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Historians ought to be precise, truthful, and quite unprejudiced, and neither interest nor fear, hatred nor affection, should cause them to swerve from the path of truth whose mother is history, the rival of time, the depository of great actions, the witness of what is past, the example and instruction to the present, and monitor to the future.—Cervantes.

TODAY'S BIT OF VERSE

TENDER-SWEET.

If you use a little lovin' and you use a little song, You will find your world is never gonna go so very wrong; If you spread a little kindness on the other man's distress, If you use a little sweetness and a little tenderness, If you stoop sometimes to sort of lift another feller's load, If you do a little dance-step as you go along the road, You will find that all of these things you have found the time to do In some happy form or other will come laughin' back at you. That's a pretty good religion, that's the kind the Master tried, He just chose a way of kindness and of sweetness, and He died Hanging on the rough spikes, piercing through His tender hands and feet, And through all that He had suffered still His smile was tender-sweet; And the way His hurt feet walked in is an open way to you, But no spikes await you in it; and each tender thing you do To the fellows all about you in the way you go along, Will come back to you in laughin' and in lovin' and in song. —Judd M. Lewis, in Houston Post.

Use is a part of beauty; whatever therefore is useless unto men is without beauty.—Albrecht Durer.

PAVING AND PROGRESS.

The time never was when a city had not to face the question of street paving, the cost of material and its substantial wearing qualities. Progress and paving are inseparable, and a city that is well dressed under foot attracts as much attention in that respect as from the beauty of its other surroundings—churches, public buildings and handsome dwellings and well-kept lawns. Macadam surfacing has no place in the city, constant filling and renewing being necessary, so recourse should be had to either brick or concrete, which have proved lasting under the heaviest traffic demands.

One sure index of any city's popularity and up-to-dateness may be sensed in the speech of outsiders—the comments of automobilists in particular. This pertinent say-so of a correspondent of The Gate City contains more than a germ of truth—it contains truth itself:

If you want to see some first class paving in some live towns, go to Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Waterloo, Iowa Falls, Mason City and scores of towns. Where the business and residence streets are practically all paved and where they fight for paving, instead of against paving, Keokuk is woefully behind in paved streets and cement sidewalks. There are miles of old brick sidewalks in Keokuk which should be condemned and substantial cement walks laid down.

Well paved streets are a trade puller, and why should not Keokuk be in the class that thus tops the list? Is there anyone so back-looking as to wish to enter the debate on the negative side of the question?

ONE KIND OF PREPAREDNESS.

No young man joins the militia unless his heart is in the movement and his ambition is to go the limit with the "boys" in whatever service they may be called on to do. Sympathy, therefore, goes out to those few members of the militia who fail to pass the physical examination. It is one of the most disappointing incidents in a young man's life when he finds that he is rejected.

The fact that this process of weeding out has to be done shows a weakness of the national guard as it has been organized, is the expressed opinion of the Davenport Times. Certainly, there ought to be rigid tests for original enlistment in the guard as are required for regular army service so that when the call comes there need be no question in regard to whether the guardsmen are fit and no delays occasioned by necessity for reorganization.

Only in that way will it be possible to make the guard an effective line of defense ready for instant call whenever there may be danger.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU GIVE?

The people of Keokuk should not forget that a departure for war isn't all splendid tears and bright flowers—that the waving of flags and the strains of martial music are not all that should come from those who remain at home while the militiamen are on the line of duty. Let's get right down to the ugly, sorrowful fact of rent and grocery bills confronting the families of some of the boys in khaki. It is not questioned that there may be real distress in some homes in Keokuk following the departure of the family breadwinner. Heartaches may be softened by sympathy expressed in words, but material wants can only be relieved by a practical demonstration of the shortest line between talk and the pocketbook. An organization is in process of formation in Keokuk that will have for its purpose the receipt and distribution of funds collected from the public and to be used for the benefit of "those left at home." This movement is not in the nature of charity. It is a duty we owe to the men who have responded to the country's call—a duty we owe to a sense of patriotism. Living expenses are high. We don't want mothers and sisters working in factories as a result of son or brother being summoned to the front.

Now is the time to get down to brass tacks. There is printed on another page of The Gate City a call for subscriptions to a fund that will be applied to the relief of dependents of our soldier boys who are in need of such sustenance now denied them because of the enforced absence of the wageearner. Every resident of Keokuk is urged to fill out the blank with a statement of the amount that will be donated each month during the pendency of the trouble with Mexico or until the return to Keokuk of the troops. No sum will be too small for consideration. Give as your means will allow. These blanks when filled out should be brought to The Gate City office and they will then be turned over to the proper organization, when perfected. Those who don't fight should pay the bills of those who do—the family bills as well as the fighting bills.

CHECK TO EXPLORATION.

The rescue expedition from Montevideo to the Falklands and Elephant islands is the final chapter of Sir Ernest Shackleton's unsuccessful exploration trip into the Antarctic. Others than Sir Ernest are concerned with the misfortune. The failure of so bold and skilled a voyager as Shackleton is likely, one might suppose, to have the effect of delaying or discouraging such exploits for a long time to come, inasmuch as unsettled world conditions are not naturally conducive to difficult exploration.

The suddenly increased general interest that followed the discovery of the two poles has slumped, even if the strong counter interest of the war is not considered. And the rebuilding that must follow the close of the war is certain to engage about all the activity that adventure-some spirits can afford. Geographical science, just at present, is not imperative, and won't be while folks here on earth remain so absorbed and worried over national adjustments.

It is possible to warm up a little on anticipation of the reports that will be brought in by MacMillan and Stefansson from the Arctic. But a truthful report from the battlefields of Europe or a more sincere interview by some European politician would crowd any explorer for first-page honors these days.

In fact, things that are happening to the existing maps are enough for most of us without any speculation on the seas and continents of the poles.

Senator Lodge advised the graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to beware of the "closed mind," which led to the remark by one present that our young men go to college not to form their minds but to decorate them. It is easy to agree with that statement, but the real trouble with our student body is the idle mind. There is not so much danger of closing opinion to new experiences or being over decorated with mental accomplishments as there is of sheer laziness in using the mind at all. The primary cause of the trouble lies in the learning of facts without indication of how to use them.

The promise is of a clean presidential campaign, and one of all the more vigor and interest on that account. The topics are all large and of a character to bar pettiness and small personalities. They can only be effectively handled on a high plane and by men who have not been trained in the school of mudslinging.

In 1898 the country thrilled with the knowledge of the name of the colonel of the Third Nebraska. Who knows who commands that unit now?

Mr. Bryan claims to be a very much misunderstood man, but the American people seem to be thoroughly "onto" him at last.

"He has kept this country out of war" is rapidly losing its force as a campaign slogan.

IOWA PRESS COMMENT. Marshalltown Times-Republican: It is going to be somewhat difficult for orators to congratulate us this fall that we live in the only country in the world which is at peace with its neighbors.

Muscatine Journal: If it is a source of pride to you the machine guns used to slaughter the troopers of the Tenth cavalry were made in the U. S. A. Likewise sent into Mexico with the approval of the administration.

Sterling Gazette: Contrary to the popular opinion no newspaper wants war. War is a burden on the newspapers, compelling large extra expense without bringing any real compensating returns. Securing war news makes an extra and an extraordinary cost on the newspapers and none of them are anxious to see a war started.

Sioux City Journal: California needn't feel so cocky over that glorious climate. Nearly as many Iowans can be found at an Iowa picnic in the wind and smoke of Chicago as amid the sunshine and roses of Los Angeles.

Burlington Hawk-Eye: Your real angler is very apt to be a very desirable citizen, whereas the fish hogs, the dynamite fishers and that class of people might well be spared. The man who defies the fish and game laws sometimes considers himself within his rights and believes that he is being imposed upon. But, as a rule, the man who sets at naught the laws which do not please him, may not stop at the laws regarding game and fish.

Davenport Democrat: "What Mexicans needs is that the Philippines get," declares a Davenport man who has been in both. He thinks the greatest act of humanity the United States could do, just now is to go into Mexico, clean things up, and put the country on its feet.

Terrill Tribune: Already many of the voters are beginning to feel what a trimming Harding is due for in next November's election but just don't get excited, because that time is quite a ways off, and when the time does come you'll see Harding go in with a vote much larger than some of his predecessors have had. He is a man the people will have to look up to, regardless of a lot of the selfish things which some of the state papers have said about him. While this paper was not a hearty supporter of Harding in the recent primaries, we cannot see why any republican can not give him his support next November.

Council Bluffs Nonpareil: The story that Mexicans fired on a flag of truce is easily creditable on this side of the border. Among Mexicans that sort of action is not even a minor offense. On the contrary, the fellows who could put something of that kind over on the "gringos" would probably be given a medal for gallant service.

Voice of the People

[The Gate City does not assume responsibility for views expressed by correspondents.]

Seasonable and Practical.

To the Editor of The Gate City: This season is one of the seven out of thirteen statistics allots us as too wet. Three out of ten are too dry, too dry at some time. Hence, both drainage and irrigation should be calculated. No set of engineers are agreed on all details and this means more scientific study is essential. It is practical to use tile both to drain and irrigate without change of position. No farmer wants rural credit forced on him by way of some district scheme and all should insist on ample study of soil and location before acting jointly in any enterprise. Iowa has virtually promised that if the United States will do the leveling, Iowa will see to the "internal drainage," section 1975, et seq. but this is all a legislative privilege and not a legal duty. Hence it is neither seasonable nor practical. It is neither scientific nor equitable. Yet one sees the demand for United States help now in a season that indicates there has been too much modification of flood run off to suit the channel capacity. On a local interest being shown the United States did take up the study and planning of such capacity and also set out to add a studied floodway to the channel. Incidentally a system of substituting meadows and pastures for forests and brush within the floodway was made a part of the management, but as Missouri did not have a representative on the U. S. have a representative under Kansas it is not clear that there was a wise exercise of sovereignty, for a clear floodway would deliver to Missouri water too much faster than natural from Kansas to be pleasant to take. So it is useless to plan navigation and leave a big chance for state notions to endanger the improvements or render the current more rapid and destructive. In Kansas two out of three proposed cut-offs were rejected largely because of the effects below in Kansas as well as in this point in Missouri, the engineers being able to see that cut-offs required higher levees below, though much seemed to be thought out as to the destructiveness of a current with greatly increased fall per mile, nor greatly increased depth by reason of confinement between two levees.

At present it is more practical to consider what to grow than it is to examine the nebulous state of the average political mind. Hence my experience last year is offered publicly, it having stood the test of private relation. Wanting to get the most out of my sandy land I tried the following members of the sorghum family: Cane, Kaffir corn, Jerusalem corn, brown durra, milo, Egyptian wheat, Sudan grass and Sterita. Of course I did not find what drought on sand would do to them, but my whole line was caught by frost a few days earlier than the Iowa average. All

Water doesn't run up hill. Neither does the most popular train—the only 20th Century Limited. It travels over the Sure-to-Sleep Way—the Only Water-Level Route Chicago to New York. Lv. Chicago 12:40 noon. Ar. New York 9:40 a.m. New York Central Railroad. All steel equipment—the last word in appointments for your comfort. Ten other fast daily trains, including the 23-hour evening train, Lake Shore Limited, and the 22-hour morning train, Lake Shore No. 6. Apply to your local agent for tickets and sleeping car reservations, or for complete information, call on or address our Des Moines Office, 402 Century Building. A. C. BURROWS, General Agent Passenger Department. For the Public Service. The Water-Level Route.

The Reason for a Telephone Company's Depreciation Reserve. Patch up a suit of clothes how you will, it will gradually wear out and have to be replaced by a new one. Just so it is with the telephone property. Some parts of it wear out quicker than others, but repair it again and again as we do, finally it wears out. In addition to the wearing out of the property a good many of the parts are year by year becoming obsolete and out-of-date and are replaced by something better. Each year we set aside out of the money we take in from the sale of telephone service an amount which we estimate represents the wearing out of our telephone property during that period. This money is invested back in the plant, and thus temporarily employed as additional capital on which no dividends or interest charges are paid. Through our policy of setting aside a depreciation reserve to provide for the rebuilding or replacement of the property, present telephone users pay for the wearing out of the plant instead of passing the debt on to the next generation. Lack of recognition of this principle has caused many failures in private industries and is a frequent mistake in public institutions. Our policy of setting aside a depreciation reserve is now generally accepted as the fairest way to provide for the rebuilding or replacement of the equipment when it wears out.

adaptable to Iowa. The pennilana and Sudan grass showed heads forming, but both were of ample leafage to be of value. The rye was dead by the flood as was also a field of incarnate clover and one of soup beans. Singularly two percent of cabbage came on after days of flood and much more of soy beans and cowpeas. Cane was sowed some weeks after harvesting a crop of oats and Canada peas, so cane is both a second and catch crop. Had cane been sowed promptly after the corn season was past it would be amply nutritious before frost. On sand, asparagus seedlings and young grape vines and a few muskmelons stood days of flood, but all started new growths. The parts of pole lines above the flood lived and grew right on, making good seed, but the poles should be set like posts and be seven feet out of the ground. "Stay there" is the farmer's best motto, applicable here and second only to "safety first" anywhere. White clover stood to stay. Tomatoes stand no show in a flood. Onions were not ruined. Beets were a mess and so were most potatoes, but no need to hurry to dig to save for some will come out fine when dry land appears. Of fifteen varieties I think a long, horizontal growing tuber like "Uncle Sam" is the best chance anywhere in the bottoms or anywhere on upland where sub-surface seepage is not controlled by ditches two inches deeper than you plow, or tile up and down on the slope. On low lands last year even cottonwoods died at the roots and so did plums, peaches, gooseberries, currants, apples, cherries, pears, blackberries. This was due to long exclusion of air, for layerings of both apple and pear trees lived and yet live when the parents are dead or weak. The layerings caloused or in apples took root. Red raspberries gave up, but a few blackberries came through. Cucumbers and late potatoes stood no show in the flood, but on higher sand a few cucumbers stood a short exposure to the current. Sweet potatoes stand for the best chance of all in a brief flood. Open ditches or tile stand to improve low land by promptness of run-off in proportion to the slope of the water table to the surface of the running water (and it should run), and this all engineers should be capable of considering as well as all privates in the river service as planned by Works of California and all privates should be able to read all charts, drawings, plats, profiles, maps, and map data also. J. P. DICKSON. Keokuk, Iowa, June 27, 1916. Russia's population will be 600,000,000 by the end of this century if it maintains its present rate of increase.