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Keokuk, Iowa, December 30, 1908.

Mr. Bryan says he will be in politics twenty years more, O dear!

The holiday season wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't for the Christmas necktie.

A Texas man named Freeze is accused of murder. It was probably a cold blooded one.

Leapyear privileges will expire by limitation with tomorrow. It's the last chance for four long years.

Christmas comes but once a year, and that is quite often enough in the opinion of postoffice employes.

"Mr. Rankin should step aside," suggests a state contemporary. Mr. Rankin should do more than that. He should go "way back out of sight."

The West Virginia man who was arrested for eloping with his mother-in-law should have no difficulty in securing acquittal on the plea of emotional insanity.

A Montana court has held that the proffreader and not the editor is the responsible person to make answer to parties with grievances. The decision affords gratifying assurance that the proffreader is in a fair way to get his deserts.

A new district police station in St. Louis is a faithful reproduction of Liberty Hall in Philadelphia. The connection between liberty and a police station isn't apparent at a glance, but a little thing like that was never known to interfere with the designs of a Missouri architect.

The animals sold from farms of the United States or slaughtered on farms in 1907, according to the yearbook of the department of agriculture, were worth \$1,270,000,000. This was nearly one-fifth of the grand total of wealth produced in the twelve months by American farmers.

About one million Red Cross stamps were used on Christmas packages mailed from Chicago this year. This means \$100,000 available to the Chicago Anti-Tuberculosis society for its fight on the white plague. The returns are expected to make correspondingly good showings for many other cities.

It is estimated that the American people distribute 200,000,000 presents at Christmas time, at a cost of \$100,000,000. This is an average value of fifty cents per present. Anyone whose presents averaged less than this is entitled to admission to the rooms of the grievance committee.

There are cases of leprosy in fourteen states of the Union. Recently a leper colony was established in Florida, where there are three victims of the plague. In the Louisiana colony there are about 200 afflicted men, women and children. There is a growing belief that the disease is curable.

It is now announced that there will be an increase instead of a decrease in interest and dividend payments in New York on the first of the year. The total amount will reach \$210,000,000, instead of \$180,000,000. The disbursement of this large sum of money should tend to increase the activity of trade.

Twelve or thirteen of the prominent society ladies of Minneapolis now wear police badges, with full authority to arrest any person abusing horses or other animals. They are volunteer officers of the Humane Society. When they observe a horse unblanketed in cold weather they will tag it. The tag warns the owner that such neglect is cruel and is a misdemeanor, and a repetition of the offense will result in prosecution.

During the past year almost 100,000,000 pounds of butter were shipped out of Iowa. And perhaps an equal amount was consumed at home. In noting these facts the Centerville Citizen takes occasion to say with justifiable pride:

In quantity Iowa butter makes a gratifying showing, but it is when quality is taken into consideration, that she shines indeed. The butter that is used by Uncle Sam's navy, is largely made in Iowa, and it is the best butter that is supplied to any navy in the world. Uncle Sam believes that the best is just what is needed for the men on his ships, and this again demonstrates the superior wisdom of Uncle Sam. It is not the Iowa butter alone that makes our navy the very best navy in the world, nor the Iowa boys alone, that are in the navy. But no doubt the Iowa butter helps "considerable."

FACTS ABOUT POSTAGE STAMPS. Only the kinds and denominations of stamped paper for which there is demand are kept on sale at the smaller postoffices. All the kinds and denominations issued by the department may be purchased at offices of the first class. Special-delivery stamps are kept by all postmasters.

All postage stamps issued by the United States since 1860 are good for postage.

The postoffice department can not furnish information as to the value of rare stamps over their face.

Postage due stamps are used by postmasters to witness the collection of postage on short-paid matter. These stamps are not good for prepayment of postage and are not sold to the public.

Internal revenue stamps are neither good for postage nor redeemable by the postoffice department.

United States postage stamps are good for postage in Guam, Hawaii, Porto Rico, and Tutuila, but not in the Philippine Islands or in the Panama Canal Zone. Postage stamps overprinted "Philippines" or "Canal Zone, Panama" are not good for postage or redeemable in the United States.

The postoffice department issues postage stamps of the following denominations: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 50 cent, 1, 2, 5 dollar, and 10-cent special delivery.

The postoffice department does not buy or deal in canceled stamps, or those that have been used.

Postage stamps that are mutilated, or defaced in any way, can not be accepted for postage.

Stamps cut or otherwise severed from postal cards, embossed United States stamped envelopes, or newspaper wrappers are not redeemable or good for postage.

Postage stamps are neither redeemable from purchasers nor exchangeable for those of other denominations or any other stamped paper.

Postage stamps should not be used for making remittances. They may be lost or may adhere in transit, and such use tends to disorganize the proper equalization of postmasters' compensation under the law. Ample registry and money-order facilities are provided for the safe transmission of funds by mail.

No postage stamped paper is sold by the postoffice department direct; it must be bought of postmasters.

Postage stamps bound in book form are on sale at all postoffices throughout the country at an advance of one cent over the postage value. The 2-cent stamp only is issued in books.

THE BAN OF ABSINTHE. Dr. Wiley, the head of the bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture, reports encouraging progress in his efforts to arouse congress to a sense of the necessity of passing laws against the importation of absinthe into this country. He has furnished the ways and means committee with data showing the increase in the use of absinthe in this country and with the opinions of eminent physicians on the harmful effects of excessive indulgence in it.

In reviewing Dr. Wiley's findings the Omaha Bee points out that the strongest protest against absinthe is the record of Switzerland and France in suppressing its manufacture or restricting its use. Nearly all the absinthe consumed in the world is manufactured in either France or Switzerland. Its use was brought into France some fifty years ago and has become so general that the decadence of the French people is largely attributed to it. The French authorities have prohibited the consumption of absinthe in the army and navy and are planning to tax it out of the reach of the common people. In Switzerland the people have voted against the manufacture of the liquor and its sale is prohibited, under strong penalties.

On the same authority absinthe is a product of wormwood, distilled in alcohol and made pleasant to the taste by the addition of anise oil. Its first effect, according to expert physicians, is an exhilarated intoxication, but its constant use causes derangement of the digestive organs, hallucinations of sight, giddiness, loss of brain power and idiosyncrasy. Of all drinks, it produces

exhilaration soonest, takes the drinker farthest aloft and drops him hardest. Proof is at hand that absinthe drinking is increasing rapidly in the larger cities of this country and Dr. Wiley will perform a distinct service if he succeeds in keeping it from getting entrenched among the popular beverages in America.

PAPER FROM CORNSTALKS. A Congressional Record printed on cornstalk-made paper is the newest theme among members of the national house at Washington. The committee on agriculture started the talk after its members had been shown a great variety of cornstalk paper samples. These ranged from semi-waterproof paper, fit for wrapping butter, to a highly calendared product adapted to fashionable correspondence.

The members of the committee were greatly surprised to learn that such progress had already been made toward utilizing the 70,000,000 tons and more of cornstalks that grow in the United States every year. Experts of the department of agriculture exhibited the samples, some of which were manufactured by the soda process. They told the committee that the outlook was so promising as to demand virtually that the government speedily explore the commercial possibilities of the new product. There is said to be every indication that the committee will recommend a generous appropriation for this purpose.

NOTES AND COMMENT. The Elks of Marshalltown propose a \$50,000 home.

The Sioux City Journal says that what the state needs is a joint debate between General Byers and Colonel Rankin.

The Nevada Representative says Mr. Carnegie does not talk and act like a man whose counsel should be too readily accepted.

"Your husband seems so gloomy, Mrs. Smith, is he a misanthrope?" "No, indeed; he's a Bryan Democrat."

The national conservation commission is considering the possibilities of sawdust and other waste timber products, in view of the increasing scarcity of timber.

The Manchester Press predicts that the fair spoken, moderate and big hearted Taft will take the place in the affections of the American people held during his administrations by the beloved McKinley.

Mr. Rockefeller says that travel broadens a man. The editor of the Pittsburg Gazette says, on the contrary, it makes him short. So much for the calling in of railway passes.

A paddle-wheel steamboat which draws but four and a half feet of water is making the perilous ocean voyage from England to the west coast of Africa, where it will be used on a shallow river.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette hopes that Warden Sanders is not losing the opportunity to fill his scrapbook with some interesting and more or less personal comments on his prison reform scheme.

"Suppose," hissed the villain, "suppose our plot should leak out?" "That's all right," said his accomplice, consolingly. "It can't. Don't you remember telling me five minutes ago that it had thickened?"—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Brighton Enterprise has noticed that when a farmer goes to a sale and gets a bargain he is usually just as much pleased over it as his wife is when she visits a bargain sale at a dry goods store.

The Britt Tribune says that when the hatchet was buried in Cerro Gordo county the handle was left sticking out so it could be grabbed in emergency, and the Tribune observes that it was grabbed with both hands when J. H. Annundson was proposed for bank examiner.

"The third party prohibition organ which uses such terms as 'liars' and 'fools' to characterize men who happen to disagree from its conclusions, is itself an excellent illustration of the temperance with which some men advocate temperance," observes the Brooklyn Chronicle.

When the Scranton Journal hears a young man refer to his father and mother as the old man and the old woman, and sees him addicted to the cigar habit, it is led to conclude that it won't be long before he will be making application for a parole.

"The town man thinks all a farmer does is to sit down in the shade, and watch things grow," says the Hampton Chronicle. "A farmer thinks all we do in town is to sit behind a counter, and rake in money. This is the reason every farmer wants to move to town, and every town man wants to be a farmer."

Too Big to Escape Observation. Knoxville Express: Oh, pshaw! you can't keep these things secret! The writer knows two things: Lat will be in his socks Christmas morning!

—Read The Daily Gate City.

THE CURRENT MAGAZINES. Ralph Henry Barbour has surpassed even the charm of his own previous efforts in the rapid-fire movement and absorbing breeziness of his latest novel, "A Fool's Wooing," which is published complete in the January Smart Set. To meet the conditions of an inheritance an impecunious young New York club man with bachelor propensities must marry within thirty days. The frantic search for an eligible party, the terrific whirlwind wooing that ensues and the stormy progress of this made-to-order romance makes a story that is one of the very greatest "thrillers" of the year.

Kate Masterson is show, at her best in this issue of the Smart Set in a story entitled "The Earrings of the Princess," which traces the influence upon a delightful twentieth-century love affair of a sacred scarab of mystic properties worn as a love token by a Theban princess when the Nile was young and the Sphinx yet unborn. The scene of the story shifts easily from Cleopatra's needle on the Alexandrian sands to the Bois de Boulogne at Paris, to the archives of the British Museum and at last to the denouement of this charming latter-day romance in a quiet apartment overlooking Central Park, New York. It is one of the great stories of the month.

"What is to be done about alien immigration?" We are always asking ourselves this. There is an answer, and a practical one, and John L. Mathews has outlined it in the story of "Tontitown," in the January number of Everybody's Magazine. There is no preaching about it, no theorizing—it tells of accomplishment, and as a story it is told with a lot of heart and convincing simplicity.

Among other articles in this number are: "Burnt Money," Samuel Hopkins Adams' sensational indictment of our shameless fire waste in this country; Maximilian Foster's illuminating statement of "where we are at" in the matter of flying—"The Highway of the Air" it is called—which, while it deals particularly with the experiments made by the Wright brothers, sums up the whole situation in the most satisfactorily manner; "The Least of These," the greatest uplift story of the year, by Lincoln Steffens; the third installment of "The Woman's Invasion," which discusses the scourge and her relation to the rest of the female wage earners. There is, too, an interesting account of a picturesque industry in "The Quest of the Pearl," by C. B. Taylor. In fiction the January number is strong.

The rich, iridescent colorings of a stained-glass window seem caught and held in the beautiful cover design of the Christmas Century, the Angel of the Annunciation. And color reproduction seems to have reached a new standard in the color pages—"The Holy Family," by Frank Du Mond; "The Bath," by Hugo Ballin; "The Skaters," by Carl Melchers, three notable examples of modern American art, and "The Christmas Dinner at Mount Vernon," by Oliver Kemp. There are, besides, twenty-six pages printed, partly or entirely, in tint.

The Christmas Century contains the first chapters of the new novel by the author of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," and the new story by the author of "The Biography of a Grizzly." Mrs. Rice's story, "Mr. Opp," opens with a delightful mingling of quaintness, humor and pathos and with promise of proving the best work yet written by this popular author. Mr. Seton's "Domino Reynard of Golden Town" is the study of a noble silver fox—with a purpose "to show the Man-world how the Fox-world lives, and above all to advertise and emphasize the beautiful monogamy of the better-class Fox."

The World's Work for December contains four articles that make it a number of unusual importance: Mr. Rockefeller in the third chapter of his "Reminiscences," discusses "The Difficult Art of Giving"; Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Patterson of the English army, continues to tell in his matter-of-fact way the wonderful story of "The Lions That Stopped a Railroad"; Mr. Andrew Carnegie writes on "How Men Get Rich, and the Right View of Wealth," and Ray Chapman Andrews gives an account of "Whale Hunting as it is Now Done," with a remarkable lot of photographs taken by the author from the deck of a "whaler."

The December St. Nicholas is a number of many Christmas stories and poems and pictures—"The Yule Tide Lights," "A Stop-over Christmas," by Claire H. Gurney; "How Christmas Was Saved," A Christmas play by Catharine Markham; "Santa Claus' Note Book," by Lillian B. Miner; "Santa's Surprise Party," by Gladys Hyatt Sinclair, and for frontispiece a full page reproduction of Julie C. Pratt's drawing of "A Christmas Feast of Olden Time." The beginning of Mr. Francis Hodgson Burnett's new "Queen Silver-Bell" fairy story; "The Spring Cleaning," with its many jolly pictures by Harrison Cady, would make a Christmas number of any issue of a magazine. Other happy beginnings are the first of Dr. John C. Schapp's "Doctor Daddiman" stories for the very little folk, and the opening chapters of Mary Constance Du Bois' new serial, "The Loss of the Silver Sword."

Iowa vs. Oregon. Waterklo Courier: Wesley Green, the secretary of the state horticultur-

al society, says that Iowa is as good as Oregon for the raising of fruit. The reason we can't realize it is that we don't give our own state the chance. If we go west to raise fruit we follow directions and do our utmost to get a good crop. But Iowa has always been a grain and general farming country. We haven't bothered with fruit because the first settlers back in the 50's did not make a great success of it.

But the conditions have changed, methods have changed. And when an authority on the subject says that "we can raise as good fruit in Iowa as in Oregon, it is time to sit up and take notice. Traveling and experimenting with other climates and soils is expensive and mighty uncertain in its results after all.

BILLY SUNDAY AT SPOKANE. Evangelist Began His Meetings There by Pouring Forth a Flood of Characteristic Denunciations.

Spokane Spokesman-Review: Eight thousand faces, in long rows stretching back as far as you could see, the thunder of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" still echoing from the rafters as a slightly bent figure ascended the platform wrapped in a big fur overcoat; then the whole crowd standing and waving handkerchiefs and hymn books as the newcomer entered the pulpit and spoke a few crisp words of introduction—that was the way Billy Sunday came to Spokane last night.

Off his mark like a sprinter, at full speed from the start, Billy Sunday told the people how he loved God and hated the devil. His collar wilted and limp, his voice hoarse and his hair matted to his brow with sweat, he looked at his watch a little later, found he had been preaching an hour and ten minutes, and smiled good night. "Meetin' over, go home," was his benediction, and thus ended the first Sunday revival meeting.

No sooty-faced heaver of coal or swart-browed wielder of the blacksmith's hammer ever worked harder than does Billy Sunday. He started out last night in a comparatively mild way, slapping the heavy, oak pulpit occasionally and then warming to his work he strode from one side to the other of the big platform, las "ag the air with vituperative blows as he dealt upercuts, right hooks and short-arm jabs to each separate individual in the army of the devil. He bent one knee and stretched the other leg straight behind him as he bent over the edge of the rostrum at a perilous slant; he thundered into the faces of the ministers on his right, little rivulets of sweat running from his face and off the end of his nose from the beginning to the end of the sermon.

White Collar Soon Wilts. His white collar of the "stand-up" variety, fresh at the beginning, was a wet and miserable wreck early in the game. His coat stayed on, for the hall was chilly, but it was unbuttoned and waved in the breeze he himself created as his patent-leather shoes twinkled up and down with incredible speed and endurance. It is not unlikely that Billy Sunday in the course of a day's preaching covers the distance of a Marathon race, and all the time talking at the top of his voice.

Performs Acrobatic Stunts. He hits the pulpit tremendous blows with his fist and performs feats of balance on that piece of furniture that would lay the ordinary preacher by the heels with general breakdown. He can give more imitations of different kinds of people than any vaudeville star that has come west, the worldly deacon and the college "rah rah" boy being treated with equal fidelity. He showed how a man lukewarm in church behaves in the stress of a political rally and, with towled hair, he gave an impromptu college yell that brought down the house. His denunciation of the usual church money-making schemes brought forth more imitations.

"Revive Thy Work," His Text. "Oh, Lord, revive thy work in the midst of our years," the second verse of the third chapter of Habakkuk, was his text, as far as he could be said to have any text, and in pointing out the need of a religious awakening he poured forth for the whole length of his sermon a flood of characteristic Sundayism denunciation of everything evil, with the saloon getting the major portion of his invective.

"You can sink every church in America forty fathoms deep in hell and cover it with dry rot, and yet every member of that church may be a multi-millionaire or a college graduate," is one of the first things he said, and he followed it with, "If you love your amen and back it up in your life, then, I say, cut loose, but if you don't live it keep your mouth shut. I tell you, Andrew Carnegie can put a public library on every corner and a university on every public square, with public schools running catty-cornered, but you can never save America from sinking in hell without a tidal wave of old-time religion.

"You need a tidal wave of religion more than your apple shows and your real estate booms and your mining strikes. If I was a pastor I would stiek a brass band in front of my church every Sunday to toot and let the devil know there was something doing.

Will Fight Till Hell Freezes. "Now, if I can save a man from the

devil by taking off my coat I'm going to take off my coat, and I don't care if I do offend some of you fastidious mutts out there. I propose to fight the evil influences that are damning our country till hell freezes over, and then I'll buy a pair of skates and tackle them on ice."

Iowa's Sentimentalist. Howard A. Burrell in Washington Press: Iowa has a sentimentalist in J. C. Sanders, warden of Fort Madison prison. To the board of control he urged lately, it is said, that his inmates shall be supplied with tailor-made suits, bleached white shirts, shined shoes vice present striped garb. He abolishes solitary confinement. He should furnish the boys perfume, bouquets, ice cream, angel cake, fudges, and all other things that are calculated to make them amiable and sweet. It is well known that sprinkling crocodiles in the face with rose-water makes them kindly and agreeable. Prisoners usually miss sadly the refining influences of music, woman, art, "hicherature," dancing, "sawarays" and the like, and we confidently expect the board of control though composed of hard-headed men, to change the rules and customs of penal institutions. And the glad Christmas time is the precise time to ameliorate the conditions. Make the commission of crime pleasant. Crowd in the esthetics.

Creston Advertiser: Warden Sanders of the Fort Madison penitentiary may not lose his job but if he is a patron of a press clipping bureau he knows by this time that his recommendations with regard to the inmates of the institution are not popular. His argument that the penitentiaries should be made more attractive to the criminal than the outside world has been does not appeal to sensible people. Warden Sanders is not a fit man to be in charge of a penal institution. Humanitarianism has its limits and a warden who criticizes the courts and their processes and who makes known his thorough sympathy with the criminals of whom he is to have charge and believes in treating them better than the inmates of charitable homes are treated is not the man whom the state of Iowa should place in charge of a penitentiary.

ASK PROTECTION OF STANDING TIMBER. Northern Idaho Forestry Association Request Co-Operation of Forestry Department.

[Gate City Special Service.] BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 30.—Northern Idaho Forestry association (composed of lumbermen of Washington, Idaho, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska, owning hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin forest lands in the panhandle of Idaho, will urge the forestry department, headed by Gifford Pinchot, to co-operate with it in the protection of the standing timber, including several hundred thousand acres in the national forest reserve, declared to be the largest stand of white pine left intact on the continent. The association expended more than \$100,000 this year in buling trails, maintaining stations and patrols and fighting forest fires.

It is proposed to build a series of twenty dams at the headwaters of the Coeur d'Alene, St. Maries and St. Joe rivers and their tributaries to create enormous reservoirs to store the snow water from the mountains for release during the dry season. This will provide a means to fight fires, insuring also a steady flow in the streams for logging, irrigating and mining purposes and checking the floods during the spring freshets, thus eliminating the danger of the destruction of millions of dollars' worth of property by the ravages of swollen mountain streams. The reservoirs will also increase the rainfall.

A. L. Flewelling of Spokane, chairman of the committee on conservation, will leave for Washington, D. C., early next year to discuss the matter with Mr. Pinchot and endeavor to enlist federal aid in financing the project. The cost of building a lake of twenty miles will not be more than \$50,000. As most of the dams are to be built on reserves it is believed the government will support the plan.

From Behind the Counter. The most tiresome customer in a dry goods store is the woman who knows what she wants and won't be satisfied with anything else.—Lippincott's.

Christmas Money

OFFICERS. A. E. JOHNSTON, President. F. W. Davis, Vice President. A. J. Mathias, Cashier. H. W. Wood, Asst. Cashier.

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$200,000.00

William Logan, President. Geo. E. Rix, Vice President. J. F. Kledaisch, 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 PERCENT ON TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS

Cook With Gas