

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa, December 2, 1909.

Dr. Cook is generally credited with finding the north pole, but who will now find Dr. Cook?

The imprisonment of the Nicaraguan congress is not likely to become popular as an object lesson.

It has been noticed that the cheerful giver and the early shopper are in most instances the same person.

The canning of assistant sugar weighers in the New York custom house has become quite an active and important industry of late.

A southern professor is reported to have said recently that the men of the south are the only men in the United States who believe in God, read Scott's novels and vote the Democratic ticket.

It is generally understood that congress will do nothing in the postal savings bank matter at its coming session.

The proposition will be allowed to rest until the currency commission has reported. If established at all the postal savings banks will be made a part of the new currency system.

Major Lacey says that woman is the most beautiful thing on earth and next to her the most beautiful thing is a red apple.

The Boone News-Republican concedes that this may be true, but it recalls that the combination of the two brought the most disastrous results in the cosmology of the earth.

A Washington dispatch states that Colonel Heppburn will open a law office in that city at once. He will spend his summers in Iowa and his winters in Washington.

It was because of his business arrangements Colonel Heppburn, when sent for by President Taft the other day, declined the office of commissioner of pensions.

Lynching is an expensive luxury in Illinois, and should be made so in every state in the Union. The Illinois law provides that anyone dependent upon the victim of a mob may recover from the city or county in a sum not exceeding \$5,000.

One of the victims of the recent mob at Cairo left two little children who may look to the city for financial assistance.

The discovery by the United States department of agriculture that we have this year raised more food stuffs than last year affords occasion for thanksgiving that at least we need not starve.

There is no call for wastefulness, however, as the aggregate increase is only about two per cent greater than last year, though nine per cent more than for the five years previous thereto.

At Cherry, Ill., last Sunday one of the local pastors in speaking of the mine horror said that of the male members of the Congregational church in that place only one man was left. All the others perished in the mine.

At the meeting of the village board on Monday night two aldermen and the clerk were absent. They were among the dead in the same catastrophe. Incidents like these convey some idea of the extent of the calamity.

The Mason City Globe-Gazette declares that Republicans may miss all they want to but next fall they will either have to defend the Payne bill or else condemn it, and that every mother's son of them who expect to be elected will defend it.

The memory of the McKinley bill is still fresh in the minds of middle-aged people, but the Globe-Gazette consoles itself with the reflection that there is a year to test the bill instead of a month before the congressional elections are on.

Cuba is restless again and the cafe generals are said to be busy devising means to depose President Gomez after nine months in office.

The editor of the Waterloo Reporter visited Cuba once upon a time and took note of conditions there. He suggests that if Gomez will take a tip from one who observed the game in Havana from the outside for a few months, he will abolish the public cafes.

He says that if the Cuban "generals" cannot sit in plain view of an admiring populace, drinking vino smoke cigars and talk politics there will be no more insurrections.

Is a Masonic lodge a charitable institution? This question will be answered by the supreme court of Iowa, and will settle a point that the lower courts have answered in the affirmative. Under a bequest a deceased member of the Masonic fraternity willed his lodge some of his property. The state officials sought to collect the inheritance tax under the state law, but it was resisted by the lodge on the ground that the lodge was a charitable institution and therefore exempt under the provisions of the inheritance tax law. The lower court sustained the contention of the lodge.

They have had the commission plan of city government in actual operation for nearly two years in Cedar Rapids. The Republican of that city discussing the Burlington result does not claim that the new plan is the perfection of city government, nor that it will do away with the evils that are inherent in such government, but—

"It is a step in the right direction. The ward and aldermanic system is going to be a thing of the past in Iowa within ten years. This prediction has been made many times in this newspaper and we are more confirmed in that belief now than ever before. The victory in Burlington shows which way the wind is blowing."

The Rock Island, satisfied with its experiment with a motor car between Vinton and Iowa Falls, has put on a new and larger one. It is of the gasoline pattern and carries a 200 horse-power engine with a speed of fifty miles per hour. The car will carry seventy-five passengers. The same company would do well to put on a similar car between Keokuk and Eldon, and the Burlington should imitate the Rock Island's good example with cars between Keokuk and Mount Pleasant on the North road and between Keokuk and Lancaster on the Keokuk & Western. In addition to being a great public convenience such service would forestall the construction of interurban lines which would take much of the business from the steam roads.

OUR AGRICULTURAL WEALTH. Secretary Wilson in his thirteenth annual report of the work of the department of agriculture sounds a pean of rejoicing over the magnificent crops of the present year. He does not hesitate to declare that "most prosperous of all years is the place to which 1909 is entitled in agriculture." The secretary goes on to say:

"The yield has been bountiful while most crops and prices have been high. Advantageously situated as he is in most respects, the farmer is less and less generally compelled to dump his crops on the market at the time of harvest. He does not need to work for his board and clothes as he did often in former times, when prices were so low as to be unprofitable. The agricultural production of 1909 must add to the prosperity of the farmers. The record is unexampled in wealth produced and tells of abundance in quantity. Year by year the farmer is better and better prepared to provide the capital and make the expenditures needed to improve his agriculture and to educate his children for farm life and work."

Unprecedented conditions of volume and price have brought the farmers of the United States a revenue of \$8,760,000,000 for the current year. It is true, as the secretary says, that the value of farm products is so incomprehensibly large that it has become a row of figures. Ten years ago the total value of all the farm crops produced in the United States was a little more than one-half of their value this year. The compensation of the farmers for their labor has more than doubled since James Wilson began to make these reports. The gain over 1908 is \$869,000,000, and during the last seven years the total has been \$7,000,000,000. In speaking of results Mr. Wilson says:

"It has paid off mortgages; it has established banks; it has helped to make the farmer a citizen of the world; it has provided him with means for improving the soil and making it more productive."

The census of the United States for 1900 reports 5,739,657 farms, which have undoubtedly increased 10 per cent in number during the interval of nine years, and today there are probably 6,300,000 productive farms in the country. On this basis the average production last year was about \$1,400 per farm.

Secretary Wilson gives some interesting details. In speaking of the corn crop he says:

"The most striking fact in the history of the world's agriculture is the value of the corn crop of 1909 in this country, which amounts to about \$1,720,000,000. This corn came up from the soil and out of the air in 120 days—\$14,000,000 a day for one crop—nearly enough for two dreadnoughts daily, for peace or war. It nearly equals the value of the clothing and personal adornments of 76,000,000 people, according to the census of 1900. The gold and silver coin and bullion of the United States is not of greater value."

"The value of the corn crop is the highest on record, and it is greater than the average of the five preceding years by 36 per cent, while the farm price per bushel is greater by 32 per cent. The price per bushel on Nov. 1, which was 62.6 cents, has been exceeded only once in the records of the department of agriculture, beginning with 1866, and that was in 1881, when it was 63.6 cents."

"In quantity of production this year's corn crop stands second, with 2,767,000,000 bushels, being exceeded by the crop of 1906, but it is greater than the average crop of the five preceding years by 2.5 per cent."

On the same authority the wheat crop is greater by 24.6 per cent than

the average for the last five years and the farm price of wheat is higher than at any time since 1881.

The hay crop is 10 per cent above the five-year average, and only in one year, 1907, has its value been over-topped.

The potato crop is 25 per cent above the five-year average.

The tobacco crop has never been equaled and is nearly 50 per cent above the five-year average.

The beet sugar crop will be about 500,000 short tons beyond any previous record in quantity and in value.

The farm value of the barley crop is 15 per cent above the average of five years; that of flaxseed is 40 per cent and that of rice is 21 per cent.

The farm value of all cereals is 34 per cent above the average for the last five years.

The following table shows the farm value of the different crops named:

Table with 2 columns: Crop Name and Value. Includes Corn (\$1,720,000,000), Cotton (\$500,000,000), Wheat (\$725,000,000), Hay (\$685,000,000), Oats (\$400,000,000), Potatoes (\$212,000,000), Tobacco (\$100,000,000), Sugar, beet and cane (\$95,000,000), Barley (\$88,000,000), Flaxseed (\$36,000,000), Rice (\$25,000,000), Rye (\$23,000,000).

Compared with the average of the previous five years, Secretary Wilson says that every crop is worth more to the farmer. Compared with 1908, this year's gains are \$208,000,000 for cotton, \$107,000,000 for wheat, \$105,000,000 for corn, \$29,000,000 for hay, \$18,000,000 for tobacco and \$15,000,000 for potatoes. Other gains are enumerated as follows:

"There were substantial gains in value of dairy and poultry products and of animals sold and slaughtered," says the secretary. "The price of butter has not been so high in many years, and the same is true of eggs and dressed poultry, and, except for the higher price of last year, it is also true of milk."

"In the grand total the farm products of 1909 are greater in value than those of 1908 by \$869,000,000, or by enough to buy a new equipment of farm machinery for over 6,000,000 farms."

"All the cereal crops of 1909 are worth \$3,000,000,000 to the farmer, an amount that would pay for all the machinery, tools and implements of the entire manufacturing industries in this country."

"All crops are worth \$5,700,000,000, which would make a half payment on the value of all steam railroads, according to the valuation of 1904. All animal products are worth over \$3,000,000,000."

"The total of all items is \$8,760,000,000. In eleven years of application of mind, muscle and machine to this basic industry of mankind the wealth produced by farmers, estimated as previously described, is valued at \$70,000,000,000."

One of the most amazing portions of Secretary Wilson's report is that in which he discusses the increase in prices. "In 1909 the relative price of all commodities," he says, "is expressed by 122.6, the mean average for 1896-1909 being regarded as 100." Not one article in all the list of the products of the farms of the United States shows a decrease. In comparison with other commodities, Secretary Wilson shows an increase from the unit of 100 for the period 1896-1909 to 128.7 in 1909 for foods after they have left the farm, 121.9 for clothing, 125.3 for fuel and light, 124.9 for metals and implements, 132.5 for lumber and building materials, 106 for drugs and chemicals, 119 for house furnishing goods, 129.8 for milk, 205.1 for eggs, 151.7 for butter, 110.1 for coffee, 87.2 for granulated sugar, 74.7 for tea and 127.1 for provisions and groceries generally.

The report makes a splendid showing for the farming industry in this country for the current year.

MARTYRS WERE LOCAL MERCHANTS. Two dealers, in ill-fated Cherry, Ill., described in the dispatches as "representative local merchants," were among the volunteers who went down into the flaming furnace of that burning tomb of three hundred miners, to rescue their townsmen and restore them to the weeping wives and mothers at the mouth of that gaping Gehenna. The American Paint and Oil Dealer, a trade journal, in commenting on their heroism finds occasion to say:

"The names of these two dealers, who thus met their doom and, with all the rest of the dozen in that cage of death, were immediately inscribed by the flames were not Sears, nor Roebuck, nor Ward. These men, these 'country dealers' who had cast their lot completely with their community, to share its life and further its prosperity, whose loyalty wavered not in a fire male population of the town, and who stepped into the cage with their eyes to the sunlight and a strange smile upon their faces, were John Flood and Isaac Lewis."

The incident thus graphically recorded brings home in a very realistic way an argument in favor of patronizing home dealers that the press of the country has been making for several years. It was not Sears, nor Roebuck, nor Ward who paid taxes in Cherry and contributed of their means in aid of every worthy enterprise in furtherance of the interests and welfare of the community. Nor was it Sears or Roebuck or Ward who, when the crisis came, bravely and cheerfully laid down their lives in a desperate attempt to save the lives of the miners imprisoned in the burning mine. The men who thus sacrificed themselves were home dealers, "representative local merchants," and their final act of heroism fittingly supplemented and gloriously fortified their devotion to the community of which they were a part. When in the course of monotonous every-day

DR. PRICE'S CREAM Baking Powder. Makes the Biscuit and Cake lighter, finer flavored, more nutritious and wholesome. Its active principle, cream of tartar, a pure, health-giving fruit acid, is derived solely from grapes. Study the label and buy only baking powder made from cream of tartar.

life or when some great calamity suddenly presents itself, it is the home merchant who meets the demands of the occasion—not some mail order firm in some distant city. The latter has no interest in a community beyond what it can get out of it. The representative local merchant, as typified by John Flood and Isaac Lewis, is willing to lay down his life if need be for his neighbors and friends. No argument is necessary to make it clear that it is the home dealer and not the mail order concern that is worthy of patronage.

NOTES AND COMMENT. The Farmington Republican reports that twenty-seven of Vincennes' citizens were converted at a recent revival at that place.

The Mason City Globe-Gazette suggests that if Wellman's estimate of Dr. Cook is true it carries out the old adage that it takes a fakir to catch a fakir.

Dr. W. W. Martin, pioneer Methodist minister, is dead at his home in Indianapolis. He was an early minister of the Des Moines conference of the Methodist church.

The Cherokee Democrat has observed that the young man who raises a good crop of wild oats doesn't do any dry farming. He finds irrigation to be of much assistance.

According to the Des Moines Register and Leader, the average man's first impulse upon receiving a 1910 calendar is to see how many pay days there will be in January.

The telephone users of Iowa City will cast postal card ballots this week to express their wishes relative to the consolidation of the Independent Johnson county and the Iowa Telephone exchanges.

Joseph Fralley of Fort Madison, the well known attorney, will deliver the principal eulogy at the annual memorial exercises of the Des Moines lodge of Elks, to be held Sunday afternoon at Foster's opera house.

Norman E. Mack asserts that in no state of the union has the Democratic party gone backward. Which reminds the Des Moines Register and Leader that it can't go backward very well without falling off the edge.

Woman in politics does not appeal to the Alta Advertiser. "The man's ideal of a woman," it says, "is not one who can make a political speech, but rather one who can make the home pleasant, to whom he can tell his troubles and go to for advice."

The Davenport Democrat foresees that if Iowa Republicans will vote against each other as enthusiastically as they talk about each other, the state will be the mysterious stranger in the Democratic column as soon as we have another election.

Howard Rann's "Editor Agricultural Department, The Press: I am engaged to a young man whose parents object to our marriage because I know nothing about cooking. I can make fudge and angel's food cake, but they think he might want a change. To my notion, woman's sphere is not in the kitchen, but in the sitting room. What would you advise me to do?—Geraldine."

If we were you, Geraldine, we would hunt up some pampered son of luxury, like a merry-go-round proprietor, and drag him to the altar with a block and tackle. We can see that with your refined, 32-candle power taste, you were never designed for such rude occupations as going to the mat with a bread pan, chasing a scrub brush over a soft pine floor, and shadowing a lisom carpet sweeper. You were designed to sit in the front

parlor in a cheese-cloth kimona and shine like the family photograph album. When it comes to crating up a tankful of baked beans for a coarse and noisy appetite, you are not there. Pick out some imbecile with a bank account and throw the hooks into him.

WILL BROOKHART RUN? Home Paper Sees Some Complications in Case Washington Man is a Candidate.

Washington Democrat: There has been a good deal of speculation among the politicians as to whether the First congressional district fight would be complicated for the Republicans by the entrance into the game of Brookhart of this town. There are rumors afloat this week that he will shy his castor into the ring, whatever that means, in next week's Press, but of course, this is only rumor so far as we can learn and we therefore give it very little credence.

And this is not saying that he would not be amply able to fill the office of congressman if he were elected, but he cannot very well run and be consistent with his record of fighting corporations and things. For many years, ever since he has taken up the cudgel for reform under the tutelage of Albert B. Cummins, the able Iowa senator, Brookhart has been hammering at corporations with a zeal worthy of the crusaders of old. He has lambasted them in season and out of season. A trust was a red rag in a bull's eyes to him. He would fight a corporation at the drop of the hat and ate one raw many a morning before his morning meal and as the birdies were singing their matutinal lays and were glad to be alive, Brookhart was swallowing a trust of two. And this pleased the "Common Peepul."

But alas and alas, a sad day came when he was tempted and he was taken up into the mountain top of temptation and he was shown what he might possess if he would get into a corporation and sad to relate, he fell. From being a hater of corporations he became the leading factor, or at least, a leading factor in the biggest corporation in Iowa, next to the C. B. & Q. railroad, and we are not so sure that it is larger. He became actively connected with the George H. Paul Land Co., which company handles millions of dollars annually. And we hereby apologize to Mr. Paul for mentioning his company in connection with this item, but it is imperative in our work as a local newspaper, to note the things not as being vouched for, except as we hear them discussed by the leading Republicans of the county.

Of course, Brookhart still professes to despise corporations with a hate that is intense and bitter, but a great deal of the force of this is lost when his connection with this immense corporation is known.

We said the company brings money to town. Indeed, it has brought \$1,800,000, \$200,000 in the last eighteen months, so say the Republicans. And we find no fault with this. We hope he has made half a million, but he won't get very far claiming he is the original trust buster and corporation destroyer. The people will discount his claims. Brookhart has built a \$15,000 house, the finest home in Washington and the second most costly in the country. And this also, is his privilege but it will sound funny when he goes out to slay octopuses to know that he lives in a palatial home and in a home paid for out of money made in eighteen months and with \$200,000 of the same money in the bank.

Why, he even has a barn that cost twice as much as the average house in Washington. His barn is conceded to have cost \$2,500 and we know not, but it will reach \$3,500. This also

Special Landseekers' Excursions to the 320-Acre Free Government Farms. To Moorcroft, Wyo., December 7, 1909. To Upton, Wyo., December 21, 1909.

Leave Chicago, 9:45 a. m.; Kansas City, 10:30 a. m.; Omaha, 4:10 p. m.; Lincoln, 6:15 p. m. Low round trip rates for these excursions at practically all railroad stations in the central states.

I will personally conduct the above landseekers' excursions to assist prospective settlers in finding good locations. LANDS GOING FAST. These choice 320-acre homesteads, in the immediate vicinity of farmers that are successfully growing all kinds of crops, are being rapidly taken up by new settlers from the central states. In fact the U. S. Land Offices in Wyoming are now overcrowded with work, caused by the rush of new settlers. If you want to get a homestead close to the Burlington's main line or near the Burlington's new line now building in Wyoming, you should act at once.

OUR NEW FOLDER FREE. Write today for our new folder with large map telling all about these lands.

D. CLEM DEEVER, General Agent LANDSEEKERS' INFORMATION BUREAU 1004 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.

Burlington Route

You Can't Be Friends With Your Conscience and spend your income. A growing savings account gives you self-confidence, self-respect. A deposit of \$1.00 a week for twenty years will amount to \$1417.22, which means \$1040 deposited and \$377.22 interest earned. Why not have your money work for you and start an account today at the

The State Central Savings Bank. CAPITAL \$100,000.00. SURPLUS \$200,000.00. Corner Sixth and Main street, Keokuk, Iowa.

William Logan, President. Geo. E. Rix, Vice President. J. F. Kiedalsch, Sr., Vice Pres. C. J. Boe, Cashier. H. T. Graham, Ass't Cashier. H. Boyden Blood, Ass't Cashier.

The Keokuk Savings Bank. is equipped to transact any business demanded of a well organized bank. ONE DOLLAR WILL START A SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

A. E. JOHNSTONE, President. F. W. DAVIN, Cashier. H. L. CONNABLE, Vice Pres. H. W. WOOD, Assistant Cashier.

Savings Depositors Present Your Book at the Keokuk National Bank.

ON DECEMBER 1ST or any day thereafter and receive credit for INTEREST DUE YOU on that date, or collect it in cash if you prefer to do so.

Iowa State Insurance Company. Oldest Company in the State. Keokuk Iowa. Incorporated in 1855. Insurance written since organization \$229,563,567.47. H. R. COLLISSON, City Agent.

is an improvement we are proud of only it will hardly chalk up when he goes out making reform speeches against the trusts. We are reminded by these reflections of the time Brookhart and Clifford Thorne conducted a harmony meeting at the opera house. Clifford got up and bombarded the C. B. & Q. railroad till there wasn't a shred of it left to do business. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when he got done and nobody was more enthusiastic over his efforts than Brookhart. He got up and said he had always been proud of Clifford, but now he was prouder than he had ever been. And then he took the skin off the corporations and hung them up in plain view of the audience and such fearful slaughter has not been seen since St. Bartholomew's day. The dead and dying lay all around, even as at the charge of the Six Hundred, made famous by Tennyson. And we must say that Clifford has kept faith. He has fought the corporations consistently from that day to this. He will excuse our dragging him into this, as he was a part of the "harmony meeting" and it becomes necessary to mention it, as we hear it referred to so often since the rumor of Brookhart running for congress is in the air.

And so, while we would not for the world mix up in any Republican row, our duty as a local newspaper makes it imperative that we say this much. Clifford's record as a fighter of trusts is clear, while Brookhart is the big factor in one of the largest corporations in the state. Like the man who tried to commit suicide by hanging himself with a blind bridle and was rescued at the last moment by his son who said to him, "you would look like hell going to heaven in a

blind bridle." So will Brookhart look fighting corporations.

As we have already suggested, the George H. Paul Company is one of the largest in Iowa and in 1907 when it was incorporated S. W. Brookhart's name was the first on the list. It was incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000, \$25,000 of it preferred stock, it guaranteed 25 per cent dividends. It is now incorporated for \$300,000 with \$75,000 preferred stock. The Geo. Paul Co. is a good thing for the town. It gives employment to many people and anybody has a right to go in and make money out of it if he can, but he has no right to pose as a reformer and a trust buster while doing it. The George Paul Company is not in politics and the only reformer in the bunch, the only one who can smell corruption a mile off, if the wind is right, the only person in it who sees evil in every other corporation and fights it when it is the other fellow, comes out for congress on a reform platform, or at least it is rumored that he is coming out.

Before the Drug Act. "Before we had governmental inspection of drugs," said a chemist of Washington, "queer things used to happen. Here is one:

"A Washington man was taken violently ill, and his wife got him a box of nux pills. He took three and recovered. The remainder of the box was put away in a damp closet.

"Some time later, going to the closet, the man found that two of the six pills left in the box had sprouted. A healthy green shoot had sprung from each. Instead, you see, of being nux pills they were nothing but peas covered with a coat of flour."