

DAILY GATE CITY, PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY, C. F. SKIRVIN, Manager

DAILY BY MAIL, One year, \$2.00; Four months, \$1.00; Six months, \$1.50; One month, 25c

Postage prepaid, terms in advance. All subscription orders should give the P. O. address and state whether it is a new or renewal order.

THE GATE CITY is on sale at the following news stands: Hotel Keokuk, cor. Third and Johnson, C. H. Rollins & Co., 231 Main Street, Ward Bros., 231 Main Street, Depot News Stand.

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The Association of American Advertisers (New York City) has examined and certified to the circulation of this publication. Only the figures of circulation contained in its report are guaranteed by the Association.

Keokuk, Iowa, December 10, 1908.

OUR DUTY HERE. What is our duty? To tend From good to better—thence to best; Grateful to drink life's cup—then bend Unarmuring to our bed of rest; To pluck the flowers that round us blow, Scattering our fragrance as we go.

Don't make all you can," advises John D. Rockefeller. What then? "Can" all you make? Hayti is now experiencing the sensations incident to "the cold gray dawn of the morning after."

There are all sorts of ways of getting even with the world. A Mexican convict, condemned to death, invented an airship. President Roosevelt says he is tepid on woman suffrage. It will be news to a great many people that the President is tepid on anything.

Somebody who claims to know says that kissing will remove freckles. There may be something in this. It is worthy of a trial at any rate. The diamond trade is improving, which is further evidence of better times. People generally do not buy precious stones when money is scarce and hard to obtain.

Further up in Iowa they have been having six inches of snow and below zero weather of late. In this favored latitude the weather thus far has been only cold enough for a tonic effect. It seems as though football might be still further reformed to advantage. During its brief season this year it killed twelve and injured 350. The list of casualties is greater than in a South American revolution.

The question whether one has read the President's message is irrelevant, immaterial, impertinent and conducive to a large amount of unnecessary lying. The United States the world's shoemaker, is the text of a report of Uncle Sam's statistical department. It shows that this year we have exported 6,552,412 pairs of shoes, of a value of \$11,469,559. This is exclusive of large exports to Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands, and to Porto Rico.

The Wisconsin supreme court has decided that a school district has the right to rent a Roman Catholic school building for public school purposes and employ Catholic nuns to conduct it, provided the work done is non-religious in character and in accord with the methods established for other public schools in the state.

A Daniel has come to judgment in the Vermont legislature with a bill intended to guard newspapers against "fakers." It makes the giving of false news to a newspaper with intent to deceive punishable by fines ranging from \$5 to \$20 for each offense.

John W. Geiger of Cedar Rapids delivered the address at the memorial services of the Des Moines lodge of Elks, held in the Central Church of Christ in the latter city last Sunday. One of the things he said was that "it is better to be a live Elk than a dead moose, and it's better to be a live brother than a dead deacon."

There is a farmer near Monmouth who is mighty tired of having his land tramped over by hunters. A few days ago he set to work to compose a notice to this effect. He painted the notice on a couple of barrel staves and nailed them to a tree, where they conveyed to the world the following startling information: "Notis—Trespasers will B persekuted to the full extent of 2 mean mungrel dogs wich ain't never ben overly soshibl to strangers and I dubble bari s.o.t gun wich ain't loaded with softy pillers; dam if I ain't gettin tired of this hel-raisin on my property."

The Quincy Whig suffered severely from fire and water Tuesday night but managed to appear in smaller form yesterday morning. Its loss is quite large. The editorial rooms, business office and the composing rooms were completely wrecked and much damage was done in the press room in which water stood several feet deep. An \$8,000 press was half submerged, a motor worth \$100 and the furnace, stereotyping apparatus and other equipment were destroyed. Almost two carloads of paper, worth \$2,000 were ruined. The Whig has the sincere sympathy of its many friends in its misfortune. It is one of the brightest, ablest and newest papers in the west and stands deservedly high in the public regard.

A French savant, Dr. A. Chalmette, has published a learned monograph to prove that mankind is ultimately doomed to destruction by rats. He figures it out to a scientific standstill that the omnivorous and omnipresent rodent is proving itself the best fitted for the struggle for existence, and with a prodigious rate of increase, despite men's warfare upon it, it must eventually dominate the land. The Davenport Democrat takes notice of the prediction to say: "It has been demonstrated that a single pair of rats will in two years have 1,536 progeny. The rest is easy if one have a pencil, a pad, and a mathematical turn of mind. However, before the conquering rat succeeds in wiping out the human race it will have to reckon with the cat, the alley variety of which has never shown any symptoms of race suicide."

The report is in circulation in Chicago that Mrs. Potter Palmer is at the head of a syndicate which is negotiating to obtain control of the Record-Herald. If the syndicate obtains the paper it is planned that H. H. Kohlsaat will be restored as publisher. Mrs. Palmer, it is said, has practically determined to put up sufficient funds to permit the purchase of the Record-Herald in order that her sons, Potter and Honor, may enter the business field. Potter Palmer, it appears, recently married Pauline Kohlsaat, daughter of the former newspaper owner, and it is said it is through the efforts of Mr. Kohlsaat that the society leader has been interested in the proposition. The purchase price placed upon the property by Mr. Lawson is said to be approximately \$2,000,000.

Congressman Walter L. Smith of this state has introduced in the house a bill that is of considerable importance in connection with appropriations. It provides briefly that when the secretary of the treasury finds that estimates of appropriations needed for the ensuing fiscal year exceed the estimates for the revenue in the same period, he shall advise the President of the fact and the President in turn shall advise congress what estimates for appropriations can best be reduced without injury to the public service or if the estimates can not be cut, what loans or new taxes can be raised in order to get more revenue. That would throw responsibility for heavy appropriations directly on the administrative end of the government. Judge Smith thinks it would tend to economy. Washington advices say that the bill is attracting much attention there.

REPORT ON PANAMA CANAL. What was accomplished toward the construction of the big ditch across the American isthmus during the last fiscal year is told with much detail in the report of the Canal Commission, just published. It shows that the total cost of the canal to date, including the \$29,000,000 appropriated for the year 1909, is \$120,964,468. With an average of 43,057 workers on the pay roll, the death rate per thousand was 18.32, less than half of the previous year. The decrease was especially among the blacks, and this testifies to improved sanitation. During the year 929 patients in the hospitals died out of 27,523 treated. Machinery in use at the end of the year included 101 steam shovels, thirty American and French locomotives, 3,451 American cars and 659 French cars, twenty cranes, thirty unloaders, nine track shifters, eighteen pile drivers, twenty-three earth spreaders and forty-six unloading ploys. All the settlements were supplied with electric lights, numbering 13,365 sixteen-candle lights.

Increasing confidence of success toward the ideal of every man and woman of normal health and ability of an independent life from start to finish. The report takes positive ground against the bread line as the result of 5,300 invitations to call on the Charity Bureau which were placed in the hands of men in the bread lines. Only 136 bread line men did call, and most of those refused to work or to give information about themselves so that "the experience indicated that not many men looking for work were in the bread lines, and confirms the conviction that the only way to stop the bread line is to stop the bread." There was a large increase in the number of women applicants for work.

TO OUR ABSENT LOVED ONES. Come home, dear Tim, come home to us now, The clock in the steeple strikes one; The fat's in the fire, the council's re-negged, He's jealous is Off; you're undone.

Come home, B'r'er Talb't, come home to us now, The clock in the steeple strikes two; There's nothin' doin' in the payment of bills And it's "twenty and three" for you.

Come home, both of yez, come home to us now, The clock in the steeple strikes three; The longer you stay the more you'll be out, Since "refreshments" no longer are free.

Come home, all of yez, come home to us now, The clock in the steeple strikes four; Just chuck your expense bills into the fire, And resolve to get even, and more.

A REAL COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM. The University of Missouri, at Columbus, Missouri, has established a Department of Journalism, and offers the degree of Bachelor of Science in Journalism to graduates of a four-year course. The dean of the department and head professor is Walter Williams, LL. D., late of the Kansas City Times, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and other papers, president of the Missouri Press Association and of other distinguished newspaper bodies. He spoke in the Keokuk opera house a few Sundays ago under the auspices of the local Y. M. C. A. Assistant Professor Silas Bent served his time on the Louisville Times and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Instructor O. G. Ross practised on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Republic. All these instructors, it will be noted, are practical newspaper men.

An interesting pamphlet sets forth the reasons, aims and scope of the new department. The aim is "to attain for journalism—not to make journalists." The general studies specified as bearing directly upon this training are English history, government, finance, sociology, philosophy, and psychology. "In addition," says the pamphlet, "there are given courses on the professional side by experienced newspapermen, in the history and principles of journalism, reporting, correspondence, editorial-writing, newspaper jurisprudence, illustrative art, newspaper publishing and newspaper administration. A small but well-balanced daily newspaper is being issued, giving to students actual laboratory work, the training of the real newspaper office. Of the four years' course of the department of journalism the first two are devoted directly to the general studies above set down, and to others in science, modern languages, and mathematics, the last two years being taken up chiefly with the work of special courses in journalism. These courses are: history and principles of journalism; newspaper-making (practice on the daily paper); newspaper administration; magazine and class journalism; comparative journalism; newspaper-publishing; newspaper jurisprudence; news-gathering; correspondence; office equipment; advertising. It is added that courses will be offered later in advertisement-writing, book-reviewing, proof-reading, the reading of exchanges, current events, make-up and head-line writing, and the criticism of art, music, and drama. The progress and outcome of the experiment will be watched with interest.

WORK OF ORGANIZED CHARITY. The Charity Organization Society, which operates in many different cities from headquarters in New York, reports that in the past year it carried 5,771 families at New York, compared to 3,336 families the year before. It is able to say that it has not refused help to any family in need with notice. At no time had it seemed advisable to use artificial employment on a large scale or to establish extraordinary agencies of relief. The report says that the nationalization of social reform movements is going on rapidly, and that the organized Pittsburg survey, including the typhoid fever investigation, the study of San Francisco relief work, of workmen's insurance and of the placing out of children, are some of the evidences of this new spirit. This general interest in such subjects offers "the best guarantee that we shall not find it necessary to provide a government pension for all our old men and women, and that we may work with

increasing confidence of success toward the ideal of every man and woman of normal health and ability of an independent life from start to finish.

The report takes positive ground against the bread line as the result of 5,300 invitations to call on the Charity Bureau which were placed in the hands of men in the bread lines. Only 136 bread line men did call, and most of those refused to work or to give information about themselves so that "the experience indicated that not many men looking for work were in the bread lines, and confirms the conviction that the only way to stop the bread line is to stop the bread."

RAILROADS SHOW DECREASE. According to the report of the state railroad commission just filed with the governor, although Iowa railroads have earned more this year than ever before, they have spent more than the increase and their net earnings are less than previous years.

Total earnings of railroads excepting the Great Western were \$63,000,000 as against \$60,000,000 for the year 1906. Expenses were \$46,000,000, compared with \$50,000,000 for the preceding year, making the net earnings about \$3,000,000 less. During the year 211 people were killed and 1,550 injured. This is an increase in the number killed and a decrease in the number injured.

NOTES AND COMMENT. A Bussey man, according to the Press, is greatly afflicted with "trasyptails."

The pointed paragrapher of the Chicago News has noticed that fast trains of thought frequently jump the track. A Tennessee woman has been convicted of "bootlegging." The Clinton Herald wonders how she worked the game.

Alex Miller says that when he studies music it will be the pipe organ, because then he will have to take no other form of exercise. The Washington Democrat has noticed that most of the talk women engage in over the telephone concerns committee meetings and things.

Paul Morton asserts that money is now "a drug on the market." The Des Moines Tribune concedes that it's good for what ails many of us.

According to the bachelor of the New York Press, it takes almost as much money to send a boy through college as it does to support him afterward. The estimated crop of apples for 1908 is 62,500,000 bushels, according to reports received by Henry J. Neely, secretary of the national apple show at Spokane.

"The idea in Dubuque is that if monuments are to be erected there in commemoration of Senator Allison and Speaker Henderson, the state should pay for them," remarks the Sioux City Journal. "In Des Moines the idea is that if the state is to pay Des Moines is the place."

Dr. Lyman Abbott approves football because real courage cannot be developed without real danger. The Dubuque Telegraph-Herald suggests that followed to its logical conclusion, the doctor would encourage husbands to return home in the wee small hours with a hiccough on their breath and their shoes in hand.

An acre is 6,272,640 square inches. An inch of water on an acre is, therefore 6,272,640 cubic inches. That amount, at 227 cubic inches to the gallon, equals 22,000 gallons, or 220,000 pounds, or 100 long tons. An inch of rain is, in other words, rain falling at the rate of 100 long tons to the acre.

A woman in Sweden may earn her own living, and there is nothing in the fact that will lower her social position. Many professional women are the daughters of court officials, and they are received and honored in court circles. In every sort of occupation women work just as men do and many kinds of work are entrusted entirely to them. The care of the graves in cemeteries is, for instance, in Sweden, the work of women.

Demand Label on Eggs. BOONE, Iowa, Dec. 10.—The Hawthorne club one of the exclusive clubs of this city, has passed resolutions asking the grocers of Boone to label eggs, whether fresh or packed. The matter is to be brought before the federation.

Looked Good in the Dark. Pochahontas Republican: A Gilmore man was seen in the act of stealing two hods of coal from a car one night last week and was permitted to take the coal in peace. The car he made the radd on was loaded with crushed rock, but it evidently looked good in the dark.

DIPHTHERIA IN THE MAILS. Bottle Filled With Disease Cultures Sent Through Mails With Loose Wrappings.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 10.—To discover the identity of some person who through criminal negligence has endangered the health and lives in hundreds of Iowa homes, the state board of health officials have solicited the assistance of government officials. Secretary Louis Thomas, yesterday received through the mail a package loosely wrapped, containing an ordinary vaseline bottle corked but not sealed. Within this was some cotton batting and on the outside a label that read, "Throat culture, supposed to be diphtheria." This had come through the United States mail. The postmark on the outside was so blurred that the point from which it was sent could not be ascertained. The label and outside wrapper, however, have been disinfected and the handwriting will be placed in the hands of detectives as a clue.

Dr. Thomas says that it is probable the person so negligent in sending the culture in this way did not even attempt to disinfect the package, which probably came directly from the sick room. It is possible, Mr. Thomas says, that the hundreds of letters in the mail pouch with this package were infected with the dread disease that causes so many deaths and is fought so desperately by the state board through physicians.

Dr. Thomas says if he can ascertain the identity of the sender of this package he will prosecute him to the limit. Besides being guilty of criminal negligence the sender violated the government postal laws in sending a glass bottle through the mail and also in sending infected matter through the mail.

This is not the first time such a thing has occurred, but is the first time anyone ever sent a diphtheria culture so. Other times specimens of scarlet fever have been received. So far the board has received no letter that would disclose the sender and the motive of sending it unexplained cannot be conceived. It is through misapprehension that the package was sent here. The state board here has nothing to do with tests. Such are sent to the state bacteriological laboratory at Iowa City, but only in proper test tubes furnished by the department to reputable representatives in the important cities. These are then sent by express.

He Has Never Been "Gentled." Marshalltown Times-Republican: President Roosevelt makes mistakes, not serious mistakes however. Perhaps in the opinion of a great many good people the President falls short of the dignity which they feel should appertain to the President of the United States when he gets down to brass tacks and tells certain newspapers, interests and individuals what he thinks of them. He gets mad, good and mad, and acts like a man who is angry. When he has got through with his opponent there are strips of clothing, pieces of hide and bushels of epithet scattered all over the front yard. It does lack dignity, it is far off from our old ideals of "statesmanship," gained by observation of the poseur with one hand under his coat tails and the other in the bosom of his vest; it lacks the calm of the senate and approaches the turmoil of the house; but it is satisfactory, satisfactory to Roosevelt who is as much Roosevelt as he is President, and to the general public, which is backing Roosevelt.

Roosevelt doesn't say, "I regret that the gentleman who edits and the capitalists who own these mighty mediums of publicity published in New York and Indianapolis, should have been deceived into making charges which are largely unfounded in fact." Not Roosevelt. He says they lied and calls for them to show the proof of their scandalous assertions or turn their flanks to the branding iron. He goes on without mincing of words and tells the public why these interests buy newspapers to use as they use attorneys and hire editors as they make corporation officials and bank borrowers out of office boys. Notice that when Theodore Roosevelt calls a man or a gang hard names he lays off his coat and prepares to make good right then and there.

It isn't nice for the President to call names, but the President has never been classified as "nice" individually or officially. It isn't dignified, but a President who hunts wildcats under the camera, plays tennis and carries the lethal punch behind his boxing gloves is not a stickler over dignity. The truth is Theodore is rude when he gets excited, but he's honest, unafraid and dangerous to crooks, slanderers and corporation hold-up men. He has done things that make these classes hate him and pursue him and his administration. But they only chase about so far.

If we were to make a choice, which would we prefer, Teddy, the rough rider and his accomplishment, or a real dignified sort without energy? The bucking bronco or a hack which has been "gentled" until anybody or interest can ride him?

Old Fashioned Religion in the Bible. Amelia E. Barr in the New York World: O, if people would only have more faith in the old truths! Here I am at seventy-nine years of age. I have studied all the "cults" and "new thoughts," Hindoo mysticism, reincarnation, spiritualism and the rest, and back I come to the old fashion-

Dr. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. Perfectly pure, unquestionably wholesome. A pure food factor ante-dating all pure food laws. Indispensable for raising finest cake, biscuit and pastry. No Alum. No Lime Phosphates. Be on guard against alum in your food. Prof. Johnson of Yale College says he "regards the introduction of alum into baking powders as most dangerous to health." Read the label. Buy only where Cream of Tartar is named.

Who get no section job and pay, Von dollar chuga-fem a day? Yim Hill, by yim. Who mak wheat field where prairie ban? Yim Hill. Vid harvest jobs for Norska man? Yim Hill. Den tak us all back free in fall By MinneaPolis and Saint Paul? Who ban das biggest chap of all? Yim Hill, by yimminy yim! —George Fitch in Peoria Herald-Transcript. Will Stand Pat. Marion Register: They say the warring factions in Iowa have grounded their arms. The standpatters will stand pat on that. If there is trouble again they will not inaugurate it. Governor Boies. Sioux City Tribune: Ex-Governor Horace Boies is eighty-one years old today, having been born at Aurora, New York, December 7, 1827. He is one of Iowa's grand old men. Who iss a frien' of Norska man? Yim Hill. An' gat him yoe each time he can? Yim Hill. No matter if aye ban a yay

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