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TODAY'S BIT OF VERSE

THE ARROW AND THE SONG. I shot an arrow into the air, It fell to earth, I know not where.

I breathed a song into the air, It fell to earth, I know not where.

Long, long afterward in an oak I found the arrow, still unbroke.

Blow wind, swell billow, and swim bark! The storm is up, and all is on the hazard—Shakespeare.

PENALIZING THE POWER COMPANY.

It is evident, from speech of people in the crowd, that there is in the present sixteen-million-dollar raid on the Mississippi River Power company a disposition to penalize that corporation to the limit of taxation, and it is further apparent that this disposition arises more as a result of personal feeling and prejudice than from a desire to see exact and equal justice done as between the city of Keokuk, the county of Lee and the corporation that seeks to put Keokuk in the front rank of prosperity.

The measure of prejudice and grievance is ever overflowing in some quarters when "Big Business" is subject to attack, and there are followers of sounding brass who invariably delight in manifestation of acclamation when any corporation, no matter if it be of good character and helpful in the upbuilding of a city, is marked for unfair condemnation.

There is, and it is admitted by those who abide by the letter of the law, a wide gulf separating a cause of action and fundamental justice. The Mississippi River Power company accepted exemption from city taxation in good faith. The arrangement was entered into in all publicity.

WATCH THE BONFIRES.

This is the season of the year when bonfires are common. Every bonfire is a hazard to the surrounding property. Fire in one dwelling may be carried to another and still another until a whole neighborhood will be in flames, says the Des Moines Capital.

Property loss due to fire in the United States and Canada last year amounted to nearly \$200,000,000. The year 1916 is starting out to beat that record. For January and February it amounted to \$46,000,000 as compared to \$33,000,000 last year in the same months.

In two days last week three southern cities suffered a total loss now estimated at \$15,000,000.

Every fire has the same beginning, a tiny flame started through carelessness or allowed to grow for the same reason.

Des Moines spends one-fifth of its taxes in fire prevention every year, but all that will

avail nothing without individual responsibility. Keokuk has not had a big fire in years, and that is the very reason we should double our caution. A close watch of the bonfires during the spring cleanup is a good way to begin.

BE GLAD YOU'RE LIVING.

Above the eastern horizon there is diffused a golden glow which bespeaks the coming of day. The stars of night pale at the advent of the sun. The air is stirred into a gentle zephyr before which the curtain flaps against the open window. A robin trills a rippling lay outside and wakes the drowsy ones of humankind who sleep within.

And nature laughs and dances, sparkling with the rainbow globes, like a cherub emerging from his bath of silver nectar. All growing things lilt in a harmony of song. They know that it is time to rise from the winter's period of repose. With a thick white blanket they have been protected in their warm bed of earth.

The plowboy goes out whistling to his task of turning over the fertile soil that later fields of grain may be ready for the harvest.

And all is well in this most beautiful land of plenty, this garden valley of the world. It is springtime in Iowa.

So buck up and realize that it is great just to be alive. Happy day, happy day! Billy Emerson used to sing it in the long ago when our fathers were devoted to minstrelsy—

"I feel just as happy as a big sunflower That nods and bends in the breeze; And my heart is as light as the wind that blows 'The leaves from off the treeses."

It is a magnificent, joyous spring, especially in Iowa.

BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

Everett P. Wheeler. Ever hear of him? If not, please make his acquaintance and thank The Gate City for putting you wise to a man whose spirit of optimism overflows these entire United States. Everett P. is a New York lawyer, which fact should not count in his disfavor. But listen. This is what he says:

Loose talk from half-baked people who say that our country is a failure fairly disgusts me and makes me weary. I admit that we have our faults, but I insist that this is the best country of the whole world in which to live. I can enjoy a good cake even if it have a small hole in it.

What must be thought of a man who not only does not despair of the Republic, but thinks it the best in the world? Such optimism has a refreshing ring and will only draw dissent from professional prophets of woe.

It is fair to hear the other side now that the country has been so long and, we trust, unwillingly, listening to the tales of woe set forth by mourners at the grave of Bright Future. As everybody has been told by the army of calamity-howlers, the country has been going to the dogs ever since Tom Jefferson and John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence. It is not only a failure within, but it is threatened with added ruin from without. Its government is a failure; its railroads and industries are failures; its educational system is a failure; its social system has broken down, and in its relation with other nations it has wholly lost its sense of shame.

Somehow, in spite of all these shortcomings, it has managed to impress impartial foreign observers with its greatness and wonderful development. Some unthinking citizens even feel entirely satisfied with it. And these unthinking ones may take heart from the pronouncement of Everett P. Wheeler, lawyer and optimist, whose home address is New York City, Empire State.

The commissioner of accounts of New York City has just completed a report in which he shows how \$3,280,000 could be saved each year by eliminating useless departments, practicing economy in others and reorganizing the government along certain lines. Every city in the country has a chance to save money if it will but conduct its affairs as a private concern. Duplication of effort, unnecessary jobs and overpaid employes are the rocks around the neck of an efficient municipal government.

The man of limited means who applies benzine to the spot on his clothing is doing something commendable in the way of fitting observance of "Dress Up" week.

Governor Major of Missouri is an avowed candidate for the Democratic nomination for the vice presidency. Blessed is the man modest enough to aspire only to second place.

Off to school, full of Vim and "Pep", Don't cram their little "tummies" with greasy meats, starchy potatoes or other indigestible foods. One or two Shredded Wheat Biscuits with hot milk make a warm, nourishing meal that supplies all the material needed for their growing bodies. The perfect food to study on, to grow on, to play on. The crispness of the shreds encourages thorough chewing, which develops sound teeth and healthy gums. Being ready-cooked it is so easy to prepare a warm, nourishing meal with Shredded Wheat in a few moments—no kitchen worry or work. Made at Niagara Falls, N. Y.

PRAYER MEETINGS

Cottage prayer meeting 10 o'clock Tuesday morning at the home of Mrs. L. H. Ayer Jr., 319 North Seventh street.

Cottage prayer meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Carr, 1928 Times. A prayer meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. L. F. Linquist, 806 Blondeau St., Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Cottage prayer meeting with Mrs. C. E. Alling, 618 North Fifth, 9 A. M., Tuesday.

CITY NEWS.

A large plate glass window in the Kruse notion store at 608 Main street, was broken in some manner last night. This morning a small hole was discovered near the lower part of the window with several long cracks radiating from it. From appearances, a bullet might have been sent through it, but the ball could not be found on the inside of the building. Mr. Kruse is of the opinion that the hole was made by a stick.

Both C. H. Hennemann, new city marshal and Patrick Tighe, Jr., street supervisor were busy today completing their qualifications for office. The former has a bond of \$5,000 to put up and the latter \$1,000.

George F. Pfug for painting and paper-hanging. Competent workmen. 1127 Main St. Phone 837.

There will be no Chicago session of the board of trade tomorrow on account of election.

Charles H. Hennemann, the new city marshal completed his qualification this afternoon shortly before three o'clock and went to work immediately.

PERSONALS.

C. A. Halbeck has gone to Excelsior Springs, Mo., for a few weeks sojourn. Mrs. Josephine Walker of Des Moines left last evening for Cedar Rapids after a brief visit with her brother, V. B. Holliday.

Dr. J. B. Howd returned Sunday morning from Augusta, Ill., after a visit with relatives. Mrs. Howd has gone to Burnside to visit.

Father Gillespie went to Burlington last evening. He will return Tuesday.

Miss Harriet Wright, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Chas. Schofield, of Alton, Ill., for the past two months, has returned home.

Daily Stock Letter. NEW YORK, April 3.—The New York Evening Sun financial review today said: There was no apparent change in the conditions governing the speculative market over the Sunday and business continued highly professional on the resumption of dealings in Wall street today. The Mexican news, however, was not up to Smith's expectations, inasmuch as Villa appears to have eluded his pursuers for the time being and is reported to be in no danger of immediate capture. This influenced pronounced reactions in Mexican Petroleum and American Smelting and Refining, but specialties elsewhere were better in the initial trading, and as the session progressed, issues like Crucible Steel, American Locomotive, Industrial Alcohol, American Car and Foundry, Baldwin Locomotive and the like advanced sharply.

There was little or no enlargement of public buyin. The submarine situation and the success of the German assault upon the French positions in the vicinity of Verdun continue as restraining influences upon the outside interest, but speculative sentiment seemed more hopefully disposed and the trading element united with the pools in working for higher prices.

Bonds were fairly active and generally well maintained, the feature being further advanced in Anglo bonds, 96 for round amounts, the highest price since Jan. 8. Wheat advanced excitedly on continued unfavorable crop estimates, the May, July and September options selling from 4 to 4 1/2 cents higher.

Fourth weakness in francs which closed to 5.98 1/2, against Saturday's closing at 5.97 1/2 for checks, was the feature of the exchange market. Rates improved a trifle in the later transactions.

Sentence Commuted. SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 3.—Governor Dunne today commuted the sentence of Willis Herron, now serving one year in the house of correction at Chicago to expire today.

The recommendation was made to the governor by the state board of pardons. Herron turned state's evidence against Harry Classberry, a Pullman porter convicted of stealing \$1,000 worth of diamonds from a lady riding on his car.

KING PLUMBING CO. TO NEW LOCATION

Will Move to 519 Main Street in Building Occupied by Automatic Baseball, on May 1.

BUILDING AN ADDITION

New Structure in Rear of the Present Structure to be Used as Shop—All Three Floors to be Used.

The King Plumbing company on May 1 will remove from its present location at 420-422 Blondeau street, to 519 Main street into the building now being vacated by the automatic baseball game.

According to Roy H. King, secretary of the King Plumbing company, the shop will be one of the most up to date and finest in the state of Iowa. All three floors of the present building and the basement will be used.

In addition to this floor space, a new addition fifty feet in length will be built at the rear of the building. This addition will be of brick, one story high, and will be used as a shop. Work on the foundations began today.

The building will be newly painted and decorated on the inside. The front forty feet of the present structure will be given over to a display room and a retail store. A glass partition will divide the two. The display room will be lined with mirrors and will contain electric apparatus of all kinds. The retail trade will be taken care of on the other side of the room, the finishings of which will be in white enamel.

The second forty feet of the first floor will be used as a stock room, and the addition as the shop. On the second and third floors of the building will be displays of various kinds. Parts of the floors will also be used for stock. An electric elevator will be installed.

Long Commission Co., Grain Letter [Furnished by Long Commission Co., 408 Main, Telephone No. 100.]

CHICAGO, April 3.—Wheat—The feature of wheat this morning was the report by Statistician Snow, showing the condition of winter wheat at 78.8 as compared with 88.5 last year at this time. This suggests a crop of 490 million bushels on the basis of the planted acreage, which will probably be reduced by damage. Experts in the fields also sent bullish reports from soft winter wheat territory. Outside markets were strong and Minneapolis reports 1 cent premium advance. 250,000 bushels sold there late Saturday by shippers to go east, and mills are good buyers there today. The character of damage reports seems to indicate loss from poor seed fully as much as from winter killing, and it is therefore doubtful if the crop will show as much improvements as expected with the advent of growing weather.

Corn—Strength in wheat and further reports of liberal sales of cash corn at Kansas City were factors in an advancing market. Pressure was light and mostly from resting orders. The visible supply showed a decrease of 494,000 bushels, and the total is now 520,000 bushels less than last year. Weather conditions continue to point to a late spring.

Oats—Oats were strong with other grains on account of delayed seeding and reports of reduced acreage from Canada. The market was also helped by purchases of oats against sales of corn by spreaders who were taking profits. Apprehension is being felt on account of the scarcity of poor seed oats.

New York Stocks.

Table listing various stocks and their prices: American Beet Sugar 72 1/2, American Can, com. 65 3/4, American Car & Foundry 70 1/4, American Locomotive 81 3/4, American Smelter com. 102 1/4, American Tel. and Tel. Co. 127 3/4, Anaconda 87 1/2, Aetna 103, Brooklyn Rapid Transit 85 1/2, Butte & Superior 92, Canadian Pacific 167, Chesapeake & Ohio 61 5/8, Chicago Great Western, com. 12 3/4, Chicago Great Western, pfd. 37 3/4, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, 92 1/4, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, 17 1/2, Colorado Fuel & Iron 46, Crucible Steel 95 1/2, Erie, com. 36 5/8, Great Northern, pfd. 121 1/2, Inspiration Copper 48 1/2, Lehigh Valley 77, Miami 38 1/2, Missouri Pacific 43, National Lead 67, New York Central 104 1/2, Northern Pacific 113 1/2, Pennsylvania 56 3/4, Ray Consolidated Copper 24 1/2, Reading 84 1/4, Republic Iron & Steel com. 52, Southern Pacific 98, Southern Railway 20 1/2, Studebaker 142 3/4, Texas Oil 196, Union Pacific 132 3/4, United States Steel, com. 85 1/2, United States Steel, pfd. 116 3/4, Utah Copper 83 1/4, Western Union 90 1/2, Westinghouse 66 1/2, Peoples Gas 104 1/2, Coffee, spot 2 1/2, Cotton—May, 118 1/2; July, 120 1/2 bid.

Negro Lynched. IDABEL, Okla., April 3.—Oscar Martin, negro arrested last Wednesday at Bismark, charged with criminal assault upon a thirteen year old white girl, and placed in jail here, was taken out of the court room today and lynched. Martin had been taken to court for



The Caller Says:

"Why, my dear, what good crackers these are!" Everybody likes crackers when the crackers are

10¢ SODA MIDGETS

Always So Crisp and Fresh

And SODA MIDGETS are not only appetizing, but they are also decidedly healthful and nourishing for everybody to eat. Food authorities find by analysis that SODA MIDGETS contain 30 to 40 per cent more of the elements that build strength and produce bodily heat and energy than white bread, biscuit, rolls and cakes.

Your grocer has Soda Midgets or will get them for you if you ask him. Ask him!

The Big Yellow Package



Independent Baking Company Davenport, Iowa

THE BANK HABIT

THE bank habit is a mighty good one, and if you have not yet established relations with this bank, you are losing valuable aid and time. Take advantage of the assistance we are offering you as a member of our Depositors' Weekly Savings Club. OUR WEEKLY SAVINGS CLUB is always open to beginners.

State Central Savings Bank

Corner of Sixth and Main Streets.

KEOKUK NATIONAL BANK

affords every facility for doing your banking business that any bank can.

3 PER CENT ON TIME AND INTEREST ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS

BUCK-REINER CO. Wholesale Grocers and Coffee Roasters

Distributors for the Hart Brand of Canned Fruits and Vegetables

BUCK-REINER CO., WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

preliminary hearing. Following his positive identification by the victim, a number of men in the room quietly arose, disarmed the officers, placed a rope about the negro's neck and pushed him from a back platform of the court room. After firing two shots into the negro's body, the mob dispersed. There have been no arrests.

Robbed of \$700. CHICAGO, April 3.—A runaway horse dragging a wagon, dashed through down town crowded streets here today for several blocks before police finally caught it.

In the wagon, the police found Thomas Layden, a grocer, with his skull crushed and one eye gouged out. Layden said he had been attacked by three men who beat him with an iron crowbar and robbed him of \$700 which he was taking to a bank. He is not expected to live.

Ship Struck the Rocks. TOKIO, April 3.—Seventy-six passengers and twenty members of the crew of the small coast steamer Waketsu Maru, are missing and believed to have perished, following the sinking of the vessel near Nagasaki.

MEMORIAL DAY

Is the Next

FLAG DAY

Get a flag free for your home by depositing \$15 or more in a new savings account with the

Keokuk Savings Bank