

The Norfolk News

The city campaign is now fully open and interest in municipal politics will hold the boards for about two weeks.

The earth has shifted its belt to the south of the sun and spring is here, whether the weather affirms the fact or not.

Grover Cleveland is 66 years of age today—old enough to know that his retirement from politics is the part of wisdom.

If you have any doubt about the news service of THE NEWS being of the best compare it with the service of the other state dailies.

The American hen is nobly meeting the demands of the season and by Easter time the people will undoubtedly be able to supply all requirements of an egg appetite.

It may be all right for March to furnish April weather if April does not undertake to supply the delinquencies of March by breeding a few blizzards and other winterish demonstrations.

Boodlers will find it more difficult now than ever to evade the laws of the country, the new treaty with Mexico making it impossible for such people to escape a penalty by going to that country.

The fellow who predicted an early spring last fall is not readily discoverable but he is probably out behind the woodshed consulting the goosebone for a forecast as to whether the summer will be wet or dry.

The man or men who build bridges will probably not lack for a job this summer. The Elkhorn has done its full share to provide them with work. To paraphrase a popular quotation, "It is an evil flood that brings no one a benefit."

It is evident from the troubles resulting in the Western Passenger association that the Elkins law is not considered by the magnates purely a statute for ornamental purposes, and there is considerable energy manifested in meeting its requirements.

Then don't buy gold bricks at Detroit—they take them, and it turns out that they are the real thing. The fellow who should know where the wealth is concealed is really the one who has been gold-bricked according to the popular understanding of the term.

If Senator Morgan but had the assistance of Ex-Senator Allen he might be able to hold off that isthmian canal matter until the ocean had cut its way through the isthmus by natural processes that would dissolve the mountains and the rocks in the way.

That Omaha company may yet accomplish that which many other companies have been attempting to do in Nebraska and locate a paying vein of coal of desirable quality. It would be a fine thing for Omaha and Nebraska if a good coal mine should be disclosed.

The race question is really paramount in some sections of the country, and Mr. Bryan or any one else can not replace it with "anti-imperialism," as those who are agitating the question need nothing so much as a good strong brand of imperialism, to be enforced without the consent of the governed.

President Roosevelt has re-appointed Dr. W. D. Crum, colored, to be collector of customs at S. C. The president is evidently convinced that to give a certain people the rights of franchise and then withhold the offices is something of a farce and proposes to stand by his views on a leading question of the country.

Springtime, Gentle Annie, is due Saturday. If the weather will but do something different, though better, than it has been doing for about a week past, the people will hail the vernal equinox with something akin to joy. There has been plenty, and then some, during the past several days.

It has been decided that Philadelphia is altogether too gay on Sundays and the Sabbath Observance association has decided to enforce some laws of the vintage of 1794. Sunday newspapers, locomotive works, ice cream vendors, etc., are under the ban and will not be permitted to do business.

The woman suffragists have a four-starred flag on display at New Orleans which would indicate a belief that there are but four states really in the union according to the declaration of independence adopted by them. They are: Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, each of which have granted complete suffrage to women.

Perhaps Mr. Rosewater's recent visits to Omaha may account for the fact that Dave Mercer failed to win that appointment to the head of the census bureau. The ex-congressman now proposes to establish his residence in Nebraska beyond a reasonable doubt, and square accounts with a few people, which may give promise of some interesting campaigns in the future.

The hardest slap administered recent-

ly is that of Mr. Bryan who alleges that eastern democrats know little about politics anyway. They do seem to have lost their grip since Mr. Bryan has been in the saddle and are probably not sorry if they have forgotten the art. They have been enjoying a very good quality of government under the republicans and many are content to let it go at that.

If the legislature conscientiously does what it believes to be right for and against the corporations the people will sustain it in spite of the protests of the opposition, but it cannot afford to give the opposition a leverage that can be used by it advantageously. Corporations have some rights as well as the common people and all that can be asked is fair and equitable treatment on both sides.

In replacing bridges that have been removed by the high water the taxpayers in many of the counties of Nebraska will have an extra expense to meet this year, and Madison county is no exception to the rule. The fact that the Thirteenth street bridge has withstood the assaults of the raging element would seem to argue that though perhaps more expensive than others, it is the cheapest in the long run. It is one of the few that has proven substantial.

Missouri has outstanding certificates of indebtedness amounting to \$4,390,000 and the people are paying interest at the rate of \$250,000 a year. It is apparent that Missouri should go republican a few times to enable the legislature to undertake some revenue legislation that will do for that state what the revenue law planned for Nebraska is expected to do and remove the indebtedness and save that magnificent payment of interest to the treasury.

By the invention of cement railroad ties it is believed that a means has been found for substituting for one of the most exhaustive and persistent demands on the forests of the country. It is claimed for the new tie that it is practically indestructible and will answer all the purposes of a wood tie, with a much longer life and greater safety. The new tie may cost more but because it is long lived and safe it may be believed that the railroad people will not hesitate to put it in.

Eastern democrats may be inclined to leave Cleveland go it alone in his objections to Bryan, but it is quite evident that Nebraska democrats, at least, will support Mr. Bryan that Grover, single handed, will have no advantage over him. Meanwhile the republicans are proceeding unitedly to carry out the destiny of the country and afford the people the best government under the sun. Even the "free silver" republican is now heard of no more except in rare and isolate instances.

Mr. Bryan is 43 years of age today, and "the boy orator of the Platte" phrase has good and sufficient reason for retirement. Grover Cleveland's birthday was yesterday, which should be sufficient basis for a better understanding between the diverse democratic interests. There is a series of coincidences, however, that may not be ignored in this connection. Mr. Cleveland entered the world 23 years ahead of Mr. Bryan, his day of nativity is 24 hours earlier, he was ahead of him as a democratic candidate, his policies received a trial by the people, all of which is proof that Mr. Cleveland is the leader and Mr. Bryan must be considered a follower whether he will or no.

Wrecks are strictly the order in the realms of accident and disaster. Not a day has passed for probably two weeks that THE NEWS has not chronicled one or more disastrous wrecks, and several of them have been on Nebraska railroads. Humanitarians who are opposed to war and bloodshed might well devote their attention to perfecting railroad systems and management that wrecks will be impossible. It may appear an impossible task, but the time is undoubtedly coming when swift travel will be possible without danger of disastrous wrecks. Such a time will be cheerfully welcomed by the people who recognize in railroading one of the most dangerous occupations of modern times.

The recent death of James H. Blount will call to mind an important event in American growth, or rather in stunting American growth. He it was who under orders of the Cleveland administration pulled down the American flag on the Hawaiian Islands. For that act his name is not likely to be revered as that of a great statesman by the people of his country, who acknowledged that he and his chief made a great mistake by at once choosing an administration making it possible for the flag to be again raised to its proper place, and not only that but raised it at points where it had never before been known. The people like the method employed and have several times indicated that they will approve no other when it comes to expansion.

Governor Mickey has issued his Arbor day proclamation, causing April 22 to be set aside as a day to be devoted to tree culture and thought along that line. He holds that this is one of the holidays not actuated by sentiment but

"is commemorated because of the practical value and utility of the acts which emanate" from it. The importance of observing the day is well set forth by the governor, and he, with other public spirited citizens, hopes for its general observance in Nebraska, where it means more than in any other state. It has been proven that forestry can be developed in this state and it is hoped that the time will come when Nebrascans will be more abundantly blessed in this regard than states which have had natural forest advantages but have abused them woefully.

With only five votes registered against the isthmian canal treaty it would seem as though the long winded talk and the extra session of the senate were entirely needless and an expensive luxury. Perhaps Mr. Morgan and his co-laborers in the democratic vineyard will flatter themselves that they have accomplished considerable for the country and their constituents but there are many people who will believe that the same result could have been just as cheaply and readily attained in regular session.

It is evident that some sort of rule or government is needed so that if the people will persist in sending democrats to the senate it will be impossible for one or five of them to tie the hands of the majority and prevent legislation on important matters.

The students of the Iowa state law school have just completed the trial of Shakespeare's Hamlet, and find him guilty of manslaughter under the Iowa laws. The prisoner has not yet been sentenced. The jury was out 18 hours standing, until near the end, six for murder in the first degree, three for acquittal and one for manslaughter. The nine say that the manslaughter juror was particularly stubborn. A plea of insanity was entered by the defense but it was not given much weight. Readers of Shakespeare have been much divided over this question and there was deep interest in the outcome of the trial. The decision of the Iowa university court may assist people who have followed the trial to a new understanding of the tragedy, and certainly it has tended to arouse new interest in high class literature.

That there is "honor among thieves" receives new proof from Walnut Ridge, Ark., where the sheriff has had in charge men—though lawbreakers. The prisoners, with the sheriff's family, were threatened by flood and in attempting to cross the swollen Black river the boat containing the sheriff's family and two prisoners was overturned. The sheriff's baby was drowned, but by the aid of the prisoners the lives of the sheriff and his wife were saved. Afterwards the prisoners went, unattended, to the county jail and knocked for admittance. Circumstances made the prisoners the keepers and they did as men would do and fulfilled their self-imposed obligations with right good grace. Such actions on the part of malefactors, while it should not condone crime, serve to elevate the standard of those accused of crime and emphasizes the fact that all men are kin.

It is to be expected that western democratic editors and politicians will join with the Wall street magnates who are dissatisfied with the anti-trust program of the present administration in an endeavor to defeat Roosevelt, but it is doubtful if they will be able to swing even their party vote in that direction. Many of the democrats are conscientiously opposed to trusts and would give their support to a republican [who will support their views rather than to a democrat openly put up and supported by Wall street to change the program to one in favor of the magnates and those interested in trusts. The belief is general that it will be impossible to defeat Roosevelt in convention and the only opening for Wall street is to take an interest in the democratic national convention, see that an "easy" man is nominated and then work and spend money for his election. The fact that the World-Herald is quoting from the Wall Street Journal is significant of the trend of events.

A pretty story comes from Omaha Thursday's News published an account of a bright looking little chap who applied at the library of one of the schools to borrow certain books. When told that a deposit of \$1.20 was required before he could take out the desired volumes, he sighed regretfully, cast a longing look at the coveted treasures, and saying that he had no money and had been unable to save any out of meagre earnings, he went slowly away, says the York Republican. When the secretary of the board of education went to his office Friday morning he found the same little chap waiting at the locked door with a check signed by an Omaha citizen for \$1.20. He took his books and went away rejoicing. Ten minutes later another citizen called and placed \$1.20 on the counter, telling the secretary to give the boy the books he wanted. In a few minutes a good lady well known to the secretary, telephoned to them to give the boy all the books he wanted and she would be responsible for them. And so it continued till day and the secretary says that fully a hundred people called with money or stood sponsor for the boy by telephone. Surely there is salt in that city enough to save it.

Suppose the democrats were placed in control of the national government, with their practiced opposition would they know enough to originate and push measures? They were clearly out of their element when they were in power during the administration of 1892-1896 and they have not taken advantage of their opportunities to learn anything different since. Therefore it is to be believed that they would prove more than awkward if they should suddenly be given a majority and compelled to change from objectors to originators. They have always proven more apt in their natural element where nothing is expected of them but remonstrances against the policies of the majority. Even at that there are some to believe

Fans are talking base ball, but the weather is taking care to see that it ends in talk.

March was welcomed as an advance toward the spring and summer season, but there its value ends. It has stood in with winter to the disadvantage of humanity, energetically and continuously.

The people of Nebraska are too experienced in the right quality of spring weather for the weather clerk to hope to delude them with the spurious, foul adulterated mixture he is at present furnishing. The people insist on the real thing and the sooner it is furnished the better it will be for the bureau.

There is something to be said in favor of extra sessions of the United States senate when promptly executed, business-like proceedings are required. Perhaps the people would favor extra, rather than regular sessions if it was put to a vote, in view of the record made.

Could it be possible that the mix-up in the Cuban treaty was deliberately planned to defeat the wishes of the president in the matter? If so it may be expected that he will again take congress in hand at an early date. It is probable that the beet sugar interests will not be sorry that the treaty is "twisted."

The Venezuelans have no sooner recovered the remains of their navy from the Germans than the English seize their vessels on the charge that they are piratical in their actions. It may be more difficult to release them from the latter seizure than the first. If the British case is well founded there will be no criticism to make.

The Mississippi and its levees combine to form a question easily of paramount importance to the people living and owning property in the valley of the Father of Waters. Either large areas of land should be permanently vacated or some way of confining the floods within bounds should be attempted. The loss of life and property and the immense expense of rush work each spring are deplorable features.

With the people of St. Joseph, Mo., wading through the deepest snow of the season, the people in this part of the country probably should have no complaint to make because it is chilly enough in this section to precipitate an occasional flurry over the fair face of Nebraska. The largest complaint possible is that when the wind is from Missouri and should be soft and balmy with the fragrance of spring we will be getting it chill from those fields of snow and will feel like continuing our loyalty to the hard coal fire and fur lined coat.

If Mrs. Maybrick is to be released it is about time that the event took place. She has been before the American public through the newspapers so frequently during her imprisonment, that many of the people no doubt believe that they have sustained punishment almost equal to her's. They will be glad that she is released, if for no other reason. If Mrs. Maybrick will refrain from going on the stage or doing a lecture course the people will not have cause to regret the interest they have taken in her case.

The French chamber of deputies has passed a measure to terminate religious teachings in that country and contemplate that hereafter the education of the people shall be by the state. The representatives of that country must have heard of that decision by the supreme court of Nebraska ruling the Bible out of the public schools, and hastened to get in line. They will probably be chagrined when it is learned that the Nebraska court has modified its decision to a considerable extent, but may find it too late to back up as graciously as did Nebraska.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature to prohibit the trap shooting of live pigeons and it should certainly pass. The invention of clay pigeons has made it absolutely unnecessary to use live birds as targets by gun clubs desiring sport, and if that does not answer all requirements Yankee genius should be invited to perfect a target that will assume the characteristics of a pigeon in flight. If the live birds were killed outright there would be less objection, but many of them, especially with amateurs, are permitted to suffer through the inflicting of wounds, that are decidedly cruel though not necessarily fatal.

Norfolk is either fortunate in the possession of an extra efficient fire department, a very excellent waterworks system, or has an unusual amount of good luck—or perhaps it is a combination of all three. It was certainly a remarkable piece of work for the firemen to be able to save a row of frame buildings, with but little space between when one was completely destroyed and from the further fact that there was a strong breeze carrying the flames and the sparks and cinders directly over the other buildings of the row, and when the heat and flames were fierce enough to shatter the plate glass in buildings across the street and set them on fire in places. The credit is largely given the firemen and they are fully deserving of it. They are never summoned in vain and they were never known to shirk a duty, and, furthermore, they were never known to be called to a fire with water facilities in reach, but that they have been successful in accomplishing all that could be asked of them. During the past winter there have been three frame business houses destroyed in a nest of other frame buildings, and with the exception of the last, none of the neighboring frame buildings were even scorched.

Argument for and against capital punishment has become quiet prominent in Nebraska since the execution of Gottlieben Niengenfind. It must be admitted that those opposed to the present law have rather the best of the argument from a theoretical standpoint. No one takes particular delight in presenting

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argument that men should suffer death for the crimes they have committed, and if the Nebraska courts were accustomed to giving the preference to this sort of a sentence their case would be stronger, but the infrequency with which the death penalty is imposed would seem to argue that none are thus punished unless they deserve it beyond the shadow of a doubt. It is certainly preferable that a man should be executed by process of law in an orderly and quiet manner than that mobs should take it in their hands to punish criminals because they believe the man deserves it, and if the law should stand for no other reason, this should be sufficient justification. The theorists do not hesitate to go beyond reason in their arguments against the law. If they have nothing else to fall back on the guilty man is declared a "moral degenerate," as though that were a substantial reason why his life should be spared. They also freely quote from the Bible, which likewise contains substantial argument for punishment by death, especially in the old testament. The same people who are opposed to capital punishment would undoubtedly go to the other extreme when it came to a question of killing men in battle with a government policy at stake. In other words these men would protect a man from death who had transgressed every moral and human law, and urge the killing of thousands of their fellow creatures for the purpose of maintaining governmental supremacy. These same men who have been given the moral shivers by the hanging of Niengenfind, no doubt took off their hats and cheered with the lustiest when the news was received that Dewey had killed hundreds at Manila, also when Sampson and Schley and Shaffer and Roosevelt had won victories by killing large numbers of the enemy in the late war with Spain. Was his worthless life more worthy of preservation? Or is it the mere difference of how law and power takes life that makes it commendable?

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