

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa, January 31, 1910.

Paris also has gone "wet"—with a vengeance.

If beef and pork become much higher in price it may be found advisable to fall back on quail on toast.

Nowadays people are "called down." In the old days, if George Fitch records history aright, they got their "come uppences."

Dr. Wiley, the government food expert, gives a prescription for determining the age of an egg. He tells the housewife to drop an egg into water with a 10 per cent salt solution, say one cup of salt to ten cups of water. If the egg sinks it is fresh. If it doesn't sink it is a cold storage product.

The Burlington Hawk-Eye observes that—

"Keokukians are philosophical; they don't care when people say 'Keokuk be damned.'"

They would prefer, however, in the interest of the exactitude of thought and expression that has always characterized them, that people would say "the Mississippi be damned," or "dam the Mississippi!"

A large number of candidates for the prospective Spectators' union visited the Illinois side of the river yesterday to inform themselves concerning the progress that has been made to date. But for the fact that the atmosphere was quite chilly the number would have been still larger. A visit to the scene of activity on the east side is well worth the time and cost.

A Kansas City steamship agency is quoted as saying that this spring not less than 700 Kansans are going to take Mediterranean tours and most of them belong to the farming communities. A few years ago the farmers of Kansas, nor their wives and daughters, did not dream of going cruising on the southern waters before the active working season opens here. Nowadays farmers can afford to travel if anyone can.

Gratifying progress is being made in a preparatory way in the construction of the big dam. Needed roads have been built, a number of houses put up and considerable excavating done. Quarrying of rock will begin at once and it will not be long until the great wall which is to hold back the waters of the mighty Mississippi will begin to take form. The undertaking when completed will be one of the greatest engineering accomplishments of the age.

An insurgent editor at Glidden declares Governor Carroll is "a failure" in office. No details are given, but the Waterloo Reporter has a well-defined idea that it knows what the trouble is, to-wit:

Presumably the executive has been "a failure" because he has deemed it a duty to pay attention to his office and leave the hot air department to others. If the governor was constant by pounding the tom-toms with a gong heater and exercising an inexhaustible fund of wind on imaginary wrongs his "administration" would probably meet with the approval of the insurgent editor.

The steady progress that was made in business activity during 1909 is plainly reflected in a volume of payments through the banks which far exceeds that of any previous twelve months. Total exchanges at all cities in the United States, according to a statement issued by R. G. Dun & Co., amounted to \$105,113,922,725, an increase of 25.2 per cent over 1908 and 3.2 per cent over 1906. That the increase is not due to abnormal activity in any particular direction, that may prove only temporary, is shown by the steady gain in the daily averages for the different quarters, compared with 1908 and 1906.

Formal presentation of Hon. Henry L. Bousquet for nomination for another term as clerk of the supreme court of the state is made by the Knoxville Journal in its latest issue. Mr. Bousquet has served in that capacity during the past three years and has amply demonstrated his efficiency and trustworthiness. He is a veteran of the civil war and a lifelong Republican in whom there is no guile. Merit and party precedent both entitle him to further recognition. Mr. Bousquet has many personal and political friends in Keokuk, especially among the older residents, who will take pleasure in supporting him for endorsement for another term.

Orator Rankin is quoted as declaring that unless Iowa Republicans are willing to accept his ideas of liquor legislation he will run an independent party. The threat leads the Cedar Rapids Republican to remark:

"Here is another tip to the Democrats, but they do not seem to be strong enough to take any advantage of Republican embarrassments. In the meantime the poor old Republican G. O. P. elephant is groaning under a load of ills and quarrels and hysteria and what not, enough to break the back of anything except an elephant."

TYPEWRITER NUMBERS. If you have a typewriter it would be well to follow the advice of the Springfield Register and make a record of the serial number of the machine. The argument in favor of the proposition is that there is a regular hegra of typewriter stealing going on at the present time, and if you have the individual number of your machine you have a very good chance of recovering it if it is stolen; but if you haven't the number to refer to it is likely to be lost forever. If you have a record of the number you can send it to all the various typewriter agencies. They will send it to their headquarters, and every typewriter salesman or repair man in America has an opportunity of doing detective work that will help you to get your machine back, and probably arrest the thieves who took it. Bear this in mind and do not neglect to put down your typewriter number at once and keep it on file for future reference.

NOTICE TO RURAL PATRONS. In view of the extent to which the practice of placing loose coins in the boxes by rural patrons has grown, and the delay in the delivery and collection of mail and the hardship imposed on rural carriers incident thereto, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General De Graw has issued an order that, commencing February 15, rural letter carriers will not be required to collect loose coins from rural mail boxes. In connection with this notice the following suggestions to rural patrons are offered:

"Patrons should enclose coins in an envelope, wrap them securely in a piece of paper, or deposit them in a coin-holding receptacle, so they can be easily and quickly taken from boxes; carriers will be required to lift such coins, and attach the requisite stamps where accompanied by mail for dispatch."

During the past year, no less than 300,000,000 one-cent pieces were collected by rural carriers from rural mail boxes. Practically all of these had to be picked up one at a time, thus entailing great delay. It was this experience that led to the issuance of the above order.

RAILROAD REGULATION. "Fair Regulation of Railroads," by Samuel O. Dunn, in the February number of The North American Review, is a timely article on a subject that is at present occupying the government at Washington. Mr. Dunn is an expert in his subject and writes with authority. He observes:

"There is not a road in the country that is not making a good profit handling some kinds of business, while on another kind of business its rate is barely high enough to be remunerative and barely low enough to move the traffic; therefore, a horizontal reduction in rates is almost certain to make the rates on some business unremunerative and a horizontal advance to make it impossible for some goods to be shipped. The value of commodities, the distances they are to be hauled, the competition of carriers and markets and many other factors should be considered. Unfortunately there is hardly a state railroad commission that is not frequently or habitually violating every correct principle of rate-making. The results produced by the distance tariffs, the schedules discriminating in favor of local as against national interests and other obstacles that are being put in the way of the free movement of commerce will cause more and more trouble and loss to the railroads and to industry in general unless the powers of the commissions are narrowed or their mental vision is widened."

BARGES FOR MISSISSIPPI RIVER. The Mississippi Valley Transportation Company recently organized in St. Louis with a nominal capital of \$10,000,000, soon to be increased to \$25,000,000, is building a fleet of three tow-boats and twenty barges for handling coarse freight between St. Louis and New Orleans, and if business justifies the venture the fleet will be increased to thirty tow boats and two hundred barges within the next two years. The tow boats will be side-wheelers of the Austrian type, drawing about thirty inches of water and having 2,000 horsepower. They will have compound engines and Scotch boilers, and everything on board of them will be designed for lightness and strength. The barges will be built of steel 350 feet by fifty feet and ten feet in depth. They will be entirely decked over and will have hatches down the center spaced twelve feet from center to center. The hulls will be divided into compartments and will draw, when light, fifteen inches. On a loaded depth of four feet they will carry 1,200 tons, 2,800 tons on seven feet, and at full capacity 3,900 tons. Each barge will cost \$52,000. A million dollars will be expended for modern freight-handling terminal devices at St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, Cairo, Memphis, Helena, Vicksburg, Grenville, Natchez, Baton Rouge and New Orleans; and by means of these devices it is expected to handle freight at a cost of from four to ten cents a ton. High-class freights will be carried only at a fair differential

from the railroads, and working arrangements will be made with the roads similar to those existing between lake steamers and the railroads; but coarse freight will be handled in full cargoes at very low rates—the company estimating that the cost of this service will not exceed 0.8 mills per ton mile.

THE CALL OF THE CENTURY. President David Starr Jordan of the Leland Stanford university of California, in an address before the Chicago Sunday Evening club recently advised young men to cultivate the virtues "told about in the Sunday School books" as the foundation of success. He declared that there is not a single virtue that does not bring money to a man's business, and not a single vice that is not charged up against him in wages and salary. Continuing, he said:

"If a young man is courteous, God-fearing, truthful, his word as good as his bond; and if he excels in any one of the virtues told about in the Sunday School books you will find business men holding him in higher esteem, and on that account paying him higher salary."

"The call of the twentieth century is for the sober mind. Trustworthiness is one of the greatest of virtues. Whatever is good adds to, and whatever is bad detracts from, clearness, sobriety and trustworthiness of mind."

Dr. Jordan's address, which had for its subject, "The Call of the Century," was sprinkled with epigrams. Some of them were:

"The best way to be ready for tomorrow is to be here today."

"Ignorance is not bliss any longer; it is dangerous."

"Chicago doesn't know its politics from one day to another."

"You can't vote a straight ticket until you have scratched off the crooked names."

"The public is getting tired of smooth men; it wants men of character."

"There never was a time when there were so many calls for young men as now. There is always room at the top, but the elevator isn't running."

"Who are the young men who fail to climb? Go down the street and see the young men drinking in the saloons. They are the young men who are not wanted. In ten years half of them will be dead, and the other half will be selling themselves for the best they can get."

SEVEN PINES PHILOSOPHY. The Mint and the Tariff—An Early Day Socialist—Navigating the Des Moines—Justice to Lewis and Clark.

To the Editor of The Gate City: The times may not be called days of prosperity, since it is remembered that even the mints of the United States are not making a dollar. Yet those useful temples of finance are making half dollars, quarters, dimes and car loads of minor coins. Silver dollars were discontinued in 1906.

From an independent and easy point of view the battle of words over the tariff subject, one has hours of enjoyment. The tariff is a finely pointed arrow which is shot at you for the interests of civilization. The arrows are tipped with a sharp edge, and they invariably draw financial color. The Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, which claims a circulation of more than a million and a quarter, complains of the tariff arrows which are shot towards its office in asking one cent per pound as postage upon the paper. Editors and other critics of the tariff may well purchase tickets and take shipping to another country, for in a land of high grade civilization good things are not furnished cheaply. The seventeen hundred thousand critics should walk up to the money window patriotically and help the republic by paying full fare.

Robin Hood was a citizen of the British Isle who possessed some free and easy notions that the taking from the rich and giving to the poor was about the proper equation in worldly goods. Robin was a real socialist of the extreme view, and the principles which he espoused, and practiced yet survive in some degrees. Hence the name Robin is quite appropriate and of fine vitality. It is a perennial.

In searching for real funny reading, select the articles which picture the Des Moines river covered with great steamers doing a rushing passenger and freight business all along the shores of the classic stream for two hundred miles. Of course our good friend Chief Black Hawk and a few hundred braves will return and view the sublime scene from the blue grass observatory of the Yellow Banks.

The Kansas City Star replies to a correspondent that the largest cannons are of fourteen-inch caliber. The Star seems to have overlooked Speaker Cannon.

In future years, the winter of 1909-10 will be referred to as the glacial winter.

Mr. Farmer man, are you qualified as to the vitality of your seed corn? Autumn conditions north of thirty-nine degrees north were not favorable for the ripening of the great grain, and the wise farmers are those who are making a study of their corn and securing a supply which will grow. When the battle comes on, good ammunition is necessary.

Some Iowa papers are talking over the terms as to what is a Democrat? And what is a Republican? Well, nowadays either person is usually one

who wants a long time office, a perennial which yields abundance of fruit. A few in each party have the public welfare at heart. These are called statesmen.

Occasionally a pretty little reform springs up and flourishes. The Snake River is to be officially named the Lewis and Clark river, according to U. S. government authority.

The storm which passed across the land on Friday went down to 28.9 when it took its departure off the St. Lawrence. Weather storms commonly come from the west. Financial storms are sent out from the east.

The winter season is especially opportune for the sweet enjoyments of good reading. It is a time indeed for the laying up of treasures of heart and mind and righteous morals. It is a time for gathering jewels. Some even will excel and secure the Pearl of Great Price.

JASPER BLINES. Seven Pines.

The Cheap Auto Delayed. Council Bluffs Nonpareil: The cheap automobile? Not yet. The demand is too great, too far in advance of the supply. Moreover, prosperity is in the saddle. The buyers have the money. They'll appreciate their machines more if they have to pay a good price. The cheap auto will come when times tighten. The \$500 to \$1,000 worth of ginger bread that adorns the auto of today will then disappear under the demand for cheaper machines.

For a time it was the talk that 1910 might witness a considerable step in the direction of the lower priced auto, but now it is said that instead of striving to get the product down to the market, as seemed to be necessary a year ago, the market now looks so different that the product is being pushed upward both in quality and price. Even many of the makers who were building or looking with covetous eyes on the motor buggy as a product for the lower market, have abandoned it and are marketing the conventional automobile. The country buyer who feared to buy, or had not the money to buy the pneumatic tired touring car a year ago was then looking for some cheaper substitute. With the return of prosperity, high priced wheat, corn, cotton and beef, the buyer is looking for service, style and luxury and everything that is best in motor car construction. Still another element enters. The foreign market has been undergoing more or less of a revolution, and France, once the center of automobile activity, has given way to England and turned her attention to aeronautics and other sports. England in turn has set a new pace in introducing a number of novelties not likely to cheapen the product, but rather to add to the cost and luxury.

So long as the trade demands the fancy auto at a fancy price that will be the order. It's more profitable. The profit is more easily hidden in the complicated and formidable touring car than in the simplified buggy auto.

Otherwise Why Not? The big Keokuk-Hamilton dam seems to be having an odd effect on some of the denizens of the 3-K town. The Gate City's city editor has an article in Tuesday's paper in which he has the moon setting in the polar regions.—Fort Madison Democrat.

The captious critic of the Democrat can be disposed of in short order. If the city editor of The Gate City said that the moon set in the polar regions, that's where it set. The various departments of this journal of civilization and dispenser of accurate and interesting information, it should be understood, invariably stand "side by each."—Keokuk Gate City.

All right, what's the differ, anyhow! Let Luna, like Liz, the Bowers boy's girl, "set where she god darn are," regardless of where it may be. Who cares as long as the dam is under way!—Fort Madison Democrat.

Local Topics of Interest: Mt. Pleasant Journal: If you would interest a Burlington man talk "railroad" to him. A Mt. Pleasant man will listen attentively if you talk on "street paving." A Fairfield man will give you some attention if you mention "High school building," a New London man will also listen if you talk "Court house," while a Keokuk man will be all agog if you simply say "dam."

Around in a Circle. Washington Herald: The price of shoes is to be advanced, it seems, because leather is scarce, and leather is scarce because little meat is being slaughtered, and little meat is being slaughtered because people cannot afford meat at present prices, and—there is no end to this story, you know; it goes right around in a circle.

Broke the Record. Wayland (Mo.) Hustler: Lou Williams, of near Alexandria, broke the record of the season by shucking and scooping ninety bushels of corn from 7 o'clock to 4:30.

Keokuk in the Limelight. Jacksonville Courier: One is almost tempted to forget that there is any other city in Iowa besides Keokuk these days.

The RED MOUSE A Mystery Romance

By WILLIAM HAMILTON OSBORNE

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(Continued.)

Miriam had been so closely.

"Yes, yes," she conceded. "It is true; I can see it—I know," and, sobbing, dropped her head upon his shoulder.

"I've got to prove it," he repeated over and over again, patting her head affectionately.

"But—Murgatroyd—why, if you were innocent?" suddenly cried Miriam.

"Well?"

"He ought to know it."

"What do I care about Murgatroyd? What do I care about anybody but you and the little one that is coming—coming to you and to me?"

"Laurie," breathed Miriam softly, "I'm happy, oh, so happy! I knew—"

"It is true; I can see it—I know."

I felt somehow that things would come out right. I don't care whether you ever prove this—so long as we know, Happy?" she repeated, as she nestled closer to him. "I should think so, with \$500 in the bank and a small business—and, after awhile—"

"The most important thing now is that I'm certain I did not kill Hargraves. That makes it easy for the next important thing—for you—my baby—my little baby."

CHAPTER XVII. IN the prosecutor's office, to which they had access at all hours of the day, were Mixley and McGrath.

"How's the joint ballot?" called Mixley from across the room.

McGrath tossed a paper to Mixley. In huge letters appeared one word, "Deadlock!"

Mixley smiled. "Murgatroyd's hold 'em, but that's all he's doin'. But what of that? He's got nothin' to hold 'em on. Why, everybody knows that he hasn't any money. It's my opinion that the job goes to Thorne!"

"How can it be helped?" reasoned McGrath. "Look at them brewers putting up maybe a quarter of a million to help Thorne out! I say, what do you think the votes of the 'wise' assemblies were quoted at?"

"I wish I was an assemblyman," sighed Mixley.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars apiece and a rising market growing stronger every minute," answered McGrath.

"And them brewers'll pay it too. One fellow wanted fifty thousand, an' he'll get it, see if he don't."

"I wish I was an assemblyman," repeated Mixley wistfully.

"You'd vote for Murgatroyd?" yelled McGrath. "You know you would. You wouldn't want a cent."

"But I ain't an assemblyman," he answered, and in the next breath he added, "There's somebody at that there door."

McGrath opened it, and Challoner, Mrs. Challoner and Shirley Bloodgood entered.

Shirley stepped forward and said: "We want to see the prosecutor."

"He's out," called Mixley.

"We'll wait," chorused the visitors. Meanwhile Mixley and McGrath were still holding their desultory conversation upon the situation of the day.

"They said," Mixley remarked to the other, "that the chief was politically dead after he had blackjacked the organization. Maybe he was—maybe he is, but he fights all right."

"He certainly cleaned things up," admitted McGrath, feeling of his blceps. "We helped him, eh?"

"He didn't do a thing to Cradlebaugh's," mused Mixley.

"Nor to the machine," smiled McGrath.

"Well, anyhow," said Mixley, "if he hasn't got the machine and the brewers and the \$25,000 assemblymen back of him he's got the people all right. They know he's honest."

"If he only had half a million," the other snorted.

"It's well he hasn't—well he never had. If he had half a million he wouldn't be running for United States

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Challoner's eyes narrowed. Suddenly he said: "Somebody killed Hargraves. Who did it?" The prosecutor looked at the man incredulously. "Do you mean to tell me that, though you know now that you didn't kill Hargraves, that you don't know who did kill him?" "I'm here to find out," "Why, thunderation!" ejaculated Murgatroyd and, looking the other squarely in the eyes, went on: "I knew that everybody didn't know, but I thought you knew long ago that it was Pemmelian of Cradlebaugh's who did it." "Pemmelian," repeated Challoner as if to himself. "Was the only man who knew, and he's dead." "Yes," assented Murgatroyd, "he killed himself in jail. He confessed just before the court of appeals filed its opinion of affirmance in your case. He had stolen \$10,000 from Cradlebaugh's and had been threatened with prosecution for it. He had to replace the money. The opportunity came, and he seized it. He knew that you hated Hargraves, knew that there was a motive on your part, knew that you si and missed, knew that Hargraves had a lot of money on his person, and he set out to get it. It was safe. He got it, and Hargraves, too; shot him dead with another gun after you missed him and paid back the money to Cradlebaugh's." Miriam burst out: "And you have known this for years?" "Yes," he told her quietly, his eyes wandering over Miriam's face, "but it's plain to me now that you haven't known it." "How should we?" protested Challoner. Murgatroyd frowned; then he answered: (To be continued.) Why, Certainly. Departing Passenger—O, conductor, won't you give me a transfer of some other color? This one doesn't match my gown at all.—Puck.