

The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal
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 Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish has certainly done much to make a hit with American women. She refuses to wear Parisian gowns because American dressmakers are better at the art and because the American woman, garbed in American clothing, is the best dressed woman on earth.

Simplified spelling has been dealt a hard blow in congress. The czar-like manner in which the "deformed" spelling was thrown out at the public a few months ago has received a jolt that will hold it for some time to come, and the public printer, once ordered by the president to use the new method, has now been ordered by congress to stick by Webster. It was the only logical result of the ukase and will be greeted with sympathy by the public at large.

Omaha bankers do not favor the new law allowing national banks to make loans on real estate and are backing Congressman Kennedy in his fight against the bill. The city bank will not benefit by the new condition, though it seems to be pretty universally thought by country bankers that the law, properly restricted, will help the agricultural districts of the west. All bankers are awaiting more detailed information on the subject, with considerable interest, and will hope for restrictions stringent enough to safeguard the measure in every way.

THE SUGAR FACTORY.
 The Norfolk Industrial company has decided that a sugar factory could be made to pay here. The president of the company now holding the old sugar factory property believes this and would, under certain conditions, be willing to organize a company to establish a sugar factory here. There are no doubt others in the country who would be interested if their attention were brought to the matter.

If a local company could be organized under conditions, an opportunity is presented to the Commercial club to try and arrange the necessary conditions. If no local company could be organized, then the chance is given to the Commercial club to advertise the possibilities.

CONVENTIONS FOR NORFOLK.
 The efforts of the Madison county commissioners to Madison county and Norfolk, are along the right line and will meet with the hearty co-operation, in interest at least, of this section. It is a line along which the Norfolk Commercial club ought to have been working for some time past and would, no doubt, with an active head.

Secretary Hanson of the Fremont club pointed out to Norfolk the value of state conventions, especially conventions of hard-headed, thinking men. County commissioners are specially qualified as guests because they are shrewd business men, picked in their several communities by virtue of their good business judgment. They would readily see the good points of the city they visit, and would go home and talk about those good points. It is good advertising, cheaply gained.

There are many other state conventions which could be secured for Norfolk during the year, and they are all worth while. The Commercial club has funds and if the president were to outline a campaign of this sort, many such assemblies could no doubt be gained. This is one of the many reasons why Norfolk should own a good active Commercial club.

THE STORER AFFAIR.
 President Roosevelt will have the country's sympathy in the Storer mix-up. The president, it appears from the vatican's semi-official statement that several persons appeared before the pope representing to come from the head of the American government, did not abuse his position in connection with the appointment of a cardinal. President Roosevelt will generally be elieved when he says that he refused a meddle in the matter and that he moved the Storers because Mrs. Storer was too much interested in affairs that were outside the official capacity of herself and husband.

President Roosevelt has been subjected by the Storers to a violation of the unwritten law of fair play, which is that no private letter shall be wished without the consent and so-wledge of the writer. President Roosevelt had been a friend to the Storers, both politically and personally. For this reason, in his communication to the Storers, he blended the personal with the official, which was a dereliction that he now appreciates. It tells enough always to keep business separated from personal relations. We are sharp line.

President Roosevelt has been ruffled by the Storer.

this breach of confidence to no considerable degree. He has given out words that fairly sizzle in his retort to the Storers. He lost patience, and none will blame him. There come moments when human patience snaps, for it is possible to "egg on" the most deliberate of men to a point of danger. The Storers, not the president, have suffered from this attack on their part.

CORTELYOU'S REPORT.
 Postmaster General Cortelyou, in his annual report, brings out the same point made in these columns several days ago with regard to the insignificance of the postal deficit. Efficiency, not money profit, according to Mr. Cortelyou, is what is needed first of all, and the government ought to look at this phase of the service rather than at the necessity of playing even. To reduce postage rather than to increase it, is the high ideal set by the postmaster general. In discussing the railroad contracts, he declares that while it is his impression that too much money is being spent for transportation, he is not ready to make a statement to this effect, nor is he willing to recommend legislation covering the point.

The recommendation in this report for better roads throughout the nation will be met with enthusiasm by farmers of the nation as well as by people living in small towns in the rural districts. All of the departments of the federal government are seeking to get national funds laid aside for better roads, but thus far they have failed to interest President Roosevelt in the movement and he has declared, according to some of the friends of good roads, that the subject bores him.

The general tendency of the government is toward benefiting the farmers and the rural districts. The country is awaking to the fact that the country's prosperity depends upon the soil and its products and the sentiment of James J. Hill for federal experiment farms, as well as the expressions of all of the various departments of the government for better roads, are outgrowths of this recognition which is now being given to the American farmer.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.
 Three volunteer firemen, all of them prominent business men of Ithaca, New York, are dead as a result of their efforts to save the burning Chi Psi fraternity house, in which, besides these men, four students lost their lives. The heroism of those volunteer firemen, and their sacrifice, is significant of the spirit that is shown by all volunteer firemen and should cause the small towns of this country to stop and think over for a moment the deeds which their own neighbors, volunteer firemen, are ever ready to do in case of emergency. Norfolk has a fire department that would give up just as much as did the volunteers at Ithaca, should occasion demand. It is a protection that should be appreciated in the fullest sense by any community.

Out in the cold night, time after time, the Norfolk fire boys have gone to fight against flames that threatened destruction to whole blocks of the business portion of the city. Only last week a case of this sort occurred. The keen north wind came down with biting force and drove the chill through and through the firemen who had responded in the early morning hours to that alarm. Water from three streams of hose soon sprayed over all of the fire fighters and still they clung to the struggle, soaking to the skin. And, best of all, they restricted flames which seemed sure of spreading into adjoining structures, to the one building in which it originated.

We seldom stop long enough to appreciate the work that the volunteers in fire service are performing for a community. The sacrifice of three lives in Ithaca shows to what limits they will go if necessary.

COLLEGE SPIRIT.
 Four students perished in the fraternity house fire at Cornell. Seven others were injured, of whom at least one, it was thought, must die. Among the dead and injured were brave young fellows who faced the flames with deliberate risk, that they might help rescue their fellow students. One young Cornell undergraduate re-entered the burning building after it had been created into an inferno, in a futile effort to rescue his room mate. He was so badly burned that he, too, died within an hour. Football players who have earned sweaters on the Cornell team and whose nerve on the gridiron had made them favorites, responded to the call of danger in this fire as though it were a football signal, and fought against those flames just as courageously as though they had been an opposing Princeton line.

Here it was that the manhood and iron nerve and unselfishness wrought out in football training, made itself apparent to good advantage. Here it was that gridiron heroes, acting on instinct gained in inter-collegiate battles, leaped into the perilous situation for the sake of their comrades—and died for them.

Seven lives, lives of extraordinary

value, were given up in that fire and the beautiful Chi Psi lodge, built at a cost of \$130,000, is a heap of ashes, but the action brought out in that awful hour will stand as a long-time monument to the memory of the dead. It was a beautiful illustration of the nobleness of heart that seems to be in the very air of the great universities of this country. It was a splendid picture of the depth of feeling that those college boys hold down in their hearts for their mates—their fraternity brothers.

It was a sad day on the campus of old Cornell, but a day replete with truest heroism—a heroism that shall live forever in college annals around that campus.

INSANE HOSPITAL NEEDS.
 The report made by Dr. Young, superintendent at the Nebraska state hospital for the insane, shows that the institution is very much over crowded and that more room is needed as a matter of economy on the part of the state. Nebraska owns the institution and will take care of it in the most economical way. For this reason it is believed that the coming legislature will be glad to make an appropriation of at least \$90,000, asked for by Dr. Young, for repairs and added buildings.

It is said that the death rate has been high because of the cramped condition. Every family who has an unfortunate kin in the institution will be anxious for the added room and will help toward gaining that added room by bringing to the notice of various state senators and representatives, the pressing need.

It has been said that, from the constantly increasing number of patients for insane hospitals in Nebraska, the Norfolk institution will require additional room every year for ten years to come, before the demand for room is properly filled.

SHAW'S ELASTIC CURRENCY.
 Secretary Shaw has come forth with a form of elastic currency that is all his own. He will deposit \$10,000,000 in various banks of the large cities, half of the loan to be returned January 20 and half on February 1. He discusses money stringency from a viewpoint that can not be sympathized with by the west. Nebraska bankers recently took action just opposed to the loan which is to be made by the secretary of the treasury, when they voted solidly against the proposed currency reform.

Secretary Shaw says, speaking of his plan:
 "There is no occasion for alarm, but I believe there is occasion for relief. This I have decided to grant in the following manner:
 "I will deposit \$10,000,000 in existing depositories in the cities designated below, to be secured by bonds acceptable for savings bank investment under the laws of New York and Massachusetts, taken at 90 per cent. of their value, these deposits to be returned one-half on the 20th of January and the remainder on the 1st of February. I will also buy \$10,000,000 of the bonds of 1907 at the following prices: Registered bonds, ex-interest, at 101 and coupon bonds at 102. In the event that the bonds purchased are now held as security of the character above indicated will be accepted in lieu thereof. Not more than \$1,000,000 worth, however, will be purchased from any single institution under these conditions. The deposits will be made as follows:

"New York and New Orleans, \$1,500,000 each; Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and St. Louis, \$1,000,000 each; Cincinnati, Louisville, Atlanta and Memphis, \$500,000 each."

The following explanation of the alleged situation will not particularly appeal to the western farmers, because they have enough money of their own to get along on:

"From the best information I can get I think the following describes the situation fairly well:

"Our blessings are the real cause of the actual stringency in money recognized everywhere. An unexpectedly large crop and industrial activity have caused an unprecedented demand for money. The world is everywhere prosperous and money is in great demand throughout Europe as well as in the United States. We never had such a volume of credits, and they are based on an unequalled volume of assets. The manufacturers of cotton are buying that staple by the train load. The cotton planter, unlike the western farmers, demands actual cash and carries it home in his pocket. The western farmer is paid in checks, which he deposits in the bank to his credit, and therefore does not absorb actual money as does the cotton planter. This money should be returned to the banks when the planter settles with his merchant soon after the first of January, but between now and then the cotton consuming country is short of money.

New England has sent millions to the south and the manufacturers of cotton throughout the south have exhausted the capacity of local banks and are trying to borrow elsewhere.

BRYAN AND OWNERSHIP.
 The announcement made by Mr. Harrington of O'Neill in Norfolk that a convention of government owner-

ship clubs in Nebraska will be held at South Omaha on December 31, brings northern Nebraska prominently into national politics, so far as the presidential nomination in the democratic party is concerned. Mr. Bryan has apparently selected three northern Nebraska men to launch his candidacy and it is not too much to assume from this announcement that government ownership will become the paramount issue, so far as Mr. Bryan is concerned, in 1908. From the present indications, it would appear that Mr. Bryan will carry his ownership slogan with him into the democratic national convention and it is to be expected that he will cling to the idea, regardless of the south with its Jim Crow cars, regardless of the conservative element in democracy, and carry it with him into the race.

The fact that Senator Allen, Mr. Harrington and Judge Edgar Howard have united in the plan looks as though Mr. Bryan has hoped to unite in a national fusion the populist and democratic parties for his race.

Mr. Bryan has been comparatively silent—silent for him—since election with the exception of expressing his opinion upon the president's message, and it is believed that this meeting which is to be pulled off at South Omaha on the thirty-first of this month, behind which are prominent northern Nebraska political leaders, will carry more significance than the mere announcement might indicate.

The republican party could hope for nothing better than the adoption of this war cry of Mr. Bryan in 1908. In the first place it would furnish a paramount issue. Paramount issues have become highly essential to the presidential campaigns in which Mr. Bryan takes part, and it is anticipated that he will work the battlecry to the limit.

But the south, the solid, democratic south, with its Jim Crow car to give it personal interest in the contest, will fight the head of the ticket on such a movement. Mr. Bryan at one time, after his Madison Square speech, declared down in Georgia that he was no more in favor of government ownership of railroads than President Roosevelt, and that he did not believe the people would ever force the issue. Yet here in his own state, and probably not without his knowledge, the issue is to be forced.

The government ownership fallacy has been receiving jolts of late that promise to make it a hard banner to carry. A private publisher, highly responsible because he is a man of many millions, has recently guaranteed to take over the postoffice department and run it more economically than it is now being operated. Yet the post-office stands as a high type of federal ownership utility.

Omaha has had a sorry experience with government ownership on a large scale. The water plant built there was appraised at six million dollars after the city had determined to confiscate the institution and operate it. The actual value is said to be about three million. And now the ownership faddists in that town have determined to build a new plant and operate it under municipal ownership, so that the city may have two water plants instead of one, and with a prospect of getting, in the end, none instead of two.

It is a question whether the present water board in that city can legally annul the former decision to buy the old water plant, so that the plot has merely thickened, and the taxpayers are growing tired of the game.

For the sake of republican success in 1908, it is to be hoped that the convention of "ownership clubs" to be held in South Omaha on December 31, will have a national significance.

AROUND TOWN.

You never know how a law suit is coming out until the verdict is rendered.

A little boy visiting in Norfolk the other day, from California, and who had never seen snow, was amazed when a flurry of flakes appeared. "Grandma," he cried. "The snow is downing."

Christmas really interferes with human comfort. One man in Norfolk the other day asked his wife to give him buckwheat cakes for breakfast. "I'm too busy with Christmas things to stop now," she said. "After Christmas I'll do it."

The Norfolk bar has taken Madison by storm this week.

Eggs are so high that the public can hardly reach them, though standing on tip-toe.

Norfolk today can almost hear the sleighbells of Santa Claus as they jingle toward this town—center of the universe at Christmas time.

The millennium is approaching. Young women are beginning to assume responsibility over the furnaces. At a party in Norfolk the other day a young lady, right in the middle of a hand at whist, called to her father, some tables away, and asked if he had attended to the air check again.

"You pay your money and take your choice," has hidden its head at a motto this year. "You pay your money

and take what's left," is the Christmas shopping cry of 1906.

Once more Norfolk's luck kept off the snow storm.

The ice box has lost its appetite, but the furnace has a good stomach.

School boys enjoyed the visit of Norfolk teachers to Omaha, very much.

At the present price of eggs, barbers ought to raise their rates on an egg shampoo.

How would you like to be a boy again, with prospects of getting a real steam engine that would run, for Christmas?

Most boys have wondered whether Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer" ever grew up and got married. The puzzle is solved. "Mrs. Tom Sawyer," whose home is in Iowa, passed through Norfolk last week to visit friends in Newman Grove.

Certain "Knights of Norfolk" having been criticised by the "Faire Ladies" for omitting the said faire ladies from sundry entertainments, the knights last Saturday eve refrained from mingling in a quiet party and comforted themselves with the thought that now all would be fair sailing but to their dismay, they found the faire ladies had taken reproof into their own hands by going enmasse to the said festivities. The Holy Sabbath day was largely given up to negotiations, embassies and secluded conferences. At times it seemed the irreconcilables would raise the ensign of revolt. But diplomacy worthy of a Macchiavelli prevented a cessation of amicable relations and now, though the situation is somewhat strained it is believed by those most conversant with affairs, that a crisis has been averted.

Encircled by the sentinel trees in a bend of the Elkhorn is a rise of ground upon which, screened from the railroad by a grove, stand the farm buildings just as they stood nineteen years ago, when a fifteen-year-old boy, in felt boots and a hallowe'en cap, was picking up cobs, which the hogs, accommodating creatures, had shelled out of their wrapping of grain.

The vision that had all day been between John and his "figgers" at school still danced before his eyes in the snow. It was no black-eyed Susan nor blue-eyed Bessie, but a Cady hat and patent leather shoes of a spruce young man whose manner had made it a pleasure for the youth's father to pass over \$105 as part payment for a binder that had stood out by the granary for a couple of winters.

After the chores and supper were over the "kid" bundled himself up and floundered through the snow, alternate layers of "Annie Rooney" and "The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring" freezing to the straggling down on his weather-beaten face, till it shone like Moses in the wilderness, but when he reached his thrasher neighbor's, he got the job of tanking for him the next fall.

And that was his first encounter with the busy outside world. Soon John was in the shops in Minneapolis, then in some knitting establishment, but the microbe of electrical science had fastened upon him, and now after carrying a half dozen trunks of knit goods over the country for years, he will at almost every stopping place, unless his apartment is in the sky parlor in the summertime or in the shed room in the winter, spend every moment his business will allow with a miniature electrical laboratory, that travels everywhere with him in an innocent looking grip, and he may one day tell the world where electricity comes from and maybe what it is, and then true progress in the world's history will begin.

In passing the old farm house, he is usually recognized by the mother and young brothers, so a greeting is exchanged far oftener than he can stop to visit.

John is only one kind of traveling man. Some of the others another time.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS.

Emptying the wrong bottle has filled many an untimely grave.

When a popular woman is not pretty, her friends say she is "interesting looking."

Few magnifying glasses are powerful enough to enable a man to see his own faults.

A woman may be an angel or a devil; and being an angel is easier than being a devil.

You may have noticed that the more an officeholder talks about resigning the tighter he clings to his job.

There is more meat and more flavor to the turkey won at a raffle than on the bird bought over a counter.

The Methodists and Presbyterians call the Rev. F. S. White, rector of Trinity church, "Father White."

Heavy snows are so rare in Kansas that sleighs lead almost as secluded an existence as a married man's dress suit.

When a man complains that the town he lives in is a hot bed of gossip, you may depend upon it he is doing something to be talked about.

In an old-fashioned country town, the men who played horseshoe in the summer are deeply engrossed in

checkers when cold weather comes.

The chronic croak has to draw straws with the chronic brag as to which is the more unpopular.

Some men hate to do right because they think they are doing it for the Lord. That is where they are fooled. A man should do right for his own sake; because doing right pays better than doing wrong. For his own sake, no man can afford intemperance, dishonesty or idleness.

Sunday is a great day for the girls who work down town. They can crowd more into the day than the average woman can get into a whole week. An Atchison girl who works down town did her own washing yesterday; set and baked bread; got dinner; spent the afternoon in embroidering and the evening in reading the new magazines.

It requires nerve for a Mere Man to make a housekeeping suggestion to women, but we will risk it: Next summer put up your own sweet corn. Sweet corn canned at home is much better than the factory corn. And it is cheaper; you can buy roasting ears at five cents a dozen and put up corn cheaper than you can buy it at the grocery stores. And it is very much better, and cleaner.

Dispatches from Ironton, Mo., are to the effect that J. R. Burton's health is steadily improving since he was confined in jail. There is a suggestion in this: Why couldn't a jail sentence be good for every man who drinks to excess, and whose indulgences are all beyond the limit that is good for him? Instead of stuffing a man with medicines, and sending him the round of health resorts, why not send him to jail?

They are telling with humiliation of an Atchison woman who went east to visit such a wealthy family that a maid was appointed to wait on her personally. The second day the Atchison woman had become so chummy with the maid that she had her spend the afternoon visiting with her in her room, and on the third day the Atchison woman appeared to go riding with her hostess wearing a fur wrap and hat she had borrowed from the maid.

NORFOLK'S PASSING PIONEERS.

The funeral of Mrs. Welhelmina Buetow, one of the pioneers of Norfolk, who came to this section forty years ago with the very first colony, was attended by a very large number of friends at the home west of the city, and at St. Paul's church north of the city, Sunday afternoon.

In the shadow of Wisconsin pines, in the stillness, after war's alarms Resounded faintly, farther seeming, A sturdy few, whose homely lines Were cast far from clashing arms, Of newer homes, were often dreaming.

Strange stories told of western plains, Enchained their thoughts like fairy tales

Of old world gnomes and German mountains, They turned to cash, their forest gains; They braved the blustering prairie gales, And shifting streams from sandy fountains.

With towering grass in waving ranks, Strange beasts upon the rolling hills, The stillness song-bird ne'er has broken, The Elkhorn river's grass-grown banks, No airy fancies, stubborn wills Marked every word in that day spoken.

A well-built city long has stood Where hay-roofed shacks once sheltered those

Who in those days were cultivating The little groves of cottonwood, And caused to blossom as the rose, The land that had so long been waiting.

SACRED CHRISTMAS TIME.

Christmas rhymes, Christmas times, Christmas chimes, All the borrowed customs from beyond the sea

Are rising Surprising, Disguising Themselves in Yankee land where once the free

And brave Would wave Away the rites they vainly sought to flee.

We still Can ill Fulfill The work our fathers tried to do, Unless We press Redress

Of evils that once small, so grew, That now Allow A row Will frighten any protest due.

The merry, merry Christmas is so dear To all the varied people gathered here, We hope the rude confetti craze Will never mar the Christmas days, And hope the ruder reckless sports That came

And made Memorial day an empty name May spare today, tomorrow and for aye,

The simple, sacred, merry Christmas day.

G. W. W.