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GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

A four-story building was burned in Boston Wednesday, causing a loss of \$100,000.

It is proposed to admit Oklahoma to the union giving it the name of the state of Jefferson.

The United States army now numbers 103,250 officers and privates, of whom 34,574 are volunteers. About 72,000 are in the Philippines.

A work train backed into a freight train near Suisun, Cal., Tuesday, and in the wreck which followed eight men were killed and 20 injured.

The mineral products of this country last year aggregated in value \$967,000,000, an increase of some \$200,000,000 over the previous year.

A dispatch from Rome says the river Tiber is in flood and the bank has given way between the bridges Cesto and Garibaldi, causing damage to the amount of \$7,500,000.

Gen. Kitchener reports from South Africa that the mounted troops of Gen. Knox were engaged all day long Sunday with part of Gen. DeWet's forces north of Bethulie. The Boers were headed off and retired in a northeasterly direction.

At Wheeler's store, a small settlement in Lowndes county, Ala., George Wheeler shot and instantly killed A. Waldrop and Calvin Harris, both white men. Waldrop had been farming on shares for Wheeler and had a dispute on money matters.

The Oliver Schofield, a three-masted schooner, bound from Norfolk, Va., to New York, was reported Tuesday to be pounding to pieces on the coast near Lyalette City, N. J. Her crew, consisting of captain and six men, were rescued by members of life saving station No. 13.

The worst storm in two years raged along the New England and Nova Scotia coast Tuesday night. Many vessels were wrecked but the crews of most of them were saved. The crew of the fishing schooner "Mary Brown" was wrecked near Portsmouth, N. H., and it is thought her crew of six perished.

J. G. Stowe, U. S. consul at Cape Town, says: "I give the war in South Africa four months to come to an end. In my opinion it is bound to be snuffed out during that period. I do not believe Lord Kitchener will do much more than any other general. The present plan of the British campaign is bound to bring about the result. Moreover, there are 16,000 Boer prisoners in Ceylon, St. Helena and at Cape Town, all of whom are anxious to have an end of hostilities."

Although Senator Morgan is very confident that the dream of his life time, the authorization of the construction of the Nicaragua canal, will be realized at the present session of congress, the situation is so confused there is a possibility of his being disappointed. There are many obstacles in the path of the final passage of the canal bill in the senate. President McKinley has told many senators who have called upon him that he will not sign a canal bill which provides for the construction of fortifications for its defense. He has also informed them that the Hay-Pauncefote treaty must be ratified before any canal legislation is completed.

About the Size of It.
Little Willie—Say, pa, what's the street cleaning department?

Pa—It's the place where they explain to the dissatisfaction of taxpayers why the streets are not cleaned.—Chicago Daily News.

Cruel Fate.
"A genius," writes a small boy, "is born first and raised afterward, but the world don't know he's a genius till somebody sprains their leg by stumbling over his grave."—Atlanta Constitution.

Not Venison, Either.
Flo—He told me I looked good enough to eat.

May—Yes; I heard him call you a deer.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Stop Talking

Listen, while we tell you something about your hair. Did you know that if you would only use a little of Ayer's Hair Vigor three or four times a week your hair would grow very much faster? It restores color to gray hair, too, and stops falling of the hair. And it is a most excellent dressing.

If you do not obtain the benefit you desire from use of the Vigor, write the Doctor about it. He will tell you just the right thing to do. Address, Dr. J. C. AYER, Lowell, Mass.

KEEPING SECRETS.

An Instructive Essay on How Not to Do It.

A secret, like an oyster, cannot be kept too close, for the moment it is opened it ceases to exist.

A French philosopher says: "A man is more faithful to the secrets of another than to his own; a woman, on the contrary, preserves her own secret better than that of another."

The explanation given for woman's proneness to let the cat out of the bag is that she is afraid she might die, and then there would be no one left to keep it.

None are so fond of secrets as those who don't mean to keep them. Such persons covet secrets as a spendthrift covets money—for the purpose of circulation.

"My dear Murphy," said an Irishman to his friend, "why did you betray the secret I told you?"

"Is it bethrayin you call it? Sure, when I found I wasn't able to keep it myself didn't I do well to tell it to somebody who could?"

Secrets are poor property. If you circulate them, you lose them, and if you keep them you lose the interest on the investment.

"What are you sealing up in that envelope so carefully, Jones?"

"Important instructions that I forgot to give my wife before I came to town this morning. I'm going to send it up home."

"Will your wife open it at once?"

"Rather. I've made sure of that."

"How?"

"I have addressed it to myself and put a big 'Private' on the corner of the envelope."—Tit-Bits.



Farmer Hyricks practices pole vaulting to help him dodge automobiles in Gotham.—New York Herald.

Getting Ahead.
"You seem to be tickled over something," said the head bookkeeper.

"I am," said the clerk that had been on an errand. "I've just beat the firm out of 8 cents—in a legitimate way too."

"Tell us."

"Well, the trip I made required two street car tickets; price, 8 cents. To get those tickets I had to get an order from the subhead of our department, which was indorsed by the head of the department and again by the general manager and finally by the boss himself, and by that time I had used up 16 cents' worth of time, based on the rate of my salary."—Indianapolis Press.

Loyalty.
"Loyalty," remarked Senator Sorghum, "is one of my great characteristics."

"But you have been known to change your mind once or twice."

"That is true, but my loyalty is tremendous while it lasts. When I attach myself to a man's political interests, I stick to him like a brother until he gets defeated."—Washington Star.

What a Pig!
They were out driving, and the young man was holding the reins with one hand.

"Sweetheart," he whispered as the moon went behind a cloud. "I wish I had arms like—like—"

"Like Fitzsimmons?" she asked.

"No," he exclaimed; "like an octopus!"—Chicago Tribune.

Something in It.
Dolly Dimples—Do you ever hear a curious buzzing sound in your ears, Mr. Evergreen?

Mr. Evergreen—No, but sometimes I have thought I heard something rattle inside.

Dolly Dimples—Thank heaven! Perhaps there's something in it after all.—Ohio State Journal.

Can't Please 'Em.
Witberby—Now, my dear, I shall be perfectly candid with you. I am going down to the club tonight to play poker and have a high old time.

Mrs. Witberby—That's just like a man! You might at least have led me to suppose you were innocent.—Brooklyn Life.

IMPROVE KINSTON.

"Citizen" Proposes Water Works And Sewerage, and That Improvements be in Hands of a Board of Public Works.

For a few months past several of the tax payers of the town have been quietly discussing the matter of town improvement, especially as to what ought to be done and how to do it. There is a practical unanimity that we ought to go forward and a conservative desire to do nothing unwisely. We want and need sewerage and water works for the entire town, and paying for Queen street from railroad to railroad.

Under existing conditions, all these matters, provided the town should vote the money, would be in the hands of the commissioners. It rarely happens that all or even a majority of the board is composed of incapable men at the same time—we never have a board that does not contain one or more who are mentally weak, men who have obtained the nomination through personal solicitations of votes and whose chief object in seeking the position is the small salary attached.

It would be entirely too expensive to place the salary of aldermen at such a figure as would be an inducement to first-grade men to seek the place. Every man of capacity who accepts the nomination with the \$50 salary must do so largely from patriotic motives. Why not make it entirely a matter of pride by abolishing the salary altogether. This will eliminate the pin-book politician who is after the \$50 and whatever else he can trade for. Our best talent will serve as faithfully without the \$50 as with it.

The office of alderman should be legislative and supervisory, nothing more. Their term of office is so uncertain, on account of yearly elections, that people do not care, be the board ever so competent and honest, to trust the handling of a great sum of money or the construction of a big system of improvement to their hands. They account to nobody save themselves. They do not even have the proceedings of their meetings published in the papers so that our people can find out what their servants are doing.

This little bit of fault finding is not directed to our present board. They are simply following the footsteps of their predecessors. In other respects they are conducting the affairs of the town in a more business like and systematic manner and are paving the way for their successors to do even better than they.

The town is moving onward. The legislature will meet in January. We ought to have legislation such as will enable us to better our town government and enable us to get where we naturally belong—in the forefront of North Carolina's thrifty towns.

The town needs a board of public works composed of three men to be elected by the board of aldermen. The first three to hold office for two, four and six years; their successors, to hold six years each—one going out every two years. This would leave an experienced member on the board all the time.

This board should be elected by the town aldermen; no town alderman being eligible to position on board of public works. The aldermen should have power to remove any member of the board of public works at any time for incompetency, inattention to the business of his department, or venality.

The board of public works should render account of their respective departments to the board of aldermen and an itemized statement of their work and expenses published every month in the newspaper.

Inasmuch as the greater part of the police expense of the town is caused by liquor, the barkeepers should be made to bear the expense by high license.

Any amendment to the town charter should empower the board of aldermen to levy a large license tax on saloons. Large enough to drive the little dives of devil dens out of existence and big enough to make it an object for the better class of barkeepers to keep as much decency and order as is possible in these gilded gateways to hell.

Amend our charter. Create a board of public works. Get authority to issue sufficient bonds to install the needed improvements, and then call an election. These things ought to be done within the next two months or we miss the opportunity for two years longer. At present rates we will then have a much larger town.

As to the manner in which these improvements should be put in, we can readily see from the experience of other towns that have hurried about the matter and made many mistakes. By avoiding the shoals upon which others have stranded we will be pretty sure to go right.

If we should use iron sewerpipes with leaded joints there will be no danger of the sewers ever becoming stopped from tree roots getting on the inside nor the least possible danger of soil contamination from leaking; even if the soil should become contaminated, provided every one got their drinking water from the waterworks, it would make little or no

difference as the disease germ would be well under ground and they have no power of motion to crawl up to the surface.

If terra cotta pipes should be used they ought to be put in the middle of the streets as far away from the trees as possible and as near the surface as they can be put to get sufficient fall. This will reduce the expense of putting down and repairing to a minimum. If the soil of the ditch in which the sewerpipes are laid is heavily impregnated with salt there will be no danger from tree roots with any kind of pipes. No vegetation will penetrate an intensely salty soil.

If sound business methods are pursued with the sewerage, the expense of it need not give the tax payers much concern.

After the sewerage is properly installed, the proper thing to do would be to sell the privilege of connection at a certain stipulated price, which in a short time would amount to sufficient to pay off the sewerage debt and leave a profit besides. The expenses of operating properly constructed sewerage is nothing.

With waterworks the matter is different. There is expense of operating and repairs. The charge should be for the volume of water used; the amount being as small as consistent with good service.

There is not another town in the State where sewerage and waterworks can be established for as little money for the surface covered as here. The river is right at town to empty the sewage. We can drive down a gang of wells anywhere and get an inexhaustible supply of clean, clear water that needs no filtering to make it fit for use.

Paving Queen street from railroad to railroad would not be a very severe tax, provided it was done as they do in Augusta, Ga., and other progressive southern towns—where the property on either side of the street is required to do a third of the work, and the town the other. There are no doubt many on Queen street who would kick very hard at the proposition—wanting the town to do it all. While we would like very much to see the work done it would manifestly be wrong to tax property on residence streets to improve property on another street. If it was determined to pave Queen street, there would be no need of compelling a party to pave his front if he did not want to; just leave his front alone; let him have all the mud and dust he wanted. The houses with paved fronts would get the business.

Shall we go forward or not? The ideas embodied in the above have been gathered from conversation with other men. If they are worth anything they are worth spreading.

"CITIZEN."

Giving Him a Rest.
The energy of one of the oldest inhabitants of a Massachusetts town is a byword among his neighbors and a trial to his grandchildren, who have not inherited their full share of his active temper.

His grandson John in particular suffers from the old man's untiring industry, for John is his assistant in the little grocery shop, where everything, from codfish to brooms, may be found. A purchaser of ginger snaps lingered one day to hear the noontime address delivered to poor John by his grandfather.

"Now, Johnny, I'm a-going home for my dinner," said the old man briskly, "and on the way I'll carry up these pails to Miss Manson and fetch back her kerosene can. I shall be gone upwards of half an hour. You'll have plenty of time to eat your luncheon, and while you're resting after that I wish you'd saw up that little mess of wood that lays out by the back door and split it up for stove kindling, for the weather's turning sharp a'ready."

"Most likely I'll be back 'fore you get out o' work, and anyways I don't want to keep you at it all the time, so if there's a few extra minutes jest set down and make out a bill or two. The fust of the month'll be upon us 'fore we know it."—Youth's Companion.

Helping the Enemy.
A coal heaver was getting in a load of coal in the suburbs of London. He was shoveling in the coals at a good rate when he was started by a terrific yell from the house adjoining.

"Wot the dickens is the matter?" queried the coalman, starting up.

A disheveled looking individual made his appearance at the door.

"Matter, you thickhead!" shouted the man, frantically endeavoring to pull his hair up in clots by the roots, "you are putting the coal down the wrong hole. My wife's people live there!"—London Tit-Bits.

Isant to Injury.
"And he stole the possum from you," said the judge.

"Yes, suh, en wuss dan dat, he hot only cooked it en eat it, but pick his teeth right in front er my do!"—Atlanta Constitution.

The Best Prescription for Chills
and Fever is a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is simply lime and quinine in a tasty form. No cure—no pay. Price, 25¢.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

The magnificent new M. P. church at Henderson was dedicated last Sunday. To Dec. 1, 1900 the sales of fertilizers were 30,000 tons more than the previous year in North Carolina.

The railways are about through with their evidence in the tax assessment case. The State will open its case Raleigh on the 18th.

The house of Mrs. Minnie Jenkins, at Burlington, was burned Monday night. Loss \$1,400; insurance \$1,000. Fire thought to be incendiary.

There are several cases of typhoid fever in Reidsville. It is said that not one case has developed in the families which use the city water, but among those who use well water there have been several.

Goldboro Argus: Mr. Crawford Howell brought in the largest sweet potato seen in this office this season or any other season. The potato weighed 5 1/2 pounds and only required eighteen of them to make a bushel.

John E. Fowler, fusion candidate for congress in the 3d district, is preparing to contest the seat of Chas. R. Thomas. It is reported that J. R. Joyce has not yet fully abandoned the idea of contesting the seat of W. W. Kitchin in the 5th district.

A bad wreck occurred on the Norfolk and Western, near Mayodan, Tuesday morning. An engine and six cars were derailed, and the engine and four cars rolled down a 30-foot embankment. Engineer A. J. Spencer stuck to his post and escaped injury. Brakeman Harvey Boleman was killed.

A \$10,000 suit against the Southern Railway for damages brought by W. T. Woodleaf was compromised in court at Winston Tuesday afternoon for \$200. Two years ago Woodleaf was section master on the Mocksville road, and while riding on a hand car, fell off and broke one leg and five ribs. The suit was to get pay for his injuries.

Graham Gleason: Many of the union mill operatives are leaving the county and going to South Carolina, Georgia and other points. More than one hundred will leave here, as many from Haw River and Burlington, each, we are informed. Among them are a great many excellent people who prefer to go elsewhere rather than surrender rights and privileges which they as citizens deem their own and should enjoy.

Jupiter Warmer Than the Earth.
The gigantic mass of Jupiter has a much larger warmth than that of the earth. It is the result of the molecular movement produced by the compression of the strata and must be greater the more powerful the masses, and hence the larger the pressure of the strata is. Jupiter surpasses the earth in point of mass 307 times, and for this reason the inner temperature or individual warmth of the planet is probably high enough to evaporate the water upon the surface quickly, so that water vapor forms the principal substance of the atmosphere of Jupiter. Water vapor is an excellent reflector and readily accounts for the bright radiation of light emitted by the planet.—Professor Hughes in Chicago Tribune.

Awkward Compliment.
There is such a thing as being too persistently complimentary. A candid and well meaning professor who had witnessed the performance of a little play in a private house in which his hostess had taken the leading part met the lady as she came from behind the curtain.

"Madam," he said, rushing up to her, "you played excellently. That part fits you to perfection."

"Oh, no, professor," said the lady modestly. "A young and pretty woman is needed for that part."

"But, madam," persisted the professor, "you have positively proved the contrary!"—Pearson's Weekly.

Close of the Season.
Mrs. Homebodie—My husband says today's paper has a lot in it about the close of the London season.

Mrs. Globetrotter—Well, I don't wonder. They were horrible misfits.—New York Weekly.

Among the tens of thousands who have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for colds and la grippe during the past few years, to our knowledge, not a single case has resulted in pneumonia. Thos. Whitfield & Co., 240 Wabash avenue, Chicago, one of the most prominent retail druggists in that city, in speaking of this, says: "We recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for la grippe in many cases, as it not only gives prompt and complete recovery, but also counteracts any tendency of la grippe to result in pneumonia." For sale by J. E. Hood, druggist.