

# POST OFFICE HAS GREAT BUSINESS

All Records Smashed This Year When People Send Parcel Post Packages All Over the Country.

## EMPLOYEES KEPT BUSY

Day After Day They Are Having Hard Grind of It, Some Days Falling to Find Time to Eat.

First in line is a little girl with a penny postal poorly addressed in pencil; then a ponderous lady with a big bundle containing a turkey and three mince pies for her married daughter in Kokomo, who is unable to join the Christmas family reunion; next a good looking young girl who is sending her sweetheart a present that will be seasonable about next July. Then come others, young and old, with their Christmas packages, fighting to get to the man at the window, sorry that they did not heed the oft repeated warning, "shop early."

## PURE RICH BLOOD PREVENTS DISEASE

Bad blood is responsible for more ailments than anything else. It causes catarrh, dyspepsia, rheumatism, weak, tired, languid feelings and worse troubles. Hood's Sarsaparilla has been wonderfully successful in purifying and enriching the blood, removing scrofula and other humors, and building up the whole system. Take it—give it to all the family so as to avoid illness. Get it today.

## ADDITIONAL HELP DURING THESE STRENUOUS DAYS

Down in Washington they figure that the employees will stem the tide, and they let them do it with just as few extra men as possible. In addition to the substitutes, only one extra clerk and one extra carrier have been used, with a wagon to distribute parcels about town. The city distributor has had his hands full, also thousands of postals of the form of Christmas greetings, many of them addressed by children in a manner hard to read, come into his hands. In the last few days there have been more than 1,000 party invitations received.

**Praises Employees.** "The employees are very loyal this time of the year," said Postmaster McManus. "Often it does not look as if they can possibly get through the day and clear out the huge piles of packages and mail matter, but they enter the fight with grim determination, making every minute count, and have succeeded admirably. I am proud of their work. We will clean up everything as near as possible tonight, and will leave as little as possible for over Christmas."

## Y. M. C. A. ITEMS

**Closed Tomorrow.** The building of the Y. M. C. A. will be closed tomorrow in observance of Christmas day and that the working force of the institution may be free to spend the day as best suits them, in the home, or with friends.

**Billiard Tournament.** The pocket billiard tournament now in progress at the Y. M. C. A., is creating much interest. The first round has been played with the following results: Garrison won over Wees by a score of 100 to 80. Dickey over Buck, 100 to 97. J. Wees over Musick, 100 to 99, the closest match in the round. Jenking over Hubinger, 100 to 53.

## AD CONTEST WON BY J. A. KIEDAISCH

Keokuk Man Wins \$50 Prize with Advertisement Which Appeared in The Gate City.

J. Albert Kiedaisch today received a check for \$50 from the Akron Truss company for first place awarded to him in a recent advertising contest. The ad was about the Akron truss and appeared in The Gate City a short time ago. A committee of three big advertising men judged the contest. The Akron Truss company, in a letter to Mr. Kiedaisch says: "As we received so many most excellent copies, the committee found it very hard to select the different winners, but their findings were unanimous in each case."

The local man's ad was one of merit, both as to attractiveness and as to the material contained in it.

—Read The Gate City want column.

## ORIGINAL NOTICE OF DAMAGE SUIT

Power Company is Sued by Fort Madison Parties for \$50,000 Alleged Damage for Overflowed Land.

## DIRECTED VERDICT HERE

Victor La Bonte is Awarded \$120 by Jury After Court Sustains Plaintiff's Motion Made Yesterday.

Another large damage suit has been filed against the Mississippi River Power company at Fort Madison. The original notice of suit has been filed in the district court there. The action is brought by Joseph and William Jaeger, and asks for damages amounting to \$50,000. Plaintiffs are the owners of a sand pit below Shopton which has been submerged and they are asking damages from the power company for this. The sand pit was used by the Santa Fe as a boiler pit and there has been some difference as to the valuation of the piece of property which is from four to six acres in extent.

This is another of several large damage suits which have been brought against the power company. The Wisnath case tried early this month at Fort Madison, resulted in a record verdict for the Wisnaths, and Atleo has a case against the power company claiming large damages.

## In District Court Here.

In the district court here, Thomas E. Dolan has been appointed administrator of the estate of John T. McLaughlin, who was drowned in Lake Cooper in June, 1913. The bond furnished by Mr. Dolan has been approved.

The case of LaBonte vs. Hull was terminated yesterday afternoon when a motion to take the case from the jury was sustained. The motion was made by the plaintiff. The jury returned a verdict for \$120 for the plaintiff. Tim Whalen signed the verdict as foreman.

Application was made in the estate of Gerard L. Hulskamp for permission to sell shares of Eastman Kodak stock at \$400. The court authorized the sale at \$650 per share, but there were no bidders, the application states, and appraisers for the collateral inheritance tax in Iowa have set the value at \$400. The court ordered the sale of the stock at not less than \$400.

## Random Sketches

**Ever Before Christmas.** 'Tis the eve before Christmas and all minds are turned to holiday thoughts and joy and happiness. Tonight there will be lighted the Christmas candles amid the branches of the evergreen tree, bearing its loads of bright gifts to gladden the hearts of the little ones.

How many memories will come back to those who have seen many bright Christmas days, even among those on whose venerable heads there are "silver threads among the gold" and who sing in their hearts "Darling, I am growing old," as they feel

## The Best Christmas Poem

"The Night Before Christmas."

BY CLEMENT C. MOORE.

'T WAS the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse, The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there, The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads, And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had settled our brains for a long winter's nap, When out on the lawn there rose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter, Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash, The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow, Gave the luster of midday to objects below, When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick, More rapid than eagles his courses they came, And now he whistled and shouted and called them by name, "Now Dasher! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!" As day leaves that before the hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too, And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof, The prancing and pawing of each little hoof— As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound, He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot, A bundle of toys he had slung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack, His eyes—how they twinkled, his dimples—how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up in a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath, He had a broad face and a round little belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly; He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread, He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle, But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

that another year is passed and they are that much nearer the goal.

Snow carpets the ground this bright day, the day before the great day, indicating that we are to enjoy a white Christmas, a good indication it is said, for good health in the future days.

Every mail carries greetings of good cheer from thousands of friends to others. Only yesterday there came a card of greeting from an appreciated friend, who was once a young, active, popular and useful citizen of Keokuk, and I know from the tone of it, that it meant a heartfelt greeting to everybody in Keokuk. Then again this morning there was read a card coming from a good woman, breathing the song of a noble soul. Of course these tender remembrances are warmly appreciated.

Among these tender messages of remembrance delivered this morning was a larger message—a folder entitled "The Lord's Prayer." On the front page are two appropriate emblems and a printed explanation saying: "This beautiful composition was picked up at Corinth, Miss., the morning of May 30, 1862, after the evacuation of the Confederate forces." It was printed on heavy satin, dated July 4th, 1823. Then in one corner of this unique Christmas souvenir is printed compliments of the senders, a citizen of Keokuk and his good wife, dated Keokuk, Iowa, Christmas, 1914. It is a souvenir of this happy season, worthy of the most careful preservation.

## Sistine Madonna.

Mention of others may be omitted that more attention be paid to another. Lying before me is a card which reads in part: "I saw mentioned in The Gate City not long ago, something about Sistine Madonna. I must confess that while I have often heard of his noted painting, I am not well enough informed to know much about it, and these being Christmas times, when the Madonnas are likely to be much in evidence, I would be very glad and, no doubt so would others, if you would set apart a little space in your Random Sketches to tell us something about the Sistine Madonna."

This celebrated painting was a masterpiece of Raphael, the great Italian painter, in Rome in 1518, for the Church of Monastery of S. Sisto, Piacenza. In 1754, it is said the monks sold it for 40,000 Roman crowns to Augustus III, elector of Saxony. The picture represents a vision, showing the Virgin and her child standing in clouds and surrounded by angels. At the left kneels St. Sixtus (Pope Sixtus II.) on the right, St. Barbara; while on the balustrade, where two angels lean, is the Tiara of St. Sixtus.

Raphael was born at Urbino, Italy, 1483 and died in Rome in 1520. He stands supreme in all the history of art. He is the master of the Renaissance. It is said that he seemed to have been born to be happy and had always about him a group of admirers who loved him equally well for his artistic talent and for his

gentleness and attractive personality. A writer says he lived in Rome like a prince, and at the end of his brief life left a fortune for his heirs. Together with his scholars, he painted and drew nine hundred pictures, including one hundred and twenty Madonnas.

So much for the day before Christmas.

## AMUSEMENTS.

### "The Red Widow."

"The Red Widow," the delightful musical comedy that was one of the past season's marvelous metropolitan successes, is to be the attraction at the local playhouse. It comes to us with a cast of cosmopolitan favorites who in the several song numbers and in the dance diversions are said to be most pleasing. All the original Astor theatre, New York, scenic embellishments, stage effects and sartorial appointments, the latter of a high and pleasing order, will be brought along. The company numbers nearly three score people, Beatrice Doane, Cliff Heckinger, Walter Paschal, Georgia Le Mae, William Pruette, Jr., Ynez Dean, Leonard Holdrege, Joseph Carter, Frederick Hodel, Jack Abbott, Elizabeth Torday, Belle Pogamy, Charles Forbes and Whit Whittier, enacting and singing the several different leading roles.

The poet says "music hath charms," but what would that poet have said had he heard the dainty, tuneful numbers of "The Red Widow" the late Astor theatre, New York, success that is to be offered at the Grand opera house Saturday, December 26, matinee and night. Seats now on sale.—Advertisement.

### At the Colonial.

Tonight at the Colonial theatre John Bunny and Flora Finch will be seen in a Vitagraph comedy called "Bunny Backslides." A two reel drama.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We wish you "many happy returns"—but happiness is really only a reflection of health. It depends largely on the digestion. If you are poorly as a result of a weak stomach, inactive liver or clogged bowels we urge a trial of

## HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

It brings back appetite, aids digestion and is beneficial to the entire system. Start today.

## Ayres & Chapman

Jewelers, Silversmiths, Diamond Importers, Society Stationers

## Keokuk's Store De Luxe

The Ayres & Chapman store will remain open until noon Christmas to accommodate belated Christmas shoppers.

The firm extends to its public and friends Christmas Greetings and all good wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year.

## Hodge's Bargain Grocery

A large bottle of olive oil ..... 30c  
English walnuts, per lb. .... 15c  
Fine Christmas candles ..... 8 1/2c up  
Mixed nuts, per lb. .... 17 1/2c  
Fine Bottled olives ..... 10c up  
Nice sweet oranges, doz. .... 20c  
Nice Malaga grapes, per lb. .... 15c  
Lemons, bright and juicy, per doz. 15c  
Turkeys, chickens, ducks, oysters and geese, and everything for the Christmas table, at reduced prices.  
The bargain list goes on the same.  
Phone Black-626.  
216 N. 11th street. 11th and High.  
W. K. HODGE.

W. S. FRENCH  
Donnellson, Iowa.  
Graduate Live Stock Auctioneer  
Sales made anywhere.  
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Breeder of Scotch Short Horns, Percheron Horses.

will also be shown. It is called "When a Gypsy Hates." It was produced by the Lubin company and is a drama of unusual interest. Broncho Billy will also be on tonight's program and the entire bill promises to be an exceptional offering. Matinee 2 to 5, night 7 to 10 p. m.

On tomorrow a special Christmas program will be shown. "The Stolen Engine," the fourth story of the Hazards of Helen series, featuring Helen Holmes in those great railroad pictures. Also "The Mountain Law," a powerful Lubin drama in two parts, and "The Grate Impassible Sickness," one of those funny Selig comedies.

On Saturday afternoon a special children's program including that comical Doc Yak. This program will be given for the poor children of the city, free. Matinee will be from 2 to 5:30 and all children will be admitted free of charge.—Advertisement.

**Catch Rabbits by Interurbans.** BELLOIT, Wis., Dec. 24.—Employees of the Rockford electric railway are no pickers when it comes to hunting rabbits. They bag 'em with a mile-a-minute interurban car. The cotton-tails are lured onto the tracks by the bright headlights, are fascinated, and there is a collision. They aren't exactly fit for the table use afterwards, but the motormen say it's great sport. It isn't so much fun, though, when the "rabbit" happens to be a skunk.

### The Lay of the Cackle.

Exchange: The codfish lays a million eggs  
While the helpful hen lays one;  
But the codfish does not cackle  
To inform us what she's done.  
And so we scorn the codfish coy,  
But the helpful hen we prize;  
Which indicates to thoughtful minds  
It pays to advertise.

## HAVE DARK HAIR AND LOOK YOUNG

Nobody can Tell when you Darken Gray, Faded Hair with Sage Tea.

Grandmother kept her hair beautifully darkened, glossy and abundant with a brew of Sage Tea and Sulphur. Whenever her hair fell out or took on that dull, faded or streaked appearance, this simple mixture was applied with wonderful effect. By asking at any drug store for "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound," you will get a large bottle of this old-time recipe, ready to use, for about 50 cents. This simple mixture can be depended upon to restore natural color and beauty to the hair and is splendid for dandruff, dry, itchy scalp and falling hair.

A well-known downtown druggist says everybody uses Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur, because it darkens so naturally and evenly that nobody can tell it has been applied—it's so easy to use, too. You simply dampen a comb or soft brush and draw it through your hair, taking one strand at a time. By morning the gray hair disappears; after another application or two, it is restored to its natural color and looks glossy, soft and abundant.



## A Dozen Portraits Solve, at Once a Dozen Gift Problems

Anschutz pictures are recognized for their superior quality and workmanship and will be appreciated by your friends. Don't wait for a clear day as we have the most modern triple electric sky light and make our own "sunshine" and take pictures regardless of time or condition of day.

Have them made now.

## Anschutz Studio

4th St. Next to Hotel Iowa

## PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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DR. W. P. SHERLOCK,  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.  
Office, 18 North Fifth street; in the Howell building. Residence, Hotel Iowa.  
Office Hours—10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 3 p. m.; evenings, 7 to 8; Sundays, 11 to 1 p. m. United States civil service examiner.

DR. BRUCE L. GILFILLAN,  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.  
Office, 621 1/2 Main street, over Winger Bros. store. Bell phone 190-Black.  
Residence, 317 North Fourth street. Bell phone 1250-Red.  
Hours—10-12 A. M.; 2-4 P. M.; 7-3 P. M. Sunday by appointment.

C. A. JENKINS, M. D.  
Room 4, Estes building.  
Office phone 29; residence, 569.  
Hours—10-12 a. m.; 3 to 5 p. m.

S. H. AYRES,  
CHIROPRACTOR.  
No Drugs—No Knife—No Osteopathy.  
323 Blondeau. Phone 1411.

DR. H. H. STAFFORD,  
DENTIST.  
In Dorsey Building across from the Postoffice.  
Hours from 9 to 12, 1:30 to 5:00.

DR. W. FRANK BROWN,  
Surgeon and Urologist.  
Hours: 2-4 p. m.; 7:30-8:30 p. m.  
Office No. 10 North Fifth street.  
Over Keokuk Savings bank.  
Res. No. 318 North Fifth street.

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CHICHESTER'S PILLS  
THE DIAMOND BRAND  
Ladies! Ask your Druggist for CHICHESTER'S PILLS. They are made of purest ingredients, and are the only pills that will cure all the troubles of the female system. Take no other. Buy of your Druggist. Ask for CHICHESTER'S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25 years a world-wide fame. Always Reliable. SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.

Wisdom of the Expert.  
Chicago Evening Post: It must be great to be a military expert. You can say both that "Germany wins decided gain" and that "allies' position is thus strengthened"—and get by with it.

# Bankrupt Sale

## Closing Out Sale ON RIGHT NOW

### You'll Get Your Money's Worth

By Order of the U. S. District Court

I am Closing Out the whole stock of Groceries at No. 808 Main Street, Keokuk, Iowa.

Come and see for yourselves.

Sale resumed after Christmas Day

JOSEPH S. TALL,  
Receiver of

DAVID H. SAGE, Bankrupt.