

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa, January 16, 1910.

At present prices of the necessities of life one cannot help being a "high liver."

There is nothing that succeeds like success—when success is engineered by the right men.

Sanity pays the best dividends in the long run. This is no less true of communities than of individuals.

Governor Deneen's way of preventing a lynching is the best way. He acts before instead of after the fact.

General Booth says the fiery end of the world is near. A little thing like that, however, should not and will not be permitted to interfere with the development of the Keokuk water power.

Thought for the day in the language of Rev. Samuel J. Barrows: Those who live on the mountain have a longer day than those who live in the valley. Sometimes all we need to brighten our day is to live a little higher.

Gifford Pinchot, former forester, has issued a statement declaring that popular government is in great danger. His case is not exceptional.

Other fellows have imagined the country was going straight to the demdition how-ows the moment they were ousted from office. The chances are that popular government will survive—even without Mr. Pinchot's aid.

Columbus Junction, eighty-three miles distant, confidently expects to be benefited by the Keokuk water power. The Safeguard published there says that some good factories are to be located in that town and that they will need the "juice" generated here.

The same paper properly characterizes the development of the power as "one of the greatest achievements ever accomplished for the state of Iowa."

The Fort Madison Democrat proffers the following: "What is a Republican?"

"Answer to the question is still solicited from the esteemed Burlington Hawk-Eye and Keokuk Gate City."

A Republican is one who believes in and supports Republican principles and policies as defined in the Republican national platform. One good turn deserves another. Will the Fort Madison Democrat please answer this: Why is a Democrat?"

Speaking of Democrats, Editor Cole says in his Cedar Rapids Republican that he has always found them good neighbors, and he confesses to an increasing liking for them.

He further frankly declares that the more he sees of quarreling Republicans the better he likes Democrats and the more he thinks they are entitled to serious consideration—even at the polls.

Editor Cole isn't alone by any means in his position as thus defined. If there isn't a speedy end to quarrels among Republicans his constituency will be still larger in the near future.

Howard A. Burrell, the philosopher of the Washington Press, is to start on a long European tour early in spring. The Burlington Hawk-Eye states a foregone conclusion when it says:

"His comment on the folks on the other side of the big water and their way of doing things and of looking at things will be as interesting as anything on the subject that has appeared in many years. The old world seen through Burrell's spectacles will appear very different from that which famous travelers have pictured to the very large majority of us who have not had the advantages of foreign travel."

"Bringing Dead Cities to Life" is the title of a leading article in the Technical World magazine for February by Frank G. Moorhead.

The elixir of life therein exploited is the commission form of government, which is credited with having caused a score of American municipalities to throw aside the shroud, Lazarus-like, as soon as business principles were injected. Des Moines is cited as typical of the cities which within the past two years have defied the sting of death and the victory of the grave, and the article tells in detail of the improvement that has taken place there.

The review is highly complimentary to the progress of the capital city under the commission plan. A number of half-tone illustrations showing conditions two years ago and now add to the excellence of an interesting and informing contribution to current magazine literature.

THE MATTER OF "CONSERVATION"

The Cedar Rapids Republican has an editorial article in reference to the Keokuk water power project which calls for attention separate from the other newspaper utterances on the subject reproduced in these columns. The first paragraph is not materially different from others, as will be seen on perusal:

"Down in Keokuk they have been celebrating the achievement of half a century's effort. Near that city the river flows over a ledge of rocks, making a rapids in the Mississippi river. These rapids have been the bane of navigators. A canal was finally built around them. The extreme fall of water makes it an ideal site for a dam. It is that dam that the people of Keokuk have been working on for half a century. They have finally succeeded in interesting capital enough to build the dam. It is going to take \$15,000,000, but that expenditure will develop 200,000 horse power, power enough to turn a great deal of machinery, to run railway trains and to make light and power for the adjoining cities. It is possible to transmit such power over long distances nowadays. All the power that can be developed will be utilized, for even far away St. Louis may draw upon that source."

So far so good. But in the second paragraph of its article the Republican reverts to the threadbare subject of "conservation of natural resources." After looking at the matter first on one side and then on the other, the Republican concludes:

"Nevertheless we are letting a corporation get the benefit of the water that flows through that stream by natural laws." Its second paragraph, full text, is as follows:

"The Mississippi water power is a 'natural resource.' Are we conserving it when we are permitting private parties to build the dam and to get hold of that immense power in perpetuity? But they say that without such development, the water is going to waste and the power that it might generate is of no use. Is it not better to utilize that natural resource and make it of some use to mankind? That is the way the argument runs. But, nevertheless, we are letting a corporation get the benefit of the water that flows through that stream by natural laws. The only consolation in the matter is that when the river has been dammed and the water harnessed, the power will be useful to all mankind. It will be sold to any one who has use for it, and that upon reasonable terms. We take it that there is somewhere a power that can regulate the price that shall be paid by the consumers."

The Republican's utterance on this phase of the matter warrants brief statement of some of the events leading up to the development of the power by the "corporation" to which that paper refers. When leading, public-spirited citizens of Keokuk first took up the matter of the development of the water power in earnest several years ago in the interest of this city and this part of the Mississippi valley they scattered information concerning it broadcast over the country. Following the grant of a charter by congress a booklet was published giving engineers' estimates and other details and the project was given the widest publicity that could be secured. The attention of eminent engineers and known capitalists was especially sought. The matter was pressed upon all such whose addresses were known or could be learned and they were solicited to interest themselves in the proposed undertaking. With a single exception they refused to have anything to do with the matter. That exception was Engineer Hugh L. Cooper. He personally investigated the project, became convinced of its merits and set about to interest capital in it. He was successful in this at first, but later the capitalists associated with him were compelled to withdraw because of legislation unfavorable to another water power plant they had financed. Thereupon Mr. Cooper took the whole burden and responsibility upon himself and expended his entire fortune in making the necessary surveys, securing data, obtaining options and tentative contracts and like preliminary work. It was only after three years of almost superhuman effort that he was able to induce capitalists to come to his aid and furnish the necessary money. It was not possible to find a single individual who was able and willing to advance the immense sum, and so the aid of a number was solicited and secured. These gentlemen, with Mr. Cooper, constitute the "corporation" to which the Cedar Rapids paper refers in a deprecatory sort of way. But for them "the water that flows through the Mississippi by natural laws" would in all human probability continue to flow unexposed to the sea for an indefinite period, as it has flowed for ages past. Wherein would have been the benefit to mankind or any portion of it of such neglect of the natural resource going to waste at our very doors?"

The "corporation" to which the Republican refers will not be the sole beneficiary of the power, by any means. This city and all the other cities and towns and all the intervening neighborhoods and homes for a radius of fifty miles or more will profit largely by the success of the enterprise. Such a result is inevitable. As for the power company that has undertaken the work of development,—"the corporation" in question,—this paper hopes it will make a good thing out of its investment. Certainly it deserves liberal reward for its courage and foresight in financing one of the greatest undertakings of the age. It was the only association of moneyed men in the world who were willing to back up their convictions with the necessary amount of cold cash. The Gate City voices the sentiment of this entire community in wishing them handsome returns.

It only remains to add that the price at which the power is to be sold has been fixed at less than half the cost of steam power. Ample safeguards as to this and other important details are provided in the contract with the water power company.

OTHER TOWNS WILL BENEFIT. The Canton (Mo.) News says that the Keokuk water power news caused great rejoicing there, and adds:

"It means a great deal to Canton—perhaps more than anything that has ever happened. We can get power here as cheap as at Keokuk and factory sites will be much cheaper. If our land-owners do not show too much of a hogish spirit Canton can reap the results from the building of the dam. Property values will steadily rise during the next few years, population will be multiplied and there will be lots of building to do. Having the new school house about completed, Canton is ready for all the boom that wants to come."

Development of the power at Keokuk will benefit every city, town and country neighborhood within a radius of fifty or more miles. The power will be sold almost as cheaply in all this territory as in Keokuk and will be as serviceable in them as in this city. This fact should exercise a restraining influence on those inclined to demand "hold-up" prices for Keokuk real estate. If more is demanded for Keokuk property than it is worth the men and firms seeking new locations for factories will build them outside of Keokuk. The extent to which Keokuk will be benefited by the development of the power depends very largely upon Keokuk's reasonableness and good sense.

THE NEW FOOD INSPECTOR. Governor Carroll has chosen W. B. Barney of Hampton as state dairy and food inspector to succeed H. R. Wright. The Davenport Democrat, which knows the new appointee well, says the governor could not have done better in securing the state for the right man for the place. Mr. Barney has been one of the leading scientific dairymen of the state for years, a fact that was recognized in his election as president of the State Dairymen's association. The Democrat says of him:

"His large dairy farm near Hampton is considered one of the model farms of that kind. As he was born in Iowa forty years ago, it will be demonstrated that Iowa can furnish the men to look after its own farming and dairying interests and pure food laws, as well as furnish them to the country at large. Mr. Wright retires April 1 after twelve years' continuous service, and the work that he lays down will remain in good hands."

LIVE STOCK RATES. An article in The Gate City yesterday, reproduced from the Iowa City Republican, protested against granting the demands of the Iowa Corn Belt Meat Producers' association for cheaper freight rates on live stock to Chicago. It was shown in the article that the effect of lower rates to that city would be to work hardship to Iowa packers whose competition with the Chicago concerns has been of great benefit to Iowa farmers. These views have long been held by this paper and a general discussion of the subject is gladly welcomed. The Cedar Rapids Gazette is another paper that has a word in season. The Gazette also agrees with the Republican, saying:

"We have a number of packing plants in Iowa. They should be built up. If we can encourage them, there is no reason why such encouragement should not be granted, instead of throwing all our influence and support to the Chicago packers. Just why Iowa should contribute so much to the building up of Chicago and so little to the building up of itself is something a lot of people in this state have never been able to understand."

The Army of God-Knows-Where (CIVIL ENGINEERS)

The following poem was written by Alfred Damon Runyon and appeared originally in a late number of the Bohemian Magazine. In reproducing it The Gate City suggests its applicability to Engineer Cooper and his professional associates now engaged in developing the Keokuk water power:

No bands are playing gaily when they're going into action, No crowds are cheering madly at their deeds of derring-do; They are owing small allegiance to any flag or faction— Their colors on the sky-line and their war cry, "Put it through!"

Ahead of bath and Bible and of late repeating rifle, The flags can only follow to the starting of their trail; They herd the leagues behind them, every mile the merest trifle; They mark the paths of safety for the slower sail and rail.

Their standards kiss the breezes from the Arctic's cooling fies To where the South Pole's poking out its undiscovered head; You can see their chains a-snaking through the lands of rum and spices— And East and West you'll always find their unrepealing dead.

No time for love and laughter, with their rods upon their shoulders, No time to think with vain regret of home or passing friends; They are slipping down the chasms, charging up the mighty bowlders, The compass stops from overwork; the pathway never ends.

They slit the gullet of the earth; disgorge its hoarded riches (But life's too short for them to stop and snatch a rightful share); They're a booking on the Congo putting in some water ditches; A dating to take tea with death; they make it by a hair!

You will find their pickets watching in the unexpected places; You will hear them talking freely of the The-Things-That-Can't-Be-Done; Oh, the Faith they speak so strongly and the Hope that's in their faces— It lights the gloom of What's-the-Use as brightly as the sun!

No bands are playing gaily and no crowds are madly cheering; No telegraph behind them tells their deeds of derring-do; But forward goes the legion, never doubting, never fearing— Their colors on the sky-line and their war cry, "Put it through!"

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READ THE GATE CITY. The Capital claims that Des Moines is a progressive city without the aid of quotation marks.