

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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Keokuk, Iowa, Jan. 9, 1911

THE LESSER MINISTRIES. A flower upon a threshold laid; A little kindness wrought unseen; I know not who love's tribute paid; I only know that it has made Life's pathway smooth, life borders green.

God bless the gracious hands that'er Such tender ministries essay; Dear hands that help the pilgrim bear His load of weariness and care More bravely up the toilsome way.

Oh, what a little thing can turn A heavy heart from sighs to song, A smile can make the world less stern!

A word can cause the soul to burn With glow of heaven all night long!

It needs not that love's gift be great— Some splendid jewels of the soul For which a king might supplicate. Nay, true love's least, at love's true rate Is the little most royal of the whole.

Thought for the day: If you can't boast don't knock.

All the indications point to an exceptionally pleasant spring for Keokuk this year.

With fifty-three Sundays, it stands to reason that 1911 should be an exceptionally good year.

The speaker of the Nebraska house is named Kuhl. The legislators in that state will do well to keep him.

Governor Eberhart's message to the Minnesota legislature contained 25,000 words. And yet Minnesota claims to be committed to the cause of reform!

Moline has valuable water power facilities. Factories costing over \$1,000,000 are in course of erection in Moline. The connection between these two facts is too obvious to need pointing out.

Senator Cummins is hurrying for the Oregon plan of choosing United States senators. If that plan comes to the Iowa senator will be hoisted by his own petard, and a Democrat will succeed him at Washington.

The most inconspicuous citizen of Keokuk can help promote its interests by a right attitude toward the measures to that end. Even the professional "knocker" can make himself useful, if he will, by refraining from indulgence in his favorite pastime.

When Eli Perkins, who has just died, was in Rock Island some years ago, he said he was traveling for his wife's pleasure. "Then your wife is with you," suggested the reporter. "Oh, no," said Eli, "she is in New York."

The Gate City says the city of Keokuk wants a slogan. What's the matter with "Keokuk Kan?"—Oskaloosa Herald.

The suggestion is a good one. But it seems to this paper that a better one would be: "Keokuk Can and will!"

The cheering thought is advanced by the Des Moines Register and Leader that during 1911 somebody may turn loose a musical comedy that is really as musical and as funny as it pretends to be. The idea seems almost too good to be true.

The board of supervisors of Scott county has wisely refused to employ tax ferrets. This means that Davenport will not invite capital with one hand and drive it away with the other. There should not be a single tax ferret employed in all Iowa.

It appears from recent developments that the emigration from this country to Canada, which had such a vogue a few years ago, has received a check. Canadian officials have been investigating the movement of settlers along the southern border, and they announce that in the season just closed about 104,000 immigrants arrived in Canada from the United States, going mainly to Alberta and the Puget Sound territory. They found at the same time that about 75,000 Canadians left the Dominion for United States points. Advantages of climate, soil, associations and means of development appeal to the men who are coming to help swell Uncle Sam's census rolls.

The legislatures will begin their sessions in Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin, Washington, Oregon, South Carolina, Iowa, New Jersey, Kansas and several other states during the present week. Important developments are expected during the week in relation to the senatorial contests in New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Iowa, Ohio, and one or two other states.

The Galesburg Republican-Register reproduces what The Gate City said about it being time for the knocker to become a booster and for the placid sleepy-heads to wake up and stay awake, and declares that the advice is just as applicable to Galesburg as to Keokuk. "It is simply," it adds, "another way of saying that a city must get the things that put value into town lots." Figuring in town lots won't do it.

The Interstate commerce commission began today the hearing of arguments in regard to the proposed advance in railroad rates, thus bringing to a close the most important public investigation of railroad business, methods and conditions that the country has ever known. The hearing of the arguments is expected to occupy the entire week. The case of the eastern roads will be argued first and that of the western roads after.

The Galesburg Republican-Register tenders its best wishes for the complete success of the big water power project here because— "It will put cheap electric power within easy reach of all the cities and towns within a hundred miles of Keokuk. It is a very large enterprise with great possibilities attached to it. True, if it goes through it will mean a large accession to the population of Keokuk and this is a side on which the citizens of that place should look more seriously."

Quincy and Bloomington, as well as Galesburg, are moving in the matter of affording the letter carriers needed rest on Sunday. It is argued, among other things, that men do better work having Sunday rest, which is no doubt true. The expense to the postoffice department would probably be increased by keeping the carriers' windows closed on Sunday, as additional help would be required on Monday in order to make prompt delivery of the accumulation of mail, but this objection should not stand in the way of according the carriers the Sunday rest and leisure that other people enjoy.

The rest of the state will kindly excuse Keokuk for inattention to political affairs at Des Moines. This city has some very important matters of its own in hand, growing out of the development of the largest single water power project in the world, and those matters require its best thought and effort just now to the exclusion of everything else. It is not that Keokuk cares less for what is done at the state capital, but that it is intensely interested, as it should be, in making its own calling and election sure both now and in the years that are to come.

Judge Blair of West Union, Ohio, who has been conducting the trials of the numerous voter sellers indicted in Adams county, was interviewed as to the cause and said: "Had it not been that the people of this county are so poor and their politicians so greedy to secure their votes, we would not now have any of these election bribery cases which have turned the eyes of the world toward Adams county and caused it to lift its hands in holy horror. Poverty is the root of this evil and we are finding it many times as hard to get the men into court for this reason." The grand jury has returned more indictments each day.

COMMISSION-RULE CITIES. Already ninety-six cities in twenty-three states have adopted the commission form of government, and many more are arranging to do so. The list of commission-governed cities to date is as follows: Iowa—Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Keokuk, Marshalltown, Sioux City. Texas—Anthony, Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Denison, El Paso, Houston, Kennedy, Lyford, Marshall, Marble Falls, Palestine, Port Lavaca, Sherman, San Antonio, Waco, Fort Worth, Galveston, Greenville.

West Virginia—Bluefield, Huntington, Alabama—Birmingham, South Carolina—Columbia, North Carolina—Charlotte, Colorado—Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Wisconsin—Eau Claire, Louisiana—Shreveport, Kansas—Abilene, Coffeyville, Cherokee, Caldwell, Emporia, Girard, Marion, Newton, Neodesha, Parsons, Pittsburg, Topeka, Wichita, Wellington, Independence, Iola, Kansas City, Leavenworth, Hutchinson, Idaho—Boise, Lewiston, South Dakota—Dell Rapids, Huron, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Yankton, Washington—Tacoma (modified), Massachusetts—Gloucester, Haverhill, Lynn, Taunton, Chelsea, Oklahoma—Ardmore, Bartlesville, Duncan, Enid, Miami, McAlester, Muskogee, Sapulpa, Tulsa, Wagner, North Dakota—Bismark, Mandan, Minot, Tennessee—Bristol, Clarksville, Etowah, Memphis, Richmond City, Mississippi—Hattiesburg, Minnesota—Mankato, California—Berkeley, Modesto, Riverside, Oakland, Michigan—Port Huron, Missouri—St. Joseph, No list of commission government cities is adequate for very long, as additions are being made to the list almost every day. A number of Mis-

souri cities will ask for commission charters of the legislature of that state at its present session, and bills have been drafted for introduction in the Indiana and Arkansas legislatures that will permit the cities of those states to adopt the commission plan.

THE FUTURE OF KEOKUK.

The future of Keokuk is in its own hands and depends very largely upon the spirit in which the city meets the opportunities growing out of the development of the water power and the extent to which it improves them. If its attitude is to be one of indifference, if it proposes to sit idly by with folded hands and in the language of the street "let George do it," the fact might as well be recognized first as last that Keokuk will never be anything more than a pumping station for other more enterprising communities which will gladly avail themselves of the power generated here. Unless this is to be the outcome of fifty years' dreaming and hoping for the development of the water power Keokuk must wake up, take on new life and energy and resolve by all it holds sacred that it will leave nothing undone to profit by the great enterprise to the fullest possible extent.

Keokuk has now come to the forks of the road and must make instant choice whether it will continue its past monotonous journey along an inconspicuous by-way and finally arrive nowhere, or whether it will enter upon the broad highway of progress opened to it by the water power and go forward swiftly and surely to largely increased industrial activity, added population and unprecedented prosperity. In all history no community ever had such an opportunity before it as now presents itself to Keokuk. Nor would any other community in the world hesitate a moment in making final choice. Neither must Keokuk for a single instant. In the Grand opera house on Thursday evening at a public mass meeting called by Mayor Elder the matter will come up for decision and it behooves every citizen to be there and help emphasize the demand that Keokuk rise to the full measure of its unexampled opportunity. The fate of the city is to be determined and it is the duty of every good citizen to make sure that it is determined aright.

BETTER PAY FOR FARM WORK.

James J. Hill declares that population is now moving toward the cities with such accelerated speed as to constitute a real danger. He also declares that it cannot be checked by tampering with the rural school system, often superior in practical education to that of the city, or by spending money widely in publicity or immigration work that attracts people to the congested centers only. He would thus solve the problem: Farm work must be put on the same basis, must have an equal interest with the other interests which have been for so many years the recipients of special legislative care and favor. Men will go where they think they have the best chance for success. It must be shown that the farm is such a place. The improvement of methods is doing much, but a widespread and long-continued campaign of education must be carried on before the cultivation of the soil will again attract that proper share of the nation's workers without which neither our industrial prosperity nor our political institutions can be permanently maintained.

GROWTH OF NATIONAL WEALTH.

The first computation of national wealth was made in 1791 by Dr. Adam Sybert, one of the ablest statisticians of his day. The total fixed was \$750,000,000. The total for every decade since, as compiled by the Wall Street Journal mainly from the censuses, are thus recorded: 1800 \$ 1,072,000,000 1810 1,500,000,000 1820 1,800,000,000 1830 1,882,000,000 1840 2,453,000,000 1850 3,764,000,000 1860 6,174,000,000 1870 14,183,000,000 1885 24,300,000,000 1890 35,900,000,000 1895 43,900,000,000 1899 66,356,000,000 1895 79,111,000,000 1900 94,000,000,000 1904 107,000,000,000 1910 (estimated) 125,000,000,000

The increase in wealth has been at the rate of about 3 1/2 per cent per annum, compounded annually. Whereas the average capital per capita was \$183 in 1791, it is today, on the basis of a population of ninety-two million, \$1,359.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

The sunflower philosopher lays it down flat that a girl doesn't love every man she is willing to go to a dollar-and-a-half show with.

It is said that ice one and a half inches thick will support a man; four inches thick will support cavalry; five inches thick will support an eighty-four-pound cannon; ten inches thick will support a multitude, and eighteen inches thick will support a railroad train.

The Fairfield Ledger points out that the Iowa farmer who has been voting with the "insurgents" is estopped from any protest when the tariff rippers down at Washington do with his grains and live stock and other products as they've done with his hides—put them on the free list.

"They may call Dr. Cook crazy, but it takes a wise man who can sell both sides to the magazines and get high prices for his literary wares," says the Cedar Rapids Republican. "He was paid for telling how he reached

the north pole, and now he is getting paid for telling he did not get there. Lieutenant Peary will have to hurry to catch up with him."

WORLD ALMANAC HAS IT ALL.

In New Volume For 1911 Every New Fact Has Been Added.

All the phenomenal growth and development that have marked the progress of events throughout the world in 1910 are reflected and recorded in The World Almanac for 1911. To enumerate its new features would be to enumerate everything new and important that has taken place in the last year. Its great mass of statistical information on every subject in which any one would be likely to be interested has been revised and brought down to the last moment of the closing year, and so many new facts and figures have been added that apparently no information of value or importance has been omitted, while for accuracy The World Almanac has never been excelled.

The completeness with which the subjects are treated is shown by the fact that fifteen pages are devoted to detailed facts concerning the new "Science of Aviation." "The High Cost of Living" is another subject treated at length in detail. All the important laws of congress and of state legislatures are clearly summarized. The progress of science, art, government, religion, education, labor, industry, commerce, finance, navigation, exploration and a thousand or more other subjects are set forth concisely, making The World Almanac for 1911 a complete reference library in one volume. It is the only reference volume which may be accurately described by paraphrasing Lincoln's famous sentence concerning a people's government: It is a book of facts of, for and by The World.

The Telephone Girls.

The Free Press quotes a Mt. Pleasant woman as saying that the central girls there answer the telephone in a voice which sounds like she feels when she has a headache. If the telephone girls don't have headaches it is their good fortune and not the fault of the subscribers in a great many instances.—Keokuk Gate City.

Mt. Pleasant Free Press: Yes indeed. The average person is pretty cranky when it comes to telephones. If they can't get an answer just when they think they should, they get mad and pick at the telephone girls.

And we can tell these people something. Politeness pays big dividends in time when it comes to calling "central." If you are nice about it, they will soon find it out and your service is better than it was before. There are two prominent men in this town who are on the "black list." The older girls all know them and when a new girl comes along, the names are handed along.

These men have lost lots of time waiting to get in, a call simply because they have been mean and abusive to the girls. If these men were placed at a switch board five minutes and had to put up with what telephone operators put up, the exchange building would need a new roof every day. Those men would swear the shingles off the building.

It requires an infinite amount of patience to be a good operator and the next time when you get impatient and feel like letting off steam, don't do it. It will pay you in time and money to keep your vest on.

Keokuk and the Big Dam.

Des Moines register and Leader: "The biggest thing in the country is under way right now at Keokuk," said the Stern, who returned from that city yesterday. "Over 500 men are at work on the dam across the Mississippi river and there is no longer a shadow of doubt but that the biggest engineering project in the United States is now an assured fact. Work was begun on the Illinois end of the dam just a year ago, but it was not until last week that several hundred workmen were brought over to the Iowa shore and put to work. Now there are two gangs working toward each other and the dam is beginning to assume shape in reality. It is an immense undertaking, involving the expenditure of about \$20,000,000. When it is completed the dam will develop 200,000 horse power of which approximately one-third has already been contracted for by St. Louis public utility concerns. Hugh L. Cooper, the engineer in charge, is positive that the work can be completed within thirty months. The Keokuk water power project is the largest in the world, with the single exception of the various projects catalogued as one, at Niagara Falls. The dam is to be 5,800 feet long. It is the biggest thing in dams in the world, with the single exception of the Assuan dam across the Nile in Egypt. Keokuk is acting very sensibly under its good fortune. Real estate values are rising but there is no boom that will collapse and leave things worse than before. The Commercial club, with Wells M. Irwin as president and W. R. C. Kendrick as secretary, is handling things admirably. But you'll have to watch Keokuk srow from now on, let me tell you that."

His Explanation.

"No, I never use a typewriter." "Why not?" "Because my manuscript would never be sought after by collectors of rare literary efforts, if they were typewritten."

Italian Proverb.

The principal part of everything is the beginning.

Advertisement for Uneeda Biscuit. Features include: 'There's One Thing in Uneeda Biscuit that other soda crackers lack and that is National-Biscuit-Goodness'. Price: 5¢. In Moisture Proof Packages. (Never sold in bulk). NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY.

The Adventures of Mr. Peter Ruff

BY E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM

The Indiscretion of Letty Shaw

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Peter Ruff took up his hat. "Thank you," he said.

"You see," she continued, "I thought that it all was very little to do with me. I meant to keep it to myself, because, of course, apart from anything else, apart from Brian's meeting him, coming out of my rooms, it supplies an additional cause for anger on Brian's part."

"I see," he answered. "I am much obliged to you, Miss Shaw. Believe me that you have my sincere sympathy!"

"Peter Ruff's farewell words were heard. Letty had fallen forward in her chair, her head buried in her hands."

Peter Ruff went to Berkeley Square and found Lady Mary waiting for him. Sir William Trencham, the great solicitor, was with her. Lady Mary introduced the two men. All the time she was anxiously watching Ruff's face.

"Mr. Ruff has been to see Miss Shaw," she explained to Sir William. "Mr. Ruff, tell me quickly," she continued, with her hand upon his shoulder, "did she say anything? Did you find anything out?"

He shook his head. "No!" he said. "I found nothing out."

"You don't think, then," Lady Mary gasped, "that there is any chance—of getting her to confess—that she did it herself?"

"Why should she have done it herself?" Peter Ruff asked. "She admits that the man tried to make love to her. She simply left him. She was in her own home, with her mother and servant within call. There was no struggle in the room—we know that. There was no necessity for any."

"Have you made any other inquiries?" Lady Mary asked.

"The few which I have made," Peter Ruff answered gravely, "point all in the same direction. I ascertained at the Milton that your brother called there late last night, and that he heard Miss Shaw had been supping alone with Austen Abbott. He followed them home. I have ascertained, too, that he had a key to Miss Shaw's flat. He apparently met Austen Abbott upon the threshold."

Lady Mary covered her face with her hands. She seemed to read in Ruff's words the verdict of the two men—the verdict of common sense. Nevertheless, he made one more request before leaving.

"I should like to see Captain Sotherton, if you can get me an order," he said to Sir William.

"You can go with me to-morrow morning," the lawyer answered. "The proceedings this morning, of course, were simply formal. Until after the inquest it will be easy to arrange an interview."

Lady Mary looked up quickly. "There is still something in your mind, then?" she answered. "You think that there is a bare chance?" "There is always the hundredth chance!" Peter Ruff replied.

Peter Ruff and Miss Brown supped at the Milton that night as they had

arranged, but it was not a cheerful evening. Brian Sotherton had been very popular amongst Letty Shaw's little circle of friends, and the general feeling was one of horror and consternation at this thing which had befallen him. Austen Abbott, too, was known to all of them, and although a good many of the men—and even the women—were outspoken enough to declare at once that it served him right, nevertheless the shock of death—death without a second's warning—had a paralyzing effect even upon those who were his severest critics. Violet Brown spoke to a few of her friends—introduced Peter Ruff here and there—but nothing was said which could throw in any way even the slimmest of a ray of light upon the tragedy. It all seemed too hopelessly and fatally obvious.

About twenty minutes before closing time the habitues of the place were provided with something in the nature of a sensation. A little party entered who seemed altogether free from the general air of gloom. Foremost amongst them was a very young and exceedingly pretty girl, with light golden hair waved in front of her forehead, deep blue eyes, and the slight, airy figure of a child. She was accompanied by another young woman, whose appearance was a little too obvious to be prepossessing, and three or four young men—dark, clean-shaven, dressed with the irritating exactness of their class—young stock brokers or boys about town. Miss Brown's eyes grew very wide open.

"What a little beast!" she exclaimed.

"Who?" Peter Ruff asked.

"That pretty girl there," she answered. "Fluffy Dean, her name is. She is Letty Shaw's protegee, and she wouldn't have dreamed of allowing her to have come out with a crowd like that. To-night, of all nights," she continued, indignantly, "when Letty is away!"

Peter Ruff was interested. "So that is Miss Fluffy Dean," he remarked, looking at her curiously. "She seems a little excited."

"She's a horrid little wretch!" Miss Brown declared. "I hope that some one will tell Letty, and that she will drop her now. A girl who would do such a thing as that when Letty is in such trouble isn't worth taking care of! Just listen to them all!"

They were certainly becoming a little boisterous. A magnum of champagne was being opened. Fluffy Dean's cheeks were already flushed, and her eyes glittering. Every one at the table was talking a great deal and drinking toasts.

"This is the end of Fluffy Dean," Violet Brown said, severely. "I hate to be uncharitable, but it serves her right."

Peter Ruff paid his bill. "Let us go," he said.

In the taxicab, on their way back to Miss Brown's rooms, Ruff was unusually silent, but just before he said good-night to her—on the pavement, in fact, outside her front door—he asked a question.

"Violet," he said, "would you like to play detective for an hour or two?" "She looked at him in some surprise. "You know I always like to help in anything that's going," she said.

"Letty Shaw was an Australian, wasn't she?" he asked.

"Yes."

"She was born there, and lived there till she was nearly eighteen—is that true?" he asked again.

"Quite true," Miss Brown answered. "You know the offices of the P. & O. line of steamers in Pall Mall?" he asked.

"She nodded.

"Well?"

"Get a sailing list to Australia—there should be a boat going Thursday. Present yourself as a prospective passenger. See how many young women alone there are going out, and ask their names. Incidentally put in a little spare time watching the office."

She looked at him with parted lips and wide open eyes. "Do you think—" she began. He shook her hand warmly and

stepped back into the taxi. "Good night!" he said. "No questions, please. I shan't expect you at the office at the usual time to-morrow, at any rate. Telephone or run round if you've anything to tell me." The taxicab disappeared round the corner of the street. Miss Brown was standing still upon the pavement with the latch key in her hand.

It was the afternoon before the inquest on the body of Austen Abbott, and there were gathered together in Letty Shaw's parlor a curiously assorted little group of people. There was Miss Shaw herself—or rather what seemed to be the ghost of herself—and her mother; Lady Mary and Sir William Trencham; Peter Ruff and Violet Brown—and Mr. John Dory. The eyes of all of them were fixed upon Peter Ruff, who was the latest arrival. He stood in the middle of the room, calmly taking off his gloves, and glancing complacently down at his well-creased trousers.

"Lady Mary," he said, "and Miss Shaw, I know that you are both anxious for me to explain why I asked you to meet me here this afternoon, and why I also requested my friend Mr. Dory from Scotland Yard, who has charge of the case against Captain Sotherton, to be present. I will tell you."

Mr. Dory nodded, a little impatiently.

"Unless you have something very definite to say," he remarked, "I think it would be as well to postpone any general discussion of the matter until after the inquest. I must warn you that so far as I, personally, am concerned, I must absolutely decline to allude to the subject at all. It would be most unprofessional."

"I have something definite to say," Peter Ruff declared, mildly.

Lady Mary's eyes flashed with hope—Letty Shaw leaned forward in her chair with white, drawn face.

"Let it be understood," Peter Ruff said, with a slight note of gravity creeping into his tone, "that I am here solely as the agent of Lady Mary Sotherton. I am paid and employed by her. My sole object is on her behalf, therefore, to discover proof of the innocence of Captain Sotherton. I take it, however," he added, turning towards the drooping figure in the easy-chair, "that Miss Shaw is as anxious to have the truth known."

"Of course! Of course!" she murmured.

"In France," Peter Ruff continued, "there is a somewhat curious custom, which, despite a certain theatricality, yet has its points. The scene of a crime is visited, and its events, so far as may be reconstructed. Let us suppose for a moment that we are now engaged upon something of the sort."

Letty Shaw shrank back in her chair. Her thin white fingers were slipping its sides. Her eyes seemed to look upon terrible things.

"It is too awful!" she faltered.

"Madam," Peter Ruff said, firmly, "we seek the truth. Be so good as to humor me in this. Dory will go to the front door, stand upon the mat—so? You are Captain Sotherton's agent, are you not?"

Abbott. You, Miss Shaw, have just ordered me from the room. I open it—so, Miss Shaw," he added, turning swiftly towards her, "once more will you assure me that everyone who was in the flat that night, with the exception of your domestic servant, is present now?"

"Yes," she murmured.

"Good! Then who," he asked, suddenly pointing to a door on the left—"who is in that room?"

"They had all crowded after him to the threshold—thronging around him as he stood face to face with John Dory. His finger never wavered—it was pointing steadily towards that closed door a few feet to the left. Suddenly Letty Shaw rushed past them with a loud shriek.

(To be continued)

Where might is Right.

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