

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

C. F. SKIRVIN, Manager

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Keokuk, Iowa, April 10, 1911

PLUM BLOSSOMS.

The angel of earth's spring came down, From fields of Paradise, And called unto the meadows brown, "Ope now your violet eyes."

The meadows sighed, then whispered low, "We fear the winter's wrath, His blighting breath doth coldly blow Above the aftermath."

The angel smiled, then softly sang Of golden days to be; And hark! the woodland echoes rang The mock-bird's threnody.

The March skies heard the enchanting sound And smiled with keen delight; A thrill went through the pulsing ground, And lo, spring's banners white

Unfurled in camp imbrowned were seen, While bugle calls rang sweet From lips of south winds o'er the green,

To winter's swift retreat. —Geo. E. Tack in the Royal Blue.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

To be good company for ourselves we must store our minds well; fill them with happy and pure thoughts, with pleasant memories of the past, and reasonable hopes for the future.

Another thought for the day: Clean up your premises and keep them clean!

All is quiet on the Potomac, yet. But there is no telling how soon trouble will begin. A Democratic majority is as uncertain as a petit jury.

The retail drug clerks of Racine, Wisconsin, have organized a union, which will be affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. It is said to be the first of its kind in the United States.

It has been suggested that the real test of dignity is when a man would rather admit that the umpire is right than to make a scene. Which is one way of saying that real dignity is very rare in this old world.

Here's hoping that the Iowa deadlock will continue unbroken and that Senator Young will win out in the primaries next year. There is no man in the state more capable or more worthy to succeed the late Senator Dolliver.

The Galesburg Republican-Register tells Quincy that if it would put in half the energy trying to procure an interurban line that it does endeavoring to break into the Three-I league it would accomplish wonders. If Quincy is wise it will profit by this bit of good and disinterested advice.

There was something doing on the farm of Robert Johnson near Humboldt last week, if a local paper tells the unvarnished truth. According to representations, Mr. Johnson's prize sow littered him fifteen pigs, his prize pullet set on fifty-five eggs and hatched fifty healthy chicks, and his best cow gave birth to the best Brown Swiss calf in Humboldt county. Talk about "the pace that kills!" It isn't confined to the cities, by any means.

Woman won a victory in the supreme court of the United States when that tribunal decided that her right in community property, recognized under the civil law in force in the southwestern states, was something more "than a right that began where it ended." It was decided in a suit over the title to a tract of land in Dona Ana county, N. M., that Adolphe Lea did not have the right, in view of a New Mexico statute, to convey his land to another without his wife joining in the transfer.

"Whether or not a senator is elected, Life is a goner, lock, stock and barrel," declares the Marshalltown Times-Republican. Don't be too sure of that. Senator Young is the distinctive champion of Iowa interests at Washington, especially in the matter of reciprocity with Canada, and he has the farmers of the state behind him almost to a man. And when the farmers of Iowa rise up and demand the nomination and election of any given man his success is pretty well assured. It is to be feared the Marshalltown paper isn't in touch with its rural constituents.

It has just occurred to the Mason City Globe-Gazette that the Ninth district always knows the psychological moment at the pie counter.

The Waterloo Courier has this appreciative reference to the value of a visiting nurse:

"Good angels are useful in a city according to their time, means, and inclination. But Waterloo has found that a professional visiting nurse, supported by the public and benevolent organizations, is the greatest boon to humanity, considering the investment, that a city can have."

Keokuk once had a visiting nurse, but of late has been without one. The Courier's paragraph reproduced above is a reminder to this city of a duty it should no longer neglect.

POSTOFFICE CLOSED SUNDAYS.

Beginning next Sunday the Keokuk postoffice will be closed on Sundays as far as the delivery of mail through the letter carriers' windows is concerned. Postmaster Moorehead yesterday received a personal letter from First Assistant Postmaster General C. P. Grandfield authorizing him to discontinue the Sunday delivery service by carriers in view of the fact that the sentiment of the community is favorable to granting the carriers an unbroken day of rest, as shown by the signatures of patrons of the office on the cards circulated by those postal employees. In all, 7,434 persons receiving mail at the local postoffice petitioned that the carriers' windows be kept closed on Sundays, and only twenty-five persons all told refused to sign. It is estimated that the signers to the petition comprise about 95 per cent of the mail-receiving population of Keokuk. In view of this overwhelming preponderance of sentiment the procedure seems wholly justified.

The usual force of clerks will be on duty on Sundays to receive and dispatch mails, distribute mail to the boxes and serve at the general delivery window. These clerks will be allowed compensatory time during the week and will thus benefit by the new order of things.

The postoffice building will be open at all hours day and night, as heretofore, for the accommodation of patrons having lock boxes. Business men and firms who desire their mail regularly on Sundays will be permitted to rent boxes into which their mail will be placed on Sundays, even though their mail is delivered to them by carriers on the other days of the week. The special delivery service will be in operation as usual following the arrival of all incoming mails.

The general delivery window will be kept open from 10:30 a. m. until 11:30 a. m. for the sale of stamps and to accommodate the traveling public whose mail is so addressed. It is expected that regular patrons of the office will refrain from calling at the general delivery window on Sundays unless there is urgent necessity for mail. To accommodate patrons whose mail is delivered by carriers on week days and who desire to obtain important letters on Sundays, arrangements will be made to deliver such mail through the general delivery window between the hours above named upon payment of the prescribed fee for special delivery service. To secure this service the postmaster must be notified in writing before 7 p. m. on the Saturday preceding that such call will be made for mail. This notice must be repeated from week to week. These provisions are required in order that the distributing clerks will have always at hand a "live" list of patrons who want their mail, so that they may separate such mail from the bulk which is set aside to be worked over by the carriers on Monday morning. There will be no Sunday afternoon collection of mail from the street letter boxes. Patrons desiring to have their mail dispatched on the evening or night trains, or if it is city mail to be delivered on the first trip Monday morning, must deposit it in the postoffice.

Under the new arrangement the carriers will report thirty minutes in advance of the present schedule on Monday mornings in order to route the Sunday accumulation of mail. As they are the principal beneficiaries of the movement for Sunday closing, it is expected that they will make such extra efforts as will enable them to route their mail and leave the office on schedule time. They will be required to complete their work within forty-eight hours during the week, as at present.

It is hoped and believed that the arrangement to afford the letter carriers a day of rest will be successful in Keokuk. Sunday closing has worked well elsewhere, even in as large cities as New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Detroit and San Francisco. As a matter of fact, Sunday mail, like lots of other things, is largely a habit that is soon forgotten after it is once dispensed with. It is a sort of social luxury which costs more than it is worth when the fact is taken into consideration that it makes one class of men work from week end to week end. Keeping the carriers' windows closed on Sundays will entail no serious or even appreciable loss upon anyone, while it will be a great benefit and gratification to the men whom it will release for Sunday rest and recreation.

It has been well said that the question of Sunday closing need not be discussed along Sabatatarian or religious grounds; that it can be treated entirely from a business point of view without in the least impairing the force of the arguments in favor of the general observance of a day of rest. In support of this view it is pointed out that merchants and others who have experimented with a uniform closing system have found it to work out satisfactorily. The stores that

close at 6 o'clock every evening, instead of keeping open until 9 or 10 as formerly, providing there is a common agreement among concerns of the same class, find that they lose no trade. The same is true of concerns that agree to close at noon or any early afternoon hour on Saturdays. Banks find that they can transact a full day's business in five or six hours. Professional men find that clients are quickly educated to respect their office hours. There is little reason in these days of long-distance telephones and night and day telegraphic letter service—in these days when all parts of the country are brought almost within speaking distance—why there should be particular haste about the distribution of mail arriving late on Saturday or early on Sunday. As a rule, it is no important enough to justify the hardship which its distribution imposes upon men who have already performed a good week's work. In fact, it is confidently expected that when people understand thoroughly that mail will not be delivered on Sundays they will write their letters earlier on one week or postpone the writing of them to the next.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

The ensuing seven days will mark the anniversaries of many memorable events connected with the civil war. Sunday will be the forty-sixth anniversary of that memorable Sunday in 1865, when the great conflict was brought to a close by Lee's surrender of Appomattox. The anniversaries of President Lincoln's first call for volunteers in 1861 and of the President's assassination four years later will also fall during the week. Most widely observed of all, however, will be the fiftieth anniversary, next Wednesday, of the firing on Fort Sumter, which marked the beginning of the war.

The attention of the politicians will be centered largely in the Jefferson birthday banquet to be given in Indianapolis Thursday night under the auspices of the National Democratic League of Clubs. The affair is looked upon as the real beginning of the Democratic presidential campaign of 1912. The scheduled speakers include William J. Bryan, Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, Governor Julian Harmon of Ohio and Governor Thomas P. Marshall of Indiana.

On the same night a similar celebration is to take place at the New Willard Hotel in Washington under the auspices of the Chicago Men's Democratic League. Speaker Champ Clark will deliver the principal address of the evening. The other speakers will include Thomas Nelson Page and Warren Jefferson Davis, president of the league.

THE BULK SALES BILL.

The bulk sales bill which had previously passed the house was adopted in the senate one day last week by a vote of 33 to 7. It requires the retailer to give the wholesaler ten days' notice of his intention to sell his stock in bulk.

The object of this requirement is merely to make it harder for the retailer to swindle the jobber or manufacturer who trusts him. This is a purpose with which we should all sympathize and which the state should aid. Yet the bill had a hard fight, for reasons thus tersely stated by the Dubuque Times-Journal:

"It was defeated by two former general assemblies. Country bankers and their lawyers were against it because it diminished the advantage they enjoyed from their proximity to the retailers in their own towns. They made some farmers in the legislature believe for a time that the bill would require the farmer in debt to give ten days' notice of his intention to make a sale."

The effects of the lack of such a measure are thus truthfully depicted by the same paper:

"Iowa is one of the few states which have been without a law on this subject. In consequence this state has been a paradise for the crook who buys a stock of goods and sells it to a confederate, an 'innocent purchaser,' who proceeds to hold a 'sacrifice' sale and puts the proceeds into his own pocket, leaving the real owner of the goods to whistle for his money and perhaps pay damages for wrongful attachment of what was in morals his own property."

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Alex Miller has observed that the poorest plays are always the longest, too.

The Fairfield Ledger says there was more peanut politics than principle in the five-mile limit bill.

Another burning why propounded by the Peoria Herald-Transcript is: If everybody steals umbrellas, who buys them?

"Iowa may not be growing in population, but she is growing in wealth, stability, character and intelligence," says the Webster City Freeman-Tribune.

To the Burlington Gazette the strangest thing about that attempt to rob the Polk county treasury was the presence of \$100,000 in the office vault.

A Miss Anna Hell is a milliner who has just had her spring opening at Greenfield. When the husbands are presented with bills for their wives' Easter hats, the Creston American hopes they will not take her name in vain.

"B. L. T.," paragrapher on the Chicago Tribune, nominates Bob La Follette for President on a platform of "Give 'em Both Barrels." With La Fol-

lette as the nominee, it seems to the Sioux City Tribune that the adoption of such a platform would be a superfluity.

Last Year's Weather.

Jacksonville Courier: We are so prone to forget about last year's weather that at times the records when presented seem almost incredible. Few will thus soon fail to remember the splendid fruit prospects developed during March 1910, and the blasting of practically all vegetation along late in April. The March just past has been one of the pleasantest vouchsafed for years and April gives promise of hesitating in manner calculated to save fruit and vegetation from blighting freezes by holding it in check until its proper turn comes.

The weather is always an interesting subject. The following extracts from a letter written to the editor of the Bloomington Bulletin will be of interest because what applies to McLean county in large measure applied to Morgan.

A short obituary on the month of March just closed may be of interest to your readers, and a comparison with March a year ago, may also be of interest. March, 1910, will go down in history as one of the most remarkable ever known in Illinois, as the following will show:

Those who will take the trouble to think back will remember that one year ago at this time the blossoms were all out and so many were never seen before in the history of the country—peach, pear, plum, apricot, cherry and last but by no means least, the delicious apple—besides, the trees were all out in full leaf. The Carolina poplars had leaves on them at this time, larger than a silver dollar, and other foliage was out—small fruit, such as raspberry, gooseberry and the beautiful current bushes were all out in blossom and leaf. What a beautiful sight this country was just one year ago today, a regular kaleidoscope! But alas, the sequel, we hate to mention it, and will leave it until the last.

Last March, from the 1st to the 20th, there was scarcely a trace of rain. Dust was thick, weather hot. On the 18th day of March, 1910, the thermometer stood at 70 in the shade, on the 23d it stood at 85, on the 25th, 86 by the government machine, the most beautiful weather we ever saw. Roads good, farmers about done sowing oats. Many breaking stocks and planning for corn, in fact lots of corn planted. On the 26th there was a slight rain, but still warm, and most of the time hot. The maximum for the month 70, the minimum 60. Where in the history can you beat it? On April 4, 1910, we had a good rain, but everything was "wide open" and then it was that the old "snow birds" began to scent danger, and on the 25th and 26th of April the storm broke with all its fury—with fruit all set on, garden stuff all up and flourishing as never before in that early season, the freeze came—and we all at least remember the result—no fruit to speak of in old McLean and garden stuff set back at least a month or six weeks, but strange to say, the oat crop was not damaged, and there was an enormous crop of both oats and corn, and wheat also went through with flying colors. We all enjoy the fine weather, we like the balmy days, but Illinois without the regulation March weather is a misnomer to say the least. We all know the result and remember it well, if we will only ponder our thinking caps for a few moments.

In regard to the month just closed there has been a good deal of growling and grumbling about the cold weather. We all have a "grouch" coming, and we can easily blame it on to the weather, when we can place the blame nowhere else, but to our way of thinking, it is far better the way it is now, and while many of the farmers and gardeners and fruit growers are prone to believe that the excessive freeze of 22 and 23 and 24, 1910, not only killed the fruit of last season, but also damaged the trees for this, still I am inclined to believe that the fear is ill founded, and that there is now a fine prospect for a fruit crop for the coming season with anything like reasonable weather from this on. The cool weather at this time is just what is needed and there seems to be a fine prospect ahead of our people. Let's hope so at least.

Grapes also may come in for a word along this line. Many of us remember the struggle of the grape vine for existence last year. This fruit came on with all the rest in due season, but it was "nipped," still it came out in leaf and blossom the second time, and again met with the same fate, and I have heard the old settlers repeat that they had even seen it set on for the third time, so determined is this little vine for existence. There are a few of the hardships that the fruit crop had to meet with last year and none of us are anxious for a repetition of the same. Everything at this time looks prosperous, and we may except for old McLean to do her share toward helping out the race for the coming season.

A Duet.

Soprano was Miss Perkins, A basso Mr. Brown; They sang duets together— while up he went, down she went!

—Harold Sumner in Woman's Home Companion for April.

A Numerous Tribe.

Tama News: If the people who think they can run a newspaper better than the editor, had never been

born, there would hardly have been justification for taking a census. The balance are so few.

April.

Now the soft rain comes over the blue hill, And the red-shouldered starling tries his flute

Along the meadows of the Silvermine. In chestnut groves the shy hepaticas Awake to put immortal beauty on, And Joy goes whistling through this heart of mine.

—Bliss Carman in Collier's for April 8.

Galesburg Republican-Register: Now Bliss, that is beautiful, artistic, charmingly poetic. Out this way, however, it is not Joy that goes "whistling," but a raw east wind that makes the bones ache and squeak. The shy hepaticas are still shy, and the starling because of a severe cold in his head is not tuning up his flute. Even the bold robin has been quite still, and last Sunday the usually cheerful sparrows were wondering where they could pick up a dinner under six inches of snow. No sir, Bliss, not even the golden faced dandelion has had the courage to wake up and smile at the sun. So the immortal beauty will have to wait until the last of the month. The spring beauties and the buttercups, and the rest are still shivering, and wondering when the weather fuel man will be around. Bliss, please don't talk about the soft rain.

Iowa. Council Bluffs Nonpareil: Her hills, valleys, prairies and woodlands are the richest in the world. She has more tillable acres than any like area in the world.

The state was a paradise for the red men before the whites came. For the white race she has been the center from which she has radiated a leaven of brain, brawn, beauty, wealth and character to bless and benefit all the sister states in the union.

And now in the morning of another beautiful season we are lazily and slowly awakening to the fact that while we are feeding a world of people and furnishing other sections of the country with prominent citizens and officers, we have as yet but scratched the surface of our boundless resources.

We have been sleeping all unmindful of the rich stores in our soil, of the beauty of our woodlands, our streams and our fields and meadows, rich in luxurious abundance. And while we slept our young men have been lured from their native heaths by the siren songs of the cities and the ever appealing lure of the golden west. We have ignored our own richness to chase rainbows in other lands.

But now there is coming a better day. We can beat the world raising apples and some other fruits. No land can compare with us in the quality and quantity of our corn, our cattle and hogs and vegetables. Our climate is manly and healthful. All we need to do is stop shutting ourselves up in stuffy rooms and away from the Iowa ozone which reddens the cheek as it does the surface of the Jonathan apple.

We are waking up to our possibilities and the glories of the old Hawkeye state. Wherever our sons have roamed they still love and still cling fondly to the memories of the mother state, and wherever two or three are gathered together they organize an Iowa society. To be born in Iowa is a badge of honor the world over. We should not be less loyal at home than our sons are abroad. Let us boast for Iowa. Let us stamp "made in Iowa" on all our manufactures—nature stamps the brand on our corn, cattle and swine as it stamps "W" on the wings of the locusts—and in this manner turn streams of gold toward our borders as in years past they have flown from us.

CARTHAGE, ILL.

John S. Cochran, who has been in the catalogue department of Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Chicago, has resigned his position, and expects to start a newspaper at Hamilton May 1, which will be entitled, "The Hamilton Journal." James Symmonds of this city, will be associated with him.

Mrs. Mary Gill arrived in the city Friday, after spending the winter in Colorado. She is planning a trip to Yellowstone park for the summer.

John Helfrich was a business visitor to Burlington, the first of the week. Ed Shea is a Chicago visitor this week.

Miss Adelaide Ferris visited a part of last week with Miss Virginia Hammond of Warsaw.

Miss May Blair, who has been trimming in a millinery establishment in Streator, returned home Monday.

Miss Anna Belle Rupert of Cherokee, Iowa, visited a part of last week with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Briley.

Miss Grace Mack, who is studying expression in a Chicago school is home for the Easter vacation.

Mrs. Wm. Hanna, who has been visiting Mrs. N. P. McKee in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, visited her brother, J. G. Johnson, over Sunday, enroute to her home in Golden.

Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Walton of Denver and Mr. Orville and Miss Ava Walton, of Bentley, were in the city Friday.

Mr. J. E. Brown of Augusta was a business visitor to the city one day the past week.

C. W. Warner of LaHarpe has been attending circuit court in the city this week.

Attorney Wallace G. Humphrey of Hamilton was a business visitor to the city yesterday.

Harry Blesener, deputy county clerk, spent the first of the week with relatives in Warsaw.

Dr. Rhea and family of LaHarpe have been visiting in the city the past few days.

Dr. W. K. Hill was in Monmouth Friday evening as judge in sophomore debate between Monmouth and Knox.

Miss Nellie Culin, who is teaching kindergarten in Moline, is at home for the Easter vacation.

Mrs. Sundstrum, who has been with her son, Prof. C. O. Sundstrum, returned to her home in Oklahoma, last week.

Rebecca's Triumph, a three-act drama, will be given by local talent under the auspices of the Eastern Star Chapter, at the opera house Tuesday evening, April 11th.

Wm. H. Hartzell, Wm. Sollars, H. Shilling, Geo. Jacoby, J. H. Meals, Geo. Booker, Jas. McCarthy, R. F. Law and Duane Pennock, attended as delegates, a county camp meeting of the Modern Woodmen held in Bowen Wednesday. Among the delegates selected to the state camp meeting, was Jas. McCarty, of this city.

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Griffith visited last week with Mrs. John Mead, of Augusta. Mrs. John Whitcomb, and son, of Adrain, visited Mrs. F. M. Whitcomb the past week. Frank Wood of Chicago was the guest of his uncle, G. W. Hally, the past week. Palmer Bertschi, of Mankato, Minn., is visiting here. —Nathan Cutler was a business visitor to Ft. Scott, Kansas last week.

How's This? We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. J. C. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. The undersigned, have known J. C. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by his firm. Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation. Moderation. Do nothing that you know will hurt you and when you do what is beneficial do it in moderation. Euripides declared: "Moderation is the noblest gift of heaven."

SECURITY State Central Savings Bank offers to all money savers. If you haven't a savings account, start one with this bank today. Deposit your first dollar at once. Capital \$200,000. Surplus \$200,000.

The management of the KEOKUK NATIONAL BANK Endeavors to pursue a progressive policy, to be liberal in its treatment and to adhere strictly to the legitimate lines of banking. 3 PER CENT ON TIME AND INTEREST ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS UNLESS WE START OUT with some object in view, the end is likely to be disastrous. "You are not quite ready to start," you say; if you hope to succeed, the time to be starting is NOW, today. We invite your account whether large or small. The Keokuk Savings Bank DIRECTORS: A. E. JOHNSTONE, B. B. JEWELL, H. L. CONNABLE, F. W. DAVIS, B. L. AUWERDA