

DAILY GATE CITY, PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

C. F. SKIRVIN, Manager

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No. 116 Secretary.

Keokuk, Iowa, December 8, 1908.

THE SOUL.

The soul, secure in her existence, smiles

At the drawn dagger and defies its point,

The stars shall fade away, the sun himself

Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years

But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,

Unhurt amidst the war of elements,

The wrecks of matter and the crush of worlds.

—Addison.

It is worthy of remark that President-elect Taft didn't wait until January 1 to get on board the water wagon.

The mayor of prohibition Atlanta says he takes a drink whenever he feels like it, but he doesn't tell where or how he gets it.

A Waterloo theatrical manager was fined \$50 for giving a Sunday show. If it was like most Sunday shows the penalty was none too severe.

Chicago men get a little too smart sometimes. One of them taught his wife, a heavyweight, to box, and now he is suing for divorce on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment.

The official count shows that Taft carried Ohio by a plurality of 69,591—figures exceeding the record made by William McKinley in both of his campaigns for the presidency.

Walter Damosch says that good music prevents divorce. In view of the prevalence of divorce it is discouraging to contemplate how much poor music there must be in this country.

Seasonable "poem" in the Springfield Register:

Early to purchase, Early to SHOP, Produces happiness, In bountiful crop.

There was a substantial gain last month in the amount of money in circulation, \$3,117,561.933 on December 1, comparing with \$3,098,498, 21 on November 1.

On an estimated population of 88,990,000, the per capita allowance was \$35.29, an increase of seventeen cents. The average is still twenty-two cents for each inhabitant below the high record established on February 1.

Including treasury holdings the total stock of money in the country is now \$3,392,136,961, against \$3,381,979,734 a month ago. Almost all the increase is in gold.

James J. Hill says it is not fair to Mr. Taft to unload upon him the whole burden of bringing back prosperity while the rest of us, with a contented sigh of anxiety relieved, lean back in our rocking chairs. The remark prompts Collier's Weekly to add:

Industrial prosperity after a panic comes about mainly through a combination of confidence and capital. Mr. Taft's election has supplied the confidence. About the capital there is no magic. Capital is an accumulation of unmade days' work. The average man can help best by making last year's overcoat do another winter and giving a little harder day's work for the same money.

The story is told that Representative

Cushman of Washington went to Speaker Cannon with a letter written by the speaker himself. "Mr. Speaker," he is represented to have said, "I got this letter from you yesterday and I couldn't read it. After I studied it quite a spell I showed it to twenty or thirty of the fellows in the house, and, between us, we have spelled out all the words except those last three. We can't make them out. I want to know if you won't translate those last three words?" Uncle Joe took the letter and studied it. "Those last three words that 'uck you and everybody else,'" he said, "are 'personal and confidential.'"

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Roosevelt's last annual message to congress was submitted to that body today and is printed in full in this issue of The Gate City. As will be seen on perusal, it is an able and conservative state document, in keeping with the present situation of the country and the importance of the issues with which it deals. The message begins with an expression of satisfaction at the present financial standing of the nation, coupled with the hope that the defects in our currency system will be remedied through the recommendations to be proposed by the currency commission. Official statistics are quoted showing that during the past seven years and three months there has been a net surplus in the nation's finances of nearly one hundred millions of receipts over expenditures, a reduction of the interest-bearing debt by ninety millions, in spite of the extraordinary expense of the Panama canal, and a saving of nearly nine millions on the annual interest charge. This, it is pointed out, is an exceedingly satisfactory showing, especially in view of the fact that during this period the nation has never hesitated to undertake any expenditure that it regarded as necessary.

As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate commerce, the President repeats what he has already said again and again in his messages to congress. He believes that under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution the United States has complete and paramount right to control all agencies of interstate commerce, and that the national government alone can exercise this with wisdom and effectiveness. He believes it is worse than folly to attempt to prohibit all combinations as is done by the Sherman anti-trust law, and recommends that there be substituted for that law one which will expressly permit combinations which are in the interest of the public. He would put the railways of the country completely under control of the inter-state commerce commission and remove them from the domain of the anti-trust law. One of the chief features of this control should be securing entire publicity in all matters which the public has a right to know. He recommends also that telegraph and telephone companies engaged in interstate business be put under the jurisdiction of the inter-state commerce commission.

In discussing the subject of labor the President expresses the hope of steady efforts in many directions to bring about a condition of affairs under which the men who work with hand and brain shall own a far greater share than at present of the wealth they produce, and be enabled to invest it in the tools and instruments, by which all work is carried on. The depositors in our savings banks now number over one-tenth of our entire population. The more we increase their number the more we introduce the principles of co-operation into our industry. The President admits that very much of this movement must be outside of anything that can be accomplished by legislation, but he maintains that legislation can do a great deal. He enumerates as follows the reforms for which we should work:

"Postal savings banks will make it easy for the poorest to keep their savings in absolute safety. The regulation of the national highways must be such that they shall serve all people with equal justice. Corporate finances must be supervised so as to make it far safer than at present for the man of small means to invest his money in stocks. There must be prohibition of child labor, diminution of woman labor, shortening of hours of all mechanical labor; stock watering should be prohibited, and stock gambling so far as is possible discouraged. There should be a progressive inheritance tax on large fortunes. Industrial litigation should be encouraged. As far as possible we should lighten the burden of taxation on the small man. We should put a premium upon thrift, hard work, and business energy; but these qualities cease to be the main factors in accumulating a fortune long before that fortune reaches a point where it would be seriously affected by any inheritance tax such as I propose. It is eminently right that the nation should fix the terms upon which the great fortunes are inherited. They rarely do good and they often do harm to those who inherit them in their entirety."

The message takes strong ground in favor of protection for wage-workers, and recommends that the law passed at the last session of congress granting compensation to certain classes of employees of the government be extended to include all employees of the government and be made more liberal in its terms. It is maintained that there is no good ground for the distinction made in the law between those engaged in hazardous occupations and those not so engaged; that if a man is injured or killed in any line of work it was hazardous in his case. It is suggested that the law should be amended to embrace peace officers and

others whose lives may be sacrificed in enforcing the laws of the United States. The President renews his recommendation that the principle of the eight-hour day should be extended as far as practicable to be extended to the entire work being carried on by the government.

Increase of the salaries of federal judges is earnestly urged upon congress. The salaries of the supreme court judges, in the President's view, should be doubled. Protest is voiced against the long delays which now obtain in the administration of justice, and the suggestion is advanced that much of the delay is due to improper regard paid to technicalities which are a mere hindrance to justice. The vicious attacks of the labor leaders on the judiciary is referred to and it is pointed out that the resulting failure should teach workmen that by demanding what is improper and impossible they play into the hands of their foes. "Such a crude and vicious attack upon the courts, even if it were temporarily successful," says the President in this connection, "would inevitably in the end cause a violent reaction and would band the great mass of citizens together, forcing them to stand by all the judges, competent and incompetent alike, rather than to see the wheels of justice stopped. A movement of this kind can ultimately result in nothing but damage to those in whose behalf it is nominally undertaken. 'Class consciousness,'" the President goes on to say, "when it is merely another name for the vice of class selfishness, is equally noxious whether in an employer's association or in a workman's association."

Truer words than these were never uttered. Other topics discussed in the message are forests, inland waterways, national parks, denatured alcohol, pure food, Indian service, secret service, postal savings banks, parcels post, education, census, public health, soldiers' home, inter-state fisheries, foreign affairs, Panama canal, our insular possessions, the Japanese expedition, the army, national guard, and the navy. In speaking of river improvement the President declares that the time for playing with our waterways is past; what is needed is a comprehensive plan intelligently and persistently followed. The essential thing is that the work should go forward under the best possible plan, with the least possible delay. Both postal savings banks and parcels post are unqualifiedly endorsed.

The message is less aggressive in tone than some of its predecessors, but it is not lacking in vigor and clear-cut expression of sensible views.

THE REGISTRY SYSTEM.

In some of the larger cities in the country during the holiday rush last year the postoffice department experimented with such success that its use is to be extended to additional offices this year. As yet no orders have been received authorizing its employment in the Keokuk office and others of like size, but if further experimentation is satisfactory in results its use will become general in the near future.

The numbering of packages system consists of a coupon slip divided into three parts. One of the parts is retained by the registry clerk, a second identical coupon which is gummed at the back is attached to the package and the third part of the slip goes to the sender. All three parts of the slip have the same number. This plan has been adopted to meet the tremendous rush at the registry window during the holiday season. It has been found that nearly ten times the number of packages can be handled in a given time by this numbering process than by the old tedious process of writing out a receipt for each package.

The plan is so simple that it is strange that it was not thought of before. Of course, the packages must be properly addressed by the senders with a return card on the package, as it is only by the legible address on the package and the return card of the sender that the package may be identified and a proper record of it kept. It is required that the sender of a package shall write on the back of the numbered slip given him the name and address to whom the package has been sent.

In this connection it will not be out of place to call attention to the practice of sealing Christmas packages with colored stickers of different designs, such as holly leaves, mistletoe and like small printed Christmas favors. Where the package is thus sealed over the flap of the envelope or other package it subjects the package to first-class instead of fourth-class postage, which is quite an item of expense to be considered. There is no objection to plastering these pretty stickers all over the package, but they must not be used to seal or secure the package if it is expected that the package is to be mailed at fourth-class rates.

BARGAINS IN BURIALS.

There is a war on in Newark, N. J., between rival undertakers, and funerals have been marked down to sacrifice prices. According to an exchange, the competition commenced in the prices of caskets and has been carried right into the grave. A funeral, with all the trimmings that formerly cost \$200 may be obtained now for \$35. Excursion rates prevail along the line and gradual reduction in carriage prices has reached the point where vehicles are thrown in with cut-rate caskets. The struggle between the undertakers has attracted at

tention outside Newark and newspapers are advising the people of that city that now is the time to die if they want to do the thing in style. One feature of the situation is, however, that mortality has fallen below the average since the undertakers' war commenced and the expected collapse of one of the rival firms has been postponed, since it has no opportunity to give its goods away.

RAILROADS AND PEOPLE.

In a late magazine article Mr. B. F. Yoakum, chairman of the executive committee of the Rock Island-Frisco lines, presents with much force the argument that the solution of the railroad problem is to be found in the co-operation of the people and the railroads through the federal government. Among other things, he says: "The average mileage that each freeman travels a year is over 25,000 miles, and he uses \$2,500 worth of fuel. The importance of this will be more clearly illustrated when I say that fuel cost represents over 10 per cent of the total expenses of railroad operation."

"Every mile each freeman travels, ten cents is spent in fuel. This is seven cents of every dollar earned by the railroads. Of that dollar the employees get forty-two cents. The forty-two cents to employees and seven cents for fuel show where forty-nine cents out of every dollar taken in by the railroads goes."

Mr. Yoakum goes on to say that when unjust attacks cause the loss of business to railroads, there is of necessity a reduction of expenses. They can, as has been the case within the last twelve months, temporarily reduce maintenance of track, engines, and cars; but this is only for a short time, as the safety of the lives of the traveling public and the employees becomes too serious a question to allow the railroads to run down.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

A bill embodying Postmaster General Meyer's recommendation for postal savings banks is on the senate calendar for consideration soon after the opening of the short session. The bill came from the senate postoffice committee at the last session by a unanimous vote, and a majority of the senators are openly in favor of the bill. Whatever opposition there might have been in the house will be greatly diminished by reason of the pledge of the Chicago convention in favor of the plan and because of 'vocabulary of the plan throughout the west as a preferable alternative to the scheme for government guarantee of deposits in national banks. Misapprehension of the postal bank as a competitor of national banks or of existing savings banks has been cleared away, and the advantages of the plan as an extension of existing agencies for the encouragement of saving are generally recognized.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

No one seems willing to "point with pride" at the divorce record of the United States. A \$25,000 monument to the late ex-Senator Carmack will be erected by popular subscription in Nashville. "Has anyone noticed the deathly silence which has fallen on Oklahoma?" asks the Marshalltown Times-Republican.

The Council Bluffs Nonpareil fears that the eminent political doctors will disagree in their impressive diagnosis of the tariff. The state department of agriculture has announced that the Iowa state fair for 1909 will begin August 26 and end September 3.

A Baltimore, Maryland, man is the hero of the century. He rushed into a burning building and got his whiskers singed to save his mother-in-law. Physicians say that officers of the navy sleep too much. The Omaha Bee suggests that this is a natural result of being constantly rocked in the cradle of the deep.

Captain Hains says he is unable to recall the shooting of Annis. The Springfield Register suggests that if he could only recall Annis, the shooting would be overlooked. The postmaster general announces that the weight of mail matter from the United Kingdom to the United States during October increased 27 per cent under the penny post.

According to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, another whereforeless why is why can't a young man with wavy hair, who sings beautifully, "Love Me and the Wuh-huh-hur-urld is Mine," earn more than \$16 a week?

Palestine's ancient wells, famous in history for centuries, are giving way to pumping by modern engines and outfits, particularly for watering gardens and orchards. There is a large demand for an import of pumps.

A pile of sauer kraut spilled on the tracks of a Des Moines street car line delayed traffic for ten minutes. The Council Bluffs Nonpareil explains that it was an easy matter to remove the kraut, but it took time to cut through the odor.

Members of the Iowa Board of Railway commissioners will go to Chicago, December 17, to attend the conference of commissioners of the middle west. It is expected there will be present

commissioners from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, etc. Dr. G. Stanley Hall thinks that moral suasion applied with a club has a more lasting effect on the mind of the youth than an admonition to refrain from being naughty lest good boys will not like you.

The United States now consumes yearly a roll of white paper 830 feet high and 377 feet diameter. It would weigh about 2,700,000 tons, and to produce it would have required some \$8,000,000 worth of rags some \$7,400,000 worth of old waste paper and some \$20,800,000 worth of wood pulp to say nothing of other essentials.

The most fetching of "donation parties" ever pulled off on a preacher happened in New York last week. Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington, rector of Grace church, on the morning of his 70th birthday anniversary, found under his breakfast plate a check for \$40,000 contributed by members of his congregation as a token of esteem for his long and faithful service. The spirit of that congregation may be emulated without violating the patent laws. Simply go down and dig up.

Robbing the Postoffices.

Omaha Bee: The stealing of \$18,000 worth of stamps and currency from an Indiana postoffice serves to call attention to the report of the postal department showing that this kind of thievery has been growing rapidly for a number of years, in spite of the most determined efforts of the secret service to stamp it out. During the last year there were 1,802 such robberies, an increase of 231 over the preceding year. The government assumed losses by robbery of postage stamps amounting to \$72,984; postal funds, \$15,627, and money order funds, \$12,711, a total of about \$102,000.

In the course of the year 372 post-office burglars were arrested and all but a half dozen were convicted. The government never ceases its pursuit of these thieves, who are mostly professionals and make a specialty of robbing postoffices. One feature of the case, always puzzling to the government officials, is the readiness with which business men in high standing will purchase hundreds of dollars' worth of stamps from persons not connected with the postal service, and without either asking questions or reporting to the authorities. These stamps are necessarily sold through a "fence" and at a liberal discount, and the government secret service men contend, with some show of reason, that merchants who buy their stamps in large quantities from unknown men are making it easy for the postoffice burglars to go on with their work.

The loss in such cases falls on the postmaster, who, while he may be reimbursed by an act of congress, is always compelled to wait a long time for the adjustment of his claim. Recently congress has authorized the postmaster general to settle minor losses, where the facts are satisfactory to the inspectors, but in cases of large loss, like that in the Indiana town, the postmaster must wait for his relief in special legislation.

A Real Reform.

Cedar Rapids Gazette: The several thousand postmasters of the fourth class who the past week were placed under the operation of the civil service law are not the only people who are mightily pleased. Patrons of the department will also be gratified. There isn't a reason under the sun why the postmasters should not be under civil service rules. The position of postmaster is no different from that of rural or city carrier, or railway postal clerk. As the placing of carriers and clerks under civil service benefited service, so will the placing of postmasters under civil service prove a benefit. The postoffice department will improve the more it is placed on a strictly business basis.

Placing the postmasters of the fourth class under the civil service act will take a machine power out of the hands of congressmen. A congressman will no longer have the special backing of the men he appoints to the little offices, but at the same time he will no longer invite the opposition of the more men whom he doesn't appoint; in reality he will be the gainer. It is safe to say that the average congressman will be mightily glad to get rid of the task of picking postmasters from the numerous applicants.

The removal of the postmasters of the fourth class from the realm of political patronage is a real reform. It will benefit the service; besides it is a concession which should be made to those who take the office. A postmaster should not be given an office for merely four years, and be compelled to buy equipment which he may or may not be able to dispose of when he is kicked out of office.

Impromptu Versus Formal Speeches. The men of a certain fire department had decided to give a fine presentation ax to their chief as a tribute to his long, faithful service. Elaborate plans were made for a program to be given on the occasion, and one of the men was selected to deliver the speech. The eloquent and flowery tribute he prepared cost him two or one would have guessed—unless it was the chief, who had caught certain rumors, and was himself secretly spending labored hours over another oratorical triumph.

The flag draped hall was crowded when the great day arrived. On the

platform sat a semicircle of firemen in full red-shirted regalia. The program opened with the inevitable "piano selection," and solemnly proceeded until the fateful moment, when the chosen fireman stepped to the middle of the platform to address the chief.

The spokesman opened his mouth, but words came not. He looked at the chief, at the door, at the ceiling, then made a wide gesture, gave a convulsive gulp, and said: "Here's your ax."

The chief, who had arisen, gave him one look of dumb consternation and said: "Hell! is that the ax?"

The Unkindest Cut.

Men have borne the news of troubles such as ruin, with a grin. They've been brave and never faltered in a battle's roaring din. But to some there comes a moment. When they're knocked completely flat, That is when some kind friend chuckles: "Say, old man, you're getting fat."

Many a steady heart has faltered As the mirror showed his hair, Striking with gray about the temples, Or a bald spot spreading there; Comfort, though, was quick in coming— He could hide it with his hat— But this knocks a man a twister: "Bill, by George, you're getting fat!"

Old age comes, and we accept it.

Though with secret, pained regret, Then, our inner self keeps saying But, O shades of flesh reducers, Fate deals her most sinning hat. When the old acquaintance giggles: "Say, old boy, you're getting fat!" —New Orleans Times-Democrat.

New River Discovered.

Scott County (Mo.) Citizen: At Bird's Point, opposite Cairo, some months ago, an incline used by the Iron Mountain Railroad company, sank and went out of sight. The river was dragged to locate the lost incline but it could not be found and a government diver and expert was sent down to see where the incline had gone and locate the same. The diver found the bottom of another river which runs under Bird's Point and Cairo and the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers at right angles with the two rivers.

This river is believed to be as large as the Mississippi river, though not so swift a current, and the water is of a different color and will mix with the water of the Mississippi. The scarcity of fish at this point is attributed to this new found underground river, where the fish are supposed to have gone. The Halliday Brothers of Cairo are going to sink a shaft to see if the river can be located under their property in Cairo, and if it is located, property may be very cheap in Cairo and Bird's Point.

—Do your Christmas shopping with Keokuk merchants.

IT WILL BE UNLAWFUL. After January 1st, '09, to sell butter in the City of Chicago unless made from milk or cream from non-tuberculous cows; or unless made from pasteurized milk or cream. Keokuk makes no such restrictions, but does the butter you eat comply with either provision? POND LILY CREAMERY. MADE IN KEOKUK FROM PASTEURIZED CREAM.

IOWA STATE INSURANCE CO. KEOKUK, IOWA. Oldest Company in the State. Incorporated in 1855. Insurance written since organization \$229,563,576.47. H. R. COLLISON, City Agent.

STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT. T. R. J. AYRES & SONS. Will close out AT COST OR LESS the following goods: Rich Cut Glass, Hand-painted China, Statuary, Fine Electric Lamps, Chafing Dishes, Baking Dishes, Silver-plated Hollowware. All goods of the finest quality, but they must be closed out. The sale on them is strictly CASH. Great chance for holiday presents at cost prices. Please call and investigate. T. R. J. AYRES & SONS, 509-511 Main St., Keokuk, Iowa.

PATRONIZE A BANK. Particular Attention Paid to Business Accounts. Will Also Pay Three Per Cent Interest on Savings Accounts. Capital Surplus Additional Liability of Stockholders \$100,000.00 \$100,000.00 \$100,000.00. OFFICERS: A. E. JOHNSTONE, President; F. W. DAVIS, Vice President; A. J. MATHIAS, Cashier; H. W. WOOD, Assistant Cashier.

INTEREST. Credited on savings accounts at the KEOKUK NATIONAL BANK on Dec. 1st. Bring in your book and have the interest entered in it. 3 PER CENT ON TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

Cook With Gas.