

## The Norfolk News

New Year's follows too close on the heels of Christmas to suit some shoppers.

Santa Claus will probably be very liberal with the children of the ice man and coal man.

The warm weather in South Africa is an inducement for northerners to enlist in the Boer cause.

This is the season of the year when some people are inclined to forget that "charity begins at home."

The person who insisted that this snow was of the sort that would not melt, was evidently mistaken.

The cable interests evidently consider that if an injunction does not get wireless telegraphy the new invention will get them.

Ground has been broken for the St. Louis exposition of 1903. Promoters of the show will hope that the breaking may cease at this.

The temperature was but 6 degrees above zero in Georgia last Friday. Old Boreas, also, appears to have designs on the solid south.

It is reported that armed guards surrounded the site of the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis, on the arrival of Governor Savage, to prevent its removal to Lincoln.

A friend woman also got too friendly friendly with a red hot stove while wearing a celluloid comb and as a consequence she has exchanged some of her hair for painful burns.

More than \$1,000,000 was sent to Europe in one week recently through the postal agency. The Europeans are evidently to enjoy some of the American prosperity on Christmas.

The O'Neill Frontier appeared in a new dress last week, the first new dress it has worn in 15 years. It looks very neat and the matter it contains is fully up to its average excellence.

Friday was the 98th anniversary of the raising of the stars and stripes over the Louisiana territory purchase. Fifteen states were taken from this territory, of which Nebraska is one.

While Americans are practicing on the neck of the American turkey Uncle Sam is perfecting plans to sever the American neck itself and allow the Pacific to flow into the Atlantic.

But ten democratic editors were present at Columbus to form a state association. The rest have monkeyed with fusion so long that they don't know whether they are democrats or pops.

The governor of Texas proposes to employ the convict labor of that state in making sugar. He should not neglect to secure the written consent of Havemeyer before he begins operations.

A Missouri man has "shown" the president that not all people of that state have the office itch in severe form. He refused the appointment to the position of collector of customs of St. Louis.

The Grand Island Independent has suspicions that the corn shredder was invented by some doctor. Perhaps the undertakers had a hand in the invention of that machine and the corn sheller.

It is said that General Funston has made another capture, the latest being a very young Funston, junior. He is a brave man, but undoubtedly the new arrival will make him know fear in more ways than one.

The Lincoln mayor decided that Carrie Nation should not be allowed to lecture in that city on Sunday and charge an admission fee. He evidently desired to know if Carrie was sincere in her desire to save the world.

Now that Edgar Howard has been successful in organizing the democratic editors of the state it may be expected that his brilliant thoughts will echo throughout the state with a unanimity of sentiment not heretofore known.

The Douglas county democracy is to hold a watch meeting the night before New Year's day. Their prayers, if they make any, will probably be that the new year will contain more encouragement and success for democrats than the old.

An Omaha thief stole a ton of coal from the third story of a residence of city the other day and neglected to remove a gold watch, a razor, a pair of opera glasses and some ivory chessmen conspicuously displayed in an adjoining room. This shows what the cold weather will drive men to do.

Editor Hammond of the Fremont Tribune and at present one of the interested contestants in a warm post-office fight prints this sentiment in double-lead small picas, boxed: "A man can have just about as much peace on earth and good will toward men as he is willing to fight for."

When the American workmen are

employed they purchase an abundance of goods and produce. That is one reason that the merchants and manufacturers are enjoying such prosperity. It is a sort of endless chain. The manufacturers, farmers and capitalists give men employment and the laborers purchase their products. One depends on the other.

The report that Cecil Rhodes has suffered a sunstroke while traveling from Khartoum to Cairo is other evidence that the plutocrat can have experiences denied to the common people. There are a whole lot of common people in the United States who would like to be put in the way of getting a sunstroke.

The Omaha News' Santa Claus has a pocket book containing almost \$300 to be used in purchasing the poor boys and girls of that city toys and confections for Christmas. Besides the cash, merchants have contributed toys and confections outright. It looks as though the poor children of the metropolis will have the merriest Christmas they have ever known.

Oklahoma men have quit scrapping over diamonds, land, money, women and other trivial details. The latest news from there is that two men were killed and one seriously wounded in a fight over a division of hay. If Kentucky will now get up a feud over potatoes the country will consider that the people of those distant territories are alive to the important affairs of the day.

Another chance for a scientific or medical sect has been offered. An old Nebraska soldier has cough'd up a bone that has been troubling him for 16 years. Now if a cough is good to relieve a man of trouble of that long standing it is certainly capable of curing shorter and lesser ills. Try the cough cure for what ails you. It is certainly as sensible as the belief of the sect that eat a spoonful of dirt every day to cure all ills of which flesh is heir.

A New York yellow journal sprung the story that President Roosevelt had been assaulted Thursday while taking his daily walk and states that Lord Pauncefote of the British embassy was an eye witness to the outrage. It develops that the foundation for the sensational story was that a drunken man had brushed against the president. The strange part of the proceedings is that the paper should have required that much of a foundation.

The free rural mail delivery system is to receive a new impetus in Nebraska soon and in the near future it may be expected that farmers at all available in any part of the state will be enjoying the service. C. E. Liewellen, superintendent of rural routes has recently returned from Washington and states that his instructions were to locate more routes in Nebraska. He returns with the intention of assisting to gridiron the state with rural routes.

It now looks very much as though Norfolk would lose the asylum, or in other words, the establishment will not be rebuilt. In the event that it is not it will be a direct slap at north Nebraska, which has become very much the back bone of the state. However, when the next legislature convenes there will be a storm of protests go up on the north Platte country that will be heard throughout the length and breadth of the state.—Wayne Herald.

The democrats attempt to believe that President Roosevelt will not stand a show of renomination if he continues to ignore the demands of the professional politicians. The president early announced that an approaching nomination and election would in no wise influence his official action and that his acts would be for the government and the people, as he could best perform them, regardless of results. The politicians should therefore not be disappointed and the democrats should not assume to worry for his future when he removed that burden on taking the chair.

The Nebraska City Tribune contains this warning: "We have already read of two Christmas tree fires in near-by towns, both of them at school gatherings. It seems to us that it is really wiser not to take any chances with these dangerous things. Burning candles, cotton batting, jumping children and a top-heavy tree make altogether too inflammable a combination. It is fun for the children, but serious business for the grown folks. It may work all right, and it may leave you minus a house or a baby. Better stick to Santa Claus and the stockings and not run any unnecessary risks."

Colonel Cody, "Buffalo Bill," says that he is becoming tired of the show business and proposes to take a hand in the development of the west from which came the events that have made him famous. The colonel is of the opinion that all that is necessary to induce the immigration of easterners is to convince them that it would be to their advantage. He is quoted as saying: "As soon as you can show these eastern farmers that they can buy land in the west for what they spend for fertilizer every year in the east, the greatest wave of immigration from east to west in the history of

the country will set in. Last winter I had fourteen eastern men out on a hunting trip with me, and before they returned home five of them had invested in land."

If the producers could just save what is received from a single crop they would in a short time be wealthy. Since 1812, less than 100 years, the farmers of the United States have grown corn to the value of \$27,200,000,000, hay worth more than \$19,650,000,000, over \$11,850,000,000 of wheat, over \$8,150,000,000 of oats, over \$3,980,000,000 of potatoes, over \$1,750,000,000 of barley, over \$550,000,000 of tobacco and over \$300,000,000 of buckwheat. Any one of these amounts represents a magnificent fortune and the larger ones are seemingly not far from the value of the entire country. The yearly amount and value of these crops have largely increased since 1812. This is a country of large and growing figures.

The publishers of periodicals claiming no subscriptions list and whose circulation is solely secured by sample copies for the purpose of circulating the matter of advertisers and guessing contests are making a loud roar because of a recent ruling of the postoffice department, excluding their bulky and uninteresting publications from second-class privileges. The ruling should receive the endorsement of legitimate publishers. The people have long been afflicted with these "magazines" to their own detriment and that of publishers whose business is legitimate, and in whose interests the second-class privilege was made. Congress should support the department by passing a law more clearly defining what publications should be given these privileges.

The state bureau of labor and industrial statistics has just issued its sixth biennial report, which contains a great deal of information regarding water plants and water rates. Figures are given from about 1,000 towns and cities of the United States and Canada that should be of value to municipalities contemplating establishing equitable water rates. The figures vary greatly, but are of a character that would assist in reaching a fair average. On meter rates it is shown that 59 cities and towns enjoy a rate of 15 cents a thousand gallons, 64 have a lower rate than 15 cents, and others have a higher rate. The cheapest rate given for a large city is that at Washington, D. C., where the flat rate is 3 cents a thousand gallons; the minimum charge, however, is \$10 a year. Cleveland, Ohio, has a rate of 5 cents, as has also Troy, N. Y., the minimum charge in the former being \$10 and in the latter \$20. Sandusky sells at 15 cents a thousand and has a minimum charge of \$5 a year. Atlanta, Ga., sells by meter only, at the rate of 13 cents a thousand gallons and a minimum charge of \$10. Colorado Springs, where gravity furnishes the water, charges 7 cents a thousand straight, but it is said that this cannot be done where the water is pumped from the ground. The minimum rates are given from 300 cities. Five have as low as \$3 a year. Six make \$4, thirty-one \$5, thirty-three \$6, ten \$7, twenty-one \$8, seven \$9, ninety-four \$10, fifty-seven \$12, three \$13, twenty-four \$15, three \$16, three \$18, nine \$20, one \$21, one \$22, five \$24, eight \$25 and fourteen more than \$25.

### A Merry Christmas.

The custom of wishing every person a "Merry Christmas," small in itself, is of much importance to the holiday. It conveys a happy greeting and if combined with a bright and pleasant smile, the person so addressed is sure to feel a certain, indefinable cheer permeating his sensibilities.

The greeting is given additional emphasis if accompanied by an action calculated to support the intent of the words and Christmas day is made bright and happy to those who would not otherwise know happiness but for the kindness of generous friends.

When or where the custom originated is not known and the point is immaterial. It should never be permitted to die and should always be as essential to the Christmas festivities as is Santa Claus.

Tomorrow is the day when this cheerful greeting should proceed from the mouth of everyone—man, woman and child—to their friends, acquaintances and playmates and as many as can should see that it is meant by the sincerity with which it is uttered, if by no act designed to make the holiday more enjoyable.

At the same time the "merry Christmas" festival, Santa Claus part of the occasion should be subordinate to the event upon which the holiday was founded. That should be the central thought, as it was an occurrence that meant more to the world than one day of joy. From it sprang christianity and with christianity came civilization and higher intellectual development. Kindness, forgiveness, charity, uncomplaining suffering, were born with Christ and have since exercised an influence for good in the world. It was an event which should be considered every day in the year, but more especially on the anniversary of the Savior's birth. It was the main cause of a "merry Christmas" for the generations to follow, so if your Christmas greeting is inspired by the event of His birth and the lessons of His life it cannot but be effective.

Now wait for New Year's and the bill collector.

A fire sale is a scheme to exact full price from people for damaged goods.

Mr. Maclay can now devote his time to history, or perhaps might become great as a writer of fiction.

Governor Savage would never be elected to the office of Santa Claus by the votes of Norfolk children.

The anticipation of Christmas pleasures is perhaps the best part of the holiday to a large number of people.

People who have been feasting on turkey will find jack rabbit an agreeable change—in the matter of price.

A good many pocketbooks had an emaciated appearance this morning as a result of Christmas over-indulgence.

Now is the time to regret your Christmas indulgences and prepare a New Year's resolution covering the point.

A southern exchange has observed that hard times make democrats and democratic success makes hard times.

Why didn't the president give Governor Savage a cabinet position? He never would have been missed from Nebraska.

Perhaps the fates were aware that a big fire sale would be an appropriate way to open the new year for the Boston store of Omaha.

Santa Claus was good to Governor Shaw of Iowa when he dropped the treasurer's portfolio in his stocking on the eve of his retirement from the executive's office.

If Governor Shaw gets that treasury portfolio, Iowa will be represented in the cabinet by two stalwart statesmen, which should be almost equal to the presidency.

Judge Sedgwick has resigned as commissioner and Judge Barnes' Norfolk friends are pleased to note that his is the first name mentioned of candidates to fill the vacancy.

It is thought that Governor Savage might have had the secretaryship of the treasury if President Roosevelt had not feared that the treasury department and the mints would be removed to Lincoln.

Archibald Roosevelt, son of the president, got a spanking on Christmas eve. He became too inquisitive concerning the contents of packages being received at the white house and suffered the penalty that boys of more humble positions have received.

Ex-Governor Hogg of Texas will soon go to London to perfect the organization of a gigantic oil company which is to operate in the Beaumont fields. It looks as though the governor intends to hog some of the profits that have been going to John D. Rockefeller.

While Great Britain has been directing her energies to the overthrow of the South African republic, she has been defeated in the race for commercial supremacy and may be relegated to third place. Not only will the United States be ahead of her, but the German empire may lead the former winner by a lap or two.

After the large expenses of the insular government have been paid there remains in the treasury of the Philippine islands a balance of \$5,000,000. Uncle Sam, through his republican officials, is not only proving a good financier for his immediate family but is making good the bank accounts of his adopted children.

It would certainly be inappropriate to have this government represented at King Edward's coronation by officers who have undertaken to embarrass or defeat the will of their superiors. If the country cannot be represented by loyal sons, willing to subordinate political differences, the king can probably be crowned without the attendance of a representative.

A great many exchanges, especially those making a specialty of agricultural problems, are discussing the question of "How to make Hens Lay." A satisfactory method seems never to have been discovered to make the hens bear fruit in the winter time. The general public would be pleased if some learned scientist would undertake the solution. Eggs at 20 cents per dozen are two rich for common people.

The Chinese court has at last awakened to the need of progress and has decided to take lessons from the most progressive country on earth. Therefore it is in the market for an American adviser, the salary of such officer to be \$15,000 a year. The right kind of an adviser will be a power behind the throne of the celestial kingdom and if the advice is heeded the benighted nation will rapidly advance to a higher plane in the estimation of modern governments.

A writer in a woman's magazine thinks it essential that the young women of today should read the newspapers and not alone the society items and the small talk and gossip, but should read and think upon the editorials, the political

news, and other subjects that heretofore have been neglected by the women. The writer of the article considers it essential that the women of the future should have a broader knowledge of the world and its doings to fit herself for the position she is destined to occupy in the larger affairs of life. The advice is good. It is this class of readers who will advance faster than their sisters and prove to be popular in the social world. A woman should have an understanding of all the larger problems of the day and fit herself to be man's equal in these particulars.

Any crop that will aid in the diversification of farming is welcome to agriculturalists, especially if a good yield of valuable grain or fodder is produced. A Beatrice farmer has been experimenting with a new variety of grain known as "speltz" or "emmer" and has had very excellent results. He harvested last season 900 bushels from 14 acres. The grain is hard, grows and matures in any season, wet or dry, and both grain and straw are relished by all kinds of stock. If cut before thoroughly ripened the straw is as good as prairie hay and the grain threshes easier. It is said to be the best drought resister known, should be sown as early as spring wheat and ripens early, before hot weather sets in. The yield is said to be from 65 to 126 bushels per acre according to the season and other conditions.

### CHEERED THE CENSOR.

How a Gallant Irish Regiment Took an After Battle Scolding.

The leading regiment of our column was the Fifty-third, commanded that day by Major Payne, afterward General Sir William Payne, K. C. B., a very fine regiment, who, being mostly Irishmen, were eager to meet their enemy. Meanwhile I received orders to cross the river by a ford and get round the enemy's right flank, and I had gone for this purpose and was crossing about a quarter of a mile lower down, when suddenly I heard loud cheering and a heavy musketry fire, and then I saw our troops gallantly advancing across the bridge to the assault.

It turned out to be the Fifty-third, who, tired of the delay under fire and, it was whispered, hearing that Sir Colin had sent for his pet highlanders to take the bridge, took their bits between their teeth and without any further orders determined to rush the bridge themselves, which they accordingly did, and with great success. The enemy, once forced out of their position, showed but a poor, desultory fight and, as at Cawnpur, fell in easy prey to the cavalry, who, having crossed, some by the bridge and others, including myself, by the ford, fell on them and pursued them with such success that we captured every gun they had.

The Fifty-third were well pleased with themselves and the result of the fight they had so suddenly initiated, but we heard that Sir Colin was greatly annoyed with them and after the action rated them soundly for their insubordination. But little did these wild Irishmen care. They had had their fight, and a real good one, so far as they were concerned, and as Sir Colin concluded his speech of rebuke they gave him three cheers, and giving three cheers more for General Mansfield, Sir Colin's chief of staff, who had formerly commanded their regiment, they quite upset the chief's equanimity, but at the same time cleared away his wrath.—"Old Memories."

### Peter Cooper Met the Spirits.

During Peter Cooper's lifetime he was a frequent visitor at the home of S. J. Pardessus, on Pacific street, Brooklyn.

At one time Mr. Cooper became greatly interested in the spirit manifestations of the Fox sisters and was anxious to investigate their rappings personally, but he did not like to attend one of their public seances, for he feared recognition and consequently a great deal of talk. Finally it was arranged that one of the sisters should spend a night at Mr. Pardessus' house and the doughty Peter be invited to meet her.

Miss Fox came, and the spirits came too. The family retired early, Mr. Cooper occupying a bedroom on the opposite side of the hall from that of the fair ally of the supernatural. He was just settling himself comfortably for "a long winter's nap" when a rapping began on the headboard of his bed which sent shivers to his very marrow. It was only the beginning of a "rat, rat, rat," that kept up at intervals during the night in all parts of the room, and before daylight came Mr. Cooper had listened to enough spirits to last him a lifetime. He never said much about the experience, but he never asked to have it repeated.—New York Mail and Express.

### Noisy Sunbeams.

Fill a glass vessel with lampblack, colored silk or worsted. Focus the rays of the sun in a lens—that is, hold a magnifying glass so that the rays pass through it before they fall on the glass vessel. Then revolve in the light, between the lens and the vessel, a disk with an opening or slit in it so that the light is alternately falling on the vessel and being shut out. Now listen, and you will hear a noise when the light passes through the slit, but there will be silence when it is shut out. You must place your ear close to the glass holding the silk or other substance.

Another experiment is to use a prism instead of an ordinary lens. This makes a rainbow, and as the rays pass through the slit it is possible to tell that some parts of the solar spectrum—as it is called—produce a sound as they fall on the glass vessel, while other parts have no effect.

## THE PROLIFIC FLY.

To Lessen the Pest All Organic Refuse Should Be Buried.

Flies multiply at a prodigious rate. Given a temperature sufficiently high to hatch eggs, their numbers are only limited by the amount of food available for them. Linnaeus is credited with saying that three meat flies, by reason of their rapid multiplication, would consume a dead horse quicker than would a lion, and the fact that certain diptera having some outward resemblance to the honeybee lay their eggs in the dead carcasses of animals probably led Sanson and Virgil to make erroneous statements with regard to the genesis of honey and the manufacture of bees. The breeding of "gentles" for ground bait is an industry the practices of which could probably give much information as to the nicety of choice exercised by flies in selecting material for feeding and egg laying. According to Packard, ground house fly makes selection of horse dung house fly makes selection of ovipositing, and as each female lays about 120 eggs and the cycle of changes from egg to fly is completed in less than three weeks it seems probable that a female fly might have some 25,000,000 descendants in the course of a hot summer. Other varieties of flies multiply, I believe, still more rapidly.

As flies multiply upon and in organic refuse of every kind, it is obvious that the sooner such refuse is placed where it cannot serve for the breeding and hatching of flies the more likely is the plague of flies to be lessened. The most commonly available method for the bestowal of organic refuse is burial. The egg laying of flies in dead carcasses commences at the very instant of death or even before death in the case of enfeebled animals.—Lancet.

## MISTAKES TO AVOID.

An English paper gives what it terms "thirteen mistakes of life:"

It is a great mistake to set up our own standard of right and wrong and judge people accordingly.

To measure the enjoyment of others by our own.

To expect uniformity of opinion in this world.

To look for judgment and experience in youth.

To endeavor to mend all dispositions alike.

To look for perfection in our own actions.

To worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied.

Not to live in immaterial matters.

Not to alleviate all that needs alleviation as far as lies in our power.

Not to make allowances for the infirmities of others.

To consider everything impossible that we cannot perform.

To believe only what our finite minds can grasp.

To expect to be able to understand everything.

## The Evolution of Warships.

A man need not be a scholar to be an inventor. One of the most successful aeronauts of old times who had made a study of aerial currents and the management of balloons once delivered an address in which he referred to "the anaconda" as "the largest bird that ever flew," and he also remarked that "the mental faculties of a man's mind is so constructed as to bring things down to a pin's point." He also referred to the currents of air as stretchums, meaning strata, and yet he was one of the foremost balloonists of his time.

He was an inventor also of many useful things and was the first man in the country to suggest an ironclad man-of-war with slanting sides. He built a miniature vessel on the plan of sheet iron, placing it in the water and fired musket balls at it at short range. Every ball glanced off. The Merrimack was built on a similar plan, and from that humble beginning the evolution or revolution in naval architecture took its start.—Baltimore Sun.

## A Tall Smoke Column.

During the burning of the Standard Oil company's tanks at Bayonne, N. J., in July, 1900, an immense column of smoke, shaped at the top like an umbrella, rose into the air, where very little wind was stirring, to an elevation, measured by triangulation, of 13,411 feet, or more than two miles and a half. Above the column white clouds formed in an otherwise cloudless sky and remained visible for two days, the fire continuing to burn and the smoke to rise. After the explosion of an oil tank flames shot up to a height of 3,000 feet, and the heat radiated from them was felt at a distance of a mile and three-quarters, where it was more noticeable than close to the fire.—Youth's Companion.

## The Day After.

Mrs. Mixer—Tell me the worst, doctor. Is my husband's condition serious?

Doctor—There is no cause for alarm, madam. He is now out of danger, although suffering acutely from enlargement of the cerebral glands.

Mrs. Mixer—But, doctor, how do you suppose it was brought on?

Doctor—Oh a tray probably.—Chicago News.

## The Price of Ten Cents' Worth.

Customer—Give me 10 cents' worth of paregoric, please.

Druggist—Yes, sir.

Customer (absentmindedly)—How much is it?

Druggist—A quarter.—Boston Christian Register.

In my opinion the man who kills his fellow is the hero of barbarism; the man who risks his own life to save the lives of others is the only hero that a true civilization can honor.—Andrew Carnegie.