

The Norfolk News

Bryan's paper is to be rather exclusive it seems. He has refused to accept advertisements and it is presumed it will be used solely to advertise Mr. Bryan and his principles.

Some of the democrats continue to insist that Mr. Bryan is the only qualified leader of the party. Very well. Let it go at that. He leads the party in the right direction to satisfy the republicans.

Mr. Cleveland assumes to speak for the rank and file while Mr. Bryan's interests are said to rest with the common people. There will be a mighty disturbance when the one class comes to be separated from the other.

Abraham E. Elmer of Warren, N. Y., is said to have lived in three centuries, having been born in 1782. It is also said that he has used tobacco and whisky all his life and invariably voted for Andrew Jackson for president.

W. T. Stead of New York is authority for the statement that Oom Paul Kruger will visit the United States in February. Mr. Kruger will undoubtedly be warmly welcomed should he decide to visit the greatest republic of them all.

They are not so slow down about Snyder, either, when it comes to capturing bandits. The Omaha officers, up to date, seem to be the most easily evaded. The Tilden or Snyder method might well be copied after by the Omaha police.

The Hooper Sentinel celebrated the New Year by printing an extra large paper containing an excellent write-up of the town and its business interests. The edition is illustrated with excellent half-tone cuts and is a fine advertisement for Hooper.

The fusionists are very hopeful that Governor Dietrich's administration may give them cause for objections, but the governor is evidently not worried by their desires and has started in to give the state business-like methods that are admired, even by the fusionists.

Mrs. Anna J. Slote, whose death occurred in New York on New Year's day, lived in three centuries, having been born in County Armagh, Ireland, July 12, 1800. She was the mother of "Dan" Slote, who still lives in the pages of Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad."

The New Republic of Lincoln announces as its candidates for the United States senate from Nebraska Lucius O. Jones and Charles E. Bently. Its candid in conceding, however, that its candidates are not likely to have a single vote in the legislature so that it cannot be disappointed.

Some fellow, whose ignorance of financial matters must have been very burdensome, recently tapped the safe in the office of the Polk County Independent and took therefrom \$14 in cash. He might rob 100 printing offices and never again have such luck. That \$14 must have represented the savings for years of the editor of the Independent.

The Morning Times-Citizen of Cripple Creek, Col., has issued one of the very handsomest Twentieth century editions yet seen. It consists of 48 pages, very nicely illustrated with half-tone cuts and has a specially illuminated cover presenting mining views in colors. The edition is largely devoted to the mining interests of that now famous region.

Citizens of Nebraska generally will share in the grief of Ex-Secretary J. Sterling Morton over the death of his youngest son, Carl. The four sons, of whom Carl was the youngest, have assumed an important position in the business world and the removal of one of them will be keenly felt by those having a business, social or political acquaintance with the family.

North Nebraska has lots of aspirants for the senatorship, but our friend John R. Hays of Norfolk, in our minds could not be surpassed in many ways for the position. However, we do not know that he has even dreamed of the position, and it is not likely that he will get it. We would be glad to see him or most any of the professed candidates get there. We have a chance to make a good selection. —Winside Tribune.

"Doc" Bixby of the Lincoln Journal thinks that no one who keeps clean and eats wholesome food need fear an attack of small pox. This will be read with considerable satisfaction by those who have not suffered from the disease but it is pretty severe "medicine" to those who have had it. To suffer an attack of the disease and then have some learned "Doc" call you dirty and an eater of unwholesome food is rather unusual punishment.

The 9-year-old boy of Marietta, Ohio, who shot and killed his 14-year-old sister recently, during the absence of his parents, is an evidence of youthful depravity or ignorance the like of which is seldom encountered. People who believe in purity and innocence of youth will be inclined to excuse on the plea of ignorance. If such is the real cause, however, it will be difficult for those re-

sponsible for his training to evade their share of responsibility.

The base ball associations are making arrangements for a great season of the national game next summer and the various teams are already being organized. Norfolk's base ball enthusiasts have not yet got to work and may not do so until the season is half finished. Unless they succeed in having base ball, however, and not a repetition of last summer's joke, there will be few to regret if they don't organize at all.

At a recent banquet in Lincoln Mr. Bryan is reported to have said: "At this banquet surrounded by neighbors who have been my political friends for ten years, I may be pardoned for saying a word of a personal nature. Five times you have voted for me for public office—twice for congress, once for the United States senate, and twice [for the presidency." And he might consistently have added: "Still I am not satisfied."

The Chicago Tribune gives the following statistics for 1900: Disasters, 15,265, increase over 1899 8,490; killed by railroad accidents, 4,109, increase, 557; general marine disasters, 2,719, increase 499; lynchings, 115, increase 8; hangings, 119, decrease 12; murders, 8,275, increase 2,050; suicides, 6,755, increase 1,406; fire losses, \$159,250,223, increase \$8,712,858; embezzlements, \$4,060,154, increase \$2,441,761; donations and bequests to institutions of all kinds, \$62,461,304, decrease \$17,288,652.

The Burleigh reapportionment bill, which has passed the national house of representatives, does not cut down the representation from Nebraska as some had feared would be done. This, in view of the census showing in this state on account of the padding ten years ago, is as good as could be asked. During the next ten years, with a population truthfully counted, Nebraska expects to make a gain that will entitle her to increased representation. Until entitled to the increase she will manage to get along with six congressmen.

Those who desire to live to witness the improvements of the Twentieth century may now do so, at least it is so reported. A Dr. Albert Robin of Paris claims to have discovered a process of revitalizing debilitated humanity by a subcutaneous injection of glycerophosphate of soda. It is said that Abram Hewitt who was treated in 1897 at the age of 75 has been made 25 years younger and will live to be 100. The doctor is quite likely to have all the work of rejuvenizing he wants. There are few who have passed childhood's estate who would object to being turned back a few years.

The Stanton Picket has been canvassing the republicans of that city to learn their choice in regard to United States senators from this state. While many refused to name but one preference, believing it fair to leave it to the South Platte country to make one choice, 22 of them indicated a leaning toward Thompson. Of the North Platte candidates, Rosewater was given the preference by 44 and Metkelejohn by 24. Crouse was a favorite with quite a number and Hinshaw and Hainer were favorably mentioned by several. If Stanton is an indication of the sentiment in the North Platte country there should be no question as to who should be elected.

The hen has been very much flattered of late regarding her importance to the world. A man quoted by the Philadelphia Record says: "It has been estimated that there are about three hundred and fifty million hens in the United States. During the year 1900 they produced approximately fourteen billion eggs, which represent in the neighborhood of \$175,000,000. That seems a lot of money, but just wait a minute." He figured on a slip of paper with a pencil. "The living value of hens at 30 cents a piece," he continued, "is not far from \$100,000,000, besides which about \$130,000,000 worth of poultry is eaten in this country in the course of a year. So you see the hen, while a humble bird, cuts quite a figure in the financial world."

Are ministers to be forced to tell only what they know to be true at funerals? is a question raised by the Booz investigation at the West Point military academy. The minister who preached the funeral sermon over Booz has been brought before the commission and asked to tell his authority for statements made on that occasion. He was compelled to admit that his source of information was members of the family of the deceased and that he had no other means of knowing that they were correct. When the time comes that ministers are made to tell only what they know to be true at funerals and when the writer of obituaries is brought to the same method, it is fair to presume that death and funerals will be more unpopular than ever.

The reapportionment bill introduced in the house of representatives by J. E. Evans of Lincoln county is quite satisfactory to Madison county and north-east Nebraska, as representation is materially increased. The bill provides that the counties of Stanton, Madison and Antelope shall constitute the Tenth senatorial district, whereas now Madison is in the Eleventh district, with

Stanton, Pierce and Wayne counties. Coming, Wayne and Pierce counties are to form the Ninth district under Evans' bill. Madison is to be given one representative as the Twenty-Third district and, with Platte county, will form the Twenty-Fifth district which will be entitled to one representative. Thus Platte and Madison counties that now have two representatives will, under this bill, be entitled to three.

This country is not the only one enjoying a growth of the beet sugar industry and there is likely to be plenty of competition. An extensive beet sugar factory is soon to be erected near the city of Monastir, in Turkey. A syndicate of German and Belgian capitalists has likewise purchased a large tract of land in the neighborhood of the Persian gulf which will be planted to beets and a large factory erected. These European sugar manufacturers have an advantage in several particulars over the American manufacturer, one of the principal being cheaper labor. It is therefore probable that the latter will not be able to compete with the former in European markets, but when it comes to the demand in America, the manufacturers of this country have the advantage of less freight rates, so that they are in a position to handle the local demand without fear of the foreign producers.

The World-Herald, with its notorious yellow journal style, recently published a sensational story about the execution by the military authorities of the Philippines of a soldier named Skinner and commented on the fact that he was ordered shot on Christmas day, the day of all days when there should be peace on earth and good will toward men. It alleged that Skinner had been condemned for sleeping at his post and vividly pictured the feelings of the grief-stricken parents. John Riss, an old citizen and soldier of Grand Island was indignant that the government should tolerate such methods, especially on Christmas day, and wrote to the president about it. He received a letter from H. C. Corbin, adjutant general, that very thoroughly shattered the story. It seemed that Skinner had been tried by court martial for "quitting his post" and sentenced to four months confinement and forfeiture of part of his pay. This was on August 5, and at the time the World-Herald's story was published, he had served his term. The adjutant general adds: "In connection it is but fair to state that since the beginning of the Spanish-American war no soldier has suffered the death penalty for either military or criminal offenses."

State Engineer Channel in a report on irrigation in Nebraska suggests radical legislation on the subject. He suggests the creation of an office of state engineer and also that the legislature provide for a state board of irrigation, which can only be accomplished through constitutional amendments. The importance of irrigation to Nebraska, may be realized from the following in Mr. Channel's report: "Of the entire state more than one-third, or about 15,000 square miles, lie within the arid or semi-arid region where agriculture, though a partial success in the most favorable seasons, is in the main a failure without irrigation. In seasons of unusual rainfall the productivity of the soil bears witness of the abundant fertility and gives promise of its possibilities when sufficient moisture is supplied and all the elements combine to produce a fruitful growth of plant life. The water to irrigate this region must be supplied largely from rivers having their sources in Colorado and Wyoming and while the supply is ample for the development of considerable areas it will be necessary in the near future in order that irrigation development be not retarded to provide some system for the storage of flood waters that now go to waste and some equitable adjustment of interstate rights to use the waters of interstate streams."

The women of Kansas are making quite a fuss over the arrest of Mrs. Nation of Wichita who attempted to forcibly break up one of the saloons of that city. Some women may have real good and sufficient cause for wishing that saloons might be forcibly retired, but really when they go beyond the law and take the matter in their own hands as Mrs. Nation did the question arises as to whether they are better than any other property destroying law-breaker. No doubt the saloon men, who are accorded some rights by the law, as cordially hate Mrs. Nation as she does them but if one should throw bricks through her windows and smash her parlor furniture it is doubtful if the other saloon keepers would rally to his support and pat him on the back with the remark that he had done just right. The W. C. T. U. is a commendable organization and has the advantage over the saloon men in that almost any one can and will speak a kind word for them and assist them in their work. Making that they are doing much good. They should not endanger this advantage by acts that will lower them in the estimation of law abiding people. If they cannot do their work by creating and enforcing laws, their field for good is very materially limited, because no law has yet been constituted that will allow one class of citizens to destroy property and prevent another from doing likewise.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE PAST RECESS CENTERS OF INTEREST IN CONGRESS.

River and Harbor, Appropriation, Army Reorganization and Shipping Bills—Foreign Steamship Influence Against Last Named Measure.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The holiday recess is nearing its close, and members of congress are returning to the city to take up anew the details of national legislation. In the house interest will center during the first few days succeeding the holidays in the great river and harbor bill—the \$60,000,000 omnibus measure which has somewhere, by some one, been characterized as the greatest piece of log rolling in the world. The members of the committee which drafted the bill have done some heroic work in pruning down its unwieldy proportions from an \$80,000,000 to a \$60,000,000 "proposition." After it has run the exciting but brief gantlet of the house it must be sent to the senate, where it is referred to the committee on commerce.

There is some significance in the fact that the same committee of the senate which has favorably reported the shipping bill is the one that the river and harbor improvement bill is referred to when it reaches the senate. It takes a long time to carefully study the provisions of such a vast measure as the river and harbor bill, and it would not be at all surprising if the senate commerce committee did not interfere with the fullest consideration of the shipping bill in the senate while it is giving in committee the fullest consideration to the river and harbor improvement bill. Meanwhile, of course, in the senate precedence will be given to the appropriation bills and, it is expected, to the army reorganization bill.

Considering the bitter partisan feeling that has run so high on the subject of army reorganization and the disposition of the senate to debate indefinitely any measure of national importance on which the great political parties take sides in opposition, there is a growing feeling that the outcome of the whole discussion may, after all, be a continuance of the existing law for a couple more years, leaving for congress in the long session and in the light of subsequent developments is the perfection and passage of just such a measure as our military needs in our changed conditions indicate as desirable.

Next in importance and of consuming interest is the shipping bill. Recently there has arisen a very general feeling of confidence in the ultimate passage of some kind of a shipping bill before the close of the present session. It would be a strange thing, but not entirely out of the range of probability, to find the provision admitting foreign built ships to American registry either eliminated or vastly changed before final passage. This has been regarded as one of the features most likely to attract and hold the votes of Democrats, as the free admission of foreign built vessels to American registry is in line with their demands for a long time back. And yet if this provision is stricken out it will not be by Republican votes.

The real facts seem to be that the opponents of the bill find it much easier to get into communication with Democrats than they do with Republicans, and, as the former are prone to believe statements that are made to them in apparent good faith and with seeming plausibility, they have absorbed an immense amount of misinformation concerning the provisions and objects of the bill. The opponents of the bill are most happy when they are mystifying people concerning its provisions. And so it is that men are working at cross purposes in perfect good faith and are doing precisely what the enemies of the bill desire to have them do—divide on all kinds of points to a degree that will make it impossible for a majority to unite upon the entire features of any proposed measure.

If the most dangerous congressional opponents of the bill are not led by the foreign steamship lines in their opposition to the bill, they are, at least to a great extent, guided by the line of argument that has been put forth in the interest of these great foreign lines. The lines of foreign steamships that have as their American terminals the port of New York alone receive in freight and passenger tolls from the American people considerably over \$100,000,000 each year. These people know that the passage of the shipping bill means a long period of fierce competition with American ships and a consequent reduction in the rates of transportation that will wipe out practically all of the profits in the business for years to come even if American ships do not succeed in wresting from them a fair share of the carrying.

So the remaining couple of months of the session promise to present a battle royal between American and foreign interests, with the chances favoring the foreigners, so far as the "policy" of their "argument" goes, but with the great preponderating American sentiment backing up the friends and advocates of the bill. The friends of the bill have nothing else upon which to rely for support and in which to hope for success but the sentiment, patriotic and determined, of the American people. If the foreign interests menaced by this sentiment suffer as a consequence, we may be sure that the American people will benefit in reduced ocean freight charges and in larger and surer markets for their surplus products. J. B. ACKER.

MAY SHIFT FROM PEKING.

England Will Agree to Washington If G. Her Powers Will Assent.

London, Jan. 9.—Mr. Choate had an interview regarding the Chinese situation with Lord Lansdowne at the foreign office today, but little headway was made. The discussion was confined to the difficulties of the powers in agreeing to China's answer to their demands. Great Britain has not yet replied to the circular of the United States inviting the powers to confer in Washington. The Associated Press is authorized to say that she is willing to agree if the rest of the powers will agree, but the impression prevails in London that the other powers are not likely to accept Mr. Hay's suggestions.

British officials generally are disheartened over the latest muddles in Peking and fear that a long time will elapse before matters are made straight. It is pointed out that a conference in Washington will be a cause of serious delay and inconvenience to many powers, who would be obliged to send special representatives. If it is decided to hold a conference in Washington, Lord Pauncefote will probably represent Great Britain. The success or defeat of Mr. Hay's suggestion seems to depend on the powers of the triple alliance. The indications are that these would only accept the proposal as a last resort.

PORTO RICO CASES UP.

Supreme Court Listens to Conder's Argument—Contents That Porto Ricans Are Citizens of United States.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Argument was begun in the United States supreme court yesterday in the Porto Rican customs case, now before that court. The five consolidated cases were taken up and F. R. Conder spoke in behalf of the plaintiffs against the government in the case known as the Delima case. Mr. Conder devoted considerable time to showing that Porto Rico is not a "foreign country," as that term is used in the Dingley law under which the tariff on the Porto Rico sugar imported into the United States in November, 1899, was imposed in this case. He contended that by the Paris treaty Porto Rico had come under the sovereignty and dominion of the United States, a geographical part of what Marshall had called the "American empire." The government representatives will probably not be heard before Thursday and Mr. Carlisle probably not before Friday.

UNCLE SAM MAY TAKE HAND

Columbian Revolution Again Assumes a Serious Aspect.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The state department received advices yesterday from Consul General Gudgeon at Panama indicating that the Colombian revolution had again assumed a serious aspect. He states that the Colombian government announces that the revolutionists are approaching Panama and are making preparations for a fight. There is reason to believe that the United States government will adopt a vigorous line of action in case the city of Panama is attacked or there is any interruption of the transit facilities of the Isthmus. At present the gunboat Tanager is at Panama and the Philadelphia and Iowa are on the way to that locality.

Peace Circular Issued.

Cape Town, Jan. 9.—The central peace committee at Kronstadt has issued a circular, in the course of which it says: "The time has arrived for the inhabitants of Orange River Colony to make an effort to save the country from further destruction. The country is literally a vast wilderness. The farmers, ruined and facing starvation, are obliged to go to the towns for protection and huge refugee camps have been formed by the British for them. This is caused by an obstinate minority who will not bow to the inevitable."

Breth Hazing Inquiry.

Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—The congressional committee which is investigating the hazing of fourth class cadets at West Point resumed the taking of testimony yesterday. Harry Breth of Altoona, an older brother of John Breth, whose death is also under investigation, said he and his sister paid his brother a visit at West Point in August, 1897, a few months after his admission to the academy. John said he had been exercised until he was rendered unconscious and was revived with whisky.

Bryan the Guest of Honor.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—William J. Bryan was the guest of honor at the annual banquet of the Chicago Bryan League which was held last night at the Sherman house. Mr. Bryan did not arrive until late and was driven direct from the depot to the banquet hall, where several hundred members of the league and their friends greeted him with enthusiasm.

Stole Safe and All.

Chelsea, Mass., Jan. 9.—Joseph Hart, Samuel Goldstein, David Karner, David Werblinsky and Teret Silverman were arrested here yesterday, charged with stealing a safe containing \$1,300 in money and \$2,000 worth of jewelry from the office of Morse Bros. in Boston. The police have recovered a part of the stolen jewelry and \$500 in bank bills. In broad daylight the safe, weighing 300 pounds, was wheeled out of the office. Morse Bros. conducted a diamond and jewelry business on the lease plan. The robbers visited the place while the proprietors were out soliciting trade, and covering the safe took it from the building and carried it away on a wagon.

TWENTY-EIGHT LIVES LOST.

Victims of Rochester Orphan Asylum Holocaust.

DOZEN PERSONS INJURED.

Blaze Starts in Boiler Room and Spreads Through Structure Before Inmates Are Aroused—Firemen and Others Rescue Many—Explosion Adds to Horror.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 9.—Twenty-eight dead bodies lie at the morgue and 12 persons more or less seriously injured lie at the different hospitals in the city as a result of the terrible holocaust which occurred yesterday at the Rochester orphan asylum. Of the dead, 26 were children of both sexes, while the remaining two were adults. The fire, which was doubtless caused by an explosion of natural gas in the boiler room, spread so rapidly that many of the 109 inmates of the institution were overcome by the flames and some almost without warning.

Revised list of the dead: Arthur Kelly, Gladys Hill, Gertrude Toner, Bertha Hall, Viola Stuck, Lillian Stone, Mildred Sloens, Mary Alexander, Helen Hamilton, Hazel Murray, Minnie Tiffany, Myrtle Patterson, Marion McCaw, Isabel Marthage, Gertrude McCaw, Loreo Owen, Charles Benham, Rhea Conwell, Bertha Potter, Mildred Wright, Minnie Skinner, Mary Kane, Cora Potter, Charlotte Bryant, Beuchnell Carey, Evangeline Carey, Mrs. Maria Gordon, the cook of the asylum, and Mrs. Martha Gillis, a nurse.

In all the long and dismal records of fatal fires in Rochester none can be found which can equal this one in its general horror, in the pathetic scenes in which so many lives were blotted out, in the gallant sacrifice of lives of the attendants in whose charge the children were and in the sad scenes at the hospitals and the morgue.

That so many children were saved from the west wing of the building seems little short of miraculous and when the ruins were visited today one marveled that the death roll was not larger. The scene following the explosion and fire was one that turned the stoutest hearts sick. The windows of the west wing were filled with tiny faces of waifs. Working vigorously, the firemen struggled to release them.

The rooms of the dormitory were filled with smoke of the fire and the little ones were being slowly suffocated. Most of those were lowered to the ground by means of ladders from the second and third stories. The ambulances from every hospital in the city reached the scene almost as soon as the fire department, but they proved totally inadequate in providing for those rescued. Many sufferers and the dead were removed to the houses in the immediate neighborhood. There were awful scenes around the asylum at this time. Most of those rescued were unconscious. It soon became apparent that the building was doomed. A general alarm was sent in and the entire fire department was soon on the scene. The fire was stubbornly fought from every available point, but it was more than an hour after its discovery before it was under control.

Western League Meetings.

St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 9.—The meeting of the Western League directors in this city yesterday was a failure as far as a decision on the cities which shall comprise next year's circuit was concerned. President Hickey gave out a statement after the meeting to the effect that this matter was not brought up. Indianapolis and Louisville will be admitted. President Hickey's salary was raised to \$1,800 a year. A rule fixing a manager \$200 for taking his team from the field during the progress of a game was adopted. Another meeting will be held in three weeks at a place to be named later.

Ohio Bank Robbed.

Mansfield, O., Jan. 9.—David Ozier's bank at Shiloh was robbed this morning by four men, who came from Cleveland on the Big Four train at midnight. They stole two horses and burgled from Jacob Gilger near the village and broke open the bank with tools secured from the Big Four section building. From \$12,000 to \$15,000 in notes, more than \$3,000 in currency and several rings and diamond earrings were taken. The thieves drove to Norwalk, it appears, and took the train back to Cleveland.

Chicago Declares for Ship Canal.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Chicago declared itself for uninterrupted progress in the construction of a shipway from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico by the action of the river improving committee yesterday. A report, which provides for appointment of an expert committee of five to formulate plans by which the canal trustees shall be guided in future operations, was adopted by a vote of 31 to 18. The body is required to report by March 1.

Colorado Strike Settled.

Denver, Jan. 8.—The strike of the coal miners in the northern Colorado coal fields was practically settled last night. A mass meeting of the strikers was held, at which it was decided that the men should return to work in the mines which are willing to pay the scale asked. This includes all the mines except those of the Northern Coal company.

Banquet of Jacksonians.

Omaha, Jan. 8.—The tenth annual banquet of the Jacksonian club at the Millard hotel last night was the most ambitious effort of the society. W. J. Bryan and Senator Tillman of South Carolina were the prominent speakers.