

The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal

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In the schools of our great cities where children of many nationalities gather, there is but one game which all the little foreigners know how to play—the international game of tag.

An effort is to be made to raise the sunken steamer Republic by the use of strong magnets. The ship is worth a million dollars or more so it is well worth the trial.

Washington's festive decorations in honor of the inaugural ceremonies presented a badly shattered appearance when the hour for which they had been prepared arrived. In fact, they were literally beaten to a frazzle.

King Alfonso of Spain will act as arbitrator in a dispute between Germany and England concerning the boundaries of an African bay. We had always supposed that umpiring a game of croquet would be about Alfonso's size. Let alone settling national boundaries.

The Japanese have adopted the American silk hat. The little fellows strutting about in their tall ties are grotesque figures and cause much merriment. It takes considerable nervous energy to properly manipulate a silk hat and the Japs only prove their imitative genius in sporting them.

Not a word has appeared in public print as to what plans had been made for the reinforcement of the White House furniture. It would be both embarrassing and unfortunate if one of those ornamental gilt chairs with spindle legs—still why should we thus early in the administration anticipate calamity?

One of the results of the Russian revolution is shown in the change of attitude toward Count Tolstol and his writings. Not long ago his writings were largely suppressed from circulation in his own country, now arrangements are being made in Moscow to publish a complete edition of his works.

It is not often that a man is ruined by striking a rich oil well, but such was the case of a Russian farmer and herder who in digging for water struck oil which poured over his fields ruining his crops and polluting the stream on which his family and stock depended for water. There was no sale for the oil and he could not check its flow, so the poor man's predicament was indeed a serious one.

Not many carpets are actually worth more than their weight in gold but this can literally be said of a small carpet in the San Francisco mint. It is in the adjusting room where fine gold filings have fallen upon it until it is filled with the precious metal and is soon to be burned to save the gold it holds. It is not unusual for the government to recover five thousand dollars worth of gold from one of these floor coverings.

Indiana is planning to purchase the house built by William Henry Harrison at Vincennes when he was governor of the old territory. It is a substantial two story structure and stands on the banks of the Wabash river. An underground passage extends from the house to the river which was built to provide a way of escape in case of an attack by Indians. There is a strong sentiment in favor of preserving the Vincennes residence as a memorial to one of America's most notable families.

Through deforestation and reckless cultivation most of the springs and wells of the pioneers have failed, and many of the clear brooks have run dry or grown foul. The figures show that over a great part of the country the water table is lowered from ten to fifty feet and that the producing industries are progressively jeopardized. This is a condition that is growing yearly more alarming and all possible encouragement and assistance should be given the forest conservation forces.

Great Britain is considering a reforestation scheme recommended by a parliamentary commission and will probably put it into practice in a short time. The proposition is to plant 9,000,000 acres of land to different kinds of trees to start them from the seed. It will take eighty years for the trees to mature and an expenditure of \$10,000,000 will be necessary every year to carry out the project. The plan is a good one. It will give labor to many of Great Britain's unemployed and eventually enrich the country.

colonies. Cape Town has been agreed upon for the seat of parliament, Pretoria for the administration capital and Bloemfontein as the headquarters of the judiciary. This plan may work all right but the distance between capital cities is great. It is one thousand miles from Cape Town to Pretoria and Bloemfontein is between the two.

Lord Rayleigh in his presidential address to the Royal Society mentioned among other things the remarkable achievements of the past year in mechanical flight and said that human flight as a feat had been demonstrated to be possible but he did not encourage the idea that it was likely to become useful for the purposes of daily life. He believes that the difficulties would increase with the size of the machines. Lord Rayleigh expressed the opinion that for special purposes like exploration flying machines might be of practical value in the near future, but never in his judgment would they take the place of ships for regular ocean travel.

The absence of the heroic Admiral Evans was the one thing lacking in the triumphal return of the American fleet which started under his command but because of ill health he was obliged to relinquish at San Francisco. He might have been at Hampton Roads to welcome the fleet home, but with a fine sense of the fitness of things he declined to show himself where his presence would detract in any measure from the honors due to the fleet commander. Admiral Evans' mind is bright and strong but he is obliged to go on crutches—suffering as he humorously says from a "souvenir of the civil war,"—the wounds received in the defense of his country. It is hardly possible for these veteran heroes to realize the affection in which the people hold them. Theirs has been a life of action and when their days of service cease they can only live on their small salaries and try to possess their souls in patience for the last call. Doubtless could they have had their wish they would have chosen to fall in action.

POTATOES.

Let us be thankful that Nebraska and South Dakota can raise potatoes—the best on earth, and the most of them. And, being thankful, let us find opportunity in potatoes for cleaning up mortgages and laying by bank accounts.

The following from the Memphis Commercial Appeal should give food for reflection to any farmer who hasn't tasted of the cup of good fortune: "Perhaps few people know that the United States imports annually thousands of bushels of potatoes. Ordinarily these potatoes are consumed in New York and eastern markets, because the ocean freight rate is lower than the overland rate from Colorado or other western points. When potatoes are high and the European crop abundant it is possible for foreign stock to compete anywhere east of the Mississippi river.

"This week three carloads were received in Memphis from Strasburg, Germany. Loaded on barges they were floated down the quaint and historic old Rhine to Antwerp or Rotterdam, loaded in the hold of some ocean-going vessel, where they served as ballast, and landed in New York with small cost for passage. The import duty was paid and the freight from New York to Memphis on a fast line and still they cost the Memphis wholesale merchant about five cents per bushel less than similar potatoes from Colorado. This is a season of high prices. It costs approximately \$1.05 to get potatoes here by the carload. The difference of five cents per bushel in favor of German tubers is therefore important.

"An acre of good land will produce readily 100 to 125 bushels. Under highly intensive cultivation twice this yield has been obtained. The valley of the Rhine is no more fertile than the alluvial lands of the Mississippi and its tributaries, neither are the irrigated lands of Colorado any richer. "The folly then of buying potatoes, a native North American vegetable, in Germany should be apparent to every southern farmer. Between Colorado and Germany there are millions of people who eat potatoes."

THE BLEACHED FLOUR RULING.

The millers of Nebraska are vigorously protesting against enforcement of the order issued some time ago by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, putting bleached flour in the class of adulterated foods and making it unlawful to manufacture it for interstate commerce. Nebraska millers declare that enforcement of the order will put Nebraska flourmakers out of business and that the order should be rescinded because it is based upon a false theory. Bleaching flour by electricity is not, the millers argue, deleterious to health. To prove this point they cite the fact that Dr. Wiley, the pure food chemist at Washington, is the only chemist of prominence in the country who takes the stand that bleaching is a detriment. The state chemists of Nebraska and Minnesota are quoted to uphold the Nebraska millers' contention.

White flour comes alone from northern spring wheat, it is said. Winter wheat, such as is used in Nebraska and Kansas for the making of flour, produces a dark colored flour, equal in quality in every way to the northern white flour, but of not the same color. Housewives are prejudiced in favor of white flour. They like white bread. Given the choice between dark and white flour, they will take the white. And so, to make their flour as acceptable on the open market as that

made from northern spring wheat, the millers in the winter wheat section bleach their flour by use of electricity—a process which they say is in no way deleterious to the health.

The Wilson ruling will not in any way affect the bleaching of flour made in Nebraska for use within the state. Only a state ruling could affect such flour, and the state authorities who have investigated the matter have contented themselves that the bleaching process is in no way detrimental and that there is no reasonable basis for ruling against it.

But it is the flour making industry of Nebraska as regards the flour manufactured for shipment outside the state, that would suffer by enforcement of this order. For example, there is a great deal of Nebraska flour shipped to Iowa. The flour making industry in this state, by the way, has been developed to a high point and has taken its place among the most constructive factors in the upbuilding of Nebraska. Under the new rule, it would be against the law to ship any Nebraska flour to Iowa if it were first bleached, so that it would sell in the open market alongside the spring wheat product. But Iowa millers could still buy the Nebraska winter wheat, ship it into that state, make the flour and bleach it, giving their customers the identical product but transferring the industry of making the flour from this state to Iowa.

In other words, the federal ruling will not in any way affect the selling of bleached flour in any state. It will merely cripple the industry in those states where flour making has been built up to a point above the average.

Nebraska suffers particularly, too, from the fact that the Kansas winter wheat produces a flour a shade lighter than that made from Nebraska winter wheat. So, while there would be no difference in the quality, the Kansas flour would be picked out by the unthinking buyer in preference to Nebraska flour, because it was a shade whiter.

It must be borne in mind, in connection with the whole problem, that flour from the Nebraska winter wheat, unbleached, is just as high grade as any produced from spring wheat. But winter wheat is the profitable and wise crop to raise in this territory. And nature has painted flour from winter wheat a shade darker than that from the spring wheat.

The ruling has the earmarks of having been inspired by millers located in regions where spring wheat is raised, and who, taking advantage of the psychological proposition that a woman will choose the whiter flour between two shades, would be glad if millers in the winter wheat districts could be compelled by law to produce a darker flour, which would suffer in the market by no just reason but by virtue of a prejudice.

President Taft will be appealed to and the millers hope to secure from him a reversal of the order. Failing in this, they will be put to the task of re-educating the public into the knowledge that dark flour is not inferior to white flour.

SOCIALISM IN WASHINGTON.

The postoffice department of the United States government has recently circulated a lot of circus posters advertising the government's printing shop and its products. Extravagant claims are made for the stationery turned out of the federal printing plant, but certain details that every business man should consider, are mysteriously omitted.

Probably the taxpayers of the United States would not take kindly to it if they realized that they are called upon each year to help make up the deficiency created in good measure by the fact that the government is doing commercial printing at a very great loss, and another postal deficit due to a certain extent to the fact that advertising matter exploiting this shop is sent through the mails on a frank—the taxpayers finally bearing the burden. That the federal government should engage in any sort of commercial manufacturing and then advertise its products in competition with country printers, cutting prices to a point below cost as a trade-gatherer, constitutes socialism of a sort that most people do not realize exists in this country today. If the federal government should establish a law department, hiring out its paid attorneys below cost in competition with country lawyers, or if it should manufacture butter and sell it below cost, advertising its bargains in competition with local creameries, or if it should engage in any other business at below cost rates in competition with small industries scattered over the nation, no departure in principle would be made from the principle involved in the government printing office's cut-price and widely advertised commercial job work.

The government is always and forever assing free advertising on the country newspapers. No provision is made to pay for advertising civil service examinations, or the list of letters remaining uncalled for in postoffices, and the proceedings of congress, with messages of the president, are printed by the country newspapers without charge, as news features, it is true, but of great benefit to the government, itself, it is equally true. And in return for this the government not only starts a movement to

raise postage rates on the newspapers, says to the newspaper publisher that he shall not extend credit to any subscriber and then goes after the small country newspaper shop's bread and butter by cutting prices to a point below cost of production on certain lines of commercial printing to which the small printer is entitled and which the great big, overgrown, running-at-a-loss government print shop should keep its hands off, for the reason that socialism is foreign to this nation's fundamental principles and because the individual workmen in this country should be given free opportunity to make a living without unfair molestation and illegitimate competition from the government itself.

The loyalty of most people to their own home industries is what prevents greater success of this government socialistic enterprise. Yet in many communities the very people who make loudest outcry against other people for neglecting local industries, are sending a good share of their printing to the monopolistic print shop in Washington.

Another reason that keeps much printing in the little towns, which might otherwise be lured away by the extravagant advertising of the government print shop, is the fact that most business men of large caliber like to have stationery with individual tone to it—stationery that carries personality and individuality with it. They are not attracted by the thought of having their envelopes so printed as to look precisely like those of Tom, Dick and Harry. They want their stationery to mean something. And of course individual printing of attractive sort can be had only in the local print shops, and not in the government's socialistic plant.

And then again, in the long run, the government products are expensive. Just as it is more expensive to buy cigars by the box than in small lots, so it is more expensive to buy stamped envelopes in big bunches than to buy envelopes unstamped and stamp them as they are needed. A stamped envelope is apt to be destroyed in the addressing and tossed into the waste basket, wasted; or, lying about in bunches, the heap is apt to be turned by many persons needing an envelope at the moment and, though apparently a minor matter, the loss in this way counts up materially in the course of a year.

These points are left out of the government's studied advertising of its commercial printing. Just why the federal government restricts its socialistic experiments to the printing industry, and declines to branch out into the bakery business or flour manufacturing or any of a thousand other lines of industry, has never been discovered. Or why, if socialism is not the accepted doctrine of this government, this one socialistic enterprise should continue, with apparently the full knowledge and sanction of an enlightened congress, is another unexplained problem.

JUDGE McPHERSON'S DECISION.

The decision of Judge Smith McPherson of United States district court, by which he knocks out the Missouri two cent passenger rate law and the Missouri maximum freight rate law, has every indication of being a far-reaching opinion affecting the railroad passenger rate and freight rate legislation that was enacted two years ago in many states. The decision is of particular interest to Nebraska and South Dakota because of the fact that similar cases, touching the legality of the low passenger rates in these two states, are pending. The governor of Missouri announces that the case will be carried to the United States supreme court and its ultimate disposition, because of its effect upon these states, will be watched for eagerly by this entire region.

The traveling public is bound to be disappointed in the decision that Judge McPherson rendered. But that the blame for losing the benefit of the reduced railroad rate, if it is finally lost and as this opinion indicates it will be, should fall upon those state legislatures which enacted two cent fare laws without investigating the reasonableness of those rates beforehand, is apparent from the figures set forth in Judge McPherson's decision.

That laws reducing railroad rates to a point where the railroads must haul people either at a loss or at a profit below six per cent on the investment, could never stand the test of the courts in the last analysis, must have been apparent to any thinking man at the time the railroad passenger fare laws were in process of enactment. The News time and time again pointed out, while the Nebraska legislature was considering the proposed law, the absurdity of enacting a two cent passenger fare law without first investigating the return which such a rate would yield upon the investment. Repeatedly this paper set forth the contention, now upheld by Judge McPherson's decision, that if the railroads should prove in court that the reduced rates were not compensatory, the whole passenger fare law would be dumped into the waste basket and the old three cent law would be restored, whereas, on the



VICE PRESIDENT SHERMAN. Who was in inauguration in the second office of the land Thursday, with President Taft.

other hand, if the legislatures had taken time to investigate the problem exhaustively, they might have been able to reduce fares to two and a half cents, for example, and make the reduction upon a basis that would stand the court's test.

Those suspicious of the courts might argue that the statistics set forth by Judge McPherson are "loaded," but for the fact that the Wisconsin railroad commission, consisting of La Follette's reform appointees, brought in, after eleven months of exhaustive research, a report much the same as that just now handed down by Judge McPherson. The Wisconsin commission recommended that a two and a half cent fare be enacted and it is safe to say that such a law, after that exhaustive research into the problem, would have stuck. Courts could have gone no deeper.

There are several features in Judge McPherson's decision of interest. He finds that under the reduced fares, no railroad has earned, on its passenger investment, more than three per cent, while some even show a deficit. He says that the low rates have not resulted in stipulating and increasing traffic, as it was at first thought might happen, people failing to respond to the cut price sale of tickets after the first month's novelty had worn off. And the abolition of passes, he says the evidence shows, has resulted in less than a one per cent increase in revenue.

Judge McPherson would recommend a two and a half cent fare law for some roads and a three cent law for others. He commends Governor Hughes of New York for his stand in vetoing the two cent fare law, on the ground that the legislature had not investigated the problem sufficiently to be informed. Judge McPherson claims the roads should earn six per cent on their investment, with which nobody will take exception. He also rules that because a railroad system is making ten per cent in its entire line, is no ground for reducing fares in a state where reduction means no compensatory returns on the investment in that state.

If the United States supreme court should sustain Judge McPherson it seems highly probable that Nebraska and South Dakota may lose their two cent fares, as it is hardly conceivable that a fare which is not compensatory in thickly settled Missouri, could be compensatory here.

And it still seems probable that if the legislature two years ago had investigated the matter, we might have been beneficiaries in a reduced rate which would have stood the test of the courts, instead of having one enacted which many of the legislators probably knew at the time was in imminent peril of being overturned.

AROUND TOWN.

What can you expect in March? The city political pot is on the fire. Five weeks have gone since ground-hog day. One more ought to put an



ISAAC STEPHENSON. Who has just been re-elected United States senator from Wisconsin after a bitter fight of five weeks. He filled the unexpired term of Senator Spooner. Senator La Follette fought his re-election even after he had won the primary nomination.

end to this.

The boys are playing marbles. And that is a sure sign.

Who'll be the first fellow to complain about the dust?

"Taft" is an easier word to fit into a headline than "Roosevelt."

Why treat Friday so harshly? All these storms have come on Tuesdays.

Here's hoping the water will go down before the race meeting comes along.

You won't need any summer duds this year. It's going to be winter all summer.

Another hard blow to gambling. The biggest gambling house at Reno, Nev., was destroyed by fire, entailing a \$100,000 loss.

There's a man in Norfolk who has a chamomile powder puff of his own and box of talcum powder on his chiffonier.

They've done more this time than ever before with the Yankton-Norfolk—they've at least started preliminary work on the bridge.

The weather bureau will have to go some to get confidence restored, after that Washington storm in the face of a fair weather prediction.

"I wish you'd quit publishing things about duck hunters getting killed," said a Norfolk hunter. "I want to go hunting, and my wife reads The News."

Ruth Bryan has secured a divorce from her husband; and Nebraska Democratic leaders are seeking a divorce from her father's office-seeking proclivities.

It is said in New York that a man is not well dressed unless he has at least six canes. According to that, there aren't many men in Norfolk who are dressed at all.

The News scored another big beat in giving Judge McPherson's decision in detail—two columns of it—to this territory twenty-four hours ahead of all other papers.

If a bank robber can only get to Sioux City with his loot, he's pretty nearly safe. It's worth more than the \$1,939 that was stolen to try to get those three Hadar robber suspects out of Iowa and into Nebraska even to put them on trial.

One of the first official acts of President Taft was to appoint Thomas C. Burns register and Oliver C. Kippenbrock receiver of the Gregory land office. Apparently the new president knows that the Rosebud is on the map early in the game.

It now develops that the mattress on the porch rail was no sign of spring at all. That happens, they say, every Friday. Most women, it is argued, clean the downstairs on Friday and the upstairs on Thursday of every week. So there's another good omen gone to smash.

As an interesting incident connected with Klein's great play, "The Lion and the Mouse," which is to be presented in Norfolk next Tuesday night, it may be noted that the chief characters in the play are supposed to be dramatizations of John D. Rockefeller and Ida Tarbell. People who have seen it say it's a great play.

OVER NORTHWESTERN PRAIRIES.

Miss Hazen Perrin of Winside has succeeded Mrs. Guttery as grammar teacher at Pilger.

Mark Carraber of Platte Center has bought the Antisdel & Wahl meat market in Madison. He will take possession March 15.

Columbus voters will be asked to pass on a \$30,000 bond issue to help build a permanent bridge over the Platte river south of that city.

Up in the Rosebud country the issue of the lock canal vs. the sea level canal is a live question on account of Senator Kittredge's attitude.

Governor Shallenberger and his entire staff will spend the Fourth of July at Crawford, where the governor will deliver the address of the day at a big celebration.

Yankton Press and Dakotan; Maurice Jencks was right after all! Work on the bridge across the Missouri started the very day Taft was inaugurated.

R. F. Kline, townsite agent for the Northwestern, said to be the man who discovered the famous Homestake mine in the Black Hills, was up in the Rosebud country last week.

ing. Col. "Bill" McCune of Omaha, who is well known in the Rosebud and Pine Ridge country through his annual visits to secure Indians for the Buffalo Bill show, remarried his former wife in Omaha last week after a separation of five years.

High school debating in north Nebraska is becoming exciting as the finals approach. The Pierce high school, which debates Albion in a few weeks, had two representatives, Ben Inhelder and Lloyd Mohr, in Atkinson, taking notes on the debate between the Atkinson and Valentine schools.

O'Neill Frontier: Experience demonstrates that two newspapers are enough in the ordinary town. O'Neill has had a varied experience with newspapers, and the discontinuance last week of the third paper after a little over one year's existence is further evidence that two papers are enough for a town the size of O'Neill. Mr. Eves published a fairly good paper but with the field already occupied it could not be made a paying venture.

Burke Gazette: The Norfolk News makes note of the fact that at a public sale near Burke recently only \$45 worth of notes were given by the farmers for their purchases, the rest being paid in cash. The total amount of the bids was \$2,500. Public sales are furnishing many interesting items tending to show the prosperity of this section of the country. For instance: At a couple of Colonel Kull's sales last week, held on successive days, fifteen horses were offered and sold at an average price of \$168 each. Yet some of the easterners still think there are nothing but bronchos in this country.

Pilger Herald: Mrs. Holbrook Monday was granted a divorce and \$1,500 alimony. The grounds on which she secured the divorce was "intemperance, drunkenness and abuse, being compelled to work in the field like a man, etc." As no one appeared against her she was granted the divorce as above stated. She left Tuesday morning for the east. The whole is a disgraceful affair and no doubt had the divorce been contested, she would not secure a divorce. The Herald ventures to remark that summary "justice" will be dealt with her accomplice should he ever show himself in Pilger.

O'Neill Frontier: After having spent thirty-two years together and raising a family of eight children Mrs. Anna Savage filed suit for divorce from her husband, Martin P. Savage, farmer, stockman and telephone magnate of Deloit. They were married at Columbus, Neb., on January 15, 1877, and have been residents of this county over twenty years. As grounds for divorce Mrs. Savage alleges "extreme cruelty and cities several instances. She alleges that defendant owns 640 acres of Holt county land worth \$85 an acre and 290 miles of telephone line in Holt and adjoining counties, worth \$10,000. In addition to the above the petition further alleges that he owns personal property, which aggregates about \$10,000, that he is in debt about \$10,000. Plaintiff asks divorce and custody of the two minor children, and as she is without means asks further that she be awarded suit money, counsel fees and such further relief as may be just.

NEW UNWRITTEN LAW URGED FOR COOPER

Meeks Would Have it Extended to Men Attacked by Editors.

Nashville, March 10.—The unwritten law was extended to cover editors who attack private or public men by General Meeks of counsel for the defense in the trial of the Coopers and Sharp, charged with murdering former Senator Carmack.

"You talk of the liberty of the press!" he exclaimed to the jury. "Why, gentlemen, no man lives who believes more firmly in the liberty of the press than I do, but when a man in an editorial position turns the liberty of the press into license and undertakes to defame and defile you and your family, what are you going to do? The prosecution will tell you you have your recourse in the courts. Yes, and you get a judgment for \$25,000 against a man not worth the price of a plug of tobacco. Is that satisfaction? Oh, gentlemen, I tell you that the streets of this city have run red before with the blood of men who improperly used other men's names in public prints."

General Meeks in a five-hour speech painted the defendants as the finest types of southern aristocracy and breeding.

York Gets Odd Fellows' Home. Columbia, Mo., March 10.—The board appointed by the Nebraska grand lodge of Odd Fellows to find a suitable location for an Odd Fellows' home has decided on this city. The committee has visited about a dozen cities which were candidates for the home and its decision was not given out until the announcement of closing a local deal was made. The committee purchased 150 acres adjoining the city limits and contracts for the construction of buildings will be let within a short time. The buildings will cost about \$100,000 as first expense.

Brother of Senator Elkins Dead. Columbia, Mo., March 10.—Samuel R. Elkins, sixty-two years old, brother of United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins of West Virginia, died here after an illness of eighteen months. He was postmaster here for sixteen years.