

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa May 27, 1909.

Not all who disport themselves, in wheat live in clover. Patten is the exception to the rule.

The New York World says that shooting a hippopotamus is about as exciting as shooting a family cow.

At latest accounts there were three inches of snow in the Black Hills and the fire were still falling.

The Des Moines Register and Leader has a high opinion of Satan's courage, but it thinks he must have trembled for a moment when he heard of congress being told to go to hell.

Count Tolstoy's opinion of Roosevelt is awaited with some interest. If he is as free in his expression of it as Roosevelt was in his article on the Russian nobleman the literary firmament will be illuminated with some fine specimens of forked lightning.

On the now penny, soon to be issued by the United States, the face of Abraham Lincoln will be seen.

At Mattoon, Ill., a small tornado picked up seven geese which were swimming on a pond, plucked them clean of all their feathers and deposited them in a haymow window.

The Peoria Herald-Transcript announces that in a few days it will be possible to go from that city to Springfield and back for \$1.25 any day in the week.

The Booth Fisheries company, a \$5,000,000 corporation founded on the ruins of A. Booth & Co., has elected Frank C. Letts of Marshalltown, president.

The red bird or cardinal (cardinalis virginianus) has its habitat north to middle states; west to Missouri; not south of Rio Grande.

Today is the ninetieth anniversary of the birth of Julia Ward Howe, and New York women suffragists propose to celebrate it by presenting to congress a petition signed by 1,000,000 names asking for the enfranchisement of women.

Powerful weapons against the traffic in "white slaves" in Illinois are found in two bills, just passed by the legislature of that state.

vides in the case of detention of victims of the traffic on the ground that they are indebted to the management of resorts the same penalty, except that the sentence in the penitentiary is limited to five years. It is hoped and believed that these measures will go far toward breaking up the nefarious traffic in human beings.

The American Railway Association is undergoing a thorough reorganization with a view to ensuring more efficient study of the problems which affect American railroads. Among the new subjects which it is taking up is electrification, which a competent committee is going into carefully and in detail.

The Burlington Hawk-Eye thus states the case: "The commission plan of city government is not perfect, but it is a better method than the ward system for making progress toward higher ideals. Who would chop wood with a crowbar or hoe when he can get a sharp axe?"

There are several "professionals" in Keokuk who prefer the hoe to the axe for the purpose, but that is because they find profit in the use of the inefficient instrument—at the expense of Keokuk taxpayers. As their motives are well known, their opposition to it is in itself a powerful argument in favor of the commission plan.

THE KENTUCKY CARDINAL. The Des Moines Tribune, than which there is no more interesting and welcome paper on The Gate City exchange list, announced in a recent issue that a Kentucky cardinal had been seen in that city a couple of days previously.

"Whether Iowa is a favorite habitat for these exquisitely pretty songsters is a question. However, an effort to induce a few of the species to come permanently into the state would be worth while. For, even if the Kentucky cardinals failed to respond, other song birds would not be so backward.

There is no reason why the summer should not bring its great flocks of birds that sing. A strict enforcement of the shooting laws, a statewide effort to keep the sparrows from multiplying too rapidly and the setting out of birds houses by individuals would result in an increase in the number of Iowa songsters."

The Gate City was under the impression that the Kentucky cardinal was not unknown in Keokuk in recent years, but it wished for authoritative information on the subject and therefore referred the matter to Dr. J. M. Shaffer, the well-known Keokuk naturalist. The good doctor writes in reply:

"The red bird or cardinal (cardinalis virginianus) has its habitat north to middle states; west to Missouri; not south of Rio Grande. Mentioned in Warren's expedition, 1854, at Iowa Point. Until very recently the cardinal grosbeak was rarely seen in this vicinity. It has become a permanent resident and its glad whistle may be heard every month of the year. It nests in the trees on the high bluffs of the city. Perhaps they were enticed to remain here by the wise care of Mrs. James B. Diver. She always kept a generous supply of food suspended in the trees, and had the pleasure of seeing the cardinals appropriate it. The red bird is the emblem of the Iowa Audubon Society.

"This bird must not be confounded with the scarlet tanager or the rose-breasted grosbeak. It is pleasant to think that the cardinal has come with us to stay.

Dr. Shaffer's communication is especially interesting and valuable as showing that song birds can be induced to stay permanently with us and as pointing out how this may be done. Others would do well to profit by Mrs. Diver's example and supply the songsters with food.

ARE EXPRESS COMPANIES VIOLATING THE LAW?

Nathan B. Williams, a young lawyer of Fayetteville, Ark., in his researches into the history and workings of the United States post office department recently made the discovery that, according to his interpretation of the constitution of the United States and certain acts of congress, a very large proportion of the mail matter in this country is being transported in direct violation of law.

Section 3982 of the Revised Statutes of the United States makes it unlawful for any one to establish a private express for the carriage of letters or packets over any postroad of the United States or between any city, town or place between which the mail is regularly carried, and yet this is precisely what the express companies are doing every day in the year.

Towns and villages are handicapped and discriminated against by the express companies, and they so fuggle their rates as to get all of the profitable business which would otherwise go by mail, and leave the post office to carry such only as those to distant and remote places, and all of this is plainly seen to be at the expense of the revenue of the post office. Thus we have twenty-four mil-

lion dollars' express company 'dividend melons' and fifteen million dollars' postal deficits, all of which the whole people pay."

The matter is now before the United States circuit court of appeals at St. Paul and an early decision is anticipated. Should the court decide in Mr. Williams' favor the case will of course be appealed to the United States supreme court. It will probably be some time in any event before the matter is finally adjudicated.

THE COMMISSION PLAN IN IOWA. Secretary Egan of the Burlington Commercial Exchange made a trip into central Iowa last week and visited several cities which are interested in the commission plan of municipal government. In an interview in the Hawk-Eye he tells of some of the interesting and instructive things he saw and heard. In Davenport, where the plan was rejected, Mr. Egan reports that it seems to be agreed by all hands that failure was met because the undertaking was too hurried.

The senate bill introduced by Senator Aldrich leaves these Asiatic starchy still on the free list. Their production is increasing enormously. All European countries producing potato, wheat, and other cereal starchy, levy a tariff duty on these Asiatic starchy. The result is that the United States, letting them in free, is made the dumping ground for them and that in violation of the doctrine of American protection.

A bushel of Iowa corn produces about thirty pounds of corn starch. The 60,000,000 pounds of Asiatic starch imported last year, therefore, took the place of 2,000,000 bushels of Iowa corn, amounting at sixty cents per bushel, to \$1,200,000. The American farmers, including our Iowa farmers, were thus deprived of a home market for \$1,200,000 of their corn.

This is the manner in which Mr. Aldrich fixes his tariff bill for the benefit of the eastern manufacturer. For American corn and potato starch is consumed to an enormous extent by the cotton textile mills in sizing, filling and finishing their various fabrics. Sago and tapioca flour or starches are used by the same textile mills for the same purposes, and thus displace an equal amount of American starch. If the manufacturer gets the Asiatic starch free, he is just that much ahead. No reduction is made in the price of his fabrics to the consumer on account of getting this amount of tapioca starch free of duty.

As to the tapioca and sago coming into the country for food purposes these come in the pearl and flake form and there is no objection to admitting them free of duty. They can not be changed into the form of starch used in the textile mills. It is not necessary, therefore, to tax these foods in order to protect the American farmer and manufacturer in the starch industries. All this is well known to the pundits of Senator Aldrich's committee.

But when the Iowa manufacturer of corn starch asks protection on that product from this committee he is put up against Senator Lodge of Massachusetts. That distinguished senator is full of deceptive expedients in the interests of the Massachusetts cotton mills.

First, it is urged that American starch is controlled by a trust. The wind is knocked out of this by easily showing that the independent manufacturers, of whom Douglas and Company of Cedar Rapids are the largest, produce from 40 to 50 per cent of the American starch. Then the American starch men and farmer is told that to tax tapioca and sago is to enhance the price of a cheap food product, and to tax the poor man's pudding.

In answer to this it is shown at once, that as above stated, the edible products of tapioca and sago may still be admitted free of duty without in any manner affecting the duty on these American starchy. In fact it is not a good protective argument to say that pearl and flake sago and tapioca shall be admitted free for food any more than to say that flour and other food products shall be admitted free in competition with the foods produced by American farmers. But let that go.

Then it is claimed that the sago and

Protect American Corn. Tariff Should be Levied on Foreign Starches in the Interest of Iowa Producers.

Cedar Rapids Republican: The production of starch, made of corn and potatoes, in the United States amounts to 350,000,000 pounds annually. The imports of sago and tapioca flour, which are pure starch, amounted in 1908 to 61,000,000 pounds, or practically 18 per cent of the starch production in the United States. The total consumption of American starchy in the United States is about 300,000,000 pounds. The imports of sago and tapioca flour consumed in the United States is 60,000,000 pounds, amounting to 20 per cent of the American starch consumed at home. In other words, we give to Asiatic starch in this form, which is imported, over one-fifth of our home market.

The total starch of all kinds consumed by American industries, including tapioca and sago flour, is estimated at 150,000,000 pounds. The sago and tapioca flour thus consumed is, therefore, more than 33 per cent of the whole. The ratio is ninety pounds American starch to sixty pounds Asiatic starch. As stated, the Asiatic starch comes in free of duty. It will be seen at a glance that this situation is one of grave importance to the producers of American corn and potato starchy.

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A bushel of Iowa corn produces about thirty pounds of corn starch. The 60,000,000 pounds of Asiatic starch imported last year, therefore, took the place of 2,000,000 bushels of Iowa corn, amounting at sixty cents per bushel, to \$1,200,000. The American farmers, including our Iowa farmers, were thus deprived of a home market for \$1,200,000 of their corn. In addition, our people lost the further amount of money that would be paid out by the manufacturer and the transportation companies in manufacturing and handling this 2,000,000 bushels of corn.

The tapioca starch thus imported is manufactured from the cassava root or tuber. This root is three feet long and frequently weighs thirty pounds. Grown in cheap Asiatic soil, raised and manufactured into starch by Asiatic cool labor, it comes in competition with Iowa corn raised on land worth from \$100 to \$140 per acre, by men whose labor is worth and costs at least \$30 per month and keep.

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Iowa farmer is in his element. It is not difficult for other people to catch the note of his enthusiasm when they recall what Iowa has done in the past and when they note the prospects ahead. Bicycle Riding. Ottumwa Courier: Bicycle riding as a means of recreation has become such a rarity that one of the bloomer girls of the nineties would doubtless start a riot now. It seems strange that a nation should lose its head so completely over a sport and then so completely forget it. It is to be regretted too, that the reaction from the cycling craze that swept over the country was so complete. Properly indulged in there is no exercise more beneficial than bicycling, no pastime more exhilarating and enjoyable. Not Partial. Iowa City Republican: A sucker is born every minute, but all of them do not put their money in the same enterprise. —Read The Daily Gate City.

Bracelets T. R. J. Ayres & Sons. Are showing an exceedingly fine line of Bracelets in all designs, from \$1 to \$30 each. T. R. J. Ayres & Sons. 509 and 511 Main St. Keokuk, Iowa.

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