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Keokuk, Iowa, December 29, 1908.

In other words, Banker Poor is poor. Anyway, Mr. Bryan can qualify as a landslide expert.

On the other hand, the smaller the turkey the less enduring the hash.

A Chicago man asserts that he has never lied to his wife. What a monumental liar he is!

Fortunate was the community that escaped a fatal affray during the Christmas holidays as its contribution to peace on earth and good will to men.

The consensus of Iowa newspaper opinion is that Warden Sanders of the Fort Madison penitentiary may be a very good man, but he isn't especially wise one.

Mr. Chaffin, the Prohibition candidate for President, says he will win in four years from now. Perhaps. He ran only 10,000 votes behind the Prohibition candidate four years ago.

Over in Jersey it has been decided that a husband is not legally justified in abandoning a wife who burns the steak. Is this a sample of the "Jersey justice" we have heard so much about?

Real winter weather is promised for the latter part of this week. In the early part of the week fresh winds will blow from the west. Forewarned should be forearmed to the extent of making everything snug and comfortable.

Calendars have changed before, and the Council Bluffs Nonpareil thinks it is high time that a readjustment be made at the present time, at least for this section of the country. It would have spring begin April 1 and winter January 1.

Hotel and restaurant keepers in Seattle have pledged themselves not to exact higher prices than usual next summer. Assurances to this effect are a part of the regular pre-exposition program, but they were never known to interfere with the amount of the gross receipts.

According to statistics prepared by the department of agriculture, every farm worker in the state of Iowa averages an annual income of \$611.11. This is over \$50 a month and is presumptive evidence that the lot of the average farm laborer in Iowa is not an unhappy one.

Secretary Wilson has issued a bulletin against Bruschettini's pig cholera vaccine and Bruschettini's hog cholera and swine plague serum on the ground that they are not reliable agents for protecting hogs from hog cholera. Tests were made in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer, and all the hogs treated with the vaccine and serum contracted hog cholera within the usual period of time after exposure and finally died, exhibiting typical lesions of that disease.

More than half of "Dixie" is now "dry" territory. In the remaining area the sale of intoxicants is upon a restricted basis. The cities in that section are the only remaining strongholds of the saloon. Kentucky the

largest distilling state in the union, with 119 counties, has but four in which the sale of liquor is not prohibited. The difficulty of enforcing prohibition laws is conceded to be one of the chief obstacles to its success in many states. This phase of the question, together with a falling off in revenues, is to some extent baffling to the authorities. The experience of the north has been that successful enforcement of prohibitory legislation depends altogether upon public sentiment. The same will likely be found true in the south.

Henry Clews, whose healthy optimism has frequently been remarked in these columns, thus closes his latest financial letter to The Gate City: "The year draws to a close with a hopeful but sober spirit pervading all business circles. Conditions, though in happy contrast with a year ago, are not entirely satisfactory. Trade is often quiet and recovery slow, but the outlook for 1909 is encouraging, for the situation is sound, confidence is growing and our natural resources are unimpaired."

The natives of Morocco have some queer adages and some that closely resemble ours. Thus they say: "The camel cannot see his hump, but plainly sees the ones on its neighbors;" "He who depends on his neighbors will go to bed hungry;" "A wise enemy is better than a stupid friend;" "Cross the rushing stream, but beware of the quiet, noiseless one;" "In this world there are three things not to be trusted—luck, women and horses;" "Mounting a horse, loosing the hunting dogs and hearing earrings rattle drives dull care away."

POSTOFFICE ROBBERIES. Postoffice robberies have become increasingly frequent of late and have entailed large losses upon individual officials and the postoffice department. During the last year alone there were 1,802 such robberies, an increase of 281 over the preceding. And this increase is made in spite of the fact that the secret service has been and is making the most determined fight to stamp out this particular kind of thievery. From these 1,802 robberies the government assumed losses amounting to \$72,984 in postage stamps, \$15,627 postal funds, and \$12,711 money-order funds, combining to form a total loss of about \$102,000, a sum well worth considering.

So much for the number of robberies committed and the loss resulting from them. As for the detection of the criminals responsible for these thefts the statistics compiled by the authorities show that during the same year 372 postoffice burglars were arrested and all but about half a 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.

Not long ago a postoffice in an Indiana town was robbed of \$18,000 worth of stamps and currency, the loss falling upon the postmaster, who, for his own reimbursement, must wait till special legislation provides relief.

TRADE SCHOOLS RECOMMENDED. The report of the committee of ten prominent business men and educators appointed by the national society for the promotion of industrial education, to consider the relation of industrial education to the general system of education of the country, has been made public. The report recommends the establishment of industrial improvement schools and trade schools and a national department with a secretary of education in the cabinet. On the question of trade schools, the report says:

"All who are acquainted with education in European nations know that in the matter of industrial training we are far behind such countries as Germany. That our apprentice system even if materially extended can offer industrial education to only a comparatively few; that there are practically no facilities for the training of the youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen for industrial pursuits and the opportunities for those in the trades to improve their skill by theoretical training is confined to isolated and occasional schools."

Such schools as may articulate with the grammar school for the training of youths will assume the form of training schools for particular industries. It is conceded that the boy or girl trained in them will not be a skilled journeyman, but will have received a fundamental training in those things, which, it is suggested, will make him a skilled journeyman in a short time.

NEW CARE AND LOCOMOTIVES. During the year thirty-two car building companies in the United States and Canada built 78,271 cars, which is only 27 per cent of the number built in 1907. These figures include subway and elevated cars, but not street railway and interurban cars. Of the cars built in the United States, 66,751 were freight cars for domestic service, 1,206 freight for export, 1,566 passenger cars for domestic service and seventy-one passenger for export. Canada built 8,593 freight cars for domestic service, five freight for export and seventy-nine passenger cars for domestic service. In 1907 Canada built 9,159 freight cars and 106 passenger cars.

Returns from eleven locomotive builders in the United States and Canada show a total of 2,342 engines, about the same relative falling off as in the cars built. Of the 2,124 built in the United States, 1,668 were for domestic use and 456 for export. These figures include 245 electric and seventy-nine compound locomotives. The Canadian engines, 218, were all for domestic service. Of these twenty were compound.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE QUESTION. The country's forests again have been called upon to supply about 4,000,000 Christmas trees, and again many persons have asked themselves and have queried the United States Forest Service: "Is the custom a menace to the movement for forest preservation?"

In the millions of happy homes over the country, where the younger generation has made the Christmas tree the center of play since early Friday morning, there are many mothers and fathers who have given the question more or less thought. From Sunday Schools and other organizations also, which hold an annual celebration around a gayly trimmed evergreen for the benefit of the little ones, has come the question whether it is consistent to urge conservation of forest resources and then to cut millions of young trees every year to afford a little joy in the passing holiday season. The answer is supplied by United States Forester Gifford Pinchot, who says:

"It is consistent and proper that the custom should be maintained. Trees are for use, and there is no other use to which they could be put which would contribute so much to the joy of man as their use by the children on this one great holiday of the year. The number of trees cut for this use each year is utterly insignificant when compared to the consumption for other purposes for which timber is demanded. Not more than 4,000,000 Christmas trees are used each year, one in every fourth family. If planted four feet apart they could be grown on less than 1,500 acres. This clearing of an area equal to a good sized farm each Christmas should not be a subject of much worry, when it is remembered that for lumber alone it is necessary to take timber from an area of more than 100,000 acres every day of the year."

"It is true that there has been serious damage to forest growth in the cutting of Christmas trees in various sections of the country, particularly in the Adirondacks and parts of New England, but in these very sections the damage through the cutting of young evergreens for use at Christmas is infinitesimal when compared with the loss of forest resources through fires and careless methods of lumbering. The proper remedy is not to stop using trees but to adopt wiser methods of use. It is generally realized that a certain proportion of land must always be used for forest growth, just as for other crops. Christmas trees are one form of this crop. There is no more reason for an outcry against using land to grow Christmas trees than to grow flowers."

The forest service upholds the Christmas tree custom, but recognizes at the same time, that the indiscriminate cutting of evergreens to supply the holiday trade has produced a bad effect upon many stands of merchantable kinds of trees in different sections of the country. Waste and destruction usually result when woodlands are not under proper system of forest management. Foresters say that it is not by denying ourselves the wholesome pleasure of having a bit of nature in the home at Christmas that the problem of conserving the forests will be solved, but by learning how to use the forests wisely and properly. The ravages through forest fires must be checked, the many avenues of waste of timber in its travel from the woods to the mill and thence to the market must be closed, and almost numberless important problems demand attention before the Christmas tree.

Germany is conceded to have the highest developed system of forest management of any country, yet its per capita use of Christmas trees is greatest. The cutting of small trees for Christmas is not there considered in the least as a menace to the forest, but on the contrary, as a means of improving the forest by thinning and as a source of revenue. It is therefore constantly encouraged.

There is little doubt but that the time will come when the Christmas tree business will become a recognized industry in this country, and that as much attention will be given to it as will be given to the growing of crops of timber for other uses. This time may not be far off, for it is already understood that only through the practice of forestry, which means both conservation of the timber which remains and carefully planned systems of reforestation, will it be possible to supply the country with its 40,000,000 feet of lumber needed each year, as well as the few million little trees used at Christmas time.

RED CROSS STAMP SALES. Announcement has been made that the success of the Red Cross Christmas stamp has been such as to induce continuance of the sale until New

Year's. Reports from New England show a sale of 3,000,000 Christmas stamps with receipts of \$80,000. The fund is to fight tuberculosis. Encouragement for the committee in its endeavor of extending the stamp sales until New Year's day has come from many influential sources. Among the letters received at headquarters was one from Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), in which the writer said:

"Ladies: In paying New Year's bills and also in postponing them, I will stick on a Red Cross stamp. If you will suggest in print that the whole country do the same, the Red Cross will prosper to your content. I know this, for I know that all America is warm at the heart and generous at this time of the year, and will thank you for your suggestion and follow it. Respectfully yours, "MARK TWAIN."

NOTES AND COMMENT. "It begins to look as if almost any old thing can get into the evangelist class," observes the Manso Democrat.

It is the observation of the Sioux City Journal that a town afflicted with chronic peanuttitis is beyond medical aid.

Congress is preparing a bill providing a tax on dams. "Another blow at Speaker Cannon?" inquires the Omaha Bee.

The Eagle Grove Eagle says that good Republicans—with emphasis on the good—are always sane and practical on the tariff.

Billy Sunday is headed for Marshalltown. The Council Bluffs Nonpareil regards it as fortunate for the children's Christmas presents that Santa Claus got there first.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat suggests that outster of the Standard Oil may work so well in Missouri that the farmer will have to use candles. Then you'll have to "show" him over again.

It has been the Denison Review's observation that impulsive and impetuous as the President has always been, he is more apt to be right than otherwise, and never goes after big game without a plentiful supply of ammunition.

Quite a number of young women are said to be earning their way through the Missouri State University, some of the occupations being given as those of stenographer, milliners, house girls, library employes and manicures. The positions pay from \$15 to \$30 a month.

A horticultural text-book for use in the public schools in Missouri is soon to be issued by the State Board of Horticulture of Missouri. The book will contain information about the planting of fruit and other trees, together with the care and cultivation of flowers. It will also contain statistics in regard to the fruit products of Missouri.

An Honest Revision. Buffalo News: Judge Taft says that he stands for an honest revision in accordance with the pledge of the Chicago platform. He does not want any pretended revision and he does not want any that is based upon the notion that necessarily cutting down is revision.

It may be that the President-elect has not a very clear idea of tariff schedules in their practical working, but it is certain that he will have in no long time after he is able to give his time wholly to his official duties. He may not now have the business man's knowledge of how a rate of duty affects a particular business but that will be mastered by the Executive and when he is satisfied of what is the right thing to do he will urge its doing, and if a bill comes to him that is right, whether schedules go up or go down, as he himself said during the campaign, he will stand for what is right.

He has the wisdom to know that in some cases schedules must be moved up as well as that in many other cases they must be moved down in order to reach a basis that is equitable between importer, dealer and consumer. He is wise and brave enough to deal honestly by the whole subject. And so is the majority in each house of congress.

Greetings to Life Young. Arlington News: Life Young is back in Des Moines from Washington, where he has been sitting on top of the table with President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft as is his wont to do. We think this has had something to do with the beautiful spring weather we have been having in Iowa. Life is ace high with both Roosevelt and Taft and he should be. He has done more for them than any man in Iowa and Life knows how to do the work and do it in the most improved style. Life Young has stood the blunt of some of the meanest and dirtiest newspaper flings we have ever read and yet he always comes out on top. Long life and much happiness to Life Young is the Christmas greeting of the Arlington News.

The Season of Homecoming. Orange City Herald: This is a season of homecoming. The teacher weary and worn has gone home to the scenes of her childhood, to live once more for a few days without the restraint that her profession imposes upon her; and the college student has

also returned home to astonish the natives with his stories of football and hazing. The holiday season is doubtless the most indispensable vacation season. There is no time when it is possible to combine so well rest and recreation; no time when a change of surroundings is so pleasant, and when those who have been separated from home are so welcome.

Not an Attack on Unions. Spokane Spokesman-Review: Mr. Gompers and a number of his supporters have raised the false cry that the rights and existence of labor are in some way bound up with his breaking of the law and defiance of the courts.

But the plain truth is that this righteous purpose of the courts to enforce the law against Mr. Gompers and others who have joined him in its violation is not in the slightest an infringement upon the rights or the welfare of organized labor.

The law plainly provides, and the courts have held, that workmen have the right to organize and to prescribe rates of wages and hours of labor, to strike in enforcement of their demands and to fine or expel members who refuse to obey the lawful orders of their leaders.

None of these rights are involved in the case against Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison. These men have been sentenced to prison because they have gone far beyond those rights and sought to inflict grievous wrongs upon others.

The law does not punish them for fighting for their own rights, but for their intolerant attempt to ride down the rights of others.

Raising Apples in Iowa. Cedar Falls Record: Down in Iowa county near Williamsburg are a couple of farmers named Harrington who are raising apples for that whole section. They go about it in a systematic manner. In the first place the best varieties were planted some years ago. In the second place, a spraying outfit is used with great care and at proper times and, thirdly, the orchards are given the closest attention.

Pruning is done in a systematic manner. Insects of a dangerous character are promptly suppressed and everything is done that insures longevity of the trees and fertility of bud and blossom. The result is that apple raising is profitable. At the meeting of the state horticultural society in Des Moines recently those men had a fine collection and the apples were as free from knots and scars as the varieties shipped here from Colorado and California, while the flavor surpasses these. At the national horticultural meeting at Council Bluffs these men won first honors.

What the Iowa county farmers are doing others can do also. Iowa ought to raise its own apples and more too. As it now is millions of barrels are shipped into the state from Michigan and New York.

Dirty Air and Coal Bills. Chicago Tribune: A person does not stay in the water long in order to get wet; neither is it necessary for one to remain in a polluted atmosphere long before feeling its bad effects. A number of persons soon poison the air in a room and make it unfit to breathe. Air that is laden with dust is always dangerous. It is known that among those who work in dusty occupations there is a high rate from bronchitis, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. It is also known that mineral dusts are more injurious to the lungs and air passages than are the vegetable dusts. This is why the death rate from diseases of the respiratory organs among stone and metal workers is so much greater than it is among workers in flour mills and grain elevators.

The remedy is perfect ventilation. And while it is true that frequent changes of air will necessarily affect the coal bills, this should not be measured against diseased lungs, be fogged brains, and impaired efficiency. In other words, it means both health and economy to have plenty of fresh air.

Quaker Meditations. Philadelphia Record: Dry reading is hardly the kind we pour over.

The lion at the zoo thinks he is the mane thing.

The fellow who always has a skate on doesn't cut much ice.

The fellow with a club foot ought to be a good golf player.

As a rule the less a man has to do the less time he has to do it.

It's all right to love your enemies, but don't slight your friend is to do it.

Many a girl has a poor complexion who is rich enough to afford a better one.

When a waiter speaks of his pleasant quarters he probably means 25-cent tips.

No, Maude, dear, all the girls who work in a spinning mill are not spinsters.

The Government His Client. Chicago Tribune: Mr. Knox was a corporation lawyer in Pittsburg before he became attorney general under McKinley, but that did not prevent his delivering the most effective blow yet given to railroad combinations in the

United States. He took the government for his client the minute he entered its service, just as Ellhu Root did. In the same way in the next administration the secretary of state will be in complete harmony with the President on all matters of general policy, and with two such lawyers as Taft and Knox sitting side by side in the cabinet meetings the country will be in pretty good hands.

A Missouri Courtship. Memphis (Mo.) Democrat: One of our budding young gallants called on a maiden a few nights ago and valiantly offered to brave the darkness of the back yard to bring a bucket of water. He reached the yard, set the bucket down and turned a crank vigorously for several minutes. His efforts met with failure and he returned to the house with the statement that the pump was out of fix. On inspection it was found that he had set the bucket down by a washtub and had been busy turning the clothes wringer.

Union Would be Smaller. Davenport Democrat: The governor of New Mexico has written an annual message in which he says that territory is entitled to become a state because gambling is prohibited and Sunday closing rigorously enforced. If these were the conditions of statehood the number of the stars on the flag would be materially reduced.

No Kotow to Koto. Hopkinton Leader: Dr. Koto, head state veterinarian, is apparently a candidate for reappointment to his job. He is now advocating that the state take measures to pay for cattle killed under quarantine regulations for tuberculosis. The activities of Koto's department so far, in respect to curing tuberculosis, have been devoted to killing off as many cattle as possible without warrant of law.

Iowa's Distinction. Burlington Hawkeye: Iowa enjoys the happy distinction over other states that the only cabinet question is whether the Hawkeye state will have one or two members of President Taft's official family. "We've usually had two," she coyly remarks.

Iowa State Insurance Company. Oldest Company in the State. Keokuk Iowa Incorporated in 1855. Insurance written since organization \$229,563,567.47. H. R. COLLISON, City Agent.

Christmas Money. The Keokuk Savings Bank. OFFICERS: A. E. JOHNSON, President. F. W. Davis, Vice President. A. J. Mathias, Cashier. H. W. Wood, Asst. Cashier. Capital \$100,000.00. Surplus \$100,000.00. Additional Liability of Stockholders \$100,000.00.

Your Resolutions. THE STATE CENTRAL SAVINGS BANK. Corner of Sixth and Main Sts. Help you by paying 3 per cent interest on all your savings, be ever so small. Capital, \$100,000.00. Surplus, \$200,000.00. William Logan, President. Geo. E. Rix, Vice President. J. F. Kledatsch, Sr., Vice President. C. J. Bode, Cashier. H. T. Graham, Assistant Cashier. H. Boyden Blood, Assistant Cashier.

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.

KEOKUK NATIONAL BANK. Affords every facility for doing your banking business that any bank can. 3 PER CENT INTEREST ON TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

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