

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

C. F. SKIRVIN, Manager

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Keokuk, Iowa, March 29, 1909.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

- For Mayor, LOUIS STERNE. For Marshal, HENRY KESSELRING. For Aldermen, 1st ward—John DeYong, 2nd ward—John Turley, 3rd ward—J. P. Christie, 4th ward—W. F. Mundy, 5th ward—Emil Lindstrand, 6th ward—J. R. Roberts.

A PRAYER.

(In the Prospect of Death.) O Thou Unknown, Almighty Cause Of all my hope and fear! In whose dread presence ere an hour Perhaps I must appear!

If I have wandered in those paths Of life I ought to shun— As something loudly, in my breast, Remonstrates I have done—

Thou knowest that Thou hast formed me With passions wild and strong; And listening to their witching voice Has often led me wrong.

Where human weakness has come short, Or frailty stept aside, Do Thou, All-good!—for such Thou art— In shades of darkness hide.

Where with intention I have erred, No other plea I have, But Thou, are good; and Goodness still Delighteth to forgive.

—Robert Burns. To the legislature: Drop politics and attend to business!

March came in like a lamb,—and the lamb has been in cold storage ever since.

Thought for the day: Republican success at the polls spells Keokuk's good.

A noiseless typewriter has been invented. It is to be hoped it doesn't chew gum, either.

Hetty Green recently acknowledged that she was the loneliest woman in the world. But maybe her son-in-law isn't amenable to hints. Some people are so obtuse.

This will possibly be the last city election held under the present plan of party nominations. If so, nothing would be more appropriate than for the old system to go out in a blaze of glory under a Republican administration of city affairs.

It has been noticed that real estate men who advertise in eastern papers put "Iowa" into the headline and that the location of farms in other states runs at the bottom. Real estate men who thus advertise are wise in their day and generation. They know the essential difference between a hawk and a hand-saw.

The population of the United States increased nineteen-fold from 1790 to 1900; and nearly ten-fold in the area enumerated at the first census. The increase of the New England states has been slightly more than five-fold, that of the middle states fifteen-fold, and that of the southern states a little more than six-fold.

"Cow Culture Club" is the latest. The idea is to develop Iowa cows so they will produce 250 pounds of butterfat a year instead of only 140 pounds as at present. A prize of \$1,000 is offered to anyone who can produce cows that will do this. Here is a chance for Iowa farm boys to do some experimenting along interesting, practical and profitable lines.

Keokuk Republicans should lose no time in getting busy in behalf of their city ticket. They have a list of candidates worthy their best efforts and if these are put forth the Republican nominees for mayor and marshal and a sufficient number of the candidates for aldermen can be elected to give the party control of municipal affairs. The best interests of the city demand this result. In working for party success Keokuk Republicans will at the

same time work for the good of the city.

It is to be hoped that the present city campaign will not involve any attempts to fix the responsibility for the improvement of Fifteenth street or the Johnson street hill, as did the campaign a year ago. Such incursions into the management of city affairs, as cities like Keokuk are managed nowadays, profiteth nothing. They are like soarings after the infinite or divings into the unfathomable.

Here's a pretty kettle of fish! Now when it is too late the "insurgents" at Washington, on their own confession, have discovered that the new house rules are worse than the old ones. It has just dawned on them that hereafter it will be more difficult to get a bill through the house under unanimous consent. Instead of having only the speaker to satisfy, all the members, more or less, must be shown the wisdom of the legislation, probably unimportant to them or the public, but of value to specific localities. This is a large price to pay for the small advantages gained under the new rules.

It is announced from Des Moines that the state anti-saloon league will immediately begin a campaign of "education" and wire-pulling to secure constitutional prohibition for Iowa by a vote of the people. To do this the league threatens an out and out fight against every member of the present legislature who has opposed the prohibitory amendment. To fill their places they will organize the state for men pledged to their view of the matter who will favor a constitutional amendment convention in 1910. If there is a majority in favor of calling such a convention it will become the duty of the legislature to provide the place of meeting and the selection of delegates to the convention. To accomplish that purpose the league expects to go into every city, town and rural district to begin agitation for the prohibitory cause that "will mean political death for every opponent of prohibition at the primaries." Keokuk and Lee county will welcome a fight on that line. The dead will all be on the side of the political prohibitionists.

The Republican city ticket is worthy the confidence of the people of Keokuk and should receive every Republican vote. It is highly important for the best interests of the city that Louis Sterne should be elected mayor and that he should have a city marshal and a council in harmony with him politically. An administration divided against itself can make but indifferent headway, at best, as has been demonstrated during the past two years. With all the departments of the same political complexion and working in harmony with each other, instead of at cross-purposes, something worth while can be accomplished. Mr. Sterne should be given enough votes to make his calling and election sure beyond all possibility of misadventure or doubt, and these should be supplemented by enough votes to ensure the election of Henry Kesslering as city marshal and the election of enough Republican candidates for aldermen to afford a good working majority in the city council. Let us have these things and capable, efficient and honest administration of municipal affairs for the next two years will be assured.

CAMPAIGNS AND CANDIDATES.

Another city campaign is at hand and it is highly desirable that it should be legitimate in character and along right lines. So far as known all the candidates on all the tickets are reputable gentlemen and entitled to treatment as such. Certainly none of them has been guilty of any flagrant offense or the fact would have come to the knowledge of the general public. Their nomination for office has not altered their characters in the least. It used to be thought that the way to win elections was to file charges of general untrustworthiness if not downright dishonesty and to indulge in wholesale abuse of candidates. Happily that day and those methods have passed. It is no longer assumed that a man is a horse-thief because he has been nominated for office on the Democratic ticket or a grafter or all-around crook because he has received Republican endorsement for public position. So great has the change been in this respect that there is now no surer way of electing a candidate than to attack his personal character. It is only when nothing else can be said against a candidate that he is made the subject of personal abuse. Such tactics are in effect a confession of weakness. This is well recognized by the public whose verdict is made up accordingly. Villification is a boomerang which does its greatest damage at the point of origin.

These reflections recall an incident in the editorial career of the late Sam M. Clark when he was in charge of this paper. Mr. Clark was ahead of his time in many things, and in nothing was he further in advance than in the treatment of opposing candidates. The incident in question occurred many years ago and all who had knowledge of it at the time are now dead except the present writer. A farmer residing up-country came into The Gate City office one day when the writer was in conference with Mr. Clark and preferred sensational charges against another farmer nominated on the Democratic ticket for an

office of considerable responsibility and honor. Mr. Clark listened patiently to the man's story and then inquired if anyone else knew anything about the matter. The man replied that he alone was conversant with the alleged facts. He assured Mr. Clark that he hadn't whispered a word concerning them to anybody, as he wished them to become known first through the columns of The Gate City, and he dwelt at some length on what a bombshell effect their publication would produce. Mr. Clark then asked the man if he was desirous of seeing the Republican candidate for the same office make as good a showing at the polls as possible and if he would abide by his (Clark's) advice in the matter. On receiving assurances in the affirmative, Mr. Clark said to him: "You alone know, or say you know, about this thing. Nobody else will know anything about it unless you tell them. My advice to you is to go home and keep your mouth shut as if your life depended on keeping silent concerning it. Why man alive, if your story was published in this county the Democratic candidate would be elected by a practically unanimous vote! The man left and that was the last ever heard of the matter, thanks to Sam Clark's sense of fairness and his practical wisdom in vetoing personal reflections on an opposition candidate.

GEORGE W. McCRARY.

The Des Moines Register and Leader of Sunday had a sketch of the career and an appreciation of the character of the late George W. McCrary of this city from the pen of Gen. J. B. Weaver. The subject of the sketch was born at Evansville, Ind., August 29, 1835, but his father removed to Van Buren county, Iowa, in 1836, when it was a part of the Wisconsin territory. He was of Scotch-Irish descent, his ancestors having emigrated from Scotland to Pennsylvania early in the eighteenth century. The next generation migrated to North Carolina and settled at Iredell county, where James McCrary, father of George W., was born. In 1812 the father removed to Tennessee, later to Indiana, and finally, the year of the birth of this son, the family moved to Illinois, and the next year crossed the Mississippi, and settled in Van Buren county. Here, under the providence of God, young McCrary was to find his theater of useful activity, and General Weaver declares that "he measured up to it grandly." Early in youth Mr. McCrary resolved to enter the legal profession. General Weaver was first attracted to him in the fall and winter of 1853-54. McCrary was teaching school at Bonaparte and Weaver was clerking in the store of Edwin Manning at the same place. The Kansas-Nebraska bill, championed by Stephen A. Douglas, was pending in congress, and the country was seriously agitated over the measure. McCrary was a free soil Whig, and Weaver a Democrat. Both had convictions, and both were decidedly combative and full of fire. Accordingly the friends arranged a joint debate between them on this measure, to take place at Bonaparte. General Weaver gives this account of the affair: "We met, the writer opened the debate, strongly deprecating the agitation of the slavery question, predicting war and the dissolution of the union if the abolitionists persisted in their present attitude toward that institution. McCrary in reply, showed the south to be the aggressors, and pointed to the pending legislation in conclusive proof of it. Then clinching his fist, he declared in a masterful voice, 'If slavery has to be preserved in order to save the union, I say let the union break into as many pieces as there are states and territories!' This produced a decided sensation which I was not slow to take advantage of. In my hot blood I impugned his patriotism and belabored him unmercifully. The crowd was largely with me in sympathy. But we both went our way, and applied ourselves to the study of the law."

McCrary settled in Keokuk and the writer in the meantime graduated at the law school of the Cincinnati college. General Weaver frankly confesses that in due time his own side studies in the literature of the period convinced him that he was wrong and McCrary in the right, and he at once severed connections with the Democratic party and in a short time thereafter helped to elect Mr. McCrary to the legislature as floating representative from Van Buren, Henry and Lee counties. The article concludes with the following outline of Mr. McCrary's career: He was next elected to the state senate and from that time forward his promotions were rapid and most honorable. He was elected to the Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third and Forty-fourth congresses.

In 1878 he was appointed secretary of war in the cabinet of President Hayes, and in 1879 was elevated to the position of United States circuit judge of the Eighth Judicial circuit, vice John F. Dillon resigned. In every position held by Judge McCrary he always discharged the duties of his office with courage, fidelity and distinguished ability. He published a treatise on the law of elections which is standard authority today. He published also "Reports of the Circuit Courts of the United States, Eighth District 1879-83." Judge McCrary resigned from the federal bench and entered the practice of the law at Kansas City and died in 1890.

He took high rank as a member of congress and by his exalted ability, probity of character and rugged honesty he dignified the court over which he presided and impressed the people with the sanctity of our judiciary. Judge McCrary's personality was strong yet genial, reserved but always approachable and courteous.

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Henry Watterson on Prohibition.

Henry Watterson in Louisville Courier-Journal: We have seen how prohibition works in Maine. We are seeing how it works in Tennessee and Alabama. For a while, I dare say, it will keep whisky from the negro—at least make it harder for the negro to get it. But it will not abate, for nowhere has it abated the drink habit among the whites. Instead of lawful regulation it will beget unlawful evasion. For plain intoxicants it will substitute poisoned intoxicants. Smuggling, extortion and adulteration will become—there as elsewhere—accepted agencies. In place of the saloon, which, as we know it, is an indefensible quantity, but may be regulated if we see fit, and the sale of drink open and above board under statutory enactment, we shall have the various forms of outlawry and hypocrisy which laws repugnant to the habits, sentiments and opinions of great bodies of people always provoke.

In the long run this is not the worst of it. Beyond and above these things the establishment in any community of a policy resting upon a disputed code of public morality and individual conduct looking for its support to inflamed appeals to religious feeling generates not only pharisaism, but tyranny. It arouses passion and promotes collision by assailing what free men regard as private property and personal rights; and, by bringing the church and state nearer together, if not reuniting them, it inevitably corrupts the fountains of justice and law by eliminating reason and enthroning emotion.

We know at what cost slavery was abolished. Upon the ruins of slavery have arisen other new and direful evils. The attempt even to seem to abolish the use of alcoholic beverages in Kentucky must begin by extinguishing many hundreds of millions of dollars of property and revenue. The property was honestly acquired. It is lawfully possessed. Directly it employs and sustains at least 10,000 people; indirectly 100,000 more. It brings to the state many millions of dollars of foreign money which enters the general reservoir and makes for the prosperity of the people at large.

It were friends in our young manhood and shared each other's confidence to the end of his days.

As I conclude this article, I cannot realize that George G. Wright and George W. McCrary are no more. It seems but yesterday when they were strong, virile men, striking sturdy blows for freedom and the rights of man. It seems but a day since our judicial forums and the platforms rang with their eloquence—since they greeted us with the smile and the extended hand. "How are the mighty fallen!"

Defeat of Terminal Taxation of Railroads.

Burlington Hawk-Eye: The bill introduced by Senator Saunders of Council Bluffs for local taxation of railroads in cities on the basis of the number of tracks they own including sidetracks and switching tracks, was defeated in the senate yesterday by a vote of 24 to 15. This ends the agitation for terminal taxation for the present session and probably for the future.

Railroads are now valued for taxation as a whole by the executive council, including their terminal property in cities. Any proposition for permitting this system to stand, and to then subject their property within the limits of cities to separate local levies savors too much of double taxation to be likely of adoption.

The Saunders measure did not seek to accomplish this result directly, but by requiring distribution of the valuation on a track basis, to bring a much larger proportion into liability for municipal levies. This would not only increase the taxes of the railroads largely, such increases being estimated at half a million dollars yearly, but would take from the country districts a considerable portion of the railroad taxes they now receive.

It seems to be the general conviction that railroad property in this state, as a whole, is now paying its full share of taxes in proportion to property in general. If there ought not to be an increase in railroad taxation as a whole then redistribution as between city and country upon any plan that may be suggested, which seeks to give a larger proportion to the cities, must inevitably reduce the share received by the country districts.

They will never consent to this way of increasing city revenues. However desirable the object, any attempt to accomplish it in this state at the expense of country districts is probably foredoomed to failure.

One of the arguments from the country point of view against the charge is that the cities have the machine shops and terminal properties of the railroads, and the thousands of railroads employes, which give them advantages over the country districts, more than counterbalancing any advantage now possessed by the country in the distribution of the tax valuation.

Gospel of Good Milk.

Clinton Herald: The gospel of good milk has not been preached very long. Indeed, there are many people as yet who have never heard of this new gospel. But they are going to hear

Annihilate these millions of property, income and revenue, as the Anti-Saloon league proposes to do, and what do we gain in lieu of them? Immensely increased taxation to start with, and after that precisely what they gained in Maine; for every saloon that pays taxes, a speak-easy that pays none; for every dollar of revenue and income cut off from the people and the public treasury, a dollar of tribute to the smuggling express company or the contraband road agent; for every man who sells a drink, an outlaw; for every man who takes a drink, a liar and lawbreaker; the political preacher and the rascally politician in alliance, the one to dispose of corner lots in heaven according to his ignorance or his venality, the other to roll his eyes sanctimoniously in the direction of heaven, to hold office and to control the clandestine disposition of drink—just as they have done in the state of Maine for nearly sixty years.

He who calls the people's attention to circumstances and considerations which cannot be denied is at once denounced as a friend of whisky and the have done in the state of Maine for nearly sixty years. He who calls the people's attention to circumstances and considerations which cannot be denied is at once denounced as a friend of whisky and the have done in the state of Maine for nearly sixty years.

Each civil district in a county should be its own judge. Each precinct in a city should be its own judge. The hotels and clubs, like the private dwellings, should be their own judges. If a man wants to take a drink let him take it like a man and not like a sneak. If drink is to be sold, as it is bound to be, no matter what statutes are leveled against it, let us pay taxes to the state, county and city, not contribute to the support of a clerico-political alliance deriving its powers from fraud, outlawry and the spy system.

of it before long, and the preaching of it is going to bear good fruit.

The Prohibition Craze.

Burlington Saturday Evening Post: Another prohibition craze is sweeping over the country. In the south the states have been driven to adopt prohibition in order to keep liquor away from the black man, but even there and under these conditions the movement probably will fail. The action of the whole tier of the southern states has served to stir up the implacables everywhere and in Iowa the fight is being fought out once more. The present contention now having its beginnings in the legislature, is the third fight over prohibition in Iowa. Two of the movements have failed of their purpose. It is reasonable to assume that the third and present one likewise will fail. No one doubts the honesty of purpose of the prohibitionist. The issue is over his understanding. The prohibitionist is a natural zealot. He refuses to see or to admit that his method of cure is more dangerous to society than is the evil he opposes. He is a simpleton in that he believes that men can be made good by law. He is without conception of the strong man who has the moral stamina to withstand evil temptations. His plan is to grow weak men and keep temptation out of their reach. Of course such a social scheme not only is immoral but the worst possible in addition because it is bound to fail always and everywhere. The state is worthless in the scheme of civilization and progress unless it can grow strong men—so strong that they are able to stand unmoved in the face of all trials, temptations and discouragements. And one such man is worth ten thousand of the creatures who would grow up under the conditions that would follow an actual enforcement of prohibition.

Everybody Happy. Waterloo Courier: Roosevelt left the country in an era of good feeling. Those who weren't drinking to Teddy himself were drinking to the lions.

A Visitor's Notes on the Inauguration Ball.

Harper's Weekly: The ball was not a ball; it was a sort of promenade concert; and the big band certainly did play to beat itself. The people were interesting. More women in the thirties wearing eye-glasses than formerly. Very few know how to do their hair becomingly. All dress most decorously. Two inches off the top of a waist constitutes a low-necked gown and open-work stockings are rare; but perhaps that was because it was so cold. The number of red-headed women was disappointingly small. Most of the girls looked as if they had come from normal schools. The wholesomeness of their appearance afforded partial recompense for the awfulness of their voices. Manners were generally pretty bad even among those in high places, who kept getting in front of

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the President. Mr. Hitchcock is a good dancer. He will probably get married during his term.

What He Called to Say. Chicago Record-Herald: "Mr. President," said the caller at the white house, "I do not wish to boast, but I thought you might like to know that I was the original—"

"Really you must excuse me, my dear sir. I have a pressing engagement."

"Ah, I am very sorry. I merely called to say that I am the first man that ever—"

"I am very sorry, sir, but I really must beg that you will excuse me."

"Certainly, Mr. President, certainly. I merely wished to say that I am the first golfer that ever made a 275-yard drive with a niblick."

"Oh, I thought you were going to tell me you were the first man that ever supported me for the presidency. Sit down! Sit down! By the way, can't you have lunch here and go out and have a game with me this afternoon?"

Problem in geometry propounded by the Council Bluffs Nonpareil: "An Easter hat having the form of a parabola has a transverse axis equal to four times the radius of the crown. Find the circumference of the hat."

FED... The O... ver... KEOL... Every... Or... The... issued... the IO... and K... delega... the K... intere... the K... number... in Jun... officia... lows: Des... To... State... trais... lled M... Printi... and F... Gre... consti... that... tion... Labor... a m... cordi... of sal... ness... The... cny... Trad... deleg... for e... bers... and St... trais... lled P... gator... unlo... Trad... and to... also... local... rec... tion... tra... Stat... rese... citie... fillat... ions... to b... cicle... whe... with... direc... rese... with... than... isol... w... gate... orga... no... org... two... and... filled... be... Stri... C. J... a m... a sh... Stat... unic... prio... C... a... bein... of... stre... and... E... "The... and... the... the... Cha... AN...