

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa December 3, 1909.

Some men are so whole-souled as to have very indifferent half-soles.

People with a proper conception of Christmas and thoroughly imbued with its spirit never spell it Xmas.

Foster, the weather prophet, predicts a warm winter. That's too bad. Everybody except the coal men were hoping it would be that kind of a winter.

Wellman brands Dr. Cook as an imposter, which leads the Knoxville Express to remark that the doctor may be the biggest liar out of jail, but he is certainly lucky in his detractors.

Judge McPherson is quoted to the effect that the Iowa City interurban case has no bearing on the Iowa two-cent railroad law as regards the steam roads. The case before the court applies only to interurbans.

The Kansas baby crop is reported 2,000 short this year. Is the circulation of statements like this part of the scheme to induce Colonel Roosevelt to return from Africa and become a candidate for President?

In other words, in Secretary Knox's view, the execution of Cannon and Groce by Zelaya in Nicaragua was a plain case of murder and will be punished as such. That is the talk with the bark on—and the bark right side out.

Hurray for Secretary Knox! His note to Felipe Rodriguez, charge d'affaires of the Nicaraguan legation, in handing him his passports has the right ring to it. Every loyal American will endorse the state department's policy as to Nicaragua and the strong words in which it was announced and defined.

The Keosauqua Democrat says: "If the Democrats of the First district should nominate for congress Judge Smyth of Burlington, Judge Bank of Keokuk, Henry M. Eicher of Washington, or J. A. S. Pollard of Ft. Madison they will have a walk-over."

In other words, they wouldn't be in the running at all.

In view of the near approach of the holiday season it is high time Red Cross Christmas stamps were placed on sale in Keokuk in the interest of the anti-tuberculosis campaign. They are already being purchased in large quantities in other cities and much money is being raised for a worthy cause in this way.

The Gate City will cheerfully announce where they may be obtained as soon as arrangements are made for their sale.

Nikola Tesla is said to have practically perfected a new system of wireless telegraphy and telephony which will virtually eliminate the element of distance, making it as easy to communicate with the other side of the world as with the man next door. The trouble with Mr. Tesla is that he is a four-flusher. He can be depended on to come to the front at stated intervals with a tremendous idea, but somehow or other it never seems to get into actual operation.

The postoffice department, in an official circular, urges people contemplating mailing Christmas packages for delivery in rural communities to post them as early as possible in order to avoid congestion and subsequent delay at the postoffices supplying carriers on the rural routes. It is suggested that packages containing presents be marked, "Not to be Opened Until Christmas Day," and be sent several days in advance. One delivery will be made on all the rural routes on Christmas.

Let it not be forgotten that while the holiday season is a season of joy and good will to most people, it is a season of weariness, despair and dread to the overworked clerks, delivery boys, express messengers and mail carriers. These regard the approach of Christmas with something akin to terror. This is because so many people delay making their purchases until the last few days before Christmas and put so much extra work upon them at that time. There are, therefore, two cogent reasons for early shopping. The one is satisfactory shopping and the other is consideration for the welfare of others.

There is talk among the lawyers of the state of pushing Judge Horace E. Deemer for the supreme bench. Correspondence is now in progress as to the propriety of his endorsement by members of the state bar association in letters to the President. Iowa would be greatly honored by the selection of Judge Deemer as Justice Peckham's successor, and his appointment would be eminently fitting and proper from every point of view. Judge Deemer is now a member of the Iowa supreme court and has fully demonstrated his capability and worthiness.

WHY MEAT IS DEAR. William E. Curtis writes from Washington to the Chicago Record-Herald that Secretary Wilson has been making a unique investigation into the reasons for the advance in the prices of meats, which, he says, is of vital interest to 19,000,000 families in the United States; and he finds that the retailers are chiefly responsible, although other causes have contributed more or less. He is making a further inquiry into the reasons for the increase in the prices of butter, eggs, groceries and all other sorts of food products, the results of which will be ready for publication soon. Secretary Wilson asserts that two-fifths of the expenditures of the families of medium incomes are devoted to food, and that one-third of the national dietary is composed of meat.

The investigation into the increase of retail prices for meat has been made through employes of the agricultural department in fifty different cities and towns, large, medium and small, in different parts of the country; they were selected at random and represent commercial and manufacturing centers and agricultural communities. A schedule was prepared to record the actual experiences of retailers in buying and selling a carcass or a half carcass of beef; the weight and wholesale cost in bulk and the weight and retail price for every cut for which a uniform price is charged. Thus it became possible not only to compare high-priced and low-priced cuts, but also to compute accurately the total retail price per pound and the consumers' share of the price charged by the wholesalers. Mr. Curtis summarizes some of the results as follows:

For the fifty places throughout the United States from which the reports were received the mean gross profit in selling beef, that is the retail price charged consumers above the wholesale price paid by the retailers, averages 38 per cent. In five cities it is 20 per cent or under; in ten cities between 21 and 30 per cent; in twelve cities between 31 and 40 per cent; in twelve cities between 41 and 50 per cent, and in eleven cities more than 50 per cent profit is enjoyed by the retailer.

The average profit enjoyed by the retailer in the north Atlantic states is 31.4 per cent; in the south Atlantic states, 38 per cent; in the northern central states, 38 per cent; in the southern central states, 54 per cent; in the northwestern states, 39 per cent; in the southwestern states, 42.2 per cent; in the Pacific states, 39.6 per cent.

The following table is given as showing the profit charged by retailers of meats over and above the wholesale prices in the various towns named:

Table with 2 columns: Town Name and Per cent profit. Includes Holyoke, Mass., Springfield, Mass., Boston, New York City, Buffalo, Canajoharie, N. Y., Cortland, Olean, N. Y., Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pa., Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Va., Augusta, Ga., Cincinnati, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Detroit, Milwaukee, Alton, Ill., Cedar Rapids, East Liverpool, Ohio, Port Huron, Mich., Wichita, Kan., Winona, Minn., South Omaha, Kansas City, Kan., Kansas City, Mo., Fort Smith, Ark., Mobile, Nashville, Natchez, Shreveport, Fort Worth, Louisville, Memphis, Lewiston, Id., Denver, Cheyenne, Salt Lake, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma.

An interesting fact disclosed by the investigation is that the lower the grade of beef the greater the percentage of profit. The rule is quite general that low-priced beef is marked up twice as high relatively as high-priced beef. That is to say that the poorer classes of people pay twice as much profit to the market men on meat that they buy as the richer classes. It is also true that the percentage of profit is lower on all the good cuts than it is upon the least desirable. It will be noticed from the above table that as a rule the prices are lower in large than in the small towns, which is probably due to competition.

Secretary Wilson has a word in defense of the retailer. He reminds the meat-eating public that city consumers insist upon the prompt delivery of their purchases—and this requires a

man, a horse and wagon. They often want the market man to send one of his clerks to their dwellings to take their order. This delivery service is overdone. "The multiplication of small shops," the report says, "is a burden to consumers and no source of riches to the small shopkeepers. When twenty or more small shops divide the retail business within an area that could be served by one large shop, the expenses of the many shops for labor, horses, rent and other things that are in excess of what would be sufficient for the one shop, must go into the retail prices of the meat sold." Furthermore:

"Customers are disposed to focus their choice of cuts on certain ones, and these naturally bear the higher prices. If the porterhouse steak is really beyond the cash or credit of the customer then a sirloin must be had, and a rib roast instead of another cut for roasting. Steaks and roasts are the preferences of beef customers, and the steaks and roasts must have names that are regarded as respectable. Consequently one-fifth of the carcass is bought at the highest prices—porterhouse steak at 25 to 30 cents a pound, sirloin at 20 to 25 cents a pound and rib roasts at 20 cents—these being some of the prices noted in returns received from the fifty cities."

Secretary Wilson calls attention to the rapid advance in the price of corn, which he says should be considered because it makes it so much the more costly for the farmer to fatten a steer than formerly. And in comparing prices during the last ten years he comes to the conclusion that the increase in the cost of beef has been much smaller in proportion than the increase in the cost of corn and other materials of which beef is made. The general fact is, Secretary Wilson says, that in the upward movement of prices since 1896, the products of the farm have fared better than those of any other class of commodities; the only large item that is an exception being unfed beef cattle, the farm price of which has now barely begun to rise above the price level of 1896-1900.

Summing up the results of the inquiry as set forth in the report Mr. Curtis enumerates the following as the apparent causes for the increase of the prices of meat: (1) The average profit of 38 per cent charged by the retailer; (2) the scarcity of cattle, due to the breaking up of the ranges; (3) the increased cost of fattening beef for market, due to the advance in the price of corn, and (4) the increased consumption and the ability of the working people to purchase a better class of food and indulge their appetites for meats because of increased wages and continued prosperity.

PRESIDENT ZELAYA. Zelaya, president of Nicaragua, has held that position for sixteen years. From all accounts he is another Castro in craft and cruelty, and has kept himself on top because he has wielded power like a despot, and imprisonment or death has been the lot of those who have opposed him. He has been anti-United States as was Castro, in spite of the fact that we have been acting the part of big brother to the Central American states ever since the Monroe doctrine was enunciated. Finally he seems to have overstepped the mark, and the smile of even good-natured President Taft is reported to have come off when news came of the execution of two American citizens who were among the Nicaraguan revolutionaries. From Washington come reports that Zelaya is to be disciplined. Mr. Taft and Mr. Knox can't make it any too strong to suit those who have followed the trend of affairs down in the Castro-Zelaya ridden countries. Petty despots and grafters have handicapped Central America for years and its real development can only come when their rule is past.

NOTES AND COMMENT. The city of Des Moines is to be divided into forty-eight voting precincts with an average of 333 voters each.

The near-philosopher of the Sioux City Tribune explains that it is called a "linen shower" because the rain comes in sheets.

"Everything is ready for the re-convening of congress," remarks the Cedar Rapids Gazette. "Walter Wellman has returned to Washington and taken his pen in hand."

From a perusal of the papers now in Des Moines it seems to the disappointed critic of the Mason City Globe-Gazette that there is no need of a Democratic weekly there.

Judge Smith McPherson of the United States district court of southern Iowa has been summoned to sit as a member of the United States circuit court of appeals at St. Louis next week.

To the Sioux City Tribune the story of the probable withdrawal of Nate Kendall from the congressional race in the Sixth district resembles the report of Mark Twain's death. It is greatly exaggerated.

This pretense of joking about the turkey bash is only a lame bluff, in the view of the Mason City Globe-Gazette which declares that there isn't an editor in Iowa who would not jump at the chance of standing up to the turkey remnant courier.

Advertisement for ROYAL Baking Powder. Features an illustration of a woman in a kitchen and text: 'Makes the most nutritious food and the most dainty and delicious. ROYAL Baking Powder Absolutely Pure. No fretting over the biscuit making. Royal is first aid to many a cook's success.'

upon as hopelessly bad and incompetent," declares the Des Moines Register and Leader.

The Des Moines Capital believes that when Mr. Roosevelt returns from Africa he will be the first to take up the cudgels for President Taft. "There is no doubt of that," says the Cedar Rapids Republican. "The men and the papers who have been trying to discredit the President will find that they will receive no aid or comfort from the former President."

HERE'S RICHNESS. A Correspondent Pays Respects to W. J. Roberts and His Views on Woman Suffrage.

The following spicy correspondence explains itself: To the Editor of The Gate City: To show that all the narrow-contracted Smart Alecs are not dead, I ask you to publish a letter I received through the mail this morning. Of course it was written by a pair of pants containing means of locomotion only.

W. J. ROBERTS. Dec. 2, 1909.

KEOKUK, Nov. 29, 1909.—Hon. W. J. Roberts, My Dear Sister: I read your very pathetic appeal tonight in The Gate City and I hasten to congratulate you. It is masterly, especially the appendix, and should be reproduced in every paper in the country. It would make a hit in the Keokuk Post-Intelligencer or the Kaskaskia Argus. It would be better set to music and whistled. You are so gifted you should write poetry. Couldn't you write a song entitled "Pants and Politics," for us women?

Now we've got to dress and feed him, And we really didn't need him, Little frog!

And I can not think why father Should have bought him, when I'd rather Have a dog! —London Daily News.

Concerning Pups. Who is it wakes you up in the night With awful howls and shrieks of fright And sends you hustling for a light? The pup.

Who is it in the coal bin sleeps Till black as forty chimney sweeps; Then slyly in the coal bin creeps? The pup.

Who is it scratches at the door Each day for seven hours or more And make you paint it o'er and o'er? The pup.

Who is it dines on shoes and sox, Newspapers, matches by the box, Likewise on fine imported sox? The pup.

Who gets his fill of kicks and blame And makes the whole house blush for shame Yet is a favorite just the same? The pup. —George Fitch in Peoria Herald-Transcript.

Spraying Fruit Trees. Fairfield Ledger: The writer bought a bushel of apples the other day. The fruit was the product of young trees, grown on good soil, of good size and color. It was low priced because the grower said it wouldn't keep, and it would have been dear at half the money, for there wasn't a sound apple in the lot. Everyone of them had worms of some kind, some of them whole families, and after you'd cut into two or three your appetite for apples was gone. What a contrast with a like quantity purchased of another home grower, not larger fruit, no better coloring, but each and every apple sound at the core and not a worm or a worm hole in the entire bushel. The secret? Spraying. And people who wish to grow fruit prof-

sary 65 per cent are secured, one of the saloons will open up; if they fail to secure the necessary names we will continue to quench our thirst with copious draughts of aqua or cold tea, or contract the Peruna habit.

His New Brother. Yes, I've got a little brother, Never asked for him from mother, But he's here; For I's'pose they went and bought him, But last week the doctor brought him, Ain't it queer?

When I heard the news from Molly, Why, I thought at first 'twas jolly; 'Cause you see I just 'magned I could get him And our dear mamma would let him Play with me.

But when once I had looked at him, I cried out, "Oh dear! Is that him, Just that mite?" They said, "Yes, and you must kiss him!" Well, I'm sure I'd never miss him. He's a fright!

He's so small it's just amazing, And you'd think that he was blazing, He's so red; And his nose is like a berry, And he's bald as Uncle Jerry, On his head.

He's no kind of good whatever, And he cries as if he'd never, Never stop; Won't sit up—you can't arrange him, Oh, why doesn't father change him At the shop?

Now we've got to dress and feed him, And we really didn't need him, Little frog!

And I can not think why father Should have bought him, when I'd rather Have a dog! —London Daily News.

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Advertisement for Keokuk to New York in practically a day via Lake Shore No. 6. Includes text: 'Leaving Keokuk in the evening via any of the excellent lines to Chicago, you arrive there in time to connect with Lake Shore No. 6 via Lake Shore-New York Central. Leave CHICAGO 10.15 a.m. Arrive NEW YORK 9.15 a.m. Excess Fare, \$6.00. 20th Century Limited. Leave CHICAGO 2.30 p.m. Arrive NEW YORK 9.30 a.m. Arrive BOSTON 11.50 a.m. NINE OTHER FAST TRAINS DAILY. This is the best train service ever given Keokuk and the West and Northwest. All trains arrive at Grand Central Station—the only railroad station in New York City. All trains run through the scenic Mohawk and Hudson River valleys. The route is water level—YOU CAN SLEEP. For information regarding tickets, time-tables, maps, etc., ask local ticket agent, or address WARREN J. LYNCH, Pass. Traffic Manager Chicago, Ill.'

Advertisement for The State Central Savings Bank. Text: '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. C. J. Boe, Cashier. Geo. E. Riz, Vice President. H. T. Graham, Ass't Cashier. J. F. Kiedatsch, Sr., Vice Pres. H. Boyden Blood, Ass't Cashier.'

Advertisement for The Keokuk Savings Bank. Text: '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. DAVIS, 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.'

itably, for home use or for market, must come to it. The Colored Supplement and Lawlessness. Knoxville Express: The Des Moines Register and Leader severely roasted Des Moines boys who soaped a street-car track and almost caused an accident, and a reader wrote in and handed the paper this lemon: "To the Editor: Your recent criticism of the boys out on Nineteenth street for soaping the car track was unjust and most unkind, since that you have been training them these years for all sorts of outlawing and mischievous conduct by the use of the Buster Brown cartoon and other similar means. The larger and greater per cent of bad conduct committed by the boys of today is taught them by what they read and hear others talk about." And the worst thing about it is that there's a good deal in it. The colored supplement has virtually domesticated the dime novel. A lawless boy out of 10,000 used to start out west to rob trains or fight Indians, but it was too big an undertaking for the other 9999. But the colored supplement has brought lesser villainy to lower terms, and shown how any trifling youth may easily make himself a neighborhood nuisance if not a public menace. The Sherman Law. Sioux City Journal: There can be consolidations that will work only for good. It is to the public interest that such consolidations shall be permitted. It is well enough to publish trusts that have done evil and to arrange our laws to prevent others from following their example. But a law preventing all consolidation is an absurdity. The Sherman law as it stands is just such a law. It will not be generally enforced. It cannot be. It ought to be modified to apply only to what is intrinsically bad and undesirable in our commercial fabric. Deer Farms in Iowa. Oskaloosa Herald: A story going the rounds of the press states that J. W. Griggs, living twenty miles southwest of Mason City, has the only deer farm in Iowa. This is an error. Singmaster & Sons, of Keota, have a herd of over twenty head, and they also have a number of buffalo. It is interesting to note, however, that first Mr. Griggs reared wolves, then wild geese, then antelope, then elk and now deer. He began fifteen years ago with a pair of Virginia deer, and has experimented with white tails, black tails and all hybrids, but the climate of Iowa has evolved a type of the northern deer as the one hardy enough for all purposes. What We Will See. Burlington Hawk-Eye: If we see a butter famine as early as November, what shall we see in midwinter? asks The Keokuk Gate City. The Hawk-Eye would say, without taking much time to meditate upon the proposition, that in midwinter you will see a lively campaign in Burlington to fill the offices under the new charter. Giving to Funeral Dinners. Giving a dinner to those who attend a funeral is a custom that shows little sign of early disuse in Lancaster county.—Pittsburg Dispatch.