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Keokuk, Iowa, October 21, 1908. The voter who neglects to register disfranchises himself.

If you live in Keokuk or Fort Madison and don't register you can't vote. Two shortages that go together: A shortage of cars and a shortage of Democratic votes.

The news from Venezuela continues to be discouraging. Castro's health is said to be much improved. It is said that chewing gum will prevent seasickness. So far so good. Now will seasickness cure gum chewing?

Two American balloonists fell 4,000 feet and escaped injury. What splendid Democratic candidates they would make!

Only a few more days and the present uncertainty in the business community will be ended by the election of Taft.

The Democratic campaign may be short of money, as claimed, but no one can be made to believe that the same is true of its supply of hot air.

Howard Gould says that he has lost \$300,000 the past year. Howard must have been as careless as Candidate Kern was when he dropped that railroad pass.

A Connecticut man was fined \$20 for kissing his wife in the park. If it had been some other man's wife there's no telling how much he would have had to pay.

To Candidate Tracy: If elected to congress will you vote with your party to repeal the protective duty on horses, cattle, wheat, wool, potatoes, hay and other farm products? Yes or no?

The Republican road roller will make its regular biennial trip over the First district of Iowa one week from next Tuesday. Candidate Tracy will be mashed as few opposition candidates in this part of Iowa have been.

Walter Wellman says that the campaign is narrowing down to a fight for New York and that Judge Taft seems certainly to be in the lead there. With the Empire state for Taft Bryan's defeat by a decisive majority in the electoral college is assured.

If you are a Democrat you will be excused for failure to register. But no Republican should on any account neglect this important duty. The dates are October 22, 23, 24 and 25. Those who are out of the city on those days can register on election day, but this fact must be established by satisfactory evidence.

On September 25, 1900, Herman Ridder, now treasurer of the Democratic national committee, had the following editorial in his paper, the New York Staats Zeitung:

"The east is too conservative and level-headed to give a majority to a man (Bryan) who on economical questions is ignorant, and who, prompted by his confused notions, would grasp the first opportunity to cause a terrible catastrophe."

Colonel Watterson insists that Mr. Bryan, if elected President, could do no harm. The American voters will elect a President who does not desire to do any harm.

Mr. Bryan is attracting considerable attention these days, partly because of what he is saying and partly because of the conspicuous figure he cuts in running away from his record.

The campaign is said by the Sioux City Tribune to be so close in Minnesota on the contest for governor that Jacobson eats pie with his knife several times a day, right at the public lunch counter.

Congressman Smith of the Council Bluffs district estimates that the Republican majority in Iowa this year will be 60,000. There is no doubt in his mind that the entire state ticket will be elected.

The Louisville Courier-Journal, Henry Watterson's paper, is trying to persuade itself that President Roosevelt is likely to kill the elephant without going to Africa. The C-J likes to believe what it likes to believe.

A straw poll of Minnesota made by the Chicago Record-Herald indicates a Taft plurality of at least 120,000. There has been little change from the alignment four years ago when Roosevelt was the Republican candidate.

The Lloyds are writing insurance against a European war and offering odds of 33 to 1. Lloyds do not believe there is any more chance of an European war than there is of Bryan being elected—and they are backing their disbelief with their cash.

It has been suggested that tags be used on registration days, attaching the little placards containing the words, "I have registered" to each voter who appears at the booth and has his name officially entered on the registration books. The idea is a good one.

The country has only two weeks more to wait until it will learn from Alex Miller and other prominent Democrats what they really think of the mistake of running Bryan a third time for the presidency. Certain unvarnished opinions of Candidate Tracy will also be due at the same time.

An important liquor law decision is reported from Burlington, Judge Smyth of the district court there sustained the demurrer filed by the defendant in the case of the proceedings started by a local preacher for the removal of County Attorney Kuhlmeier for not enforcing every provision of the mulct law. The court's interpretation of the statute was that the county attorney is only required to enforce the provision referring to the collection of the mulct tax, which provision had been fully complied with. This decision is the first of its kind in the state on this question.

Monday last was Equine Labor day in Buffalo, the first observed in that city. It was a great success. There were 825 work horses on exhibition, representing the animals that draw the freight trucks and other delivery wagons for the merchants and manufacturers of the city. There were seventy-three judges, including leading horsemen from all parts of the United States. Harness medals were awarded animals of merit and there were cash prizes for veteran drivers. The exhibit was planned by the Erie County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and it will hereafter be an annual affair.

According to the last census as given in the November Technical World Magazine there are 233,598,095 chickens of laying age in the United States. These are valued at \$70,000,000, and the eggs they lay, would, if divided, allow two hundred and three eggs annually to every person—man, woman and child—in the United States. The value of all the fowls, \$85,800,000, would entitle every person in the country to \$1.12 if they were sold and the proceeds divided. All the weight of the animal products exported, the pork, beef, tallow, ham, bacon and sausage, weigh 818,850 tons, while the weight of the eggs laid yearly tips the scales at 970,393 tons.

It is generally conceded that E. E. Hawkes made the best coroner Lee county has ever had. He gave the duties of the office his personal attention, was prompt in responding to calls and performed the work of the office more thoroughly and satisfactorily than ever before or since. A noteworthy feature of his conduct of the office was the good judgment he displayed in all the cases of sudden death that came to his attention. Mr. Hawkes is now a candidate for the same office and the county cannot afford to neglect the opportunity to avail itself of his services. There should be no question as to his election and there will not be if every voter with the best interests of the county at heart will cast his vote for Mr. Hawkes. The office is not a partisan one; it involves no patronage, and Democrats as well as Republicans should give him their support. The fine record he has made is sufficient warrant for disregarding party lines and affiliations and making the vote in his favor practically unanimous.

LLOYDS ACCEPT BRYAN RISKS. A New York dispatch announces that Lloyd's Exchange, London, has accepted from American business men risks against the election of William Jennings Bryan amounting to \$500,000 in return for premiums amounting to about \$55,000. While the writing of insurance is strictly a business transaction it amounts virtually in

QUITS RANKS OF BRYAN. One of the latest prominent Democrats to announce that he will vote for William H. Taft is Frank H. Jones, secretary of the American Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago, who served under President Cleveland for four years as first assistant postmaster general. In a signed statement to the Republican national committee this thirty-year Democrat and former post-office official gives his reasons for renouncing Bryan and the Democratic party, saying that he does not want prosperity to be imperiled by the "unsound experimental policies" of the Nebraska, and that the "country needs Taft to carry on the Roosevelt policies." The following statements in his letter will commend themselves to thinking people generally:

"I shall vote for Mr. Taft because I believe his election will insure prosperity to the farmer, the mechanic, the business man and the country generally.

"He is a wise, safe, conservative and courageous thinker on economic questions affecting the people and the public welfare.

"He has had large and responsible experience in public affairs and has discharged his many important public duties well, faithfully and patriotically with repeated proofs of his great administrative ability.

"He is a strong, forceful, straightforward man, direct and frank in speech and act and without subterfuge or evasion. He is a man of the people, full of sympathy for his fellow men, hating oppression and unfair dealings and devoted to the best development of this country on just and fair lines that shall insure to everyone his just and fair proportion of this country's prosperity.

"The country needs Mr. Taft to carry on the Roosevelt policies on calm, thoughtful, conservative but positive lines influenced only by what he believes to be for the best and permanent good of the people and the maintenance of this government upon a righteous, upright and dignified plane.

"I have great respect for Mr. Bryan's personal character and patriotism and as a public speaker he has few, if any, equals, but I regard him as an unsound and dangerous thinker on economic questions. Unsound because his public utterances for the last twelve years or more prove it. Dangerous because he has the courage of his convictions, and has a wonderful spell-binding oratorical power in advocating and advancing his views, but no position he has taken on economic questions for the last twelve years (unless it be the tariff, and on this he has wobbled some), has stood the test of time, thought and investigation, and one by one they have been repudiated by the people of this country as unsound and dangerous to their best interests.

"The Democratic party was a sound money party, but under the domination of Mr. Bryan it was forced into the unsound position of advocating the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1, the adoption of which as a policy of this country meant the collapse of business, the cheapening of the purchasing power of wages and a blow to this country it would have taken years to recover from, and if we are to judge by recent letters of Mr. Bryan this cheap money virus is still in his system."

Attention is called to the fact that Mr. Bryan favored, and as far as known, still in his heart favors government ownership of railroads, which Mr. Jones declares is "a rank paternal doctrine totally antagonistic to the teachings and beliefs of the old Democracy, unsound and dangerous on economic and administrative lines in a government such as ours and totally inconsistent with our form of government." Mr. Bryan also favors the guaranteeing of bank deposits and has committed the Democratic party in its platform and in his public speeches to this unsound and dangerous doctrine. It must be admitted, Mr. Jones says, that on economic questions affecting the farmer, the mechanic, business and the country generally, either Mr. Bryan is dangerously unsound or he is willing to mislead the people and threaten their prosperity by advocating measures he knows by the moment his views seem popular. In conclusion Mr. Jones says with great force and good sense:

"I do not want to see the prosperity of this country threatened by unsound experimental policies such as Mr. Bryan's past career proves he is too prone to indulge in.

"Business confidence must be maintained, the factories kept busy and labor employed and the farmer must not be disturbed in the prosperity he is now enjoying.

"The calm, forceful, intelligent and conservative attitude of Mr. Taft in all of the important questions affecting the public good assures us a continued progress.

"To risk Mr. Bryan is dangerous to our business prosperity."

These are cogent and compelling reasons and many others should be influenced by them as well as Mr. Jones.

A FARMER'S WORD TO FARMERS. The Northwestern Agriculturist, published at Minneapolis, the leading agricultural paper in the northwest, though a nonpartisan publication, comes out squarely against Bryan and in favor of Taft in its latest issue on the broad ground of patriotic duty. And it calls upon its 80,000 readers to follow its good example. In a leading article the editor of the Agriculturist says:

"Farmers are called upon by their patriotic duty to cast their votes in all cases at the coming election. This is distinctively a fight for the welfare of the country. * * * The demagogue is abroad in the land and is seeking to array class against class. That being the case it behooves property owners, including farmers, it behooves industrial people who are seeking to further their own interests and the interests of the country in general to see to it that their interests are protected at the polls. If William H. Taft is elected President it will be by the votes of the farmers. We fully expect him to be elected because we expect the farmers to recognize the importance of their duty in this case. Don't fail to go to the polls. Go early and use your influence with your neighbors to see that they turn out on the first Tuesday of November."

There is no doubt in the mind of the Birmingham Age-Herald's editor that winter is approaching. He can hear the autumn vests.

ROYAL Baking Powder Absolutely PURE Insures delicious, healthful food for every home, every day. The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar—made from grapes. Safeguards your food against alum and phosphate of lime—harsh mineral acids which are used in cheaply made powders.

THIS CASE TO A WAGER AGAINST BRYAN AT ODDS OF NINE TO ONE. It has based its transactions upon a most careful investigation of the sentiment among American voters and has received reports from confidential agents and astute politicians concerning the situation in every state in the Union. With those facts as a basis it has worked out a rate of insurance upon the loss liable to be occasioned among business men by the selection of Bryan as President and upon his chances of election. The chances of Bryan's success, however, seem so small to Lloyd's agents that the rate has been extremely low.

A. R. SMITH FOR TREASURER. Albert R. Smith, the Republican candidate for county treasurer, is not unknown to Lee county voters. He is a native and lifelong resident of the county, near Fort Madison, and was the party nominee for the same office a number of years ago. He was also a candidate before a Republican state convention a few years ago for nomination as railroad commissioner. These candidacies have brought Mr. Smith before the people of the county and made them acquainted with him. The result is seen in his selection a second time for the important office of county treasurer.

Mr. Smith is a farmer by occupation, a plain man of the people, capable and honest and in every way worthy endorsement at the polls. Those who know him best are his best friends and are unqualified in their endorsement of him. He is a "straight" man and if elected treasurer will conduct the affairs of that office in a manner in keeping with his character. He has made no selection of a deputy in Keokuk as yet, but in the event of his election he will be governed by the wishes of Keokuk Republicans in the matter. His candidacy is based on his clean record as a man and a citizen and his admitted qualifications for the office. Faithful attention to every detail and scrupulous honesty will mark his discharge of its duties. Voters in favor of these things will make no mistake in casting their ballots for Albert R. Smith.

Valuable Testimony. To the Editor of The Gate City: I am not a politician, but the forty years of law practice has given me an inside into the working of the machinery of the courts, so that a hint from me as to the court should not seem I was a "butinski." The smooth work of the court is dependent in large measure on the competency of the clerk. As the district court has jurisdiction in probate matters it is particularly necessary to have the clerk competent, helpful and kindly to parties having business in the court. The judge has in large measure to depend in probate matters on the clerk for the expeditious conduct of business. Upon the judge depends, where there is an untrained clerk, the details of each case; where the clerk is trained, competent and trustworthy it becomes an easy matter to conduct the complicated details of the probate business in court. Ed. S. Lofton, as clerk of the superior court and as deputy clerk of the district court, has proven himself the right

NOTES AND COMMENT. "Women have birthdays; never years," says the New York Press. Raymond says party lines are shattered in Ohio, but declares Taft will carry the state. Speaking of the independent parties, there are the cooks, says the St. Joseph News-Press. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch notes that balloon rents are the only ones that seem inclined to come down. "A fellow can go down hill without having any pull," notes the Philadelphia Record. With this newly discovered use for constalks, the Chicago Tribune foresees that the constalk fiddle will have to be sold at a higher price. "At some time in the life of every man," says the Atchison Globe, "he has tried poetry and the chicken business."

As the Lake City News views it, one of the objections to publishing campaign contributions may be the circumstance that there are none worth publishing. Many women these days, according to the Nebraska State Journal, apparently believe that the pursuit of happiness lies in the chase after alimony. Aviator Wright predicts that we shall be able to buy good runabout airships for \$300. Repair bills will be small. "The punctures are usually in the aviator," remarks the Marshalltown Times-Republican.

The Iowa packing houses are all doing a good business. Remarking upon this fact, the Cedar Rapids Republican says: "That it is cheering news for Iowa people. There is not a steer nor a hog that ought to be shipped to Chicago to be killed. The place to do the killing is nearer the farm. That is what we are going to come to. We cannot come to it too soon."

"Whatever shortcomings Joseph G. Cannon may have from a temperamental standpoint the time will come," predicts the Des Moines Capital, "when history will accord the man full credit as one of the bravest, most conscientious and most efficient members who ever sat in the lower house of congress, and when intelligent men will marvel at the character of the fight which is being waged against the man now."

Would Mortgage the Farm. A farmer on Rural Route 2, Empire, Ga., W. A. Floyd, by name, says: "Ducklen's Arnica Salve cured the two worst sores I ever saw; one of my hand and one on my leg. It is worth more than its weight in gold. I would not be without it if I had to mortgage the farm to get it." Only 50c at J. Kiedalisch & Son.

RICH RETURNS are sure to follow in opening and continuing to maintain an interest account in a good bank. HE KEOKUK SAVINGS BANK is a reliable institution and will pay 3 per cent interest on Savings Accounts. Capital \$100,000 Surplus \$10,000 OFFICERS: A. E. JOHNSTONE, President; F. W. DAVIS, Vice President; A. J. MATHIAS, Cashier; H. W. WOOD, Assistant Cashier.

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FRED A. WEDLER THE NEW CARPET AND RUG STORE. Make a visit to this store and get the prices. The largest assortment in the city of room size, as well as smaller rugs. Big assortment of Japanese and China matting. A big mill line of sample rugs and sample carpets will be sold at factory cost. REMEMBER THE PLACE, CORNER FOURTH AND JOHNSON STREETS. Your visit will be appreciated.

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