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MORE CHRISTMAS MAIL THIS YEAR

Out-going Packages Are Said to be More Than Amount Which Was Dispatched Last Season.

EXTRA HELP IS WORKING

"Santa Claus Wagon" Has Been Pressed Into Service and Carriers' Room is Used for Packages.

The outgoing Christmas mail is heavier this year than it was last. It is believed from rough estimates and general observation by postoffice officials. There will be no way of determining the amount of incoming mail for the present. It is fully as heavy as last season, however, the officials feel.

There are more packages being sent out from the Keokuk office than there were last year, giving evidence of prosperity here. The clerks at the weighing and stamp windows have been kept unusually busy by the flood of packages, and the clerks in the office who are despatching mail feel that the volume of mail going out is considerably larger.

Two extra carriers and an extra clerk have been put on to help in handling the added amount of mail. The department is using a wagon for the delivery of the heavy and bulky packages. Two men go on this wagon with the driver. The lighter packages are being taken care of by the regular carriers, and all of the carriers are helping to get out as much of the mail as is possible.

Using Room for Parcels.

The postoffice department on the main floor is a busy place just now. It was decided that in order to have sufficient space to work in, pouches must be taken to the basement and opened there, and the carriers' lounging room has been converted into a parcel room. This is helping in great measure to relieve the congestion on the main floor, and gives plenty of space to work in.

The mail clerks and carriers are doing everything possible to take care of the big Christmas rush, and it is expected that most of the packages will reach their destinations in plenty of time. Late trains, while not affecting the carriers to any extent, delay the clerks' work considerably.

SPOTTER LIABLE
ATTORNEY CONTENTS

Liquor Ferret Can be Prosecuted, Des Moines Lawyer Claims, in the Test Case.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 24.—If a person, who acts as an agent for another person and purchases liquor for him, can be prosecuted under the bootlegging laws of the state, then the police officers who have been acting as special liquor ferrets, and who have gone out and bought liquor as evidence for the police department are liable under the law, according to Attorney Earl De Ford.

This is the contention raised yesterday by Attorney De Ford when Al Graves, the subject of the police test case to interpret the bootlegging law, was haled before Judge Utterback in the district court on injunction proceedings begun by John B. Hammond.

Hammond was represented in court by Attorneys McClelland and Powers. Graves was defended by Attorneys McHenry and De Ford. At the close of the testimony Judge Utterback took the case under advisement, and will render a decision today.

Attorney De Ford went further by declaring if an agent can be prosecuted then special police officers acting as agents and buying whiskey for evidence can be prosecuted.

Two questions are now before the court to decide.

The first is: Did Graves buy liquor for the men as charged?

The second is: If Graves did buy the liquor for Root and Murphy as complained of, does his act constitute a violation of the law relative to bootlegging?

The above two questions will be decided by Judge Utterback.

ILLINOIS CORN
YIELD ESTIMATE

Total of 320,111,011 Bushels, Average From 36 to 40 Bushels to the Acre.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 24.—The total yield of corn this year in Illinois, according to the crop report issued today by the state board of agriculture, was 320,111,011 bushels, on a total acreage of 8,961,842 acres. The average price on the date of report, which covers the period up to December 1 was 54 cents, making the total value of the Illinois corn crop \$175,025,657.

Corn was damaged by a cold season and wind storms and the grain was not in good condition, the quality averaging only about 79 per cent of normal, the report adds. The yield of corn in north Illinois was 36 bushels, in central Illinois 40 bushels, and in southern Illinois 23 bushels.

The area seeded to winter wheat for the 1916 crop is 1,812,432 acres, or 8 per cent less than the 1915 crop. The condition of the crop on December 1 was 90 per cent of normal. The Hessian fly has done much damage in some sections.

The area seeded to rye this fall is 165,775 acres, and the condition was 95 per cent of normal.

—Read The Gate City Want Column

KEOKUK EAGLES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Local Aerie Will Celebrate Tomorrow With Big Supper at Six O'clock For Their Families.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING

He Will Have Christmas Tree and Presents for Children—Program to be Given in the Evening.

Keokuk aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, will celebrate Christmas day tomorrow at their hall, along with the members of their families and their friends. The invitations for the Eagles' Christmas party were sent out last week to every member of the lodge, and his family.

The day will be fittingly observed by the members of the order with a supper and a Christmas tree and a real Santa Claus during the evening for the children. The committee in charge is making elaborate plans for the celebration, and the Eagles are going to have a jolly Christmas time.

There will be an informal gathering in the afternoon. Supper will be served at six o'clock in the hall. The members and their families will be seated at long tables and a fine banquet with turkey and all the trimmings will be served. It is planned to serve supper promptly at six o'clock.

In the evening at eight o'clock there will be Christmas tree and Santa Claus will appear. Santa, it is reported, has a real surprise in his sleigh for the children. There will be an informal program at the Christmas tree exercises.

The committee in charge of the Eagles' celebration is the following: Fred Dressel, Henry Kesseling, Frank Moeller, H. M. Arnold, H. R. Crawford, John Bowser, Fred Temme, Phil Glaser, Fred Koppenhafer and Fred Glewe.

VETERAN RIVER PILOT IS DEAD

Jack Richtmann of Steamer Quincy, Has Made His Last Port—was Popular Captain.

Davenport Democrat: Captain Walter A. Blair received a telegram from Jim Richtmann of Burlington, Wis., this morning, stating that his brother Jack Richtmann, had just died.

"I regarded Jack as the best pilot left on the river," said Captain Blair in commenting on the news. "His death is a great loss to all of us. He had been suffering from stomach trouble and had to leave the Quincy on the trip before its last, this past season, and go home to Burlington. He was an artist in his work, was a man of good habits and pleasant disposition, popular on all the boats. Last spring for a time he helped out the Interstate Material company here in the steamer Alice, and he has been here before. In 1912 he and his brother Jim were both with me on the Morning Star. He owned a little farm at Burlington and had a wife and six children in a happy home. They'll be sorry all along the river to learn of his death."

Both Jack and Jim Richtmann are well known in Keokuk and along the river, having run in and out of this port for years on the Diamond Jo and Streckfus boats. Their father, Jacob Richtmann, formerly owned the steamer Uncle Sam, which was then known as the steamer Jacob Richtmann. When Tommy Adams bought the boat, the name was changed to Uncle Sam. The Richtmanns for a long time lived at Nauvoo, where they had a store which had a bad fire a few years ago, after a powder explosion that practically wrecked the place.

Bernhardt's Greeting. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] ANDERNOS LES BAINS, Dec. 24.—Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, noted actress, personally assured the United Press that she is now recovering from her illness and asked that her Christmas greetings be conveyed to her friends in America.

"I suffered from pleurisy," Mme. Bernhardt said in a message from her villa, "and Dr. Pozzi is unwilling that I shall go to America in my present

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health. But I tell him the trip is only postponed a short while. I expect to go to London within a week. Send my whole heart to the dear American public, but not the German portion. Vive La France."

YOUNG MEN IN IOWA PATRIOTIC

Larger Percent of Population in Militia Than in Surrounding States.

Iowa's young men are more patriotic than the men of military age of the surrounding states, declares Adj. Gen. Guy E. Logan. According to the report of the war department, a larger percent of the young men belong to the militia in Iowa than is true of the neighboring states, he says.

The reports of the county auditors are not accurate as to the number of men of military age in Iowa, Logan says. The auditors report 311,568 men between 18 and 45 years, while the federal census shows there were 475,829 men in this state between those two ages in 1910. Logan declares that a count made at this time would show Iowa to have at least a half million men who would be subject to military duty in time of war.

There are 3,067 men enlisted in the Iowa National guard. This is sixty-four one hundredths of 1 percent and seems small, but the reports show that in the surrounding states, a smaller proportion of the population is in the organized militia. One of the neighboring states runs as low as thirty-three one hundredths of 1 percent, the adjutant general says.

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Hughes' Opinion May Pave Way. [United Press Correspondent.] WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—What is a tax? Here is a little essay on taxation by Justice Charles E. Hughes of the United States supreme court. He delivered it recently from the bench in a small case from Missouri—Houck vs. Little River Drainage district. It appears to open the way for the enactment of more drastic state taxation laws by states than have hitherto been held constitutional.

"A tax is an enforced contribution for the payment of public expenses. It is laid by some rule of apportionment according to which the persons or property taxed share the public burden, and whether taxation operates upon all within the state, or upon those of a given class or locality, its essential nature is the same. The power of segregation for taxing purposes has every day illustration in the experiences of local communities, the members of which, by reason of their membership, or the owners of property within the bounds of their political subdivision, are compelled to bear the burdens both of the successes and of the failures of local administration. When local improvement may be deemed to result in special benefits, a further classification may be made and special assessments imposed accordingly, but even in such cases there is no requirement of the federal constitution that for every payment there must be an equal benefit. The state in its discretion may lay such assessments in proportion to position, frontage, area, market value or to benefits estimated by commissioners. And as we have said, unless the exaction is a flagrant abuse, and by reason of its arbitrary character is mere confiscation of property, it cannot be maintained that the state has exceeded its taxing power."

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Bandits Driven Off. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] MALESTER, Okla., Dec. 24.—Reports were received here today that bandits attempted to rob the postoffice and bank at Calvin, thirty miles west of here late yesterday. A fight is said to have occurred between the gang and citizens. One officer was reported killed.

Darkness' Kindly Mantle.
Topeka Capital: Both old age and crime find night their friendliest cover.