

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa, April 8, 1910

men who used to amuse a greater man by playing minor parts in tennis games and who mistook themselves for important personages."

UNDER THE COMMISSION PLAN

Under the commission plan of city government regular meetings of the city council will be held on the first Monday after the election of the councilmen (next Monday) and thereafter at least once a month. The council will provide by ordinance for the time of holding regular meetings, and special meetings may be called from time to time by the mayor or two councilmen. It has been the experience of Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and other commission plan cities that the council is in session practically all the time. All meetings of the council, whether regular or special, at which any person not a city officer is admitted, must be open to the public. The mayor will be president of the council and will preside at its meetings and supervise all departments and report to the council for its action all matters requiring attention. The superintendent of the department of accounts will be vice president of the council and in case of vacancy in the office of mayor, or in the absence or inability of the mayor, will perform the duties of the latter.

Every ordinance or resolution appropriating money or ordering any street improvement or sewer, or making or authorizing the making of any contract, or granting any franchise or right to occupy or use the streets, highways, bridges or public places in the city for any purpose, must be complete in the form in which it is finally passed, and remain on file with the city clerk for public inspection at least one week before the final passage or adoption thereof. No franchise or right to occupy or use the streets, highways, bridges or public places can be granted, renewed or extended, except by ordinance, and every franchise or grant for interurban or street railways, gas or water works, electric light or power plants, heating plants, telegraph or telephone systems, or other public service utilities within the city, must be authorized or approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon at a general or special election as provided by law.

It will be seen from this that the utmost publicity is assured and the rights of the people fully protected in the premises.

THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

The Cedar Rapids Gazette asked recently for an expression of opinion by Iowa newspapers concerning its suggestion that the state superintendent of schools be selected by the state educational board instead of elected by the people as at present. It will be recalled that The Gate City endorsed the suggestion, first, because everything pertaining to the schools and school management should be divorced from politics; second, because the state educational board is better qualified to make intelligent choice than the mass of the voters, who, in the nature of things, cannot know the respective merits of the candidates offering themselves; and third, because the selection of the superintendent by the state board would unify and harmonize the entire educational system of the state. The Gazette in reproducing the article says that "The Gate City adds some arguments and observations which every one who believes in the highest state of school efficiency can endorse." The Gazette says further: "Agitation of the subject ought to be kept up, and the next legislature ought to be asked to amend the law regarding the election of superintendent. The Gazette believes the reform would mean the uplift of Iowa schools. Let the press of the state urge the matter, and the reform can be speedily brought about. "That the legislature can be easily induced to act in the matter is the opinion of Representative Moore, who commends the Gazette's suggestion and who urges this paper to keep on agitating for the change. Mr. Moore has long been of the opinion that the present method of choosing state superintendent is not the proper way. His idea was to have the governor appoint the superintendent. But he says the Gazette's suggestion, that the educational board of control make the appointment—is still better. Mr. Moore adds that the superintendent ought to receive a higher salary than is now paid, and few will disagree with him on that point. The Davenport Democrat also has a word on the subject. Premising that "The Gate City thinks in type long enough to reach a conclusion with that of the Gazette, and finds excellent reason for the change proposed," the Democrat goes on to say: "There is no doubt that there is no social institution so necessary to good citizenship and there is none which receives so little care from the public who are in reality vitally interested. Matters which concern the schools and those who teach in them are dismissed with scant courtesy by the legislature while other affairs less important receive careful attention. The state superintendent, who should be a leader in matters educational, a man of broad training and instincts, is too often some illiberal selected for some reason or no reason, elevated to the position and given just enough authority to harass teachers in service and obstruct those who would enter the work. Instead of a leader he is a stumbling block, whose soul is wrapped up in a process of perceiving questions and whose sole aim seems to hinder and not help. The Democrat is in favor of anything which will lighten the quality of the man who superintends."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat declares that clean cities are possible—but it costs worse than Christmas.

INTERESTING INDUSTRIAL FACTS

In one of his recent articles William E. Curtis makes public a number of interesting industrial facts not generally known. For instance:

Memphis has become the greatest center of the cotton seed oil industry. In 1909 the total value surpassed \$80,000,000.

Dallas has become the greatest market for the distribution of farm machinery in the world.

Galveston is the greatest cotton market in the world.

St. Louis handles more shoes than any other city in the world.

Buffalo handles the most grain, and Portland, Ore., the largest amount of lumber.

More steel rails are made in Pittsburgh than in any other city in the world.

Fall River produces the greatest amount of cotton cloth.

Detroit makes the largest number of automobiles of any city in the world, having twenty factories which turned out about \$12,000,000 worth of machines last year. Detroit is also the home of the "adding machine" and the largest producer of medicines and pharmaceutical preparations in the world. Philadelphia is second.

Durham leads in the manufacture of cash registers.

South Bend produces the largest number of wagons, Moline the largest number of plows, Quincy, Ill., the largest number of omnibuses, Patterson, N. J., the largest amount of silk fabrics, and Trenton, the largest amount of pottery.

Peoria makes more spirits than any other city in the world, and pays between \$20,000,000 and \$40,000,000 in taxes to the federal government every year—more than twice as much as any other city in the country except New York. Louisville sells more whiskey and more tobacco than any other city. Minneapolis makes more flour than any city in the world, an average of 75,000 barrels a day. It requires 5,000,000 acres of land to grow enough wheat to keep the twenty-two Minneapolis mills running for a year.

There are forty-three furniture factories in Grand Rapids, which employ 75,000 skilled workmen, and produce more furniture than any other city in the world.

It will be interesting to watch events in the next ten years and note what changes are made in the list. Keokuk will forge to the front as an industrial center following the development of the water power and will in time win pre-eminence in a number of lines.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

A writer who has been inspecting the garbage cans of New York says that town throws away enough to feed India.

The Warsaw Bulletin in speaking of the recent city election in Keokuk says that the outcome is creditable to the community.

Do married men live longer than bachelors because they have more to live for or more to live down? The Jacksonville Courier would like to know.

If Roosevelt ever runs for President the Cedar Rapids Gazette says he ought to get the unanimous vote of the newspaper gang. He is the best news creator that ever was.

The Hampton Chronicle says a strong Democrat loquing up on the presidential horizon could be relied on to produce immediate harmony among Republicans in all sections.

"The insurgent papers," says the Charles City Press, "just seem determined to oppose every administrative measure of President Taft. They should join the Democratic party and be done with it."

An Ohio man recently lost \$1,800 by the burning of his bank which was an empty room can hidden in the hay mow, and "pat." reflects the Mason City Globe-Gazette, "there are financiers who don't want a postal savings bank to replace this kind."

Former President Roosevelt and all other ex-Presidents of the United States, or their widows, will be granted the franking privilege during their lifetime, under a bill just passed by the house by a vote of 120 to seventy-six. The measure met some opposition on the Democratic side.

"Probably no man in the state," says the Vinton Eagle, "has had greater capacity for the duties of press agent than John Cowine. He had the honor of telling the Des Moines reporters what John Cowine did until some people actually believed he was the only member of the board."

Congressman Kennedy, Keosauqua Republican: It might be said that everybody who knows Congressman Kennedy likes him. He is a likable man because he is a gentleman and a good man. He is serving his second term as representative in congress from the First district of Iowa, and to quote a homely expression, "he has made good." He does not pretend to be an orator, but he is a thinker, a worker, and his every effort is to do right as near as he knows the right, and that is as much as the wisest and best man living can be expected to do. His is a clean, useful and consistent record as an official. He will ask a renomination at the June primaries from the Republicans and if nominated and elected the district will be well represented.

A POLITICAL PREDICTION.

Smith D. Fry Asserts Confidently That C. E. Vrooman will be Republican Nominee for Congress in Eighth District.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—When John S. Woolson died The Gate City news boy, in the columns of the old Des Moines Register, predicted that Congressman Smith McPherson would be appointed to succeed him on the judicial bench. All of the newspapers of Iowa shouted that the prediction was absurd; and they gave many columns of reasons why it would be impossible for Smith McPherson to be appointed, or to accept if appointed. Nevertheless, the prediction was renewed again and again for a period of four months; and then Smith McPherson was appointed, and he accepted the position.

Now, The Gate City news boy predicts that Charles E. Vrooman, of Appanoose, will be nominated for congress by the Republicans of the Eighth district; and that he will be elected.

All of the members of the bar in that part of Iowa will say that Judge Townier will receive the nomination; but you will find that they are mistaken. The members of the bar would like to get Judge Townier off of the bench; and some of them aspire to the judgeship; so you see the members of the bar have reasons for supporting Judge Townier, and predicting his nomination. But he will not be nominated, primarily because it is greatly feared that he could not be elected; and the Republicans want to carry that district this year.

Reverting to the subject of chairmanships in the national house of representatives, it should be stated and reiterated, that the man who achieves a chairmanship of importance in the house of representatives, becomes a power for his people. No man can hope for a chairmanship until he shall have served continuously for six or eight years in the house of representatives. The people are foolish who turn out a good representative after he has obtained a chairmanship in the house of representatives, merely to make room for an ambitious man who hopes to benefit himself by preferment when it should be plain to the people that he cannot benefit them. Six chairmanships that were formerly held by the Iowa men in the house of representatives have been thrown away wantonly and foolishly by the people who have made room for new men, and those new men are not prominent in the house of representatives, and cannot be so until after a period of six or eight years of continuous service, when they might achieve something worthy and beneficial to their people.

All the chairmanships mentioned in a former letter to The Gate City, have been frittered away except the chairmanship of the committee on military affairs, one of the most important and influential chairmanships in the house of representatives. It is held by Congressman John A. T. Hull, and an ambitious politician in the Seventh district, is now trying to induce the people there to further his ambition to their own detriment. No man in the senate or in the house of representatives could have obtained the military post for Des Moines, nor even have induced the war department to consider establishing a post there, except the man who occupies the commanding position of chairman of the committee on military affairs of the house of representatives. No man who could be elected to succeed Chairman Hull, could possibly achieve any chairmanship whatever in less than six or eight years; and he would be fortunate indeed, to obtain a chairmanship in less than ten years. It seems exceedingly strange to one who is experienced and versed in political affairs that the people can be fooled, not all of the time, but any of the time, in furthering the ambition of one individual to the detriment of many thousands of people. When Chairman Hull retires from congress, the army post now located at Des Moines, will be withdrawn from that place. The retirement of Chairman Hull would be a financial calamity to Des Moines, and to Iowa; for when the army post is taken away, hundreds of thousands of dollars will be taken out of the trade circulation in Iowa.

For this common sense reason, the writer opposed the election of Governor Cummins to the senate so long as Senator Allison lived. Senator Allison had attained a commanding position in national affairs; a position that was attained only after many years of continuous service; a position of power that no new man could achieve with out similar length of service.

For this same common sense reason the writer would oppose the election of any new man in place of Senator Cummins, after he shall have had six years of service in the senate. By that time, Senator Cummins will have attained such standing as to make him too valuable a man to lose; too valuable to turn out, merely to make room for a new and ambitious man.

When the people have men in high positions, it is well to retain them there, because every additional year of service gives them greater strength in Washington, and greater influence in national affairs.

SMITH D. FRY.

Profitable Kissing Bee.

Twenty girls belonging to the Temple Emanuel of little old New York held a kissing bee recently, and charged from 25 cents to \$2.50 per kiss, the price being regulated according to the beauty of the young lady and "his said they cleaned up considerable on it.

KAHOKA, MO.

William Thompson died suddenly at his home near Union, some time Monday night. He was in Kahoka during the day, and retired to rest at night apparently in his usual health. He was found dead in bed the next morning by his wife. The coroner was called and after examination decided death was due to heart trouble. Deceased was aged 67 years, and leaves a wife and five children to mourn. Funeral services were held Wednesday at Union church, and interment in cemetery near by. Deceased was a man of fine disposition and his sudden death brings sorrow to his many friends.

Grayden Harkness expects to arrive from Columbia Saturday, for a few days with home folks.

The school election Tuesday resulted in the selection of E. F. Spangler and John H. Puder as directors for three years. The levy of \$1.00 on the \$100 valuation carried by a good margin.

Wm. F. Wayland, of Revere, has announced for collector on the democratic ticket. And now P. I. has opposition.

Bert Smith and Miss Sylvia Bullard of Alexandria, have been granted a license to wed.

The trees in the city park have been trimmed up.

Frank Matlock of Spokane, Wash., is the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Matlock.

James Shackelford left Thursday for Weston, Mo.

Mrs. E. J. Beckwith arrived home Monday from Minneapolis, where she was the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Grace Cooper. She reports the recent arrival of a baby daughter at the Cooper home.

Mrs. J. W. Forsee and Miss Lintie Turner arrived home Thursday from their winter sojourn in Excelsior Springs. Mr. Forsee was lost enroute, but is expected to arrive in a few days.

Mrs. Laura Spangler of St. Joseph, Mo., is the guest of her sister, Mrs. E. J. Beckwith.

Arling Stamer has gone to Iowa, Kansas, where he has employment for the summer.

Clinton Bell is at home from a trip to Arkansas.

Rev. W. F. Laidley of Milan, spent a few days of this week with his wife in Kahoka.

Thos. McCarty has near completion a four-room house on the old Teel place adjoining Kahoka on the northeast, and will occupy same.

The city election Tuesday resulted in the election of John H. Puder, republican, as alderman from the west ward, and Fred Kirchner, democrat, as alderman from the east ward. Kirchner's majority over John Seyb, republican, was 44. In the west ward there was apparently no opposition to Mr. Puder until about 5 o'clock when the democrats, taking advantage of the small vote cast, run in enough votes for Harry Martin to come within 2 votes of election. The vote stood 42 to 40. The scheme was hatched, apparently, some time the night before. The people, as a rule, don't believe in this "dark lantern" business. Anyhow, Mr. Puder is the alderman from the west ward—and will make a good one. The defeat of Mr. Seyb is due to the fact that he did not want the office and made no fight for election; also to the apathy on the part of republican voters. Mr. Kirchner, however, is very popular, has served the city well and faithfully for two years, and affairs of state will not suffer on account of his reelection.

The board of equalization is busy this week "weeding out" the erroneous personal tax books, and as a result hundreds of names have been dropped from the rolls.

J. R. Vandolah was a Gorin and Rutledge visitor this week.

The Gate City correspondent has repeatedly impressed upon the citizens of Kahoka the advisability of keeping in mind the fact that we have an opportunity to secure the proposed German college for Kahoka. A few months ago the people of this town raised a bonus of \$10,000 to secure the project and the matter was taken under advisement by the college committee. Now comes the proposition that if Kahoka will double the bonus the college will be located here. Will we do it? This is the important thing that now confronts the people here. It can be done, of course, by each and every citizen of the town putting their shoulder to the wheel and doing their part. Will they do it? The matter must be decided within the next two months. The time to get busy is now! Let's land it. It will be a great boon for the town—something we have needed. If we do not land the proposed college, some other and more enterprising burg will. Shall we do it?

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.

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