

DAILY GATE CITY. PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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DAILY MAIL. One year, \$3.00; Four months, \$1.00; Six months, \$1.50; On 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 COMPANY. No. 18, North Sixth St., Keokuk, Iowa.

THE GATE CITY is on sale at the following news stands: Hotel Keokuk, cor. Third and Johnson, C. H. Rollins & Co., 223 Main Street, Ward Bros., 625 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 31, 1908.

If Pittsburg has a mirror it should take a good look at itself.

This seems to be the open season for presidencies as far as the Gomez family is concerned.

American ideas are making rapid progress in China. A big bond issue is proposed in the Celestial Empire.

Abel Ruef has been sentenced to fourteen years in the penitentiary. And he pretends to fear he wouldn't get justice!

Andrew Carnegie testified before the ways and means committee that "of all demoralizing taxes that a nation can impose upon the people the income tax is the worst."

One trouble about the cabinet positions is that there are not enough of them to go around. The Republican party is rich in men who are qualified and worthy to be the President's official advisers.

A St. Louis woman wants a divorce because she says that her husband can read her thoughts. The average woman is popularly supposed to be entirely willing to give her husband a piece of her mind.

The postal savings bank is established in the Philippines and is reported to be growing favorably. Forty per cent of the depositors are Filipinos, and this is their first experience with bank facilities.

Both Castro and Gomez began as cattle thieves and ended as presidents of Venezuela. Their experience recalls the trite observation of Josh Billings that when a man begins to go down hill everything seems to be greased for the occasion.

This year 12,554 women registered in Boston to vote for school committee. Twenty-nine years ago, when the privilege of voting at these elections was first granted to women, only 300 registered, and for the following nine years the average was only 1,000.

Mr. Bryan says it was a "combination of financial, industrial and commercial" interests of the country that elected Mr. Taft. The gentleman overlooks the 7,637,676 male citizens who cast their votes for his opponent.

According to Stephen Bonsal, the well-known newspaper correspondent, Gomez, the new president of Venezuela, is not much of an improvement over Castro. Castro was first a cattle thief and then a dictator. Gomez, as Castro's protegee, was as good a cattle thief as his patron and learned all there was to be known of the Castro brand of diplomacy.

The talk at Washington is that it is practically assured that Congressman Dawson of the Second district will be a member of the rivers and harbors committee after March 4. It is to be hoped this confident expectation will be realized. Mr. Dawson has splendid qualifications for the place and is eminently worthy of the honor. The present Iowa member of the rivers and harbors committee is Judge Birnsall of Clarion whose term expires with the present congress.

Iowa teachers are holding their state convention in Des Moines this week and we have it on the authority of the Capital that—

Time writes no horrid wrinkles Upon the schoolma'am's brow; She looked no older years ago Than really she does now.

Anyone having knowledge of the burial of any soldiers of the war of 1812 in the vicinity of Keokuk is requested to impart the information to this paper or send it direct to Mrs. Victor E. Bender, Council Bluffs, Iowa. The state organization of the Daughters of 1812 is making a search for the graves of soldiers who fought in that war, with a view to giving them suitable markings, and the information is desired for this purpose.

According to Chicago financial authority, the wildcat enterprise is so conspicuously absent this year that the January dividend distribution among western investors will practically go toward a still greater addition to the active investment buying of listed bonds and stocks. It is said that the record of the Chicago Stock Exchange business of 1908 will be remarkable in comparison with 1907, for the totals will show respectively of bond an increase of 500 per cent, of stocks an increase of nearly 200 per cent. Moreover the increase of western investors in securities will prove cumulative and bring about a still greater increase in 1909.

Washington correspondents are guessing that the secretary of the treasury in Taft's cabinet will be either George E. Roberts of this state or Private Secretary Loeb. It is conceded that Mr. Roberts would make an admirable secretary of the treasury and is a strong addition to President Taft's corps of advisers. Secretary Loeb has been called to Augusta for conference with the President-elect and the latter is quoted as saying that "Mr. Loeb can have anything he wants." In view of these things it is considered entirely likely that Mr. Loeb will be proffered a place as head of the treasury department or in some other cabinet position.

A new plan for commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln has been suggested by Congressman Dawson of this state. When congress reconvenes he will introduce a joint resolution authorizing the issue of a series of postage stamps that will be commemorative to the career of Lincoln. It is Mr. Dawson's idea that not merely the likeness of Lincoln should be presented, but different typical scenes of his life. Such stamps have been issued in the past in aid of expositions. Mr. Dawson has concluded that in no possible way otherwise could so many people be reached as through the issue of postage stamps, and in this he is no doubt right.

Secretary Wilson states that more than 250,000,000 tons of freight are hauled every year over country roads to railroads, not including the immense tonnage hauled to wharves and docks for water shipment, and for this the farmer pays not less than twenty-three cents per ton per mile, the average haul being about nine miles. This transportation over the public roads to the railroads represents an annual cost of over half a billion dollars. In France hauling is done in many cases at as low a cost of seven cents per ton per mile, and the average there is probably not more than half of the average for the United States. The better roads in France account for the difference in cost.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN IOWA. As a means of correcting the abuses which exist under our present system of law enforcement Attorney-General Byers makes the following recommendations:

First. Make it possible for the governor "to take care that the laws are faithfully executed" by giving him the power, upon proper complaint, to remove peace officers, mayors and prosecuting attorneys.

Second. A complete reorganization of the attorney general's department along substantially the same lines as the department of justice in the national government is organized; establishing a closer relation between the county attorney and the attorney general; requiring the county attorney to report to the attorney general promptly all matters of importance pending in his office in which the state is interested and giving to the attorney general power to take charge, either himself or by assistants appointed by him for the purpose, of any case pending in the district court in which the state is interested and to appear before the grand jury in any county in any matter pending before that body of sufficient importance to justify, in his judgment, such appearance.

Third. Enlarge the powers and duty of all and food inspectors requiring them to assist prosecuting attorneys and the attorney general in securing evidence in all prosecutions in which the state is interested, whether it be a violation of the criminal laws of the state, or for the collection of fees and fines due the state.

Fourth. Give the county attorney authority to follow appeals to the supreme court when requested by the attorney general, with ample provision for his compensation and expenses.

Fifth. Give to the attorney general's department sufficient force to prop-

erly transact the business of the office, with salaries high enough to secure the best possible service.

Sixth. A general revision of the laws governing criminal practice and procedure.

In defense of these recommendations the attorney general says: In the former days punishment was so severe and the disgrace of being convicted of a crime so great that every possible safeguard was thrown around the citizen charged with crime. Every technically known to the law was indulged in his favor, and every possible advantage given to him as against the state. No man could be tried for a crime above certain minor offenses without first being indicted by a grand jury, a slow process at best; then, as a rule, the case would drag along for a term or two of court before called for trial, then, if it were found that the county attorney had failed to meet the technical requirements in the indictment it was set aside and the person charged held to the next grand jury. If another indictment was found and the case was finally tried and the defendant found guilty, he had several months in which to have motion for new trial disposed of, then he had a year in which to appeal, and several months more to prepare and present his case to the supreme court. If the judgment was affirmed there then he had sixty days in which to file a petition for rehearing, and several months in which to present it, and finally the judgment below may be reversed because of some trifling error in the court below, and the case go back to the lower court to go through the same long, weary course or be dismissed.

I have in mind now a case that came under my own observation. Two young men forged and uttered a check. The county attorney of the county was a bright young fellow, just out of school. He presented the case to the grand jury, an indictment was voted and returned in court; two terms later the case came on in district court, demurrer to the indictment was filed in which it was urged that the boys knew the check was a forged instrument. The demurrer was sustained, and the case came on again for trial, when defendants' counsel objected to further proceedings, urging that one trial had already been had, and that they could not be twice tried for the same offense. This objection was sustained by the court and the boys were discharged, although their guilt was without question almost from the beginning and the cost of the expense put to hundreds of dollars.

Just such things as this are going on in our criminal courts every day, and court expenses are steadily increasing. Excuse for tolerating such a system up to this time may be found in the fact that we have been busy with other important matters but justification for its continuance can only be urged upon the theory that swift and certain punishment is no longer necessary for the prevention of crime, and that the interest of the tax payer is no longer a matter of concern to the legislature.

BURN THE DEAD RATS. A practice that should be promptly discontinued is that of throwing dead rats into the streets. A leading practitioner of medicine whose business takes him all over the city every day reports that there is scarcely a street in Keokuk free from the bodies of dead rats. The practice is not only disgusting, but unsanitary and extremely dangerous as well. It has been discovered within the past few years that rats are the carriers of the contagion of the terrible disease known as the bubonic plague. The rats are infested with fleas and the fleas infected with the plague are the direct and active agents in the dissemination of the disease. By preference they abound on Norway rats, but they are not confined to this species. They may make their habitat on any kind or variety of rat. Scarcely a Pacific coast city is free from the plague and in some of them the fatalities have been alarmingly numerous. To prevent the spread of the disease it is necessary to exterminate the rats and burn their bodies. This better precaution should never be omitted. What with furnaces and stoves in full blast at this time of year the conveniences for cremating the pests are directly at hand. As a measure of public safety all rats should be burned as well as killed.

The danger of bubonic plague invasion is greater in Keokuk and other interior cities than most people are aware. A warfare of extermination against rats should be inaugurated at once, and the body of every rat should be promptly burned.

NOTES AND COMMENT. The Italian olive crop is a failure, but there is a good supply of cotton seed in sight.

Alex Miller contends that most of us are all right except that we were speculative investors.

The Sioux City Journal observes

that Mr. Carnegie keeps himself abreast of the World's Work.

It seems to the Omaha Bee that the coming year should please the baseball fans. It has two 9's of its own.

The five dollar feeding steer alongside of 50 cent corn looks to the Marshalltown Times-Republican like a speculative investment.

The timely suggestion is offered by the Chicago Tribune that a good way to start the New Year is to go to bed sober on the last night of the old year.

The American Salvation Army is planning to establish in Des Moines a hotel for the poor with 1,000 beds to cost a cent each for the benefit of the poor of central Iowa.

Christmas comes but once a year And makes the children glad, But let us pause and state right here— It's mighty hard on dad.

Des Moines is to have a negro undertaking establishment. Jefferson Morgan, colored undertaker of Kansas City, is looking over the local field and has decided to locate there.

"Restore the circle to the Iowa ballot," urges the Webster City Freeman-Tribune. "It will expedite voting, aid in the count and injure no man who wants to scratch his ticket. The circle never should have been removed."

"It has been suggested that a better approach to the state capitol building at Des Moines should be provided," notes the Iowa City Republican. "No need of it, as nobody elected to office has ever found any trouble in reaching the capitol by means of the approaches already provided."

It will soon be pertinent to remark that "as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen." From the 10th to the 20th of January is statistically the coldest part of the year, although these dates sometimes include the January thaw—the name given to any warm spell in that month.

The Illinois river this year has maintained its reputation for being one of the most valuable commercial fishing streams in the world. Since the season opened September 1, over 9,000,000 pounds of fresh water fish have been taken from the river and shipped to markets. Of this enormous output New York city alone has taken 2,400,000 pounds; Philadelphia 600,000 pounds.

The Marshalltown Times-Republican says it is not likely that Mr. Rankin's bill for state marshals to enforce the liquor laws will receive any more favorable consideration from the incoming legislature than was given it by the last assembly. "Not that there is not a growing and insistent demand for stricter regulation of the liquor traffic," continues the Times-Republican, "but because the average legislator, as well as the average citizen, sees much in the marshals bill that fails to persuade him to its support."

Pampering the Convicts. Cedar Rapids Republican: When the legislature meets in January there will be the usual number of applications for pardons. The only wonder will be if the convicts at Fort Madison do not ask for a wholesale pardon. They have recently been told by their own warden that they are more sinned against than sinning and that society, which has wronged these men should begin making amends by buying boiled shirts and tailor made suits for them. From that state of personal effluence it ought to be an easy conclusion that they are entitled not only to the dress of private citizens but that they are entitled to the freedom of private citizens.

With all our theories and such, it must be confessed that we are still making a very great batch of criminal punishments. Prison life, in the penitentiaries, has not been made something dreadful, as it ought to be, the depths of disgrace and humiliation, but we have theorized on it until the prisoners themselves are not sure whether or not they are the wrong doers or whether organized society is the wrong doer.

The days of unusual and cruel punishments are, of course, forever passed, but we still ought to treat wrong doers as such and we ought not to fuss over them, to load them with luxuries and to pamper them with mawkish sentiments.

No State Marshal Bill. Washington Democrat: The people of Iowa will not stand for the enactment of the state marshal law and the sooner it is known and the course of the temperance forces is guided by that knowledge, the better will it be for the cause.

You would be surprised at the number of people who have suggested to us that the course this paper took last week in regard to the law was a right one. We say it would surprise you and the people to whom we have talked were not Democrats, nor anti-temperance people. We have in mind not only republicans and they were non-drinking men, who commended our course.

There is something repugnant about the very idea of a force bill, such as the state marshal law implies. The Anglo-Saxon race chafes under such treatment and we say they will not

stand for it. If it is attempted as was suggested at the temperance meeting at the Methodist church by Col. Bell, to force the state marshal bill along with the temperance cause, both will fall by the wayside. You are biting off more than you can chew.

And mind you, we do not impugn C. I. Bell's motives, for he is just as honest in his views as we are in ours, but the people simply will not vote for that kind of a proposition. They wish to have a voice in enforcing the laws themselves and will brook no outside interference. To force a state marshal bill at this time will only reflect discredit upon our present county officers all over the state, and until they are tried, every man, every officer has the right to the assumption that he will do his sworn duty. After he has shown that he will not do it, then it is time enough to import law officers. It is very well known and will not be denied that the law is pretty well enforced in most counties in Iowa and even in most of the cities. Even Davenport and Burlington and Dubuque and Ottumwa are obeying the law. Indeed, Ottumwa is about to join the down and out class along with Muscatine. So what need is there of a state marshal law.

We do not believe the Democrat will be accused of favoring drunkenness or debauchery of any kind. We do not believe anybody hates drunkenness worse than the Democrat, but in the interests of true temperance, we wish to protest against any un-American state marshal law. It will not win the sympathy of our people.

Sam. McCleery, who is the man behind the gun from this county, the man with the vote in the legislature, will never vote for such a bill, and we say it without ever once having discussed the matter with him at all. But we make a guess of it on the theory that he knows the temper of his constituents too well to do such a thing. We have not yet admitted our inability to regulate our own affairs and we have not admitted that the people are impotent to enforce their laws. Until they do admit it, it is unwise to suggest state marshal bills. And besides, Rankin, who is the father of the bill, is an old, unmitigated fraud.

Prune the Salary List. Sioux City Journal: If rational economy is to be the watchword at the state house during the coming administration, the place to begin is with the organization of the legislature. If the affairs of the state are to be handled in a business-like way an example should be set by that body in handling its own affairs.

There never has been any extravagance in connection with the pay of members of the legislature. Now that the passes have been cut off the once criticized allowance for traveling expenses is logical enough. It is in regard to the cost of running the legislature, apart from the expense of its membership, that the opening for a rational economy is found. During the last session of the general assembly the state paid \$42,000 for "help" for the legislative mill. This was about a third of the total expense of the session. The prevailing impression is that at least half of the money paid to employes and alleged employes was thrown away. The complaint in this connection comes not on account of the amount expended, which is not affrighting in itself. It is due to the fact that everyone familiar with the working of the legislative machinery knows that many of the persons drawing salaries from the state rendered no useful service in return for their pay checks.

The simple fact is that the legislature heretofore has not tried to maintain a working organization on the same principle that would obtain in business. A business concern would ascertain how much work was to be done and how much help was needed to perform it, and then take on a sufficient number of competent employes to do the work. Maybe that was the system the assembly had in mind when it first assumed the role of employer, but it was not adhered to. The opening of every session found the members assailed with applications for jobs, and eventually the disposition seems to have been to increase the number of jobs so far as feasible to meet the demand. The result was that in paying the expenses of the legislature the state was not always paying for value received in the way of service. Often it was paying the political debts of members, whose appointees to the salary list were expected to do little or nothing in return for the money received from the state.

The most conspicuous example of this sort of thing has been found in the committee clerkships. There are a few committees in each house that have continuous need of a clerk's services. In the senate there are forty committees and fifty clerks—a clerk for every seven committees and thirty-seven clerks. Each clerk draws \$3 a day for seven days a week throughout the session. At least half of these clerkships are "snaps," having practically no work connected with them. Once there was a conscientious committee chairman who happened to appoint a conscientious clerk, each supposing that the arrangement was a business one. The efforts of the clerk to find something to do throughout the session, and the efforts of the chairman to provide him with it made a very pretty comedy. Long before the close of the session both employer and employe realized they were in on a game of petty graft, which cost the

state \$21 a week for every week of the session.

The thing for the legislature to do is to supply enough competent clerks—they should all be practical stenographers—to do the work that is to be done. If a committee has one day's work for a clerk during the session the clerk should be there to do it, but he should not sit around idle for the remainder of the session, drawing pay for every day. Members who require the occasional service of a stenographer should be able to find one available when needed. The state can save \$20,000 per session by merely dropping off the drone clerks. A little investigation probably would disclose plenty of "snaps" in other directions that might be lopped off without hampering the movement of the legislative machinery.

Once the legislature gets its own organization down to a business basis it will be in better shape to insist that the organization of the various executive departments shall be brought to the same basis.

Not Such a Feat. "One day," related Denny to his friend Jerry, "when I had wandered too far inland on the shore leave I suddenly found that there was a great big haythen, tin feet tall, chasin' me wid a knife as long as yer arm. I took to me heels an' for fifty miles along the road we had it nip an' tuck. Thin I turned into the woods an' we run for one hundred an' twenty miles more, wid him gahin' on me steadily, owin' to his knowledge of the country. Finally, just as I could feel his hot breath burnin' on the back of me neck, we came to a big lake. Wid one great leap I landed safe on the

opposite shore, leavin' me pursuer confounded and impotent wid rage. "Faith an' that was no great jump," commented Jerry, "considerin' the runnin' shart ye had."—Everybody's Magazine.

Fine Postal Service. Macomb By-Stander: Not long ago the money order clerk at Panapa, in the Philippines, paid a beautiful young Filipino the amount of her order, but on the margin was a written message, which he was asked to read to the young woman. It was this: "I send you 20 pesos and a dozen kisses." Glancing at the shy, dusky beauty, he said, "I have paid you the money, now I suppose you wish the kisses."

"Yes," she said. "If my husband has sent me any besos (kisses) I want them too." The remainder of the order was promptly paid.

On reaching her home the little beauty burst out to a group busy playing Filipino bridge whist: "I tell you this American postal system has the old Spanish postal system beaten a mile. Here my husband sent me a dozen kisses along with the money order, and the kind gentleman with the black beard gave me twenty."

ELECTION NOTICE. The annual meeting of the members of the Iowa State Insurance Company will be held at the office of the company in the city of Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa, at 2 o'clock p. m. on the second Monday in January, 1909.

HUGH ROBERTSON, Secretary.

"The White Rats" at the Grand New Year's matinee and evening.

New Year's Bank Deposit. This is a deposit you make on or about the first of the year in The Keokuk Savings Bank where you will receive a New Year's Bank Book, on which three per cent interest will be paid. Deposits made on or before January 9, will draw interest from January 1.

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.

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 they so small. Capital, \$100,000.00. Surplus, \$200,000.00.

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.

Cook With Gas.