

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa ... November 22, 1909.

THANKSGIVING.

A soul to guide, A mind to know, And hands to work withal, To win from life the best it has. Heeding the inner call. To sacrifice whatever things Impede the "Higher Way"— For these I have a thankful heart Today, and every day. —McQuilkin.

Some people are sorry for the Cherry sufferers and others just plain sorry. Which are you?

An English actor who has made a decided hit in New York is named Yapp. The moral of this incident is that there is no handicap so great that it cannot be overcome.

Because some of the universities of the affete east refuse to admit women to their advantages an indignant suffragette calls them "moss-covered owl towers." As the Jacksonville Courier picturesquely suggests, this should cause them to arise from their reclining posture and take cognizance that something is transpiring.

The Omaha Bee recently increased its advertising rates from eighty-four cents an inch to ninety-eight cents an inch. This is a fat rate and all advertisers in the Bee are required to pay it regardless of how much space they buy. Simple suggestion of one-half that rate in a smaller community would make the average business man's hair stand on end like quills on the fretful porcupine.

The Marshalltown Times-Republican has figured out that Iowa saloon men are interested now in the increase of population, and that the Moon law is responsible for this new interest in sociology. "If we are to raise the number of saloons," reasons the Marshalltown paper, "we must quit killing people with booze and if we quit killing them off by this method of legal assassination we must sell less booze." According to this view of the case, the Iowa saloon man is up against it both a-comin' and a-goin'.

The miraculous escape from death of a number of the miners who were imprisoned in the burning coal mine at Cherry, Ill., after a week of confinement in the mine's depths, is almost like a resurrection from the dead. There is indeed cause for rejoicing that so many supposed to have perished in flame and smoke have been restored to their loved ones. Words cannot express the joy the latter must feel. The public sympathy was profoundly enlisted in their behalf and all rejoice with them in the great joy that is theirs.

All Iowa will rejoice to learn that the army tournament for 1910 will be held at Des Moines. The date has not been definitely determined as yet, but it will probably be the fourth week in September. The first tournament held in Iowa, in September of the present year, was the finest attraction ever afforded the people of the state. It was attended by a large number of people who were delighted with the feats they witnessed. It is a foregone conclusion that the crowd present next year will break all Iowa records in point of size. And it is equally certain that all present will be well repaid for their attendance.

There died last week in a little town in York state Herbert L. Rexford, who was not known to fame otherwise than that he had worked as a reporter on a newspaper for forty years. His employer, speaking of the man and his services, said that he had never, so far as the records went, misrepresented any citizen of his town, had never written a word which had harmed a person or an interest and had never taken a wrong advantage of one of his fellow workers. In sickness or in health he ever kept a bright face toward the world and never lost an opportunity to do or say a kind thing when it was needed. No better eulogy could be written of any man.

The Cedar Rapids Republican commenting on the changed view of Senator Aldrich in Des Moines, says, "The truth of the matter is that here in Iowa during the past few years we have been making imaginary bad men of straw in order to have the pleasure of knocking them down or burning them at the stake of inflamed public

opinion. Why we have been doing it we do not know, unless we have fallen under the silly spells that used to be confined to burnt up states like Kansas."

TO CONSERVE WATER POWER.

If the voters of New York approve a certain amendment to the state constitution at the next election that state will embark in private enterprise in a manner never before attempted by any government, here or abroad. The proposition is to empower the state water supply commission to install a great system of reservoirs in the mountainous regions, impound billions upon billions of gallons of water that go to waste in the spring freshets, and sell this mighty volume of stored energy for the generation of electric energy to industrial plants that may be a hundred miles away. If the idea is endorsed at the polls it will involve the expenditure of millions of dollars, but it will insure the return in profits of millions more; in addition it will mean the encouragement and increase of every form of business enterprise employing power, the beautification of waste places, and above all, the forestalling of all monopoly in private hands. It is believed the amendment will carry if its merits can be brought to the attention of the people of the state.

RICE PRODUCTION.

A recent bulletin of the department of commerce and labor indicates that rice is the chief cereal food of one-half the world's population, and wheat the chief cereal food of the other half. The world's rice crop is 170 billion pounds, and the wheat crop about 190 billion pounds. In the last decade the rice production in the United States has equaled that of the half century immediately preceding. Over 600,000,000 pounds were produced in 1908, Louisiana and Texas together raising more than 90 per cent of the total. Only \$13,000,000 in value of the vast quantities of rice exported by the various countries of the world came to North and South America during the latest year from which statistics are available, exclusive of the United States, of which \$5,000,000 worth entered Cuba, \$2,000,000 Argentina, \$2,500,000 Brazil and more than \$1,000,000 the British West Indies.

SOIL NOT WEARING OUT.

Recent developments indicate that we may be obliged to give up our belief that the soil in America is wearing out, just as we have had delusions not so disagreeable shattered. A comprehensive bulletin on the soil question, prepared by so careful an expert as Prof. Milton Whitney, has recently been issued by the department of agriculture.

The facts and figures presented in this bulletin tend to show that there is not any immediate danger of the soils of the United States wearing out. It is pointed out that the yield of wheat in the United Kingdom for the ten-year period from 1897 to 1906 was 32 bushels per acre; while the yield in the United States during the same period was a little less than 14 bushels per acre. Considering the fact that the farms of the United Kingdom have been under cultivation for a thousand years or more, it is held by Professor Whitney that continuous cropping does not necessarily tend to decrease production. This fact is made strikingly apparent by inquiry into the agricultural history of Germany. In that country, the average yield of wheat in the middle of the sixteenth century was about equal to the average yield in the United States; while at the present time, the wheat yield in Germany is a little more than double that of this country. This instance, according to Professor Whitney, shows that the larger yield of the older country is not due to the effects of better climatic conditions, but rather to the personal effort of the farmer and the development of a more efficient system of agriculture.

Professor Whitney has this to say concerning the productivity of agricultural lands in general: "The productivity of the newer agricultural soils of the United States and of the older agricultural soils of Europe, taken as a whole and for a nation, is not declining, as is popularly supposed. Individual farms deteriorate and soils wear out as they have always done, but as a whole it seems probable that we are producing more crops per acre than formerly. This is undoubtedly due to many factors: to better and more intelligent cultivation, more and better systems of rotation of crops, and, in later years, to intelligent use of fertilizers—three methods of control in the hands of every individual farmer. In addition, we must recognize the increase in farm animals and stock, the improvement in seed selection and breeding, and the increasing density in population, which is forcing attention to more intensive methods. And so far as our information goes there is apparently no significant difference at the present time between the composition of the best agricultural soils of Europe and the newer agricultural soils of the United States with respect to potash, phosphoric acid, lime and magnesia."

Commenting on the bulletin the Wisconsin Farmer says: "We believe that Professor Whitney's statements will come as a surprise to a great majority of our readers, because the average man labors under the belief that soils are gradually wearing out; on the other hand, it is a fact that our leading farmers in every state in the union, are not only able to maintain their crop yield, but they are increasing it from year to year. For instance, it is not uncommon to find the corn crop running up to ninety, even to one hundred bushels per acre on land that has been under the plow for a period of fifty or even seventy-five years. Where such yields as these are obtain-

ed, however, it goes without saying that crops have been rotated on such lands; that the legumes have played an important part in the cropping system and that livestock has been made to consume the greater part of crops produced. Where such a system of agriculture as this is practiced, men need have no fear of the productivity being reduced. It is true that there may be annually some loss of mineral element, but in ordinarily good soils such as our clays and loams, the supply of these materials is so great that a five-hundred or even a thousand-year period will not reduce the supply to a point where production is materially affected."

THE STANDARD OIL DECISION.

The decision by the United States court of appeals declaring the Standard Oil Company to be a conspiracy in restraint of trade is a signal triumph for the government. No more important or far-reaching decision has been made in recent years, and as it was concurred in by all the judges composing the court of appeals, there is strong probability that it will be sustained by the court of last resort. Under the terms of the court's order the present Standard Oil organization must be discontinued. If reorganization is effected it must be along entirely different lines. The suit was brought under the Sherman anti-trust law, enacted as a Republican party measure in 1890. The decision just rendered vindicates the wisdom and effectiveness of that legislation. The objections to the Standard Oil Company as a conspiracy in restraint of trade apply with equal force to all other combinations similarly organized. The matter will be taken at once to the United States supreme court for final adjudication, and as both parties to the suit will urge that tribunal to expedite the case an early settlement will doubtless be reached.

DEPOSIT MAIL EARLY.

The business community can aid materially in improving the postal service by sending their mail to the postoffice as early in the day as possible, so that it may be prepared for dispatch before the final rush hours in the evening. Under the present arrangement from 4,000 to 6,000 letters are deposited in the postoffice between 5:30 and 6:30 p. m. Most of these letters are intended for dispatch in the mail which closes at 6:40 p. m. As the capacity of the canceling machine is limited and a faster machine cannot be obtained until the financial receipts of the office are almost doubled, it is highly desirable that as much of the mail as possible be cancelled in advance of the last hour. With the holidays with their greatly increased volume of mail near at hand, the necessity for early mailing is correspondingly more imperative if the service is to be as prompt and efficient as it should be. The business community can help in a very direct and practical way by sending all mail to the postoffice as soon as it can be prepared. A deposit of mail, say, at noon and again about three or four o'clock would be especially acceptable in the interest of prompt and careful dispatch.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

An eastern paper recalls that about this time two years ago Uncle Joe Cannon was as badly beaten as he is today. The Shenandoah-Post says that the Republicans must enact a postal savings bank law or suffer defeat in the next election. "With all the wrangling going on in the Republican party, the stock of the Democratic party does not seem to rise a bit," says the Boone-Republican. Braganza, who married a mess of American dollars, declares that his high sense of honor demands that all his debts be paid in full at once. This touching devotion to honor is believed to be the expression of an acquired taste. "Two boys face prison term, plead guilty to robbing postoffice before Judge McPherson," announces the Des Moines Tribune. The Cedar Rapids Gazette suggests that boys should not rob postoffices before Judge McPherson or any one else. Missouri papers tell of a man in a town in that state who became suspicious of his wife. He publicly made the threat that if a certain person he knew of didn't fork over about fifty dollars there would be exciting things for the papers to write up. The next morning's mail brought him five envelopes each containing a new \$50 bill. The man was shocked but started to a saloon to celebrate. When he tried to spend the money he learned that it was stage money. The Webster City Freeman-Tribune declares that a young man with good health and grit is bound to win. "He is not looking for an opportunity. He is making one. You can't lose the young man with character and grit. Some day he will be at the head of a railroad corporation, a large manufacturing institution, a big retail establishment or something equally as good. He is not now wishing that there is no chance for a young man in this country." He knows there is and he is making the most of his talents. Watch him grow.

THE REMEDY.

Des Moines Tribune: The vigorous use of a trunk strap upon the first appearance of "bandit" symptoms will save many a youth from an ignominious end.

THE CURRENT MAGAZINES.

The November "Green Bag" has in its contents the following features: "The Jones County Calf Case," by J. S. Woodhouse; "James Grant, a Model American," Willis Bruce Dowd; "The Lawyers' Court of Compulsory Arbitration," "The Assignment of Prominent Lawyers to Criminal Cases," "A Letter on the Improvement of Procedure," Judge William L. Putnam; "The Defeat of Judiciary Reform in New Jersey," "The Legal World." The Green Bag is published monthly by the Riverdale Press, Brookline, Boston, Mass.

"The Romance of an American Duchess," by Demetra and Kenneth Brown, the complete novel in the November Smart Set, is an interesting account of the life of an American girl who marries a French duke and goes abroad to live in an old chateau in the depths of Touraine. There are glimpses, too, of the fast set of Paris, Biarritz and the great Continental resorts. Neith Boyce is represented by another of her great character studies, that of the wife in her story, "Suttee," who makes self-sacrifice her god, and years for martyrdom. Jean Webster, whose Patty stories made her famous, contributes in "On Lone Tree Hill" one of the best examples of her recent work. The scene of this story is India, the subject a man's expiation.

The big feature in the December number of the Outing Magazine is Harry Whitney's "Hunting in the Arctic" with which the magazine opens. The article is illustrated with no less than twenty-two photographs taken by Mr. Whitney and the whole display is one of the most remarkable that has ever been brought back from the Arctic. The story itself is a graphic account of the most remarkable experience that ever fell to the lot of an American sportsman. Other articles of importance are Walter Camp's "Great Teams of the Past," a chronicle of the careers and accomplishments of the football teams that have made history; "Our Lady of the Lakes," by A. W. Dimock, a story of a canoeing trip in the wilds of Canada, fully illustrated with photographs by Julian A. Dimock, the other half of the Dimock partnership.

Everybody's for December presents a cover design from photographs of snow flakes. And the editors have called it "One of Nature's Masterpieces." A little explanation on the back of the frontpiece tells, as in a lesson to children, how the work was done, but only the Master of all things could solve for us the mystery of these rare and wonderfully exact works of art in miniature. The Magazine proper begins with an article, "Why," by Elizabeth Robbins, the famous English writer. The editors asked this conservative woman why her British sisters throw stones and mob cabinet ministers, and the answer is a terrible catalogue of the wrongs and sufferings of our transatlantic cousins female.

In Heroes of the Telegraph Key, A. W. Rolker contributes a series of stories of deeds of daring unsurpassed in fiction. And when one realizes that they all have occurred right here within the lifetime of many of us, the wonder grows that an emotional public has resisted the impulse to bestow titular honors and pensions as they do in Europe. Judge Lindsey's "The Beast and the Jungle," is largely devoted to detailed accounts of his court's methods of placing disorderly young boys "on honor." Dr. William Hanna Thomson's "The Nature of Physical Life," is in line with his former work. And from such an authority we must accept with respect his implied conclusion that after a half-century of scientific brain and nerve studies, he arrives inevitably at indications of the soul in man, and the guidance of a supreme power. Of the fiction, "The Eyes of the Two Jeremiahs," by Ernest Poole, presents the keenest, most lovable insight into the minds and characters of certain "hayseeds" who really show the city man how to do business.

Easy Money for Iowa. Des Moines Tribune: The whole state should be interested in the corn show that is to open in the new Coliseum in less than two weeks. Mr. Holden showed what could be accomplished in Iowa by directing a little intelligent attention to corn. It is likely that the average yield per acre is enough greater because of fixing the public mind on seed to more than repay in one year all the good seed campaigns will ever cost. How many people realize that the yield of corn in Iowa is less than one ear of lead pencil length to the hill? How many people can figure out what it would mean in dollars and cents to add one ear to the hill of lead pencil length? Iowa could double her corn yield without any extra labor or expense just by studying corn and how to propagate it. Where is there any easier money? The fields are being plowed and tilled. Where is there any easier money than getting twice the corn for the same labor?

Always the Worst Ever. Cedar Rapids Gazette: The worst winter storms ever seen and never heard of are again reported. There are some awful liars in the world or else there will be no living in the blizzard belt in a very few years. If the storms kept on becoming the

worst ever, all animal life in the snow belt will soon be extinct.

Tobacco Growing in Northern Central Missouri.

Macon (Mo.) Republican: E. E. Samuel, of Samuel & Sullivan, Chicago, arrived here this week and is examining the Missouri tobacco crop. He was accompanied by Mr. Martin of the same city. Mr. Samuel supplied the farmers of north-central Missouri with White Burley seed last spring on a contract to pay them \$10 a hundred for their product from that seed. Mr. Samuel said Wednesday the crop so far inspected had shown up as good as the best Kentucky article, and will easily grade at the top notch. Clark Brookings, who lives in Macon, put in two acres, from which he raised 2,000 pounds. This will bring him \$200 and he lost no time from his general farm work. The counties in which the largest acreage was sown are Macon, Shelby, Monroe, Randolph, Boone, Audrain, Linn, Charlton and Howard. In the ante-bellum days Charlton and Howard produced immense quantities of tobacco by slave labor. The main market then was Great Britain. When the bottom fell out of the Missouri market, and a great number of shippers were forced into bankruptcy. But conditions have changed. Now there is a steady market, for White Burley in all European countries, and a growing demand in China, where opium is being stopped by imperial edict.

Mr. Samuel hopes to convince Missouri farmers that they can make more money now raising tobacco than they did in the old days, and contracts to take every pound of White Burley they raise at \$10 a hundred. The ground, which for nearly half a century has been sown in cereals, is now particularly adapted to the raising of tobacco. Next year the acreage will be more than doubled, as it will be steadily increased as growers are convinced of the stability of the market. The main warehouse for the north Missouri product will be at Macon where the eastern buyers will meet and bid for the crop. The tobacco grown in central Missouri will be warehoused at Huntsville. The new industry will, it is expected, add many thousands of dollars to the state's source of revenue within the next two or three years.

More Theatres Than Ever. The preachers may thunder against the theatres, but the building of the theatres goes on, nevertheless. Chicago is about to build another theatre, the most magnificent, it is predicted. In the west, New York has more theatres than churches and while one-half of the churches are not half filled one day a week, all the theatres are packed to the doors six days a week and two matinees. The churches are free, but people pay fancy prices for seats in the theatres. There was never a time when the theatre was more persistently denounced, and there never was a time when the theatre had so many patrons.

Freak Corn.

Bonaparte Record: While husking corn for Minor Ware Friday of last week a hybrid was found and was brought to Bonaparte for exhibition by Emil Noske. This stalk of corn had forty-three separate and distinct ears growing in one bunch at the top. The ends of the ears and some of the grains had husks greatly resembling wheat, and it appeared that the product in its make up and arrangement was really half wheat and half corn. It is such a perfect specimen that it should be sent to the agricultural college at Ames for exhibition.

A Hopeless Case.

Washington Democrat: A man in this town went away on a visit to be gone a week. His wife compelled him to take along a night shirt and two clean shirts and several collars. She also put a necktie on him as he left, which was against his will but he wore it anyway. When he got back, he had on the same shirt he wore when he left home and the collar had not been taken off and the necktie was tied exactly as she had left it. The night shirt had not been disturbed. And so the case was set down as hopeless.

Corn at \$1.00 a Bushel.

Brashear (Mo.) News: Harrison Garlock brought a load of corn to town Saturday which was sold at auction. The corn had been selected and every ear in the load was a good one. It was piled in tiers across the wagon bed and there were ten tiers. The load weighed out twenty-two bushels. It was bid in by C. S. Davis at \$1.00 per bushel, or \$22 for the load.

No Use Trying.

Quincy Journal: One Boston paper maintains that football is a game carried on for the entertainment of womankind, as any glance at the grandstand will demonstrate. In that case, any attempt to abolish it is useless.

Real Neighbors.

Wyaconda News: Neighbors of Walter Laswell shucked out his corn, about eighteen acres, last Friday. There were twenty-four men and twelve teams and the work was completed in a half day. The work was greatly appreciated.

Valuable Assistance.

"Did you have any assistance when you made your appearance as a singer?" "Yes," answered the amateur soloist. "There was a policeman keeping order in the gallery."

\$10.30 Round Trip to the National Corn Exposition Auditorium, Omaha, Dec. 6 to 18 For the betterment of agriculture. Unequaled displays of corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa and grasses, and graphic instructions as to best agricultural methods within the reach of every farmer, for achieving such results. Illustrated stereopticon lectures. Experiments. Model kitchen. Moving pictures. Music. Many features of interest to the farmers' wife. The most interesting and instructive Corn Exposition ever held. Every farmer and every farmer's wife should attend. Let me give you special folder telling all about the National Corn Exposition. G. F. CONRADT, City Ticket Agent, C. E. & Q. R. R. Fifth and Johnson Sts., Keokuk, Ia.

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A Farmer's Experience. No wonder Uncle Si feels sore And wonders where he wins. He sells his fruit and then pays more To get it back in tins. The Millionaire of the Future. Council Bluffs Nonpareil: The millionaire of the future will tell how he founded his fortune on a colony of good laying hens in Iowa during the winter of 1909-10. Natural Vagrants, All of Us. There has never been a time when men did not wander from a desire for change, a desire to flee from the monotony of mere existence. There is a fever in the blood which drives men to wander, affecting rich and poor alike, and this is a factor which no legislation can ever entirely eliminate in dealing with the true vagrant class. Severe Winters in England. There was ice 61 inches thick on the Thames in England in 1684 and in 1684 the ice was again thick enough on the Thames to support coaches which were driven across it. Needed Higher Wages. "There, Fanny! You have broken another vase. Your breakage this month amounts to more than your wages. What shall I do?" "Give me a raise."—Flegende Blaetter.