

GETS LETTER FROM JAPAN

J. A. Wanzer Writes Concerning His Experiences.

ESPECIALLY INTERESTING NOW

The Fact That Japan is at This Time the Center of the Greatest of Movements in Making History, Adds Much to the Following.

The following is a letter received by Miss Pearl Widaman of this city from J. A. Wanzer, who is now in Japan:

Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Dec. 2.—Dear Pearl: As we still have several hours here before sailing for Shanghai and it is too infernally cold to enjoy yourself on deck I know of no better way to improve the time than catching up with my correspondence.

I left Canton the last of October on forty days leave headed for Japan to try and recuperate from a two months' siege of dysentery, and if nothing happens to the good ship Tosa I will be in Canton again the 10th of December. At Hong Kong I met a gentleman and his wife, named Gould, from Detroit and have been with them ever since, or rather until day before yesterday, the day I left Korea for here. They sailed yesterday on the Akt Marce for Seattle by way of the Great Circle and Alutian Islands while I go south for nearly 2,000 miles.

I'll give you a little sketch of my trip which will have to do for this time as I haven't your last letter with me to answer in detail. Your description of your trip to Colorado was fine and thoroughly enjoyed. Come again.

I left Canton on the Hanhow, a night boat, and got into Hong Kong about 2 a. m. As the night was fine I stayed up until we got into H. K., as it is said of the Pearl river that nowhere else in the world is there as much to see as from the deck of a steamer in the run of ninety miles from Canton to Hong Kong.

We left H. K. at 4 p. m. on the second of November on the Iyo Marce and had fine weather all the way to Shanghai. From the second day out until we arrived opposite the Woo Sung forts, a distance of nearly 500 miles, we ran through water as yellow as ochre, discolored by the mighty Yangtze; and after leaving Woo Sung on our way across to Moyi the water was discolored in the same manner for one hundred miles at sea. To illustrate the size of the river, as per example we steamed through its muddy waters for nearly one entire day without so much as catching a glimpse of land on either side.

4 p. m. Left the harbor two hours ago and are pretty well out to sea at this writing. I have been watching the steerage passengers (all Japs and Chinese) at dinner. They fare pretty well as a whole, having plenty of rice and fish, which are their staple articles of diet, while their quarters are neat and clean, each passenger having a section some five by seven feet, covered with several thicknesses of matting. For exercise they have the entire saloon deck, which is more than the cabin passengers have although they may also use the saloon deck if they wish.

At Shanghai we went through the native city and also the foreign concessions, the latter being well built up with wide streets flanked by good substantial business houses. I also paid a visit to the company who have their head office here. We left Shanghai on the seventh at noon and got into Moyi on the ninth about 8 a. m. From Moyi to Kobe, a distance of 300 miles or more, the N. Y. K. passengers have the option of going by rail or continuing through the inland sea on the steamer. Mr. and Mrs. Gould and myself decided on the former and we were well repaid as the trip by rail is one of the most picturesque I have ever made; the train following the coast of the inland sea nearly the entire distance, being often within a stone's throw of sailing vessels and steamers, passing through lovely little villages, and again the ruins of some Shogun castle or Buddhist temple the approach being lined with gigantic pines and cryptomeria and the entrance spanned by a colossal tiara of wood or stone.

Getting into Kobe at dark we went to the Oriental hotel, of which Kipling says "Those of you who wish to slide through the world on a sleek and contented stomach 'I' say *** go to the Oriental in Kobe."

From Kobe we went to Osaka and Koto, the latter the capital of the empire for a thousand years up to 1869 when it was changed to Tokio. At Osaka we passed the imperial train containing the emperor who was on his way to Himeji to review 50,000 troops. We only caught a glimpse of H. H. however. The most interesting feature however was the crowds of school children, soldiers and civilians we passed at every station for several hours before meeting the imperial train. In most of the places, especially where our train ran through without stopping, we were often mistaken for the imperial train and such a waving of flags and mustering of troops you never saw. We all had little American and Japanese flags which we waved continuously. It was lots of fun and as Mrs. Gould remarked "As it would probably be the first time and the last that we would be mis-

taken for royalty we ought to make the best of it." We did.

On the sixteenth Lieutenant Little of the Thirtieth Infantry (who left the next day to join his regiment at Fort Crook, Neb.) and myself took the night train to Himeji to see the big review. This time we did see the emperor and looked at him until we grew tired. The review was the most impressive thing I ever saw and outside of the foreign military attaches and ambassadors we were probably the only foreigners present among a crowd of several hundred thousand people. As the emperor passed down the line of some three miles, which was lined with people from ten to a hundred deep, you could almost have heard a pin drop. The silence was really painful. The Japanese, no matter what the occasion, never cheer or make any demonstration when the emperor passes.

We spent six days in all at Koto visiting Buddhist and Shinto temples, old ruins, etc., and also seeing the huge bell weighing 74 tons, which is the largest suspended bell in the world. The day we left Koto we ran just half an hour ahead of the imperial train all day long, the emperor being on his way back to Tokio. Unbeknown to us he was to stop at Shidzanka over night, which was also our destination. As the only hotel in town had been reserved for the imperial party we had to stop at a Japanese yadoga (tea house). Our meals were sent over from the hotel however and were fine, being the same as the imperial party received. Again we had a good look at the emperor. From Shidzanka we went to Kojima, Miyashita, Hahone, Kamahura, Yokahama, Tokio and several less important places. At the Imperial hotel at Tokio we again ran into royalty. The Maharajah of Kopruthal have a suite of rooms near ours. He was also accompanied by the princess and a brilliant suite. There are four more cities in Japan I want to see then I will be contented on that score, viz: Nara, Nikko, Hakodate and Arima.

I am going back to Canton with an empty purse but well and strong again. My trip entire will include about 5,000 miles, mostly by water. Give my love to mamma and papa, Fay, Bessie, Harley and that other rolly polly boy who is as big one way as the other. Merry Xmas to one and all. Lovingly, Jim.

MAKES RULING ON FIRE ESCAPES

Labor Commissioner Bush is Called Upon to Inspect Buildings in Many Cities and Towns.

Since the Chicago fire Labor Commissioner Bush has received many requests to inspect cities and towns and to enforce the fire escape law. Prior to the Chicago disaster, he found people very indifferent, but now they are eager to have him see that the provisions of the law are enforced.

One of Mr. Bush's rulings has made it impossible to compel owners of a certain class of three-story buildings to put in fire escapes. Where a building of this height is not entirely devoted to sleeping rooms, he holds that it is not used for dormitory purposes and therefore the owners can not be made to put in fire escapes. Many three-story buildings in Lincoln are devoted to sleeping rooms with the exception of store rooms on the first floor. While these are dangerous buildings Mr. Bush will not endeavor to make the owners put up fire escapes. It has been suggested that a test case in court might overrule the labor commissioner. The law does not state specifically that the entire building shall be used as a dormitory. It says that fire escapes "shall be required on buildings more than two stories in height used for manufacturing purposes, or for hotels, dormitories, schools, seminaries, hospitals, or asylums." The law further provides that for such buildings "one fire escape shall be required for every twenty-five persons, for which working, sleeping or living accommodations are provided above the second stories of said buildings." This is taken to mean that if sleeping apartments are provided above the second floor, a fire escape is required on a three-story building. The only question that appears to remain unsettled is whether a three-story building, all of which is the first floor, comes under the head used for sleeping apartments except the "dormitories." Some go so far as to assert that if any part of a building is used for sleeping apartments the building should be termed a dormitory.—State Journal.

HIGH OFFICIALS INSPECTING

Third Vice President of the Chicago & Northwestern, Goes Over This Division.

A party of railroad officials high in the service of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad are just now touring the Nebraska & Wyoming division of their line and are today making the trip over the Albion branch. They went up the Bonesteel branch Thursday and returned this morning to Oakdale where they took the side shoot across to Scribner. The party is headed by Third Vice President Witmen and Engineer Schank of Chicago. Mr. Bidwell is along and so is General Superintendent C. C. Hughes of this city. Superintendent Reynolds went to Oakdale this morning to meet the train and accompanied the party over the Albion branch. The reason given for the trip is that the officials merely want to inspect the road.

NORFOLK IS ORDERLY

Absolutely Nothing in Police Circles.

THE CITY IS YOUNG AND GOOD

But Has no Symptoms of Dying Young. Five Months Since Anyone Was Taken to Madison—Tramps, Thugs, Thieves and Terrors All Missing.

[From Friday's Daily.] Norfolk is young, and it is good, but it is not going to furnish support to the ancient saying that "the good die young," because Norfolk is not going to die. It is a long ways from being sick. In fact it was never better and never felt better in its life. But there is no getting around the fact that it has had but little real strenuous work for the police officers to do in some time.

"It has been five months," said Chief of Police Kane this noon, "since Norfolk has even gone so far as to send a man to Madison," which is saying volumes for the goodness of the people and of the city.

It used to be an occurrence of at least once or twice a week that someone was sent to Madison for a term of imprisonment. The city jail formerly had inmates almost constantly and it was not infrequent that men from Norfolk were landed in the penitentiary, but that time is long since past, evidently, at least it has not been assertive for nearly half a year.

The thugs and the petty thieves and the robbers and the tinhorners are pretty thoroughly cleaned out, and everything is serene in justice and police courts. There are even a scarcity of civil suits and no neighborhood and family ructions to call for the attention of the police officers, and this is really a remarkable statement considering that Norfolk is a railroad center and therefore a dumping ground for tramps, dead beats and criminals. The tramps are either south, or do not like the treatment they receive in Norfolk, and the thugs have long since decided that there were better and greener fields than Norfolk.

The worst thing about it is that there is little for the courts and the police officers to do and the newspapers find it hard to get along without an occasional police court sensation—but withal it is a very satisfactory condition of affairs and none are insisting on a change.

FRIDAY FACTS.

F. J. Hawader is a city visitor from Creighton.

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Miller have gone to Chicago.

C. S. Sultan was over from Bloomfield yesterday.

Ed. C. Walton was up from Humphrey yesterday.

Geo. Faye of Madison was a city visitor yesterday.

Thos. Wolf was in Norfolk yesterday from Creston.

M. F. Hamby was over from the county seat yesterday.

H. J. Johnson of Stanton was a Norfolk visitor Wednesday.

Sheriff Clements paid one of his frequent visits to Norfolk yesterday.

Dr. J. H. Mackay was called to Madison on professional business today.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tews welcomed a new son and heir to their home last night.

Willard Brink of Battle Creek was in Norfolk for a time yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. H. L. Kindred and Mrs. L. R. Prichard of Meadow Grove were Norfolk visitors over night.

Mrs. William V. Allen and daughter Miss Willa, were in the city yesterday from Madison.

Miss Louise Wells left for Omaha on the noon train to resume her studies at Brownell Hall.

J. W. Stewart, a banker at Wisner, came to Norfolk last evening for the dancing party given by the Trinity Social guild. Mr. Stewart returned to Wisner this morning.

R. W. Speiser of Lincoln was in the city last evening for the dancing party given by the Trinity Social guild. Mr. Speiser went to Bonesteel at noon today and will return tomorrow evening.

Chester A. Fuller, manager for the Edwards, Wood & Co., has returned from a trip to Humphrey, Madison and other points. The commission house is getting established in northern Nebraska very rapidly.

The Trinity Social guild gave a very pretty dancing party in Mast hall last night, which was enjoyed by a small number of dancers. The Mandolla club furnished music. Punch was served at one end of the hall.

W. M. Robertson returned this morning from Niobrara. "The republicans of Niobrara," said Mr. Robertson, "will probably present the name of Frank Nelson for delegate at large to the national convention from the state."

At a meeting of the new board of directors of the Citizens National bank, the following officers were elected last night for the ensuing year: G. A. Lukart, president; C. S. Bridge, vice president; L. P. Pasewalk, cashier; J. E. Haase, assistant cashier.

The primitive Americans are not

seen in Norfolk so frequently but that their presence is considered ground for comment and they receive the attention of their pale faced successors. A couple of them were on the streets today and were the subject for the usual attention.

Miss Nell Morrow has accepted the position of historian for the Norfolk high school alumni association, to succeed her sister, Miss Edith Morrow, who is unable to be in Norfolk this year. Members of the association trust that when the present Senior class is welcomed, a large number of the old graduates will take active interest.

Mrs. N. A. Rainbolt gave a 1 o'clock luncheon yesterday in honor of Mrs. E. C. Harris of Chadron and Mrs. Dr. Kelper of Pierce, who are visiting here. Covers were laid for twenty ladies and a dainty feast was served. Both guests of honor formerly lived in Norfolk and have many friends here and Mrs. Rainbolt provided the occasion for a happy renewal of old-time acquaintanceships.

Norfolk streets are thronged with an unusual number of teams for this season of the year and business is said to be unusually good by the merchants. The demand for winter goods continues very satisfactory and the prospects are that the winter goods will be well cleared from the shelves before the spring stocks begin to arrive.

At the meeting of the directors of the Battle Creek Valley bank held in that city Wednesday William Stafford, son of P. J. Stafford of this city, was advanced to the position of assistant cashier, with an increase in salary to correspond with the advancement. His friends in this city will be pleased to learn of his good fortune and pleased also to know that his employers recognize his ability.

Twenty-one firemen have thus far signified their intention of attending the firemen's state convention at Fremont, and it is expected that several more will join the crowd before it comes time to leave for the convention city. H. W. Winter is listing the names of those who will attend so that he may know how many tickets will be required and it will be necessary for all who contemplate going to give in their names before Monday if they are to be provided with tickets at the rate given to the delegates. It will be understood that only delegates or members of the association are entitled to these advantages.

IN NORFOLK SOCIAL CIRCLES

[From Saturday's Daily.] The Elks.

Norfolk Elks gave the second of their series of social entertainments at the club rooms last evening. The affair was well attended and the games of military euche were interesting and closely contested.

Kindergartners.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Butterfield last evening entertained a number of people who belonged to what was once known as the Kindergarten club, at the most elaborate "bread and milk" supper ever given in town. In the old days the Kindergartners always had a good time when six or twelve were gathered together, and the reunion last evening brought a revival of the old spirit of jollification.

Progressive High Five.

Miss Emma Melcher entertained a company of about thirty friends at progressive high five last evening at the home of H. G. Brueggemann on Philip avenue. Six tables of players tried for the elusive five-spots until after midnight when the honors were awarded, a number being in for the cut. Miss Dina Schram was given the first prize for ladies and Carl Pilger that for gentlemen. Consolations went to Miss Otella Pilger and Rudolph Wickert. The serving of choice refreshments rounded out an enjoyable evening.

POSITIVE BLOCK SYSTEM NEXT

Nebraska & Wyoming Division of the Northwestern Railroad Will Have Arrangement.

The new positive block signal system is being inaugurated extensively by the Chicago & Northwestern railroad and within the not distant future the lines in this part of their territory will be equipped with the arrangement.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railway company yesterday installed a positive block signal system between Sioux City and Missouri Valley, completing the system between Sioux City and Chicago.

The Northwestern has had the positive and automatic block system in operation on some of its lines in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa for several years. Now, within the last thirty days, or since railroad wrecks became so numerous, it has added to its positive block system, including the Sioux City-Missouri Valley line.

The installation and maintenance of a block system entails large expense, but for the safe transportation of passengers and employees of railroads it is the best method yet devised.

Officials of the Northwestern said yesterday that ultimately the system would be installed on all of the road's lines. They said the policy of the operating department was to surround the running of its trains with every possible safeguard.

A RUN OF MISFORTUNE

Joseph Vlazney Has Had More Than a Share of Bad Luck.

HAD A CALAMITOUS SUMMER

Farmer West of Norfolk Commenced to Lose Out With the Flooding of the Elkhorn Early Last Spring and it Kept Up All Summer Long.

Joseph Vlazney, whose farm is along the Elkhorn at Kent's Siding, has had more than a full share of trouble during the past year and should be justified in a belief that there is a Nemesis on his trail if he had ever done anything very wicked. He has certainly had about all the bad luck to which any one man is entitled, and would undoubtedly undertake to nail a ton of horseshoes up if he thought they would change it and bring good fortune once more.

His series of ill fortune commenced last spring, when the turbulent, shifting Elkhorn swung its waters against his land and floated away six acres of rich Nebraska loam that will go to fertilize the delta at the mouth of the Mississippi. With the patch of land went his barn and his well.

Later on one of his sons had his leg broken while wrestling with a companion at school, and the doctor was to be paid, beside which the boy was compelled to remain in bed until the bones knit.

After he was about ready to get out of bed another son was taken with a severe attack of typhoid fever that authorized another doctor's bill and nursing.

Then another son became the victim of the same disease and required his share of attention and more expense.

The death of Mr. Vlazney's father in Iowa added another to the series of calamities that have been following the family.

Quite recently Mrs. Vlazney was the victim of a runaway accident, was thrown out and one of her limbs was fractured. She was recovering from the accident when taken sick, and it will be some time before she is able to be about.

One of Mr. Vlazney's best blooded horses became entangled in a barb wire fence and was badly cut up.

This is all of the calamities of the family to date, but there is yet no positive assurance that ill fortune has deserted them. That it is more than a full share of grief for one family, all will admit and will hope that the limit has about been passed and that good fortune, exceeding if possible the hard run of luck, will follow.

SATURDAY SIFTINGS.

F. F. Brown was up from Hooper.

Worth Halsey was a Norfolk visitor from Tilden.

R. F. Nesbit of Oakdale is a Norfolk visitor.

Mrs. Clara Bogdler is a city visitor from Anoka.

R. Edwards of Humphrey visited in the city yesterday.

Miss Hattie Mayhew is visiting with friends in Neligh.

John Tannehill has gone to Lincoln for a visit with friends.

Chas. Milner came down from Fairfax, S. D., this morning.

Miss Grace Losch of West Point is visiting friends in Norfolk.

Nathan Almeyer of Kansas City is visiting the Baum brothers.

M. O. Housel had business in the city. He is from Hartington.

J. P. Jeppesson of Plainview had business in the city this morning.

R. F. Bruce will go to his old home in Vermont where he will visit until spring.

Miss Mattie Halsey was in the city this morning on her way from Anoka to Tilden.

At an initiation of the Eastern Star lodge, Mrs. Prichard, of Meadow Grove and Miss Beemer of Winslow were taken in. Mrs. Kindred of Meadow Grove was also initiated. A delightful banquet followed.

Hon. J. R. Manning of Wayne, who will be a candidate before the next republican state convention for the office of commissioner of public lands and buildings, was in the city this morning. Mr. Manning has been through quite a portion of the northern part of the state and his candidacy is meeting with strong approval and encouragement.

In Local Manager Hollyfield of the Auditorium, Labor Commissioner Bush met an old-time friend, they having known each other in Omaha some years ago, where they worked together. They enjoyed a visit together hugely.

Every day is becoming to be market day in Norfolk, but Saturday continues to hold above all other days in the number of teams on the streets and the people in town. The merchants find that Saturdays continue to be their busy days.

A remarkable test has been unintentionally made during the past upon the material of which the Norfolk National bank vault is constructed. A tiny spindle in the vault stuck so that it could not be easily worked as it should. In order to get at the spindle a plug had to be removed. The plug is a little over an inch in length and could only be taken out by means of

a drill. Two bank safe experts have been drilling into the plug with the sharpest drills on earth for the past four days and as yet they have gone at the rate of about one-thirty-second of an inch a day. So hard is the material that the keenest drills were made to shivel before the steel of the bank vault. They will keep at it until the plug, fraction by fraction, is drilled away.

HOLIDAY SEASON IN CALIFORNIA

A Country Where the Weather is Like Nebraska June and People Picnic on New Year's.

The following article descriptive of the holiday season in southern California, is furnished by R. S. Requa, formerly of this place but now living at San Diego, Cal., who is manager of the American Educational Entertainment company. Mr. Requa writes that he expects to make a trip through the east next fall and will visit his old Norfolk home. He says he hopes the article will give some conception of the wonderful climate of southern California:

Perhaps there is no event in Southern California that seems more incongruous with surroundings to people who have spent the greater portion of their lives in a cold winter climate, than the holiday season.

It is sometimes necessary to refer to the calendar to convince one of the time of year but to this new order of things the average easterner quickly and joyfully adapts himself except when the festivities at the close of the old year must be carried out in a summer atmosphere with trees and plants in flower and fruitage, then he realizes something is wrong.

The shortening of the days, the turning of the leaves on the deciduous trees and the occasional shower, warns him of the approach of another season, but otherwise things remain unchanged.

Anon and the enlivening business with its accompanying joys for the merchants, the familiar face to Santa Claus and the attractive display of toys and sweet meats in the shop windows remind him that the great international holiday is not far distant.

Another week and rows of evergreen boughs are displayed for sale in vacant lots, the vendor in shirt sleeves and barefooted, if a lad, finds ready sale for them as Christmas trees.

At last the eventful day arrives, dawning bright and clear, the perfume of roses and other fragrant flowers are wafted in the open window by the gentle breeze, the sweet notes of the song birds are heard on every hand, the little creatures being privileged to share with us the joys of this glad-some day. The scene calls to mind the soft warm days of June with a brilliant month of green.

After the juvenile members of the family have explored the recesses of their Christmas stockings and the morning meal has been partaken, instead of donning heavy wraps, mits and overshoes in preparation for a sleigh ride over snow covered roads as was the former custom, we fill the lunch boxes, gather up our parasols and some simple means of entertainment for ourselves and the children, and saunter forth to a grove or park to spend the day in true picnic style, or take the cars for a nearby beach where the cool ocean breezes and the musical rhythm of the waves as they beat unceasingly on the white sands tend to banish our cares and troubles and prepare us anew for the battles of life.

Thus passes the anniversary of our Savior's birth as well as the opening day of the new year.

Probably the eve before this last event we watch the dying year out at a lawn or flower social with aught but the perfect California skies above and every evidence of a summer's evening about us.

It is the custom every New Year's morning for the members of the rowing clubs at this place to take a plunge in the quiet waters of San Diego bay. This is indeed a novel sight and usually attracts a crowd of spectators of our tourist visitors.

Is it a wonder in such an unusual environment, that newcomers find difficulty in adapting themselves to these strange conditions? But with all these inconsistencies and uncommon occurrences there is little dissatisfaction expressed and it would be a great inducement indeed that would tempt them to again endure the rigor and discomforts of the eastern winter.

RECALLS THE ECCENTRIC TRAIN

W. Z. King of This City Remembers the Man in Central Park, New York City.

W. Z. King of this city is one of the men who well remembers the eminently peculiar and eccentric George Francis Train, who died at Mills hotel No. 1, in New York City. Mr. King remembers seeing the man in Central park many a time and of noting his peculiarities.

"He always had a rule," says Mr. King, in speaking of his reminiscence, "as to the time that he talked with men. He never talked to any man more than five minutes at a time. If he were talking to you and happened to be in the midst of a long and very profound sentence, he would stop short off on the five-minute mark and turn away from you."

"He was always very fond of children. In the park he would be completely encircled by them and he never went into the district without a pocketful of candies and peanuts for them to eat."