

The Norfolk News

The Nebraska City News says the river is very low at that place and the Omaha News inquires: "What's the matter—grip?"

Only a few days now until Mr. Bryan's "Commoner" is issued and then democracy will know where "it is at." In the meantime members of that party can amuse themselves by guessing.

The World-Herald expects each visiting editor to bring his "grip" with him. He probably will, and the grip will be packed with handkerchiefs, quinine and other articles that usually accompany the grip.

Rumors of an illness of Queen Victoria adversely affect the London stock exchange, which must be of a rather delicate nature; or can it be that an adverse condition of stocks seeks an excuse for its fluctuations?

The Sioux City Tribune announces that jobbers are already placing orders for Fourth of July fireworks. Don't they know that McKinley was re-elected and that "celebrations of the Fourth of July are to pass away?"

Mr. Bryan has recently been honored by an appointment as one of the judges in a cock-crowing contest at Lincoln. The position would undoubtedly have been more satisfactory could he have imagined that they were democratic cocks celebrating a democratic victory.

In Kansas, during the past four years, \$4,000,000 back taxes have been paid up, and this wasn't due to the wise administration of populism in Nebraska. Still credit should by no means be given to the McKinley administration by any good democrat. There must be other reasons for the showing. Perhaps the trusts paid them just for a blind.

The epigram applied to the late Senator Davis by his friend, Senator Hoar, is worth being memorized and observed by people in all walks of life. He said: "No spark of his wit ever was a cinder in the eye of a friend." Too often men make marks for their wit a true friend who is worse stung than though she shaft were fired by an enemy.

A woman has brought suit against the city of Lincoln for \$10,000 alleged damages said to have been sustained by the plaintiff, who was struck in the eye by the limb of a tree that overhung the sidewalk. A few successful suits of this nature would prove a strong incentive to a tree-trimming crusade that would prove of benefit to many Nebraska towns.

The shirt waist for men seems to be coming on at a rapid rate and it is likely that next summer will see many worn, even as far west as this. Jobbers in neighboring cities are ordering supplies of the new apparel and if they prove as comfortable on men as they appear to be on women, there will be a great incentive to try the fad, which may prove a permanent and popular style of dress.

The Chinese minister to this country thinks the race problem could be solved by intermarriage between negroes and whites. He also says that the crime of which Alexander was accused is unknown in China. There may be something to be learned from the heathen Chinese after all and the intermarriage proposition may not be so bad, providing the principals to the weddings can be secured.

The Sioux City Journal says: "Hurry up, Delaware and Nebraska. The country is waiting on you." We are willing but there seems to be an all-fired lot of fella down about Lincoln who ain't. They would hurry all right if things went in the right direction to suit them; but there seems to be so many directions and so many different opinions as to which is the right one that the round up is a matter of doubt.

The sheep industry in the west has shown a remarkable growth during the past few years and bids fair to prove one of the best paying businesses in which a man with small capital may engage. It is estimated that there are now 900,000 head being fattened in Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado and will soon be on the market. It is estimated that 3,500 double deck cars will be required to haul the winter's shipment. When Mr. Bryan's free wool policy was in force such a showing was impossible.

Some fusionists believe it would be a sin to give their opponents credit for anything and this is a good and sufficient reason why that party should be retired from official position. It is such tactics that have lost fusionism the confidence of the people. Because the republicans didn't wish to emulate the fusion plan of the last legislature and indiscriminately unseat members of the opposing party a leading fusion organ says: "The peculiar senatorial situation has saved several seats to the fusionists in the legislature."

There is at least one woman who has not fought for the political rights of her sex but who has been enjoying the right of suffrage for many years. She is known as Murray W. Hall and conducted an employment agency in New

York. For 30 years she has consorted with men, been a member of the Iroquois club, been a Tammany "man" and voted the democratic ticket. Her sex was not discovered until her death the other day. She was sixty years of age, Murray had been twice married and left a fortune of \$40,000 to an adopted daughter.

Nebraska is not the only state that has reason to be disappointed at the showing made by the recent census. On the contrary, in Nebraska's case the showing is rightfully laid at the door of the census taker of 1890. Now there are states which cannot get rid of their showing so easily—for instance in Nevada there is Virginia City which in 1880 was given a population of 10,000; in 1890 this was reduced to 8,511 and in 1900 had dwindled to a village of 2,695. Carson City, the same state, had a population of 4,229 in 1880 and in 1900 is given 2,285. It is such backward movements as these that are discouraging to the stork.

It had been supposed generally that Mississippi river traffic was steadily decreasing. As a matter of fact there has been a decrease for many years, but the St. Louis Globe-Democrat has figures to prove that an upward movement has begun. The smallest tonnage received and forwarded via the river at St. Louis was in 1899 when the amount of freight received was 466,610 tons and the amount shipped out was 203,205 tons. This was at a steady decline since 1896. In 1900 there were 512,010 tons received and 245,580 shipped. St. Louis welcomes the increased showing as a matter of regulating the cost of freight shipments by rail. This is wherein a city with both water and rail facilities for freight shipments has the advantage of inland towns. Its freight rates are easily regulated by natural competition, and neither can monopolize.

While there are those who admire the kind of winter weather Nebraska is now experiencing and like to be able to parade around without a thought of overcoats, cloaks or hard coal, there are others who will agree with the Fremont Tribune which has a remembrance of "old" winters in the following: "After all, there are no winters like the old winters when the lanes were filled with snow and the neighbors had to organize relief parties and rescue each other from the white sepulchers and had to make deep excavations through which to journey to town to get the mail, only to learn there had been no trains for two days. Then when warmer days came there would be broad sheets of ice in every draw and these would be covered with red-faced, happy hearted boys and girls with skates on, having the tarest and most delicious pleasure that ever comes to mortals. The snow banks and ice fields and hallowed days of youth are a combination for which any man might yearn."

Mrs. Nation of Kansas is somewhat eclipsing the notorious Mary Ellen Lease of the same state in the matter of popular notoriety, although the latter is now endeavoring to break all previous records in the matter of divorce suits. The former woman has been released from her small pox quarantine and at once resumed her work of saloon smashing, getting rid of the glittering adornments of three such institutions and winding up her day's work by slapping the face of the sheriff and rudely pulling his ears. She was reinforced in her work by three other women. In a speech to a crowd she said, shaking her fist: "Men of Wichita this is the right arm of God, and is destined to wreck every saloon in your city." There are many different opinions concerning her work, some claiming that she is insane, while others believe she is doing a just work and are ready to follow where she leads. The outcome of her efforts is bound to be of interest, regardless of which view is taken.

It is generally believed that the opening of the Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita reservations in Oklahoma to settlement will take place about June or July of this year. This will mean a grand rush of land-seekers, many of whom are certain to be disappointed. While some settlers will find good land and provide themselves with good homes for the future there will also be many who will take a backward step in their property rights. Too often men will dispose of their land and belongings where they are nicely settled and in a fair way to become independent to take part in one of these scrambles for government land and will then be compelled to begin at a point they had passed years before. The American, or perhaps human, instinct of getting something for nothing is responsible for these moves and usually the person to be disappointed only discovers his mistake when too late. A person who is settled and prospering has no business to sacrifice his opportunities for a chance of this character and thus emphasize the assertion that "a rolling stone gathers no moss."

Conditions in Nebraska. The biennial report of the state treasurer of Nebraska gives such proof of the great prosperity of the state under McKinley and protection as cannot be gain-said or belittled. According to the figures published there were, four years

ago, \$7,000,000 of back taxes due; this year only \$3,000,000 remain unpaid, and that amount was owed by persons who had left the state during the hard times under Cleveland. Four years ago 5 per cent state warrants were selling at 94 and 95 cents, while now 4 per cent warrants sell at a premium of 1 per cent. Four years ago there was less than \$100,000 in the state treasury and the state was \$2,000,000 behind on its general fund warrants, while this year there is a balance on hand of \$615,000 and the floating indebtedness has been reduced to \$524,000.

This report was not published until after the presidential election, so that the people of Nebraska did not have the advantage of the evidence it gave of the state's prosperity under the administration of President McKinley at hand when they cast the electoral vote of the state in favor of his re-election. But they had plenty of other evidence. They know how they had prospered in their personal affairs, they had remembrance of the paid up mortgages, the increased bank deposits, the greater enjoyment of the comforts and luxuries of life, and those things were enough. It will not detract anything from their satisfaction at what they did on November 6, although, to know that the state treasury has been receiving benefits as well as have their own private funds.—American Economist.

Great Britain's Calamity. England is in mourning and the sympathies of the civilized world are with her.

The queen, who has presided over the destinies of the greatest modern empire, is no more.

Queen Victoria, who is known to her subjects as great, good and loving, has passed away.

While the fact that she was a queen overshadows other considerations, it is none the less apparent that her rule has been characterized as the rule of a woman, with a woman's tenderness, a woman's love of peace; and a woman's ingenuity.

Her desire for peace and love for humanity is strongly emphasized by the assertion that the war in South Africa has hastened her death and no more sublime spectacle can be imagined than that the deposed President Kruger should thoughtfully extend his sympathies while she was suffering on her death-bed. It is not doubted that her desires were that there should be no war in South Africa and the effect that her death will have on that situation is eagerly anticipated.

During her years of activity Queen Victoria was an ideal sovereign and it is not doubted that she would gladly have relinquished her rights and responsibilities since they had become so much of a burden and worry in recent years.

At an early age the queen commenced acquiring the refinement and education which have characterized her reign. She was taught to seek health by exercise and temperance, to become fearless through the practice of amusements such as riding and sailing and added a wise economy and discriminating charity to her other accomplishments. She studied music, drawing, continental languages, and some of the sciences, notably botany, in which she is proficient.

In 1876 the title of 'Empress of India' was added to her other royal titles and with this were additional responsibilities.

It can scarcely be realized that the queen should have found time from her cares of state, social functions and other important duties to attempt anything of a literary character, yet she did a published three volumes, "The Early Days of His Royal Highness, the Prince Consort;" "Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands;" and "More Leaves, etc."

The queen lived a Christian life and her reply to the envoys of the Dark Continent many years ago when they asked the reason of England's greatness has been given a place in history. She handed the envoys a bible with the remark, "This is the secret of England's greatness."

It has been a matter of comment how loyal the subjects of England in her widely diversified colonies have been and a great share of the credit for this condition has been given the deceased queen. No place has England's rule extended but to the benefit of the people, and today that nation's influence is apparent in all parts of the world.

Whether this will continue to be a characteristic of England since the queen is dead is a matter of some conjecture and the opinion is unanimous that the new king must exercise his influence and rights with extreme care until the people have been made acquainted with his personality.

For a people of a republic like the United States to honor a queen is a question of propriety by some, but those who have watched this nation grow and prosper will readily agree that the influence of the English and their descendants upon this country has been marked, and what we are today is largely due to English methods coupled with Yankee originality.

It will not detract one iota from our greatness to show our sympathy with England over the loss of her beloved sovereign at the time of that country's deep distress and sorrow. It is a natural sentiment.

It is announced that the new king of England will take the title of Edward VII.

Don't place all your sympathies with the Wichita saloon keeper—think of Mr. Nation.

This is said to be a common greeting between the saloon men of Kansas: "Has your saloon been Nationalized this morning?"

When the detectives have exhausted their efforts to discover Pat Crowe they might receive the thanks of the public by disclosing Nebraska's new senators.

The Belgian hare industry has invaded Nebraska quite extensively, as was evidenced at the late session of the state poultry association when 40 of the animals were on exhibition.

The father of a Sioux City youth was given the alternative of giving his son a good whipping or having him serve 30 days in jail for stealing. The father chose the former and administered the thrashing at the police station in the presence of a humane officer. The revival of the whipping post may not be as far off as some might think.

Mr. Bryan's Commoner quotes from Jeremiah as follows: "They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." The comment thereon refers to the desire of the people for empire, but it can very readily be imagined that the article, and especially the quotation, is of personal significance to the editor and that the sentiment of Jeremiah about describes the way he feels about it.

Mr. Bryan's Commoner has fixed it all right for Croker, Van Wyck and other rich men who desire to be numbered with the "common people" and has so arranged it that a poor man cannot class himself with them under certain conditions, the principal of which is presumed to be opposition to the fusion party and its leaders. Pauper and criminals are also excluded, after they are proven to be such, and really the "common people" seem to be getting quite exclusive.

The people in a burning theatre of Cincinnati have given a coolheaded example to the world of how panic and loss of life may be avoided under such conditions, and not a person was injured in this instance. When the people composing the audience realized that the building was burning they quietly arose and as quietly filed out as though it was the conclusion of a performance. They had plenty of time to go, but the building had not been long vacated before it was a mass of ruins. On such an occasion the saying, "The more haste the less speed," applies with significance. There is usually plenty of time to vacate a burning building if a panic is avoided which can just as well be done as not if the people will act calmly and deliberately. It is the excitable individual who shouts "Fire! fire!" at the top of his voice who is usually responsible for the start of a panic.

Another attempt will be made by the legislature to revise the revenue law, but the prospects of success are not flattering. The last two sessions wrestled with the problem in vain. One bad feature of the present law which ought at least to be remedied is that the figures sent out from this state and used in quotations and compilations the world over represent only one-fifth the actual values. The law now on the books provides for an assessment at actual cash values, but the absence of a penalty has allowed the undervaluation to become general. To send out the real figures would be a good advertisement for the state, and would mean no increase in taxes. It must make eastern people smile to read of the 80-cent hogs, the \$3 cattle and the \$6 horses in the great state of Nebraska. But under our present system that is the way the figures look.—Albion News.

"Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown" is well exemplified in the sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid, who is so fearful of being poisoned that it is said he spends at least a third of his income for protection. He is afraid to take a drink of water unless he draws it himself and a dispatch gives the following as his method of having meals served: "His meals are now prepared by a French cook brought from Paris and closely watched by spies. The cook has a set of royal seals given him by the sultan, with which each plate of food is sealed up in an iron and steel coffer, which is brought to the sultan to open personally. The sultan alone knows the combination of the lock, and, after careful examination, breaks the seals and takes out his food. Despite these precautions fifteen trusted spies watch the French chef and a bodyguard conveys the food coffer to and from the dining room. Each of these detachments of spies is surveyed by another, so as to insure fidelity, and it is estimated that the sultan spends at least a third of his income on his personal spy system." It would not be surprising in view of this extreme fear and caution if the sultan should die of poisoning. That which is the most carefully guarded against sometimes happens.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE HOUSE DISPOSING OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

Status of River and Harbor and Shipping Bills—Fierce Efforts of Opponents to Defeat the Latter, But the Lobby Is Becoming Uneasy and Seats Defeat.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The house of representatives is keeping up its record for businesslike promptness in disposing of important legislation, and the number of bills accumulating in the senate that have passed the house has already become appalling. The house has disposed of the new apportionment by fixing a basis of representation that will result in a membership of 386 in the house of representatives in the Fifty-eighth congress to be elected in 1902. It is not expected that this bill will provoke any discussion in the senate when it reaches there, as it is purely a house affair.

The river and harbor improvement bill is also under way in the house, and a vote upon it will doubtless have been taken before this reaches the eyes of its readers. This bill, carrying appropriations for nearly \$70,000,000 as a subsidy to the nation's commerce, may be amended in the senate either by reductions or increases. The improvement of our rivers and harbors is becoming a colossal work, and few people realize that as much money has been spent in that work during the closing decade of the last century as was spent in all the years of our government's existence preceding that decade. It cannot be doubted, however, that the nation reaps benefits from the improvements far in excess of expenditures in the accommodation of rivers and harbors to larger craft that carry freight at reduced rates.

While the river and harbor improvements are a benefit to the shipping of all the world, not a dollar of taxes being collected from shipping to help bear the enormous expense of the improvements, such improvements nevertheless are in the most emphatic sense a direct government aid to commerce and industry. River and harbor improvements by the government escape the odious word "subsidy" as a characterization, and hence the aid is not offensive to many people who oppose government aid when the name applied to the latter takes the form of expression of "subsidy" or of "bounty." The only real difference in the government expenditures for river and harbor improvements and those for the building up of its own merchant shipping is that the first benefit is the shipping of all the world alike, while the benefits of the other are confined only to American craft.

While the shipping bill is not under consideration in either branch of congress at the present time it is nevertheless one of the most absorbing topics in political and in private conversations at the capital. It occupies an amount of space in the dispatches sent out from here to the newspapers of the country fully equal to that enjoyed by those measures that are actually under discussion and in process of passage. The country is deeply interested in the passage of the measure in question, but the direct and urgent requests they are receiving from their constituents in favor of its passage are having a most favorable effect. The enemies of the bill concede that if it can be brought to a vote in the senate its passage is assured. They are naturally, therefore, bending every energy and straining every nerve in order to prevent a vote in the senate.

Ever since the 3d of January the senate has been almost absorbed in its discussion of the army reorganization bill, and no man is able to predict the end. At the present writing a vote has not been arranged for, and, although there are those who look for the end during the week just closing, it would not be at all remarkable if it extended well into the next week if not beyond. Meanwhile as the filibusters expect, appropriations bills are accumulating, and all other business is suspended in the senate until provision is made for the army necessary to enable the president to carry out the law in our territorial possessions.

One of the most significant things of the times is the efforts that are being made by the antishipping bill lobby, representing foreign shipping interests here, to prove that there is not the least bit of need for any legislation. The lobby is getting frightened at the awakened newspaper demand for the immediate passage of the bill, and the fact has at last been widely published that new American ships means reduced ocean freight rates with direct benefits to our farmers and manufacturers. This truth, once it sinks deeply into the public mind, will result in an agitation so strong and so widespread that congress will find it utterly impossible to postpone further legislation.

Meanwhile the opposition to the shipping bill is filling its organs with statements that there is no shortage of ocean tonnage, that there are more ships offering than there are cargoes, that there has been a steady diminution of ocean freight rates—all of these statements being absolute and barefaced untruths. There are not enough ships offering for the cargoes that offer, rates are abnormally high for ocean transportation, because such a vast amount of merchant tonnage is employed in carrying soldiers and army equipment to distant parts of the world—chiefly to South Africa.

THINK COLLISON IS FAKING.

Detectives Release Suspects and Drop Investigation at Kearney. Kearney, Neb., Jan. 23.—Jeffery and Alexander, who have been in jail charged with an attempt to wreck a passenger train here Sunday night, have been released. Collison was again examined by the detectives, telling a different story from his first one. He was examined again yesterday by the detectives and while he did not incriminate himself, he was turned loose, as the story is considered unreliable.

He claimed he was hit in the forehead with a pistol in the hands of a robber and upon examining his forehead not a mark or bruise could be distinguished except three small scratches over the right eye. It was deemed advisable not to arrest him, although the detectives reasoned that he wanted to do the heroic thing by placing the stones on the track and warn the officials, thereby getting a reward. The detectives left for Omaha and the case is dropped for the time being.

TO PROSECUTE MRS. NATION

Special Statute in Kansas for Punishment of Window Smashers. Wichita, Jan. 23.—County Attorney James Conlin declares he will file information at once against the four women engaged in the saloon smashing incident last night. Mrs. Nation, Mrs. Wilhoit and Mrs. Evans were released on \$1,000 bonds. The Kansas statute under which they are arrested reads as follows: Any person willfully breaking, destroying or injuring any door or window of any house, shop or store shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for one year, or both such fine and imprisonment. Another section makes the offending party liable to damages in three times the value of the property destroyed.

THOUSAND TAKE OATH.

Former Contributors to Insurgent Cause Turn to the Government—Priest Swears Them in a Church. Manila, Jan. 23.—The oath of allegiance has been administered in a church at Vigan to over 1,000 persons, who acknowledge they had contributed to the insurgent cause. Chaplain Fitzgerald addressed the natives in Spanish. The parish priest translated his remarks into Ilocano and administered the oath. About 400 persons in the vicinity of Malabon, assembled in the church and on the plaza, have also taken the oath. General Grant has made many captures and arrests. At present he is on a scouting expedition with over 50 men. Those who are proved to be insurgents are held. Battery I of the Third artillery has captured 50 armed men at Muntinupa. Various other minor captures and surrenders have been made in southern Luzon.

The Eleventh cavalry has arrived here on the transport Meade from Camarines. They will sail for home on the same ship Feb. 1 as the Thirty-sixth infantry. The men who are to sail Saturday were reviewed and addressed last evening by General MacArthur. He thanked the soldiers for the part they had borne in the history making epoch in the Philippines. He said they had sustained the traditions of a hardy and soldierly race and merited the plaudits of their countrymen on their return home. Speaking of the various advantages of such occasions General MacArthur said: The chief advantage is the engendering of a warlike nation, without which a nation cannot continue to live, and by which alone a nation is created and made perpetual. The Twenty-seventh regiment will sail Feb. 5 and the Thirteenth Feb. 15.

Conference on Army Bill. Washington, Jan. 23.—The conference on the army reorganization bill began their efforts to reach a conclusion yesterday. The senate made all told 103 amendments, but as most of these are of comparatively little importance the house conferees accepted a large proportion of them. The principal amendment is that providing for the present regimental system of the artillery instead of a corps organization, and that problem will be among the last solved by the conference.

Sends Railroad Cases Over Again.

Lincoln, Jan. 23.—The supreme court began its second January sitting yesterday and devoted both sessions to consideration of motions. The cases of the state against the Missouri Pacific and the Union Pacific railroads, instituted to recover penalties for violation of the maximum freight rate law, were continued at the request of Attorney General Prout, pending decision of an injunction case in the federal court.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The Kansas legislature Tuesday adopted concurrent resolutions of respect to the memory of Queen Victoria. Tom Sharkey and Peter Maher were matched to meet in a 20-round contest before the Louisville Athletic club during the month of February. The White Pass and Yukon road is still snow blocked. Three hundred persons are storm bound at Skagway. The Daily News plant at Dawson was destroyed by fire. The navy department has issued orders directing Captain C. H. Stockton to proceed to Manila, Philippine Islands, and take command of the battleship Kentucky, which is now nearing the completion of her voyage. Hereafter men that weigh less than 140 pounds or more than 180 pounds will stand no show of securing employment as firemen or brakemen on the Pennsylvania railroad system.