

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa, February 27, 1910.

THE WAITING INSTRUMENT. I blame no man for failure here, for he who wins no crown is like an instrument.

That silent waits the Master's touch to free The noble numbers that within are pent.

Untouched, and unawake, and still it stands, Despite the glorious measures it contains— Who knows but that in the diviner lands 'Twill swell the songs of heaven with its strains? —Blakeney Gray.

It looks as if the meat boycott had been boycotted.

Mob violence is worse than war, and everybody knows what General Sherman said war is.

Ole Rye is a candidate for councilman at Sloux City. He ought to be popular—in that community.

It is to be hoped the weather will moderate now and give the hens a chance to lay eggs. Also permit the workmen to make substantial progress on the Keokuk and Hamilton water power dam.

The earlier spring comes this year the better for this community.

The high cost of living is explained, according to a correspondent of a New York newspaper, by "the laziness of the home-makers," who no longer cook, bake, pickle and preserve, but buy expensive prepared foods from the baker and grocer.

There is no doubt that modern methods of preparing foods are a large factor in the case.

The Jacksonville Courier tells of a man who started twenty-five years ago as a farm hand in Pike county, Ill., who paid \$125 an acre for a 400-acre farm in that shire the other day. He already owned 1,000 acres in the same locality.

Either farming in that county must be exceptionally profitable or the hired man in question married a dignified sum of money.

It is reported upon what seems to be good authority that the bar of Judge Towner's judicial district has practically agreed upon State Senator J. H. Jamison to succeed Towner on the bench in case the latter is nominated by the Republicans for congress and that Governor Carroll will be asked to appoint Jamison.

The arrangement is an admirable one in every respect.

The florists of the state are asking the railroad commission to make some regulations that will facilitate the sending of flowers by express. They complain that there are charges for a transfer from one railroad to another while having the same express company and great delays at such transfer places.

The matter is to be taken up this week at a general hearing on express rates.

B. W. Garrett, secretary of the state board of parole, in his resignation writes a letter in which he seems to be very serious. He thinks that much depends on him keeping somewhere in office. The Indianola Herald doubts if he resigned for the good of the country, and thus points out the real reason:

"We think it was for the good of the service. However, he pledges himself to do his best if the people will help him defeat Uncle Henry Bousquet. The people will not do that. Colonel Bousquet is not going to be turned down for a young man whose publicity comes from holding office ever since he was a boy."

They have been having quite a serious time with snow blockades in Minnesota and the Dakotas. One Chicago & Great Western train was stalled for fourteen hours in a huge drift between St. Paul and Rochester, about five miles from the latter place, and the passengers suffered greatly from the intense cold. In South Dakota, a Northwestern passenger train was stalled in a drift for nine hours near Goodwin. They were taken in farm wagons to that town where they remained until snow plows arrived and released the train.

The Dakota and Black Hills express on the Northwestern road arrived at Winona, Minn., shortly before midnight Wednesday, the first through train to reach that city from Rapid City, S. D., in three days. The passengers were weary and suffering from the cold.

The bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor has just published figures showing that importations of duty free merchandise into the United States in the seven months since the Payne law went into effect were valued at \$120,483,322 more than the duty free importations for 1908-09. Dutiable imports showed a gain in value of \$78,289,141. These figures fully substantiate President Taft's arguments and sweep the sand from under the feet of the critics of the new tariff law.

It is said that in western Iowa 40 per cent of the seed corn tested will not germinate. What this means is thus stated by the Cedar Rapids Republican:

If the farmers of that section plant that kind of seed for every 100 hills planted they will have only sixty full hills to grow. The other forty hills will be vacant, there will be no ears in that vicinity when they begin corn husking. That sort of seed corn would cut the next crop down terrifically. Attention is called to the fact that the only safe way is to test at least one kernel from every ear that is in the seed lot and throw away all ears that do not germinate strong plants.

Widows of the veterans of the civil war, married subsequent to 1890, have been represented by influential promoters of pension legislation in congress as desirous of the same pension rights as widows who married earlier. "Pressure" for this addition of \$4,000,000 to the annual expenditure of the government is said to have become so "irresistible" that favoring legislation is to be reported in the senate and the house. The Boston Transcript is doubtless right in its view that the widows are not so much to blame as the "promoters" who trade on the sentiment and chivalry of the American public to further legislation from which they get their profits. The deserving pensioner has to bear the burden of the undeserving claimant and the claim agent.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY. Do the work that's nearest, Though it's dull at whiles, Helping, when we meet them, Lame dogs over stiles; See in every hedgerow, Marks of angels' feet, Epics in each pebble Underneath our feet.

RURAL CARRIERS' SALARIES. Senator Bankhead of Alabama has introduced a bill in the senate to increase the salaries of rural mail carriers. Under this bill the rural carriers will be divided into ten classes according to the length of routes and they will receive the following yearly salaries: 24 miles or more \$390; 22 to 24 miles \$350; 20 to 22 miles \$310; 18 to 20 miles \$270; 16 to 18 miles \$230; 14 to 16 miles \$190; 12 to 14 miles \$150; 10 to 12 miles \$110; 8 to 10 miles \$70; 6 to 8 miles \$35.

NOT LACKING FIRMINESS. In his article entitled "Big Business and the Sherman Law," in the March Century, Oscar King Parvis relates this incident: "Not long ago a delegation of eastern manufacturers called upon President Taft upon such an errand. They were in a combination; that is, they had made an agreement among themselves as to some things which they would or would not do. The manner in which the government was proceeding against certain concerns for violation of the Sherman law, and the recent decisions of the courts in such cases, had set them to thinking about themselves. They were worried. They did not believe that they were doing anything illegal, but they had begun to suspect that the government might think they were. So they went to the President about it. "They took with them several of their contracts, which they wished to submit to the President for his personal perusal. They dilated upon their misfortune in being unable to secure from any authoritative source an accurate charting of the boundary between legal and illegal business operations. There must be some such line, they were sure. But the department of justice would not point it out to them anywhere could they get responsible advice. Their spokesman addressed the President substantially thus: "Mr. President, we do not feel that we are doing anything wrong, but we want to know. We are engaged in a legitimate business, in what we think is a legitimate way. We do not burn, or steal, or exact rebates, or use false weights. Now, we should like to have you look at our contracts and see for yourself just what we are doing. It seems to us there must be some line that business can get within and be safe, and we want to know where it is. The department of justice cannot give us advice, so we have come to you. "But the President did not read their contracts. He merely asked them two questions. The first was 'Do you seek to control prices?' and the second was, 'Do you seek to limit or control output?' "To both of these questions the answer was in the affirmative. Thereupon the President spoke to this effect: "That's all I wish to know. I don't need to read your contracts. You ask if you come under the Sherman law. I can tell you right now, on the answers you have just given, that you do. "Of course, in putting these words in quotation marks it is not intended to convey the impression that they exactly reproduce all that conversation;

but they do give substantially and fairly the gist of what was said on both sides.

"The President's callers were surprised and disturbed at what he told them, but they were more surprised and more disturbed when he went on to say that there was only one recourse for them, and that was to 'quit fooling around about what your competitors are trying to do,' and get back to the old system of doing business contemplated by the law, where competition has its free and uninterrupted play."

THE GATE CITY AND LOCAL CANDIDATES.

The Gate City is asked every day and many times every day whom it will support at the coming primary election for candidates for mayor and councilmen under the commission plan. It seems to be taken for granted that this paper will declare for certain men in preference to all others and will urge their endorsement at the primary, with all the influence it can command. This assumption overlooks or disregards the fact that the city primary under the new order of things is a non-partisan affair. It is the people's election—a popular ballot—and the people should be left free to make their own choice without bias or influence one way or the other. The duty incumbent upon The Gate City and other Keokuk newspapers is to confine themselves largely to publishing such information as will enable the voters to reach their own conclusions as to the merits of the respective candidates, and to urge upon them to consider the field well and exercise special care in making choice of men to administer city affairs at the present important juncture in Keokuk's history.

There are already quite a number of candidates who are circulating petitions with a view to getting their names on the official ballot at the primary election. They are all presumably creditable men and every one should have a fair chance, which all would not have if the newspapers "boomed" certain ones of them and inferentially condemned the rest. Instead, therefore, of picking out a bunch of candidates to exploit The Gate City will make mention of every man's candidacy as a matter of news and leave it to the readers to form their own judgments and vote accordingly. It is not in accord with the spirit of the primary law that a newspaper, on its own initiative, should do more than this. If any candidate wants more publicity than is thus afforded, the advertising columns of the paper are open to him at regular advertising rates. The editorial endorsement of The Gate City has never been purchased and never will be. It is not for sale at any price. But use of the advertising columns for announcements of candidates, portraits and other publicity features is entirely legitimate. It is a purely business proposition—as much so as the sale of the same space to dealers in dry goods, clothing, pianos, breakfast foods, automobiles, etc. In Des Moines and other cities where the commission plan has been in effect for some time candidates make free use of the advertising columns of the local newspapers to secure the publicity they desire. There is no reason why they should not do the same in Keokuk.

WOULD REPEAL PETERSON LAW.

The Peterson law, enacted by the Iowa legislature at its last session, requires all issues of corporate stock to represent cash paid up or its equivalent in actual tangible property. The language of the law is as follows: "No corporation shall issue any capital stock, or any certificate or certificate of capital stock, or any substitute therefor, until the corporation has received the par value thereof." The Des Moines Register and Leader recently asked Tom, James C. Davis for his views as to the practical operation of this law and received a communication from him in which he makes it quite clear that the effect of the enactment is to restrict and delay many business enterprises whose development would be helpful to the state. Mr. Davis writes: "There is thus prescribed a hard and fast inflexible rule that no corporation in this state shall issue its capital stock for less than 100 cents on the dollar. This sounds well in a political platform or upon the stump, but it is a prohibitive provision so far as investment in many very desirable and in some instances necessary enterprises is concerned. It is an illustration of the old adage that 'you can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink.' The legislature can enact prohibitive provisions of this character, but it cannot make people invest. No state in the United States and no city in Iowa needs interurbans more than the state of Iowa and the city of Des Moines, yet no one will engage in the doubtful venture of buying capital stock in a prospective interurban at 100 cents on the dollar. Many small towns and cities need public service plants to furnish electric light, gas and water. The value of these plants as an earning proposition may be entirely prospective, depending upon the growth of the town, and educating the people to use the service furnished. Investors will not pay 100 cents on the dollar for the purpose of trying an uncertain experiment. Many industrial plants in a small way are proposed, the success of which depends upon good management, establishing a reputation, and the innumerable conditions that finally make up a successful business. At the start few people would care to venture an investment requiring the full value of the face of the capital stock. There is much difference between selling stock as an original proposition, and 'watering' stock by methods whereby the liability of the cor-

poration is increased with no corresponding increase in assets. The Peterson law does not recognize this difference. The original investor must have some chance for fair profit to offset the chances of failure. The Peterson law does not give him that chance.

There is nothing either immoral or unlawful in permitting a corporation to sell its capital stock at less than par value, provided the sale is upon full knowledge of all interested parties, and the proceeds of the sale are used to increase the corporate property. As General Dodge suggests, there should be no serious objection to some method of public control in the issuance of capital stock of public service and industrial corporations, but the authority passing upon such right of issue should have liberal discretion as to the price and terms of sale, and when stock is purchased upon such an official approval, and paid for in the amount agreed upon, the stockholder's liability upon his subscription should be at an end. Unless the Peterson law is repealed or radically amended, Iowa cannot expect much growth or investment in the building of public service or industrial enterprises.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

The Bloomfield Republican says the farmers of Iowa have been too busy making money to give much time to highway improvements.

The Sloux City Tribune observes that there is so much deeply hidden meaning in some poems that it could not be dug out with a long handled shovel.

The extravagance of New York women is appalling. They smoke up \$500,000 a year. "Just think how many cigars that money would buy for their husbands," exclaims the Jacksonville Courier.

"Within a year," predicts the Coon Rapids Enterprise, "even Taft's most bitter opponents will either be endorsing him or withholding criticism. When Roosevelt speaks there will be no Republican openly opposing Taft."

Prof. Zueblin says women ought to have the ballot in order to "free her from the trammels of circumspection." The Cedar Rapids Gazette says it doesn't know what that disease is—if it is a disease—but maybe she had better call a doctor.

Governor Hughes delivered the university day address at the University of Pennsylvania Tuesday and received the degree of doctor of laws. This makes him a string of five of these honors to which he is entitled, though four of a kind is considered a pretty good hand.

The Des Moines Capital says it is not perturbed by straw ballots. It believes that the rank and file of the Republican party will demand a fair show and a square deal for President Taft. "The efforts to injure him over the shoulders of Aldrich, Cannon or anyone else will at the proper time be repelled in an emphatic manner," the Capital predicts.

The Columbus Junction Kind. Carroll Herald: We have known and appreciated the fact for many years that Columbus Junction, in Louisa county, is a middling fair sort of a place to bring a boy up in. We have recently had occasion to modify that opinion somewhat, though the changed state of impression is by no means a reflection upon the reputation of this beautiful little town. Quite the contrary. They raise altogether too smart boys at Columbus Junction, and in proof of the averment we have before us, at this moment a card bearing the inscription, Tom Grubb, Columbus Junction, Tom is a wise guy, as swift as they make 'em, and so modest about it, too.

This card informs us that Tom is a candidate for clerk of the supreme court and under a shibboleth printed at one side of the card we are informed, under "experience in office," that he was File Clerk under C. T. Jones, Two Years, and General Clerk under J. C. Crockett, Five Years, and instructed his Entire Force, Including the Present Clerk, Deputy Clerk Past Two Years, Unexpired Part of Crockett's Term. In other words, when Mr. Bousquet, the present clerk, who is again a candidate, came to serve the people of Iowa two years ago, this fine venerable man, whose white locks and handsome old face would cure one of the blues or any other old thing just to look at him, put himself out to Tom Grubb to raise. Tom not only raised old Mr. Bousquet, but he also raised his entire force. Tom says instructed his entire force.

We submit that Columbus Junction produces hot stuff, and while we wish Mr. Grubb every success and a future of the brightest and most prosperous kind we have to hesitatingly declare after much earnest thought—for we are always very serious when it comes to politics, it's a great game—that we can not promise him the influence of the Herald at this time. Others may think differently and do, differently. That is all right. But from our impression of Mr. Grubb from Mr. Grubb's card such genius as his is wasted in any mere clerical place like the clerkship of the supreme court. He ought to be a member of congress or perhaps a senator. When he comes to us under the proper sign and due guard for some place commensurate with his talents the Herald will promise Mr. Grubb that it will think it over.

THE FOURTH ESTATE

Novelized by FREDERICK R. TOOMBS

From the Great Play of the Same Name by Joseph Medill Patterson and Harriet Ford.

Copyright, 1909, by Joseph Medill Patterson and Harriet Ford.

(Continued.)

"Oh, I understand," he answered feigningly.

Brand and Nolan went into the library to smoke. Hardly had they disappeared when Pitcher entered the drawing room as an escort for Judge Bartgamy and his daughter Judith. Brand had not erred a few minutes previous when in the same room he had pronounced the judge to be the best "handler of people" in the city. The conversation which ensued between the jurist and his daughter as they awaited their hostess well illustrated his reasons for accepting, with his daughter, Mrs. Nolan's invitation. When Pitcher had gone in search of Mrs. Nolan it was the girl who first spoke.

"Father," she said, "I want you to know that I've been to five teas this



"This doesn't come under the head of social duties."

afternoon. I'm doing you a great favor to come to this one."

"Yes, my dear; I appreciate it, but social duties—"

The girl laughed shortly.

"Now, this doesn't come under the head of social duties."

"Oh, yes," the judge answered quickly. "If you view society in its broader sense. Beyond your little world is a larger one where caste is of small consequence and where all men should be of service to each other."

"But the Nolans—they certainly haven't been of service to you?" questioned the girl.

He glanced sharply at Judith.

"But I wish them to be, and we're getting on—we're getting on."

"Their paper keeps going for you just as much as ever, father. I don't suppose you ought to mind it, but I do."

"Judith, Nolans have lived in every age in every country," pronounced the jurist. "He's a composite of anarchy and autocracy. Eventually the autocrat in him will triumph. Just now he's bounding old institutions. I, for instance, represent to him the judiciary, and he attacks me. No consequence whatever, but I'm here in defense of the United States bench. My cause is the cause of my colleagues. I tell you Judith, I know the breed. I know how to get the venom out of his fangs. Diplomacy, my dear—diplomacy!" Judith became enthusiastic.

"Father, I believe you would have been a great prime minister in the old days!"

The judge straightened up, smiling pleasantly at his daughter's complimentary estimate of him. "Hardly that, hardly that," he protested. He became reflective. "They were feeble old men, for a thousand years courteously moving kings and their armies like pawns on a chessboard. They were always very tactful, Judith, those princes of the past."

"Oh," she admitted, "you never fail to illustrate your point, whatever it is!"

"Just imagine," said her father, "what one of those old fellows would do in this case."

"Yes, I suppose you're right, and in the end you'll make these people see how wrong they've been about you."

"Oh, yes!" he went on confidently. "As they become accustomed to their prosperity they will find that the demagogism of their paper will be modified and ultimately vanish." He seated himself near his daughter.

"That would be a terrible blow for Wheeler, wouldn't it?" she suddenly asked.

"Wheeler! Oh, Wheeler! He's an entirely different type—the idealist, the fanatical idealist. I'm sorry, I always liked the boy. His heart's all right, but his head's all wrong, and I hope he's merely passing through a phase."

"I don't think you quite understand Wheeler, father," responded Judith feigning.

He took hold of the girl's hands. (To be continued.)

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