concerning that great national measure. If the general run of dispatches that are sent out could be believed, it would be a foregone conclusion that the shipping bill was already dead. It may be accepted as a fact that none of these daily emanations is inspired by any of the friends of the bill either in or out of congress.

One of the most mendacious and despicable methods employed by the enemies of this measure to prejudice the public against it is the assertion, already worn threadbare, that the older senators resent the attempt of Senator Hanna to assume the position of leader in the senate. In the first place, Senator Hanna has made no effort to assume such a position, and, secondly, his relations with his colleagues on each side of the senate are most cordial and pleasant. Everybody knows that he is earnestly anxious to secure the passage of the merchant marine bill, that it is a measure to which he has given more attention than to any other single bill and that he hopes to secure the assent of a majority of the senate to its enactment. So far as using any coercive means by which to secure support, he has done nothing of the kind, and not one of his colleagues has breathed even an intimation of such an attempt.

The construction of the Nicaragua canal is another topic that is much discussed. That it will eventually be dug, and by the United States, is generally conceded, and many people believe that the legislation necessary to start the project along will be passed this winter. There is a widespread and growing feeling, however, that the work of building up our shipping in the foreign trade should go hand in hand with the construction of an isthmian canal. For the United States to construct such a canal and to have it used only by foreign vessels, as is the case with the Suez, would be contrary to the wishes of a majority of the people—so it is believed here. That the construction of such a canal will be a great aid to commerce goes without saying, but people are beginning to realize that the dependence of our exports upon foreign ships for their transport places the United States in a seriously weak and almost dangerous position.

The value of the exports of the United States this year will probably reach one and a half billions of dollars, a sum twice as great as the value of our exports in 1890. Such a growth, marvelous as it has been, is likely to be greater during the next ten years, more particularly in manufacturing, so rapidly has this particular branch of our exports expanded during the last two or three years. It will be much different in the future in securing and holding foreign markets for our manufactures than it has been in the past in securing and holding foreign markets for our raw products. This truth must be obvious to all who will reflect. When our raw products were carried from our shores to foreign countries in foreign ships and there manufactured for the world's consumption and by foreign ships carried to the world's markets, there was nothing to arouse the hostility of foreign peoples.

But those nations which possess a large export trade in manufactures happen to also be the nations possessing the merchant shipping which does the great bulk of the world's foreign carrying. The rapidity with which the United States is increasing its exports of manufactures is not yet fully realized abroad, but when it is—and this must be soon, so enormous is our increase—our foreign rivals will be aroused from their lethargy, and they will seek to discover means to check our export growth. In this circumstance, possessing, as they now do, the only means with which our exports can be carried abroad, it would be easy for them to withdraw their ships from our trade and thus leave us without any means for conveying our products to their foreign markets. Lacking their ships, our people would be absolutely helpless, and a staggering blow would thus be struck at our export trade, the injurious effects of which would be felt in every manufacturing and business center of the nation.

J. B. M.