

The Norfolk News

Perhaps some other editors in South Carolina and elsewhere have reason to congratulate themselves that Tillman is in custody.

If Germany doesn't behave herself the lonely hulks of destroyed Spanish vessels on the American coast may have company.

Of course the ground hog saw his shadow. He usually does hereabouts and then suits his own convenience in regard to presenting spring.

Governor Mickey is making no loud and boisterous plays for popular applause, but is attending to business in a quiet and dignified manner.

There may be a month or two of this, so you may as well brace up, grin and make the best of it, meanwhile making it up with your coal merchant.

Those beautiful advertisements telling of the comforts of a California winter are having little effect on the people of Nebraska who are enjoying the present weather.

Belgium promises to take the Venezuelan trouble off the hands of Germany, England and Italy and they are in about the right mood to accept any such generous offer.

With the installation of a new press and power plant the Pierce Call has expanded a column in size and several columns in standing as a meritorious local newspaper.

J. Pierpont Morgan agrees to pay taxes on \$400,000 of personal property but admits that he is virtually a pauper, as the indebtedness against his personal property exceeds its value. Poor man!

Monday is Candlemas day, the date when the ground hog is supposed to dig out of his winter quarters for a peep at his shadow to ascertain whether spring is at hand or six weeks distant.

Anyway Pitchfork Tillman is inclined to subside. It might, therefore, be a great deal worse. He has not occupied space top column and wholly along side of pure reading matter for some time.

If the Nebraska democrats are to disagree as to who should lead their party in the campaign of 1904, with Mr. Bryan so available for consultation, what should be expected from the balance of the country?

President Bart of the Union Pacific has flatly refused all demands of the striking boiler makers and mechanics of that road and the public is interested in learning what the strikers are going to do about it.

Perhaps the Hague court was invented to keep the United States from fighting for anything this government appeared to believe was due it, but not intended to stand in the way of European governments and their desires.

When the Philippines show the educational progress that Cuba has shown there will be some depth to a talk of independence if it is desired. The number of schools in Cuba is 3,474, with an attendance of 168,348.

Business may be inclined to the quiet order along most lines, but the Nebraska real estate dealer is active and energetic, presaging an awakening along other lines of effort in the very near future. Stand up for Nebraska.

Sioux City proposes to go after the spitters and soon those who would spit on the sidewalks and the carpets will be relegated to the country and to villages where carpets and sidewalks to spit on are not in such prominence as in the cities.

Governor Peabody has given it out that he will sign the certificates of election for Henry M. Teller, so the incident may be considered as good as closed, and Colorado may resume her place with the other states under the spreading wings of the dove of peace.

One high in authority in the coal trade expresses the belief that there will soon be a sudden drop in the price of fuel. It may be that about the time people no longer need heat the fuel will cheapen, but they cannot be expected to become ecstatic over the prospect.

The house in which Jesse James was killed is to be placed on exhibition at the St. Louis show. It may interest some, but it would seem as though the good people of the country would be better pleased if those who attend the exposition will show a decided inclination to neglect the relic.

By Marconi's system of wireless telegraphy the passengers of outgoing and incoming vessels are to be given the news of the day several hours after they board the vessel and the same length of time before they land. The plan is in keeping with western push and progress and will be appreciated by the people served.

Kansas turned down a proposition to give the women an opportunity to become politicians and now a legislator

has introduced a resolution calculated to take the right of suffrage away from the negroes. He probably considers that if it is a good thing to deny the women the privilege of voting it will be better to also eliminate the negro vote.

The people of Panama are well content that the United States, in which they have great confidence, is to build the isthmian canal, without the intervention of European governments. They look forward with confidence to the results of any enterprise engineered by this government, which is certainly flattering to the administration and the people who choose the administrative officers of the United States.

The Minnesota state senate has adopted a memorial to congress requesting that the duty be removed from lumber. It is certain that if Minnesota and other lumber states can stand a reduction of the tariff on lumber, Nebraska and other prairie states (that do not produce lumber but use much of it) will be in line with them for such reduction, hoping that the competition with Canada will result in a material reduction in the price of building material.

The legislature of South Carolina has asked for a picture of Abraham Lincoln to be hung in the state house. Now if they would retire all Tillmans and give an inclination that it would not be averse to breaking away from Bourbonism, if modern politics and not prejudices dictated such a course, the people of the country would begin to believe that the results of the civil conflict had been laid aside if not forgotten.

A labor paper declares that nine-tenths of the 14-year-old boys of the country are out of school and working. The public school system will not be complete until this condition is changed. As it now is the boys are neglecting educational advantages that the girls are improving. Under our present school system every boy should at least enjoy the advantages of a high school course, while many of them fail to pass through the grades of the common school.

The prospects are that some of the additions to Norfolk, laid out during the boom times, may be in demand for building purposes during the next year or two. Available building sites in the city proper are becoming scarce and people demanding homes will soon be compelled to have recourse to the additions. Those who expect to come to the city in the spring might about as well make up their minds to build as the tenant property is limited and will soon be exhausted.

American commercialism has recognized in Niagara Falls greater value as a source of power than as a mere natural wonder to attract tourists. It is estimated that the value of the power developed by the great falls is \$7,000,000 a year, figured at the rate of \$20 per horse a year for 24 hours a day. When any natural feature develops this value in a commercial way it may be believed that the sentiments of mere sight-seeing tourists will not be permitted to interfere with its development and use.

The spreading conviction that United States senators must be elected by direct vote of the people is in evidence more and more. Scarcely a magazine or periodical devoted to the discussion of current topics but what is giving space right along to the discussion of this steadily growing question. What is equally to the point is the fact that the great majority of the writers not only support the demand for direct popular election, but see that it has become an imperative necessity.—Omaha Bee.

The farmers of Kansas are sincere in their efforts toward establishing a trust and the outcome will be watched with interest by the farmers of all parts of the country. If they can market their produce without the aid of the middle men, or grain dealers and brokers, the time may not be far distant when they and not the board of trade and Wall street will make the prices they are to receive. If there is any trust that can be of benefit to the agricultural regions of the west, it is something of this character, giving further independence to an already independent class.

The demand for Nebraska farms is active and there promises to be more lively demand for them than during many years past. If therefore any Nebraska farmer has an ambition to leave a good thing and migrate to Canada, Oklahoma, Minnesota, or other distant country where people never remain longer than is necessary to acquire citizenship rights, all they will need to do is to signify their wishes to some of the numerous and active real estate agents, and they can no doubt be accommodated. But they need not hope to buy back at the same price they sell for.

American people are sometimes inclined to believe that the nation is hopelessly involved in debt, but when it is understood that the deposits of the people in the savings banks of the country are three times as great as the public debt it will be understood that the nation is not so hopelessly involved that it could not be cleared. If people

having savings bank deposits would devote one-third of such savings toward the cancellation of the debts of the country the work would be accomplished.

People with cold fingers and frost-bitten noses continue to hold up trains in various parts of the country and help themselves to the coal that is destined for some other place. It is probable that so long as this continues the report of people freezing to death will be at the minimum. Some of the raiders sometimes get into trouble, but this is a mere secondary consideration when people are in need of fuel. They feel and believe that the American people are of more consequence than any coal monopoly or coal carrying road.

It is announced from Kansas that the legislators of that state are favorable to a bill granting their women equal rights, and that they may be granted suffrage. Kansas is the state that tried prohibition and found it wanting. It afterward went in head and heels for populism, but has decided that is not what has been wanted. Now it proposes to try woman's suffrage. If it does, it will find that this is a measure which cannot be got rid of as easily as prohibition and populism. If the women want suffrage and like it they will hang on like grim death and the men may never take the privilege from them whether they desire to or not.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature subjecting 45 per cent of a workman's wages to judgment. This is not the scheme of an octopus but of merchants of the state who have lost large sums on accounts of workmen because when a case of that kind has been brought to trial the defendants have proven exemption under the present law. The law was intended for the protection of poor men and their families, but it has been abused by deadbeats, as have other laws of the state, and the trusting merchants have been the loser. If a law could be passed that would hold the rascals and not prove detrimental to those who are honest it would receive enthusiastic support, and it is not improbable that this law, intended to give the merchants a chance to collect their accounts, will be adopted.

There is every prospect that large numbers of people will soon be passing through Norfolk on their way to the new country tapped by the Homestead extension of the Elkhorn. The line was completed so late last fall that no opportunity was afforded for investigation by prospective settlers, and there is every indication that the opening of spring will induce many to direct their attention to that portion of the country. Then if the main line happens to extend there will be others to go in that direction. Norfolk should be prepared to interest these travelers in this city to some extent and if they find nothing better—and many of the people here believe that they will not—they might be induced to return and locate here. Norfolk has flattering prospects and the people should not allow an opportunity to pass of calling attention to its best features.

There may be no gang of Jesse Jameses and Cole and Jim Youngers at large, but there is certainly some sort of organized effort to get at the wealth stored in the bank vaults of the country and there should be some sort of organized effort on the part of the officers to counteract the evil. It might be said that a successful bank robber who escapes with the coin and his life is an inducement for the development of at least two other bank robbers. There are plenty of light-brained, light-fingered lazy ne'er-do-wells who are ready to engage in any sort of venture to make money without work and a successful bank robbery is all the inducement they need to urge them in that direction. The thing to discourage bank robbery is an officer or a citizen with a gun and who knows how and not afraid to use it. It might be well for people to remember that the expectation of life for the robber is much less than that of the average citizen. This thought may give them greater courage and help to shorten that expectation yet more.

Congress will appropriate \$12,000,000 for the support of the rural free delivery service for the next fiscal year. The appropriation for the current year was \$7,500,000, which is just about twice as much as was allowed for the preceding year. Five years ago there were forty-four rural free delivery routes; now there are 12,500 and by July 1 there will be 15,000. It is the intention of the postoffice department to establish 10,000 more routes after July 1. At the present time the carriers travel daily over 375,000 miles of country roads to serve about 7,000,000 of the strictly rural population. The area covered by these routes is about 300,000 square miles. The establishment of the service has been fully justified by results. It is no longer an experiment, but has become a fixed and permanent part of the postal department which must be cared for and steadily expanded until there will be no accessible rural community without free mail delivery. It is a system the promotion of which is for the general welfare.—Dakota City Eagle.

Anyway spring is not such a distance away but that different weather may be experienced some time in the future.

The majority of the legislators may be enjoying a vacation, but the committee on revenue revision is not numbered in the count.

It is hinted that if the conversation of those Venezuelan revolutionists could be heard, it would be found that many of them speak with a Tontonic accent.

If January was in any way delinquent regarding its duties in the weather line, February has certainly started in to properly balance accounts, before Gentle Annie arrives to inspect them.

Sugar cost 11 cents a pound in France, but it is not likely that the Frenchmen are protesting as loudly and as constantly as are the Americans who pay five to six cents a pound for their sweetening.

The Norfolk man who is not satisfied with the future prospect of the city is hard to please. The future is exceedingly bright and many a wary investor will profit through his confidence in its development.

It takes about six inches of space in some of the daily papers to tell that King Edward has a cold. Some of the common people might have a cold, and the measles and the delirium tremens and the glanders and the same papers would not give them a line.

There are jingoes who would like nothing better than to see a monstrous war between the old world and the new, but there are millions of other people who will prefer peace, and it is to be hoped that the millions who prefer peace will be accommodated.

No one has heard Senator Tillman utter the complaint that the reputation of the family had been ruined by the nephew who killed an editor. It would not be surprising if he held that the honor of the family had been upheld by the murderous assault.

Even after the beet sugar men have agreed to that reciprocity treaty with Cuba, congress does not appear to be making any very magnificent strides towards its accomplishment. Perhaps if everyone was agreeable to its passage it would fail to be adopted altogether.

The thermometers in the Klondike country capable of registering the temperature place it at 71 degrees below zero. Contemplation of this degree of frigidty will enable Nebraskans to endure the present spell of weather with considerable fortitude if not actual pleasure.

Nebraska is not to be left out of the count. The people of Grand Island have stood up for the state and confiscated three cars of coal. If there are any communities that imagine that they can scoop Nebraska towns in notorious action regarding the coal situation they have been sadly left.

With an additional appropriation of \$20,000 to put the finishing touches on its public building Norfolk can afford to put on a few more airs. Perhaps we could afford to celebrate the Fourth of July in addition to entertaining the firemen's tournament, providing the two dates were not too close together.

The annual returns from the various adjutant generals of the state militia organizations estimate that if necessary this country could place in the field an army of 10,853,396 men, each one capable of caring for about two soldiers of any other nation. If a world's war is to be fought these are interesting figures to contemplate.

Politicians of western North Dakota and eastern Montana are interested in the organization of a new state to be known as Montague, with Glendive as the capital. It is to extend from the mountain belt in Montana to the Missouri river in North Dakota, and will comprise 18,000 square miles of stock growing country.

With a proper start right now Norfolk could easily be made a city of 10,000 people in a very few years. If private citizens will do as much as the national government has agreed to do and as much as the state will probably do for Norfolk's development, there will be no question whatever as to, the results.

The strength of the organized state militia of the country is shown to be 109,338. This and the regular army alone would make a fighting force which any of the leading nations of the world might well hesitate to tackle. The United States is not in such bad shape from a military standpoint when it comes to figuring out its possibilities.

The city council at Fremont has adopted a resolution forbidding the Nebraska Telephone company from extending or repairing its lines. At last accounts the livemen were at work, however, and some arrests and injunction suits may follow. It is claimed that the company has been operating without permission from the authorities and is virtually a trespasser on the streets and alleys of the city. The in-

dependent company is pushing the fight and an interesting time is anticipated.

Now it is reported from Omaha that a man of that city has discovered a chemical substitute for anthracite coal that will sell for \$5 a ton, make more heat and last longer. He now intends to manufacture a substitute for bituminous coal that will sell for from \$2 to \$2.50 a ton. When his products are on the market the people of the state will begin to live, enjoy life and save money. Meantime they will continue their contributions to the coal barons.

At last reports Mr. Bryan had not yet become disheartened in waiting for those hard times which may influence the people to elect a democratic administration. He said that they would be upon us before this, but that does not indicate that he has given up the hope that they will come some time and that either he or someone else will ride to the white house in the democratic wagon on the rising tide of public discontent. Mr. Bryan may want such a condition, but the people are quite content to worry along under republican prosperity.

Norfolk business men and property owners were never more of a unit than they are now. They have fraternized and each is willing to help the other to achieve success and in the meantime help himself and the city. Properly directed this unity of purpose can result in nothing less than a brilliant development of the city and its interests. The location is favorable, natural advantages are good and it is no impossible dream to predict that the city will be one of importance to the state and especially the northern section in the near future.

There are 55 farmers in the Nebraska house of representatives, and the body is overwhelmingly republican. The republican party has never boasted that it was exclusively for the farmers, and yet they find that, in common with people of other callings, they can secure recognition and justice through the party in a manner deserving of their respect and confidence. The populist leaders have boasted that their's was the farmers' party, and yet many of the class never followed after the gods of that party and others who did are rapidly returning to the party that served them in the past and will in the future.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature prohibiting the sale of tobacco to boys under 18 years of age and prohibiting the use of tobacco by boys. With such a law and the officers to assist the parents in combating the habit there might be some results. Certainly there are a large number of boys who would not risk a fine or a jail sentence for the sake of acquiring a habit which in after years is punishment enough in itself. If after a boy is 18 he still has an ambition to acquire a foolish and expensive and disgusting habit, he may do so without the same danger of blighting his life and blunting his faculties that a boy of more tender years would encounter. The object of the law probably is that if boys can be induced to forego tobacco until they are 18 the majority of them will have acquired sense enough to pass it up entirely.

Omaha is to be the national headquarters of the socialist party organization, which have heretofore been maintained at St. Louis. The leaders evidently recognize in Nebraska and other northern and western states a fruitful field for operations and intend to get in on the ground floor for the campaign of 1904. With the decay of populism it is not unnatural to suppose that socialism will prove an acceptable substitute and the affairs of the party can more satisfactorily be directed from Omaha than from the city further south from which the headquarters have been taken. It may be believed that the people will ultimately turn down socialism as they have done populism, especially if it undertakes to combine with some other party, but for some time it is possible that there will be a rapid growth of the party from the malcontents of other parties that will bring it into prominence during the next few years.

The possibilities of Nebraska as a fruit growing state is evidenced by what has been done at the Nebraska fruit farm during the season of 1902. The orchard is of 200 acres and from it 33 cars of apples were shipped. Fifty thousand gallons of cider were made from 18,000 or 20,000 apples and there are on hand about 8,000 gallons of cider which will be converted into vinegar with the opening of spring. At but 10 cents a gallon, the income to the farm would be \$5,000 from the cider alone. The growing of fruit is profitable and every farmer should have a small orchard from which could be gathered the fruit needed by the family and some to place on the market with which to buy groceries and other necessities and luxuries. Fruit does not take the care of other crops when the orchard is well started, and the farmer who has no fruit trees is as lacking as the city man who does not grow a lawn.

Schurman says, "Haul down the flag when its work is done." If the work of the flag is done anywhere it should be accomplished in the country where it has been floating since 1776, but there are

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a few to believe that it still has a work to accomplish even there, not to mention the Louisiana purchase, the Texas annexation, the Mexico cession, the Spanish cession of Florida, the acquisition of the northwest, the Gadsden purchase, the Alaskan purchase, the Hawaiian acquisition, besides the treaties by which Porto Rico, the Philippines and other possessions have been added to our territory. Expansion has been the practice of this government ever since the revolution and if we are to begin hauling down the flag where should we begin and where should we quit, under the rule that the work of the flag is done? If the people of this country are to make restitution to the original owners there are a large number of Indian tribes now defunct that should come in for their share. Their spirits should be summoned from the happy hunting grounds before Schurman's policy is entered upon.

It has been the custom in Norfolk since the time that the memory of man fails to recall, to allow the snow to remain upon sidewalks after a snow until a generous sun melts it. It is true there is an ordinance requiring the walks to be cleared within 24 hours after the storm has ceased, but with few exceptions no more attention has been paid to it than as though it did not exist. After Mayor Koenigstein had floundered through the drifts to town this morning, he concluded that this is a very good time to make a test of whether the ordinance was for use or ornament, and he forthwith gave notice that the snow must go. He can do no more popular thing than to demonstrate that the snow ordinance is an active law, the enforcement of which means convenience to every person in the city, and he should have the hearty support of everyone in trying to clear a path through the drifts.

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