Norwich Bulletin and Courier.

114 YEARS OLD.

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Norwich, Friday, Dec. 23, 1910.

The Circulation of The Bulletin.

The Bulletin has the largest circulation of any paper in Eastern Connecticut, and from three to four times larger than that of any in Norwich. It is delivered to over 3,000 of the 4,023 houses in Norwich, and read by ninety-three per cent. of the people. In Windham it is delivered to over 900 houses, in Putnam and Danielson to over 1,100, and in all of these places it is considered the local daily.

Eastern Connecticut has forty-nine towns, one hundred and sixty-five postoffice districts, and forty-one rural free delivery routes.

The Bulletin is sold in every town and on all of the R. F. D. routes in Eastern Connecticut.

CIRCULATION

1901, average	4,412
1905, average	5,920
Week ending December 17,	8,071

AN INTERESTING LEGAL DECISION.

It takes persistence and a long purse for a man to get his rights defined and only once in a while does some plucky, well-fixed fellow venture to fight the battle for himself and establish a precedent for others.

It was recently noted in the news columns of the daily papers that a New York court decision was to the effect that a telegraph company was liable for damages arising from error in transmission of unrepeated messages notwithstanding the alleged "contract" on the back of the printed blanks purporting to absolve the company from responsibility. But now comes the United States supreme court and states that the said "contract" is not a contract at all, and that the company may be sued for damages caused by delay in transmission of a message even when it is not "repeated" at an extra charge. The case grew out of a Michigan statute to that effect, which the telegraph company attacked as unconstitutional because it denied the "freedom of contract." The court of last resort, declares the law valid and the "contract" one of those affairs that are not legally binding on the customer.

MUNICIPAL NEGLIGENCE.

This unprecedented New England drouth of ten years' duration and a shortage of 42 inches, or nearly a full year's normal rainfall in parts of this region, has brought to light examples of municipal negligence in several states.

The city of Worcester has but a month's supply of potable water on hand and the business uses of water have been cancelled, and "the Heart of Massachusetts" is scurrying around to save itself from an experience as bad or worse than that of Norwich.

Read the following from the Rutland (Vt.) News:

"A careful study of the results of the examination of your water supply during the last ten years together with a study of the conditions obtaining in the drainage area, from which your supply is obtained, leaves no possible doubt as to the constant risk you are under of contamination of your water supply, and the probability, amounting to almost certainty, that this supply at times gives rise to typhoid and other diseases of the excretory organs. In view of all these facts, this board is of the unanimous opinion that your epidemic this year, as well as those in past years, is due to water pollution. Other factors, like milk, flies or personal contact, may have played a part in distributing the disease, but the water supply is primarily at fault.'

"The foregoing is part of the official report of the state board of health to the Rutland board of aldermen, as the result of their examination of the typhoid situation. Why isn't the city liable for damages to the victims of typhoid, on the strength of the above? If expert engineers reported that a bridge or sidewalk or street or building had been notoriously unsafe for ten years, and the city had not caused the danger to be eliminated, the one injured as the result of such unsafe condition would have no trouble in recovering damages. Wherein does the public water differ in this respect from any other public utility? We should be curious to see what the courts would say on the proposition, although we particularly disavow any intention of inciting damage suits against the city."

If the Rutland News keeps its eyes open it will see plenty of suits of this kind in the next year in different states, for several have already been brought at Rochester, N. Y., and suits from the same cause are liable to be brought elsewhere.

The news that Superintendent Mellen of the Consolidated system has bid on two railroad systems in Maine prompts the Boston Post to say: "Mr. Mellen as an absorber is in a class all by himself."

The parcels post is a nightmare to small country dealers who see in it their own destruction. It is barely possible that they'll wake up later with a better income and appetite than ever.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has put down $10,000,000 more for the University of Chicago and given notice that in future it must go alone. He has given it in all $35,000,000.

The Salvation Army has a generous heart and large receptacles for the coin, so the opportunity to contribute is ample without danger of running them over.

ELECTION FIGURES AND POLITICAL PROSPECTS.

A review of the official figures of the November elections just printed leaves no doubt that the state is republican, since it shows that the republicans who declined to vote represented nearly 25 per cent. of the regular republican vote.

As the result of its study of the figures, The Courant shows that Baldwin had 5,050 less votes than had Robertson in 1908; and that the total decrease in the vote was 32,261, and that the democratic and socialist increase totalled 6,198; and that the republican stay-at-homes, who refused to vote the democratic or any other ticket, was 26,063, or enough to have given Goodwin 32,563 plurality.

The Courant, upon these conclusions, says:

"Had the full republican vote come out, the republican majority would have been overwhelming, and nothing has turned up as yet to prove that those stay-at-home voters are not still republicans, who merely stood off this time to see—and who are still on the watch.

"Connecticut elected all the state officers but governor, all the congressmen but one, and a majority of each branch of the general assembly. When you think this was done in the face of a falling off of 31,778 in the republican vote and of 36,593 in the total vote, you will be pretty likely to admit that Connecticut is republican. We are not worrying about 1912 in this state, and what is true of Connecticut is true in perhaps less degree of many other states over which our democratic friends have been somewhat superfluously and prematurely exultant."

A MISTAKE.

The report that Norwich's new charter will have a recall clause, whereby the mayor may be removed from office on the demand of ten per cent. of the voters, is important, if true. Ten per cent. of disgruntled ones could be gotten together almost any time in almost any city, and if they were given the power to legislate a mayor out of office, the majority rule would be smashed to smithereens and the minority would be in a position to bulldoze to their hearts' content.—Ansonia Sentinel.

There is nothing in the proposed new charter for commission government in Norwich that can be construed to mean minority rule of this sort. Under the old charter the tail wags the dog too much, and that is what Norwich will be glad to get rid of. Nothing less than 66 per cent. would be worth considering if the petitioners were to be the ousters. The petition simply opens the way to get an expression of public sentiment and the voters do the rest. Any officer who deserves to be re-elected has nothing to fear from this clause.

The Bulletin is of the opinion that ten per cent. is too high if the intention is to have the proviso act as a check to intolerance or maladministration of public affairs. This is the exact per cent. the prohibitionists have to get in order to be heard on the liquor question, and it was made ten per cent. by their wily opponents because they thought it would be sufficiently discouraging to keep the prohibitionists from getting the question opened too often. It did take them the best part of three months to meet this new legal requirement—it is a call for strenuous work.

It is not an easy matter to obtain five per cent. of the voters upon any petition, and The Bulletin believes that if effectiveness is desired this per cent. should be adopted.

The proposed charter must run quite a course yet, and it is likely to be amended in some particulars before it is submitted to the voters for acceptance in June, 1911.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

When it comes to getting suitable Christmas presents the "old bach" has all the girls stumped.

For a thing that is founded upon a myth a Santa Claus club puts out a firm and inviting front.

The only way now to be ranked as an early Christmas shopper is to get around early in the morning.

The people who are born with the idea that they are great never lose it, although no one else ever finds it out.

Happy thought for today: Every kid is now up and dressed and playing a detective's part in identifying Santa Claus.

Mashed carrot may make a good substitute color for eggs in cake, but no one pretends that it makes as good cake.

The fact that the price of radium has advanced five million dollars an ounce doesn't create any anxiety in editorial sanctums.

Portland wears its thumbs in its vest because it is such a fine amusement town. No doubt it is the best that Maine can show up.

The greatest statesmen loosen their dignity belt on Christmas and come right down to the child-like Christmas level. There is fun in it.

We all have a glad hand and a Merry Christmas for Congressman Higgins, who is the representative of every man in the district.

The photographer hangs his chance for popularity upon making the camera keep the lady patrons looking young, and still he is a popular success.

Dr. Wiley has made great fame prestiding over the "poison squad," but he will see that Mrs. Wiley makes no fame in that way in conducting his table.

The postmaster general reduced the deficit in his department by the sum of $12,000,000 the past year. If he could get a parcels post it would pay a profit.

Because Dr. Cook is "a closed incident" is no reason that he cannot open a new source of revenue whenever he feels like disclosing his year's experience.

A Wise Owl.

If it is true that Woodrow Wilson has been boosting the Harmon boom, the politicians have nothing on the former university president.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Lacks Advertising.

Incomplete statistics prove that hunting is far more deadly than football, but for one-tenth the fuss is made about its dangers.—Cleveland Leader.

Tapped eight feet from the ground, a rubber tree 15 inches in diameter yields three pints of sap.

Government by Commission

2--Distinctive Features of Haverhill Charter

BY A CITIZEN

In this and the succeeding paper the distinctive features of the Haverhill charter will be stated, with brief explanatory comments. By the new charter:

Ward lines in the selection of city officers are abolished. The city is to be administered as a whole, not as a confederacy of wards, each of which must have its representatives to look out for its local interests. The new charter looks to the fitness of its officers, not to the locality of their residence. It is possible for every officer of the city to be chosen from a single ward, but it is assumed that every officer will be entirely impartial in dealing with the several divisions of the city.

No party or political designation or mark, of any kind, may appear on the ballot, either at the caucuses for nomination or the city elections. The administration of a city has no logical connection with political parties, and the guides by which partisans have voted for partisans—the designation of the candidate as republican or democrat or socialist—are omitted. The personal fitness of the man for the office for which he is a candidate, his honesty, ability and intelligence, are the sole qualifications to be considered. Therefore his name and his residence alone appear on the ballot.

Any qualified voter may have his name placed on the official ballot used in the nominating or preliminary election as a candidate for nomination for mayor, alderman or member of the school board, provided that ten days before such election he files with the city clerk a statement in writing of his candidacy, and the petition of at least twenty-five citizens that his name as a candidate for such office be so printed. The qualified voter who is ambitious to be mayor or alderman or member of the school board, obtains the proper forms from the city clerk, fills out his own statement, procures to the accompanying petition the signatures of twenty-five qualified voters, and files these papers with the city clerk.

The preliminary or nominating election is held under the same conditions as the final city election. There may be as many candidates for nomination for any city office as may have complied with the above provisions. The purpose of this preliminary election is to select from this list the candidates for the final election. The municipal council consists of a mayor, four aldermen and a school board of four members, each holding office for two years. Hence every year two aldermen and two members of the school board are to be chosen, and once in two years a mayor in addition. From the returns of the preliminary election the names of the four candidates for aldermen having the highest number of votes, the names of the four candidates for members of the school board having the highest number of votes and, every alternate year, the names of the two candidates for mayor having the highest number of votes are taken to form the official ballot at the city election.

At the city election, then, the voter has presented for his consideration a ballot that contains no more than ten names. He selects between the two candidates for mayor; he makes a choice of two of the four candidates for alderman, and of two of the four candidates for the school board. With definite knowledge of those whose names are on the brief ballot the voter finds his task a simple one. The regular city election occurs three weeks after the preliminary one, so that the time is abundant for the voters to know the qualifications of those who are candidates for election.

The mayor presides in the municipal council and has a vote on all matters, but he has not the power of veto. His approval is not necessary to make effective any order, ordinance or resolution which the municipal council may make or pass. The mayor is the official representative of the dignity of the city, the head of the council and the chairman, but he holds no tinsel or greater power than any of his associates.

All meetings of the municipal council are public. All votes of the municipal council are by yeas and nays and entered on the records.

All powers of appointment, election, nominations, confirmations, removal and suspension of city officers are vested in the municipal council.

The administration of city affairs is divided and classified under four departments reader: The department of accounts and finance, the department of public safety and charities, the department of streets and highways, and the department of public property.

The municipal council designates one of the aldermen to serve as the executive head of each department, each of the four aldermen being primarily responsible for the administration of the department assigned to him. The open meetings of the council, the recorded yea or nay vote of each member upon any measure, and the assignment of each city department to the personal care of a designated alderman provide the machinery for shifting of responsibility for any measure or condition. The voters know who personally is responsible for whatever is done or neglected.

Any appropriation or contract exceeding $2,000 must be proposed in writing and be on file for at least one week in the office of the city clerk before it can be voted.

At the end of each month the municipal council must cause to be printed a detailed itemized statement of receipts and expenditures for the preceding month.

At the end of each municipal year a full and complete examination of all books and accounts must be made by competent accountants, and the result of such examination be published.

It will be seen by these provisions that publicity is a distinctive feature of the charter; that information must be given promptly and fully in all matters of expense; and that there is a final examination of all fiscal matters, and a published report thereon, by a competent accountant who is not connected with the city administration.

The salary of the mayor is fixed at $1,500 per annum, and that of each alderman at $1,000. The school board receives no salary under a Massachusetts law which forbids the payment of salaries to members of school boards in cities where a superintendent of schools is employed. In the next article the features of the charter that treat of the recall, the initiative and the referendum will be considered.

Haverhill, Dec. 20, 1910.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Turn Down Stony Brook?

Mr. Editor:—It is a very sensible suggestion, it appears to me, that ex-Alderman Breed offers in today's Bulletin, in raising the question of the propriety of using our Stony brook for a permanent water supply.

It was bought for that purpose, after thorough and intelligent investigation as to its merits.

"Even squirrels have bank accounts," says one; but if we keep on buying and then abandoning what we buy—as we shall doubtless do with Trading Cove as we have done with Stony brook—squirrels at Stony brook may laugh at us for our tomfoolery.

There we have a "crack-a-jack" in common with them, and that is summing up the matter "in a nutshell" so that even Chippy or Bunny could understand it.

But, if the voters are determined not to use Stony brook for the purpose intended, poor taxpayers may find that "Jordan is a hard road to travel" before they meet their obligations.

Referring to Stony brook, Mr. Breed says, "Now you have got the best thing that lies outdoors. It belongs to you. You have not got to buy it; use it, for trout live in it."

Ah! Now that is talking! If Izaak Walton, the quaint author of "The Complete Angler or Contemplative Man's Recreation" should hear that at the city meeting next week, he would surely vote for Stony brook at once, and, in his simple, touching and impressive style, talk of piscatorial pleasures where among pebbles the transparent water bubbles give expressions commending its virtues.

If Stony brook should not be finally decided upon for a permanent water supply, Izaak might recommend that while it is, perhaps, a little too rough and stony to be laid out as a park to excel the Mohegan, at least, rustic chairs made out of its woods be placed there with a stone statue of himself, to conceal the real object for which Stony brook was purchased, and did with some Izaak as equivalent in another way for money already invested there.

But, if Norwich is going to imitate the squirrels in material matters, let's stop for awhile before we dump up to exhorbitant taxes and look at the handsome "pony coats" that might carry worthy wives into good society after Christmas in payment for the privileges they have endured during the water famine.

C. H. TALBOTT.

Norwich, Dec. 22, 1910.

Hopes Estimates Will Be Presented.

Mr. Editor: As a private citizen, and also as a custodian of the public health, I am very much interested in the question of a plentiful supply of water for our city; and not only a plentiful supply but one the purity of which is unquestioned. Nothing is of more vital importance to the community. We should not hesitate to make any reasonable outlay that is necessary to secure such a result.

I say reasonable advisedly because, as a taxpayer, I am also interested to avoid increasing our already large indebtedness and high rate of taxation as far as may be consistently with a due regard for the public health and convenience.

I am heartily in sympathy with the views recently expressed in your columns by Dr. Harrison and Mr. Breed.

It seems to me eminently wise and proper to ascertain the practical results which can be realized by the Trading cove brook project which is now being developed, and also to watch carefully the pros and cons of the Stony brook proposition before going to the additional and possibly unnecessary expense of acquiring other water rights and property.

The public sentiment has been thoroughly aroused as to the necessity of a permanently increased water supply, and the citizens are at last alive to the importance of the situation which exists.

The immediate danger, however, has been averted. In all probability the water from Mohegan lake will last until that from Trading cove brook can be utilized, and it seems to me the part of prudence and economy to wait until we are certain how much water can be obtained from the last source before taking any further action. Is it not possible that from that source we may get all we shall need for some time to come? If not, there is ample time enough for us to carefully consider the expense and probable results of developing the Stony brook property, which we already own, before throwing away the money we have invested there and purchasing an additional site for a reservoir at Stoney brook or any other locality.

I am personally not familiar with the estimates and plans for developing the Stony brook property, and I presume many citizens are no better informed than I am. I therefore hope, Mr. Editor, that at the coming special city meeting the estimates may be made public in regard to the various plans under consideration, in order that the citizens may be able to act intelligently and that the expenditure of the present situation may not lead to hasty or ill-advised action.

S. H. LENNELL, M. D.

Norwich, Dec. 22, 1910.

What Mill Rights Are Valued At.

I am informed the Falls company has about 2,100 horsepower represented at their two grandfather. Power being having twelve square miles of drainage, constituted about one-eighth of the total drainage area that supplies this power. One-eighth of 2,000 horsepower is 250 horsepower which at $50 per horsepower per year would amount to $12,500 per year drainage to the Falls company. This capitalized at five per cent would amount to $250,000 or $1,000 per horsepower. The other four mills would collect on the same basis.

A BUSINESS MAN.

Norwich, Dec. 22, 1910.

South C street.

Check on Yellow Journalism.

The Century magazine invites attention to the recent attempts of Mayor Gaynor of New York on the question of the yellow press of the country and suggests the advisability of a movement to check the growth of unbridled defamation from this quarter. Under the guise of devotion to the cause of the best people there are a great number of publications in this country, daily newspapers, magazines and weekly periodicals whose editors and writers pay little attention to the truth when the matter under consideration is a "good story" or one which furnishes opportunity for rounding the aimed-at impression that the publication in which it appears is more devoted to the interests of the "common people" than is the petitions directed by old fogies who carry inside connections into their offices and use them to destroy with news and comments affecting the reputations of private and public persons.

Honest newspaper men are less than the victims of the yellow journal methods are interested in supporting this growing evil. It might be a good start in the direction of lessening the work of the promoters of low journal, the other side of journal, and others affected, should unanimously open with evidence of manuscentation. Bread the Idea.—Philadelphia Record.

Latest Thing in Night Gowns.

These effective models for home-made nightgowns are recommended by the enterprise Boston Herald. They are all empire or semi-empire in cut, although this style is said to be not becoming to stout women. The material for the body of the gown may be of finished nainsook, but it is permissible for the yoke and sleeves to use lace the Mikado or lace dust or fine batiste instead of nainsook. It should be noted however, that nainsook wears better than quill or batiste, and for this reason, if for no other, it is fair to presume that nainsook will be largely used.—Texas. The simplest design is received by cutting the complete bodice of the material, finishing it smoothly, but not so tightly that it will look drawn, and this being done, the lace should be put round or in a shape square and full sleeves added to the above. This combination can be trimmed, bodice and sleeves, with ribbon of lace or embroidery set on in regular darling lengths or in any desired shape. If ribbonlace are used they should be first basted so carefully and neatly sewn, that the time and labor which ribbon saves in the matter of health may be our savey. If short sleeve is fixed, the medallions can be worked in so fine lace stitching of the shape above the edge and can be omitted by a side of chain stitch. In this case the neck and sleeves should be finished with lace or embroidery beading to match medallions, over the joining of bodice and gown. In some instances a frill of lace at the neck and sleeves is found more becoming than medallions and this frill can be pressed neatly to the beading after the gown is finished, which would seem to be a very clever way of getting around the medallions and the lace dressing, or even the chain stitching. If this idea should be adopted, a wide cash ribbon should be run through the beading and be finished with fluffy rosettes at the left side of the neck and waist and on the outer part of the arm.

A more elaborate gown, with bodice of satin or taffeta and fine cash ribbon to match, joined by narrow insertion of lace, is made, but we do not think we should take so much in as well as the pattern but less ornamentation of embroidery. The body of skirt of this sort of gown is made of two strips of cloth, so that the edges of the embroidery shall face the corner, being pinned all the way up the back and far enough up the front to get into really and leave a decorative angular effect. We should not like that at all and especially as the outer edges are to be sewed in a seam under the arms and the sleeves are to be bell-shaped.

Stuff of these models would do well enough in Boston, but there is no reason why any such fashion nothing should be adopted in this benighted part of the country, at this season of the year we should think that the present would be more comfortable with something a little thicker.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Thurs., Fri., Sat. **AUDITORIUM** Dec. 22, 23, 24

BUCKLEY, MARTIN & CO., Purveyors of Ludicrous Travesty. Presenting a BUSY MANAGER

MOST TWINS, Snappy Singers, Beautiful Costumes. GERTRUDE BLACK, Pretty Comedienne, Singing New York's Latest Song Hits

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ADMISSION, 10c. EVENINGS, RESERVED SEATS, 20c.

MATINEES 5C **BREED THEATRE** CHAS. McNULTY, Lessee. Feature Picture. "INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH." MISS MABEL GILMAN, Soprano. Performances 2.30 7.30 8.45 P. M.

POLI'S Norwich's Greatest Theatrical Success. Second week of the POLI PLAYERS Presenting the Greatest Western Drama of recent years. The Squaw Man By EDWIN MILTON ROYLE. With Faversham's Great Success Dustin Farnum's Sharpest Hit. Scenery and production built on the stage of our theater for this engagement, and has never been equalled outside of the New York Theaters. Ladies' Matinee Every Day. The Greatest and Best Offering of the world for... 10c. Nights best seats, 25c. Next week—When We Were Twenty-One.

LYCEUM THEATRE New London, Conn. WALTER T. MURPHY, Manager. Monday Evening, December 26. One Performance Only. No Matinee. SHEEHAN GRAND OPERA CO. presented by press and public in the finest in America in a magnificent production of Verdi's immortal opera IL TROVATORE with the most remarkable cast of Americans and Europeans ever assembled in Sheehan America's Greatest Tenor. Prices, 50c, 75c, $1.00 and $1.50. Seats now open. Friday, Dec. 23. Mail orders filled in order of receipt. Checks not returned later than 5 p. m. on morning of performance unless held for. Cars to Norwich after performance.

DOLLS' FAIR At the HAILE CLUB. A case of Beautiful Dolls, beautifully dressed by Hale Club Girls. Prizes attractive low, but the Dolls are the prettiest ever seen. Admission free. Fair open all one week. dec22d

MUSIC. WILLIAM L. WHITE, Piano Tuner, Self 48 South A. St., Taftville

F. C. GEER TUNER 122 Prospect St. Tel. 511. Norwich, Ct.

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It will do anything that more expensive soaps will do; and, at the same time, it costs so little that you can use it freely without feeling that you are wasteful or extravagant.

Buy a cake. Compare it with the soap you are now using—with any soap you have ever used—and you will find, as tens of thousands of housekeepers have found, that Lenox Soap is better value than any other soap.

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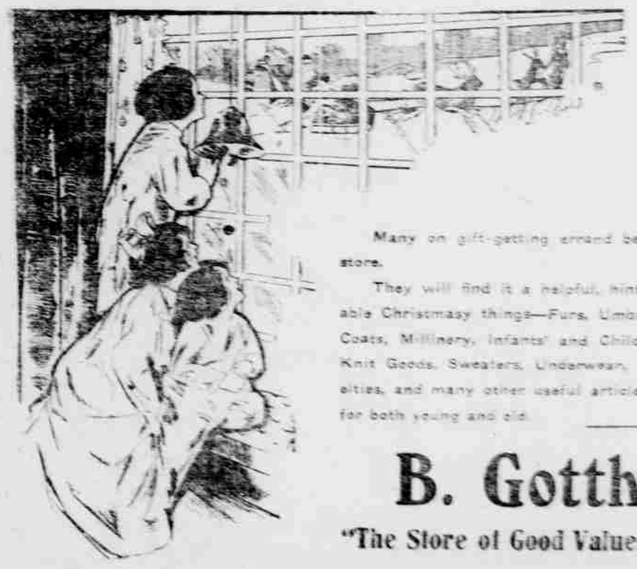

ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Between today and the wonderful night when old and young dream happy dreams, the emissaries of the Christmas Saint will throb the everyday walks of life.

Many on gift-getting errand bent will make their way to this helpful store.

They will find it a helpful, hinting place, crowded with beautiful, suitable Christmasy things—Furs, Umbrellas, Gloves, Hosiery, Waists, Suits, Coats, Millinery, Infants' and Children's Wear, Fancy Scarfs and Shams, Knit Goods, Sweaters, Underwear, Leather Goods, Bags, Belts, Fancy Novelties, and many other useful articles that will make an appropriate present for both young and old.

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