

## The Norfolk News

Congratulations are due David Nation for having secured a divorce from Carrie. It is probably a greater event in his life than was his marriage.

A Crawfordsville, Indiana, woman received from a sister a Thanksgiving turkey stuffed with a \$10,000 certificate. That discounts oyster or chestnut dressing a few.

Foot ball was as popular on Thanksgiving day as turkey. Many of the players and most of the turkeys were badly mutilated before the day was ended.

It is undoubtedly time for the flies to retire from active business but in the summer-like climate of Nebraska they remain, to the considerable annoyance of the people.

It is doubtful if congress will give the tariff tinkers a show. The majority is quite sensible and none of them are likely to insist that well enough should not be let alone.

The weather was here to make people thankful and seems destined to remain for a Christmas gift. It is of very excellent quality certainly and few are complaining that it is a stayer.

A Buffalo scientist has discovered that a shipment of sick hogs received in that city were afflicted with smallpox, which lends additional meaning to the argument advanced that the disease thrives in dirt.

Kansas banks have on deposit about \$88,000,000 in cash, which is about \$60 for every man, woman and child in the state. Kansas is in the business of breaking records herself on prosperity showings.

Mr. Bryan should not neglect to say a word for fusion at an early date. The men desiring party and principles will be winding up the affairs of the fusion deal pretty shortly if he don't step into the breach.

It is claimed that alcohol can now be manufactured for 15 cents a gallon and is worth two gallons of petroleum for fuel. It is pleasing intelligence to those who have been at the mercy of the coal men.

The democratic minority in congress encountered discord the first jump out of the box, the bone of contention being the Kansas City platform. The minority isn't so strong that they can afford to have differences.

The Omaha Daily News has undertaken to see that all the poor children of that city have an enjoyable Christmas. It will leave it to the charitable institutions to furnish the necessities of life and will devote its attention to providing toys, candy, nuts and other luxuries.

The Neligh Advocate has been absorbed by the Leader of that town and now there will be but two papers there. A few years ago the town was afflicted with four papers. The number is now reduced to about the proper size—one republican and a fusion publication.

The city of Omaha appears to be having more trouble with squatters than the average land official of a newly opened reservation. The people there appear to consider it their right to build houses in the streets or any old part of the city not already occupied with dwellings.

An insight into Japan's progress from a semi-civilized nation to a place among the leading nations of the earth may be gleaned from the knowledge that since 1871 the country has built nearly 30,000 elementary schools providing for the accommodation of 4,000,000 pupils, one-fourth of whom are girls.

One mining district in Colorado is producing gold at the rate of \$30,000,000 a year. The mineral wealth of the country is strong backer of the treasury and general business conditions. There is no danger of Uncle Sam going bankrupt as long as his mines continue to produce wealth at this rate.

Dooley says: "Th' diff'rence between an American joke an' an English joke is th' place to laugh." The trouble in getting them appreciated by both peoples is that the Englishman cannot discover the place to laugh in an American joke and the American experiences the same difficulty with the English article.

Land values in this part of the state are up and rising and the demand is good. It is probable that more land in this vicinity has changed hands this year than in several preceding years. The transfers are an eloquent tribute to the fact that realty is coming into the position it has been destined to occupy.

Colorado's swing toward the republican party is giving great encouragement to the residents of that state, and will advance the value of its property and add greatly to its prosperity. A republican majority in any state is always a fine advertisement of its people's progressiveness and intelligence.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The democrats are again employing

much space in the papers in urging tariff reforms. Their representation of cheaper articles of consumption is quite captivating but there are many who will remember that cheapness and good times are not boon companions. The man who votes for cheap goods of another's make also votes for a cheapening of his product.

The Columbus Telegram calls Hill "the meanest traitor" in the democratic party's history and yet Hill has many friends. It is a peculiar way of harmonizing the party factions, but it may prove a winner. Perhaps a man needs to be called a traitor to win himself and friends over to the support of the ticket, especially when that man is prominently mentioned as a candidate for president.

The refusal of Congressmen Stark and Neville to enter the democratic caucus at Washington is probably the first official declaration of independence of the people's independent party since the fusion combine was first effected. In the opinion of many, the two lone patriots might have had a number of companions if the party had refused to walk into the democratic trap on the start.

Now it is rumored that Queen Wilhelmina of Holland will sue her husband, Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, for divorce on the grounds of cruelty and improper behavior. Public sentiment is intensely with the queen. It appears from this that the great people of Europe have as much trouble as more common people. Marriage may be a success or failure with people, high or low, according to the disposition of the parties to the contract.

A French scientist proposes to imprison women who wear corsets and he is probably as much justified as he would be in stopping any other sort of suicidal tendency. He holds that 25 percent of the young women who wear corsets die of pulmonary diseases; 15 percent suffer from organic derangement all their lives and 30 percent suffer minor unnecessary ills. If his findings are correct legal measures to stop the unhealthy practice are certainly allowable.

The cashier of an alcohol distilling plant at Buda Pesth, Hungary, took a novel way of getting even with his employer who had discharged him. He threw himself into a 200,000 gallon tank of spirits and was drowned. The manufacturer was compelled to sacrifice the contents of the vat as it could not be used for drinking purposes. The owner was almost bankrupted and the employe must have had a glorious drunk before he died. There are ways and ways of getting even.

It is generally considered that Kentucky, Virginia and South Carolina are the leading tobacco producing states of the union but Missouri has just shown them that they are not in it. Missouri's production of manufactured tobacco last year was more than that of any other state in the union, over 78,000,000 pounds passing through its factories. That is more than a pound for every man, woman and child in the United States and therefore evidence that someone uses the weed.

The World-Herald thinks that if the fusion congressmen had the patronage of Nebraska they would recommend fusionists, and consequently good men, to the position of postmasters in Nebraska. It may be policy for the World Herald to insist that all democrats are good and all republicans bad, but it doesn't appear to be a winning policy. To fusionists it is empty flattery and to republicans it sounds silly and cheap. The sincere man will admit that there are good and true men in both parties.

The Columbus Telegram wants Nebraska to maintain its place as dictator of democratic party principles and doesn't believe that David Bennett Hill is the man upon whom Nebraska democrats can unite; therefore, after consulting with a number of leading men of the party, it brings out the name of Admiral Winfield Scott Schley as the ideal candidate and one on whom all could unite with credit to the party and the state. The Telegram is in close touch with Mr. Bryan and it is probable that it but voices the sentiment of the defeated leader who hopes for a candidate who will support what he considers the democratic principles.

THE NEWS has received a recent industrial edition of the Hubbard county, Minnesota, Enterprise, published in Park Rapids by Henry R. Cobb, at one time city editor of THE NEWS. Mr. Cobb has recently acquired ownership of the plant and the recent edition indicates that he is peculiarly fitted for getting out attractive editions. The matter is excellent, the illustrations fine and the press and typographical work of high grade. A section of the edition that is particularly attractive is under the head "Recreation and Sport" which is illustrated with some fine hunting scenes and a number of views illustrative of a picturesque country.

An exchange intimates that the country is anxious to get cheap sugar. Of course! Americans are human. They desire to buy what they consume as cheaply as possible and sell what

they produce at the best possible price. The farmers are anxious for cheap sugar, cheap lumber, cheap wire and nails, cheap clothing, cheap fuel, cheap machinery and all products of that character; at the same time they would like good prices for cattle, hogs, hay, grain, etc. The mechanic and laboring man whose wages are high, according to the price at which his product is selling, should desire that his employers get good prices. At the same time he would welcome the advent of cheap flour, cheap meat, cheap wool, cheap shoes, cheap furniture and cheap rent. Therefore the economist who can formulate a system that will make things cheap for the consumer and high for the producer will find that he has a large constituency. But until this can be done it is doubtful if many people will insist on an era of cheapness such as was experienced during Cleveland's administration. No such pronounced general prosperity has ever been known in the country as now prevails under an era of high prices and it is doubtful if the people would accept a change to cheapness and calamity. If it is fair that sugar should be cheapened by making it impossible for the American beet and cane sugar interests to thrive it is likewise fair that other products should be cheapened, and when once legislation begins to cheapen articles and products it is a question to decide when and where to stop. If cheap sugar is desired it is just as certain that cheap flour, cheap meat and other cheap articles of general consumption would be welcomed.

### A Strenuous Message.

President Roosevelt's message to congress is satisfactory and fully up to what has been anticipated. Those who have followed the man through his public career have noted that he is daunted by no emergency; that he is fearless and impartial; that he has pronounced convictions and does not hesitate to express them for fear it may not be politic to do so. They recognize that he is a man to grasp a situation and deal with it according to his best judgement, and are pleased to notice that these characteristics have not deserted him at a time when most needed, when a nation awaits with unusual interest to learn what he recommends as the country's policy—and they have not been disappointed. He handles important questions with vigor and with candor. There is no public American that the term so well fits and to whom it has been more frequently applied than has strenuous in referring to President Roosevelt, and this quality is breathed through his message from introduction to signature. Questions of vital import are discussed in a manner to indicate that the president would sooner err than evade, and through all is the evidence of a well balanced mind and sound business judgement. There are those who have feared the president's impetuosity, that his quickness at reaching a conclusion indicated a lack of depth and reasoning power, but the message will convince them of their error. He may reach a decision on important matters quickly but the evidence is there that he is unerring; that when he attains a decision it is permanent and that he is generally right.

He makes a strong and sensible argument against anarchy and recommends measures for its suppression which, if joined in by other nations having more to fear from that people than have the Americans, will undoubtedly result in the discouragement and overthrow of the debased and dishonorable teaching.

He deals with the trust question in a broad-minded manner, which plainly points out that all commercial evils may be in trusts but not all trusts are commercial evils. His recommendation that congress should pass a federal law having jurisdiction of trusts as the government now has jurisdiction over national banks and affording publicity is splendid and would undoubtedly overcome the present prejudices against all forms of capitalization and combination.

The president rightly looks upon labor and agriculture as the foundation for national prosperity and growth and recommends that these classes be given every encouragement, and protection from all influences that would tend to lessen their importance.

The executive speaks for the preservation of forests, for the promotion of irrigation and for additional national parks where the loveliness of nature and its children may be preserved from encroaching and commercial civilization.

The questions concerning the island possessions, while touched upon briefly, are handled very thoroughly and judiciously. He upholds the Monroe doctrine; favors the isthmian canal; wants the navy enlarged and the merchant marine encouraged; speaks in favor of expositions, upholds the merit system and discusses other important matters in a manner to indicate that he is a progressive American citizen with the welfare of his country and the people at heart. His advice to congress is sound and if that body will follow his suggestions there is no question but that the country will rapidly advance and that it will continue to hold the first place among the leading nations of the earth.

The message, unlike many that have been issued, is interesting reading and every loyal American citizen should familiarize himself with its contents.

A prairie fire is reported from Sparks, this state. The village board should put a spark-arrester over the town.

"Go way back and sit down" has already seen its finish in popular esteem. It is now being used by patent medicine advertisers.

An English duke has recently married a Miss Poore. It is probably safe to consider that her name does not indicate the size of her bank account.

President Roosevelt couldn't resist the opportunity of giving the demagogues a slight rap along with the anarchists and other disturbers of the nation's peace.

The democratic state central committee at a recent meeting officially buried the free silver issue, and there were few mourners. The issue has been dead so long that the delay over the funeral obsequies was inexcusable.

The people of Fort Dodge, Iowa, are experiencing a mad dog scare and the mayor of the city has ordered all dogs muzzled for a period of two weeks. It is out of season for rabies but Iowa is not daunted by fits as when excitement is wanted.

American eyes are centered on Washington, where the greatest law-making body in the world is in session. It will undoubtedly pass upon many measures and the people will hope that the welfare of the country will always be the supreme consideration.

The Wayne Republican is much improved, typographically and the matter it contains, since Dennis O'Leary assumed the management of the plant. Mr. O'Leary is a good newspaper man and the people of Wayne are evidently cognizant of his ability.

There are several things that the state administration cannot remove from north Nebraska. Two of these are its soil and climate and with these to build from the north half of the state may enjoy a certain degree of prosperity regardless of the machinations of Governor Savage and his aids.

A New York court has ordered a woman who sued a newspaper for libel to pay \$500 to the newspaper for making a defense after the paper had proved its case. A few examples like this would have a wholesome effect on the people who choose to consider themselves libeled when in reality they have no character or business to libel.

David B. Henderson of Iowa has again been honored by being elected speaker of the national house of representatives. Mr. Henderson has apparently demonstrated his ability to preside over and govern this turbulent body of law makers to their satisfaction. It is a trying position and the endorsement by his associates is most complimentary to the Iowa man.

The World-Herald has honored President Roosevelt's message with a fair and impartial criticism that, instead of detracting from that paper's position as the leading fusion organ of Nebraska, has given it prestige in the state with all classes of politicians. It has dropped partisanship for the nonce and given its views of the document as a disinterested critic. It is a profound relief to see the paper thus discuss the message and shows a disposition to fairness that has not heretofore characterized its editorial page.

With President Roosevelt and the stockmen urging irrigation in the west and with the many backers they have throughout the west, it is quite probable that congress will see the necessity of doing something along this line at the present session. It is certain that no greater step toward upbuilding a great part of the country was never undertaken than this and if a practicable measure is adopted the country will advance to a position beyond that of the most optimistic dreamer. With the millions of acres, now idle for want of water, placed in condition to produce crops and feed stock the permanent prosperity of the west will be assured and the entire country will be benefited.

A number of exchanges are printing what purports to be a soliloquy on the free raw sugar question entitled "Whar Dew I Cum In?" The most obtuse reader will see in the poem the artistic hand of Havemeyer's refining trust in the attitude of a farmer pleading for cheap sugar. If it was for free sugar without that word "raw" in it, the production would sound better, but the average farmer, especially the one who is raising sugar beets, is not worrying very much about the income of Mr. Havemeyer's trust and will not exert himself to give that corporation an additional income and an opportunity for supreme control of the sugar market. The recent dropping of price to injure the beet industry and then raising it to a point higher than before the drop is but a sample of what the trust is capable of doing.

After North Nebraska. It appears as though the counties of north Nebraska will be compelled to enter an alliance, offensive and defensive, in order to get and keep anything belonging to the state. The officials, influenced by the pushers of the south

Platte country, are determined to remove the only state institution with which the north half of the state has been honored, the Norfolk hospital for the insane, which was only secured by the payment of a handsome bonus by the people of Norfolk and through the untiring energy of its friends. In accepting the Norfolk bonus an agreement was entered into that the hospital should be a permanent institution here and the removal of the patients is a virtual breaking of such agreement on the part of the state, because a hospital building without patients is not a hospital. The officials of the hospital and the citizens of Norfolk have exerted themselves to provide for the comfort and convenience of the patients remaining here so that they considered the unfortunates were as well or better cared for than before and in much better circumstances than they would be in the overcrowded hospitals at Lincoln and Hastings. If Governor Savage and his friends were so determined to save expense, why didn't they remove the patients immediately after the fire and save the unnecessary expense of providing temporary quarters? The governor's grand stand play would then have had a much better appearance to the people of the state at large.

Now they come with a sop of a state normal school, thinking that thereby they will be able to satisfy the outraged people of Norfolk and north Nebraska, and that they may remove the hospital without a protest. In the first place Norfolk is not in the field for a normal school. It is interested in retaining the institution already established here. If it had wanted a normal school in its stead the people would have said so. Then there is a question of the administration's ability to deliver the goods if the proposition was satisfactory. The manner in which it has been losing the respect and confidence of the people throughout the state causes the people to believe that it can offer nothing not under the control of those officials now occupying the state house—in fact it is a grave question whether they can retain the positions they now occupy if the people are once given an opportunity to speak on the subject. When Norfolk or other towns in north Nebraska want a normal school they will say so. At present they are concerned about the unfortunates of this part of the state and their families.

In line with this evident attempt to get even with north Nebraska for some real or imaginary wrong or to keep all honors in the south Platte country for the monetary or other benefit that section will derive, is the hint recently given in the State Journal that T. L. Norval, retiring from the supreme judgeship, is to be given the place of court commissioner held by Judge Sedgwick. This is the position with which the name of Judge Barnes of this city was prominently connected before election. But it now appears that this was merely held out to catch Mr. Barnes' support, who was prominent before the state convention as a candidate for the supreme judgeship. The Journal and its friends may not be able to take the position away from Judge Barnes and deliver it to Judge Norval, but it is evident that it would if it could and is working in that direction.

The people of the north half of the state should awaken to their interests and assert themselves in no uncertain manner, or all the prestige possible will be taken from it. It can wield a powerful influence if it will, and the time has come when it should be emphatically demonstrated to the people of the south Platte that they are not the whole works.

### CALLS IT A BENEFIT.

Iowa Railroad Commissioners Are Pleased With Consolidation.

Des Moines, Dec. 3.—The annual report of the Iowa railroad commissioners, which was made public yesterday, after referring to the prevalence of railroad consolidation in the state, comments as follows: "The absorption of the smaller lines by the larger ones will be, on account of the safeguards provided by the railroad laws of the state, beneficial rather than otherwise to the people of the state. It has had the effect not only of placing the weaker lines into a higher class, thereby reducing the maximum freight rates, but also of making a continuous mileage rate in case of shipments that, previous to this absorption, had to bear the burden of two or more short distance or local rates."

Drop in Price of Bar Silver.

New York, Dec. 3.—The Journal of Commerce says: Bar silver was quoted in London yesterday at 25 1/16 per ounce. This is the lowest price in about three years, the highest in that period having been reached at 30 3/16 in 1898. During the past week the price has sagged off about a full penny. Inquiry among dealers in silver tends to show that the decline in the price is not due to an increase in production, but due to a decrease in demand from continental Europe.

Switchmen's Strike Practically Over.

Pittsburg, Dec. 3.—The strike begun by the members of the Switchmen's union a week ago is practically over, although the switchmen say that their ranks are holding firm and that none of their men have gone back, while there have been a number of accessions during the week. The strike, however, has failed to tie up any of the railroads and all lines are now receiving freight, while the yards are being cleared.

## LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

Great Interest Shown by Members of the House.

COMMANDS RAPID ATTENTION.

Enthusiastic Members Frequently Applaud During the Reading—Senate and House Adjourn in Token of Respect to Late President McKinley.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Not in many years have the members of the house listened with such rapt attention to the annual message of a president of the United States as they did yesterday to the reading of the first message of President Roosevelt. Every word was followed intently, from the announcement of the tragic death of President McKinley, in the first sentence, to the expression of the hope that our friendly relations with the world would continue. The reading occupied two hours, but not a member left their seats until the close. Several times there was applause and at the close there was an enthusiastic demonstration on the Republican side. On motion of Grosvenor (O.) that portion of the message relating to the late president was referred to a committee composed of one member from each state, to join a similar committee from the senate, to determine by what token of expression it may be proper for congress to express the deep sensibility of the nation to the tragic death of the late president. The speaker appointed a committee, headed by Mr. Grosvenor, and then, as a further mark of respect the house adjourned.

The senate listened to the first message of President Roosevelt yesterday and directed the appointment of a committee to advise with a like committee of the house, to consider by what token of respect and affection congress might express the sorrow of the nation upon the tragic death of the late President McKinley. The message was delivered soon after the senate convened, the reading occupied over two hours and was listened to with great respect by the senators. The first portion dealing with the Buffalo tragedy excited the most profound interest in the senate. At the close of the reading Foraker presented the McKinley resolution, and as a further mark of respect the senate adjourned.

TESTIMONY FOR MRS. BONINE.

Pistol With Which Shooting Was Done Identified as Ayres'.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The case of Mrs. Lola Ida Bonine, on trial for the murder of James Seymour Ayres, is expected to go to the jury the latter part of this week. Three witnesses, intimate friends of Ayres, were put on the stand yesterday and swore that they had seen a revolver in Ayres' room. They said the revolver greatly resembled the one in evidence. The wrapper worn by Mrs. Bonine on the night of the tragedy was again the subject of discussion, the defense putting on the stand witnesses whose evidence was intended to discredit that given by Dr. Schaeffer, who had testified that a careful examination of the wrapper had failed to disclose the presence of any blood spots thereon.

Maclay Under Fire.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Representative Williams of Mississippi yesterday introduced a resolution proposing that a committee be appointed for the purpose of investigating and reporting to the house the truth or falsity of statements made by S. C. Maclay regarding Admiral Schley, and the allegations that proof sheets were submitted to and acquiesced in by Captain Crowninshield, and Rear Admiral Sampson, and to recommend to the house of representatives the course of action to be pursued.

Harrison Breaks With Loeffler.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Mayor Harrison openly severed relations with City Clerk Loeffler yesterday, and at the same time set at rest all rumors of a quarrel between himself and Robert E. Burke by declaring that Burke was his friend. This, coming fast upon the lockout of Thomas Gahan and some 70 delegates to the meeting of the county central Democratic committee, is taken to indicate the mayor's enmity for the faction led by ex-Mayor John P. Hopkins, with which Loeffler is affiliated.

President Invited to Participate.

St. Louis, Dec. 3.—At a meeting of the committee on ceremonies at World's fair headquarters yesterday a resolution was unanimously adopted providing that President Roosevelt be invited to participate in the groundbreaking ceremonies, December 20, by turning the first shovelful of earth for the occasion. It was further arranged that the railroad companies be urged to make special rates for the occasion.

Serious Prairie Fires.

Sparks, Neb., Dec. 3.—A disastrous prairie fire has swept over northeastern Cherry county and a large part of Keya Paha county. Thousands of acres of range are destroyed and considerable hay burned. Some men lost both range and hay and with the winter before them the outlook is discouraging.

Sale of Danish West Indies.

Copenhagen, Dec. 3.—A full agreement has been reached between Denmark and the United States for the sale of the Danish West Indies. The treaty will probably be signed this week at Washington. The price fixed is between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.